

## THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, June 15, 1971

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 65 students of Grade 6 standing of the Hastings Elementary School. These students are under the direction of Mr. G. Loeppky and Mrs. S. Murray. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel.

We also have 25 students, ages 3 to 5 of the McAlpine Nursery and Kindergarten School. These students are under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine and Mrs. MacDiarmid. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

We have 25 students, Grade 8 standing of the Lincoln School. These students are under the direction of Mr. A. W. Krahn. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

We have 31 students of Grade 5 standing of the Wayota School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Winch. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Labour.

And we have 90 students, Grade 4 standing of the Dieppe School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Wilkinson, Mrs. Anderson, Miss McKernan and Miss Kreitzer. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here today.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the House Leader; it's with respect to the NDP Cabinet Ministers campaigning in the Saskatchewan election. Are the Manitoba taxpayers paying these gentlemen salaries on the days that they're campaigning in Saskatchewan?

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

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I was in Saskatchewan and paid my own expenses.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the House Leader didn't answer my question - I was speaking of salaries.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my salary continues twelve months a year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): I wonder if the House Leader can inform whether any of the staff of the present government are now in the services and working for the New Democratic Party in Saskatchewan during this election campaign.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, there would be no people on the Manitoba government payroll who are working in the Saskatchewan election campaign.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney -- I'm sorry, Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it the intention of the Manitoba Government to follow the lead of the Nova Scotia government who are reported to have increased the bonus payments on hogs to \$3.20 with the index of 105 or over due to depressed markets?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not at all familiar with the Nova Scotia arrangement, although at this point there is no intention on the part of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: My question is for the House Leader, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier be back for the Public Utilities Meeting Thursday morning?

MR. GREEN: I expect so.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can he inform the House who won the Master Farmer Award for 1971?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: I'll take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, just in answer to a previous question that I gave before, I want to be perfectly accurate. There is an Executive Assistant who is normally with the Attorney-General's Department who is working in the Saskatchewan campaign, but he would be either on leave of absence or on vacation. There is an Executive Assistant in that campaign but he would not be paid by the government or else he would be on vacation during which time he could use -- and I'm not sure which is the case. I would expect he's on leave of absence.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder whether the House Leader can inform the House whether the same Executive Assistant was on vacation during the by-election in St. Vital.

MR. GREEN: To my knowledge at that time, Mr. Speaker, he was on leave of absence, similar to the leave of absence that was granted to an Executive Assistant of the Minister of Health when he ran in a federal election for the Conservative Party.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question I think to the acting House Leader, or acting Premier. How many people were driven into economic exile in Manitoba in the last two years?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): None, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister of Labour can inform the House whether the negotiating committees of the trade unions and Hudson's Bay are still meeting or have they ceased their meeting.

MR. PAULLEY: I have no knowledge; I believe that they are.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Call Bill No. 36, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for Riel. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): In the absence of the Honourable Member for Riel, I wonder if I might take the opportunity to make my small contribution to this bill. I expect the Honourable Member for Riel will be here in a moment or two but in the meantime I will carry on, or attempt to carry on.

A great deal, Mr. Speaker, has been said with regard to this bill by those members of the House that are city-oriented members and I have listened to what they have had to say with a great deal of interest.

I listened particularly to what the Honourable Member for Brandon had to say yesterday. It seemed to me that he brought out some very valid and important points. He indicated, Mr. Speaker, in no uncertain terms that the one city structure which this bill proposes certainly bears examining, and the questions he put forward I feel should be answered. His thoughts of the developing political clout that will prevail is something that rural Manitoba will ultimately feel to their disappointment. That clout, Mr. Speaker, in my humble opinion will be very apparent with a vengeance as the years go by.

The proposed 50 member council will develop representing over some 500,000 people. This, Mr. Speaker, I feel speaks for itself, for added to that, Mr. Speaker, are 27 members of this House that represent the City of Winnipeg, and what a power house that's going to be insofar as the efforts that will be made by the rural representatives.

The Honourable Member for Brandon, Mr. Speaker, pointed out that the economic growth of the province does not largely depend upon the City of Winnipeg but rather the work of the people in agriculture, mines, forestries and fisheries throughout the province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I wonder if the honourable members would indulge the Honourable Member for Swan River so he could hear himself. Thank you very much.

MR. BILTON: There have been bills that have passed through this House, Mr. Speaker, in recent days, and others that will be along shortly, which give the impression of being city oriented in themselves. It's true that they are adaptable to rural Manitoba, but the necessity of those bills as far as rural living is concerned means nothing whatsoever. In other words, the reason for those bills, or the material in those bills, was not brought on by the people of rural Manitoba. This to me, Mr. Speaker, is an indication of what we can expect in the future. Those of us, Mr. Speaker, from rural Manitoba are tired of continually listening to the experts and the technicians and the like representing organizations and departments emanating from the City of Winnipeg who purport to have all the answers and certainly the final decision on the rectifying of problems that we in rural Manitoba endeavour to bring forward from time to time. We get a little pat on the back, and have had a little pat on the back over the years, but the final decision is left and in many many instances what we endeavour to do is forgotten about. I shudder to think what will happen in rural Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, when the pressures of a 50 member council come before the Provincial Government with demands in this direction and that direction which will have to be paid for.

Mr. Speaker, I could never understand why the Boundaries Commission Report with its tremendous cost and the tremendous effort that went into it was tossed aside in such a short time. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, or it has occurred to me that the Minister of Urban Affairs and the Minister of Mines and Resources for some time, and by their knowledge in the city municipal work, were determined that if ever they did come to power they would make the change along the lines that is being debated in the House today. This, Sir, come hell or high water. You know, the important part about it, Mr. Speaker, the high water problem is a problem no more because the Conservative Party took care of that with a big ditch. Added to this, Mr. Speaker, whilst our party was in office, they did many things in rural Manitoba. They went far toward the decentralization of offices and efforts of government. I'm not saying for a moment that this government in any way to the present have retarded that effort, but I must say they haven't added to it in the interests of rural people.

I noticed the other day, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs said that the government was in no hurry to consolidate rural municipalities similar to what is being done here in the city, provided by this Bill. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the Minister must be getting the message from these people in rural Manitoba, because I have in my possession several resolutions from my area stating in no uncertain terms that they want no part of this process, and as and when it is brought before them for action, in no other way will they look at it unless the people have a referendum. Those people will demand that referendum, Mr. Speaker, and I have a feeling that they will turn it aside, because the municipalities that we have in rural Manitoba - some for the better and some for the worse - have been brought about by the efforts of the residents in those rural municipalities.

They compete with one another, so to speak, that is the elected representatives, in the interests of bettering their lot as opposed to the people in the next municipality, and by this effort, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to say that some of our municipalities far removed from the city have done well and developed their municipalities for the betterment of their people. And they hold that responsibility jealously, as I am sure the cities within the City of Winnipeg here feel the same, and I personally would like to see the referendum. I can see the argument against it, I can see that meetings have been held, but never have I seen that those meetings have been overly attended by the majority of people over whom this legislation will govern in the days that lie ahead.

I see no reason why there should be this hurry, why matters cannot be further explained and the people made aware of what is intended in order that when the final day comes, if it is decided by the wish of the people that they should have this one city complex, then let it rest with them to decide.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on Bill 36 at this time and add to the comments that have already been made over the past few days. Before doing so, may I take a chapter from the House Leader's book and welcome my guests in the gallery, who I missed, from Hastings School and hope they enjoy their visit here today.

The draft of the City of Winnipeg Act follows pretty closely the outline presented by the

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) . . . . . Provincial Government in late 1970 in the White Paper entitled "Proposals for Urban Reorganization in the Greater Winnipeg Area". The general format and in the content of many sections, the new Act is very similar to the Metropolitan Winnipeg Act passed by the provincial Legislature in 1960 and the new Municipal Act passed in 1970. In fact many of the clauses of the new Act could be omitted because they appear in identical form in the Municipal Act.

The real meat of the new Act is of course the reorganization of the political and the administrative structures of government in Greater Winnipeg. If one was to speculate on how the Act evolved, it would appear that the new government structure was first invented and then fitted on the Metro Act, to which were added missing sections from the Municipal Act followed by a sprinkling of area municipality by-laws and then, finally, certain individuals in Metro may have been asked what new powers they would like to have.

First of all, if I can comment on the boundaries. The Act provides that the City of Greater Winnipeg will be divided into 48 wards, each having roughly the same population. In addition to the ward setup, Greater Winnipeg will be split into ten communities, each, with the exception of the three in the present City of Winnipeg, to contain intact one or more of the present area municipalities and from three to eight of the proposed wards. And I have gone through a table of the wards here presented under the 48 ward plan. The three communities of the present City of Winnipeg would be considered together as a joint Winnipeg community. The Act does not appear to reflect the recommendations of the three-man commission appointed yet, though discussion has taken place with respect to the present Provincial Government stand.

Now on the political structure, if I might comment on this, the elections will be held in the fall of 1971 and beginning on January 1, 1972 a new 48-member council will take over the running of the Greater Winnipeg from Metro and the area municipalities. The citizens of each ward will elect a single councillor to a three-year term on council. In addition to their council duties, the councillors representing the wards within each community will sit together as a community committee to be responsible to the central council. The three community committees representing the present City of Winnipeg will function together as a joint Winnipeg community committee.

Upon taking office, council will elect from its members the Mayor and three standing committees, each consisting of five or seven members. These standing committees are the Committee on Environment, the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Works and Operations. Each standing committee would elect a chairman from its members. In addition, council will establish the Executive Policy Committee consisting of the Mayor as chairman, the chairmen of the three standing committees and three or five members elected by and from council at large. The standing committees will report to the Executive Policy Committee and all these committees will be responsible to council. Now these are the basic units of the political structure of the new city government as established by this Act, Bill 36.

In the administrative setup the top jobs in the administrative structure of the new city will be those of the Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner of Environment, the Commissioner of Finance and the Commissioner of Works and Operations, each appointed by council and employed under contract. These four people, plus the Mayor as ex-officio member, will make up the Board of Commissioners, the body which will be responsible to council and its Executive Policy Committee for the general administration of the city.

The Chief Commissioner will be Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and would report to the Executive Policy Committee. Each of the other three commissioners will be responsible to the Board of Commissioners, to the Chief Commissioner and to the Standing Committee of the same name, that is the Commissioner of Environment reports to the Committee on Environment; the Commissioner of Finance reports to the Committee on Finance and the same for Public Works and Operations. Except for the Board of Commissioners, these top administrative positions are not really unlike those of Metro's executive director and the directors of the various divisions, although each commissioner will be responsible for more functions than are presently supervised by the Metro directors.

When one reflects on the political structure, it becomes apparent that some of the councillors are going to be very busy. For instance, the Mayor is a council member who is chairman of the Executive Policy Committee and sits on the Board of Commissioners. In addition to his probable ceremonial duties, he is also a member of the community committee and

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) . . . . . is responsible for carrying out a dialogue with the citizens of the board from which he was elected.

Similarly, the Chairman of the standing committees are members of council, of the Executive Policy Committee and of the Community Committee. These sound very much like full-time jobs, and in this respect the Act allows council to provide additional salaries to the councillors who are members of sub-committees, standing committees and the Executive Policy Committee. To the council alone is given the authority to exercise the powers of the city as they are established in the Act. This power can be exercised by resolution or by-law. In addition to electing the Mayor and members of the Executive Policy Committee and the Standing Committees and appointing the commissioner, the council is responsible for the appointment of the Deputy Mayor, the City Clerk and Treasurer and their deputies, the City Auditor and the City Medical Officer. As well, council has the power to approve the appointment of department heads and their assistants and to make appointments to various boards, authorities and commissions.

The council may delegate responsibility for various city functions to the Executive Policy Committee, the standing committees and the community committees within the framework established in this Act. The council may also delegate the civic responsibilities to the appointed commissioners to boards, authorities and commissions. The council also may establish sub-committees of standing committees and community committees and approve the terms of reference of any sub-committee.

Now as in both the Metro Act and the Municipal Act, the new Act spells out in a number of clauses what shall be done. These are the ground rules established by the Provincial Government. A greater number of the clauses set out what the council may do if it so desires. This would seem an important distinction in that beyond the initial changes established by the Act it will depend on the council to what degree the operation in the city will change in the future.

The general function of the Executive Policy Committee is to formulate policies for recommendation to council and to co-ordinate the implementation of policies established by council. Its responsibilities also include receiving budget estimates from standing committees and community committees and receiving reports and recommendations from the standing committees and the Board of Commissioners, reviewing these and then forwarding them with its own recommendation to council. I think we realize from this review, Mr. Speaker, that I've gone through here that we do have a fairly integral if not complicated structure interdependent.

Now as far as responsibilities are concerned, the basic function of a standing committee is to advise the Executive Policy Committee, to ensure implementation of city policies and to review the annual budget, all with respect to the departments and services over which it has been assigned responsibility by council. The Act provides that council may delegate powers to a standing committee as it sees fit, but it is specific in listing those functions of city administration for which each standing committee may be made responsible.

The Committee on Environment will carry out the responsibilities assigned to it by council with respect to planning, including transportation, open spaces and parks planning, development of the environment, housing, urban renewal, pollution regulation and control, and health and social development.

The Committee on Finance will carry out the responsibilities assigned to it by council with respect to assessment, finance, personnel, purchasing and protection of persons and property.

The Committee on Public Works and Operations will carry out the responsibilities assigned to it by council with respect to transit, streets, traffic control, utilities, waste collection and disposal, engineering and design, parks and recreation and cultural facilities.

Sub-committees of each standing committee may be created either by the standing committee or by the council. However, a sub-committee established by a standing committee must be made up only of standing committee members, while a sub-committee created by the council may be made up of members of the council at large.

Now I'd like to refer, Mr. Speaker, to the Community Committees.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I wonder if I can interrupt the honourable gentleman. We have 16 students of the Louis Riel School, Grade 9 standing, under the direction of Mr. Loisel. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. On behalf of all the honourable members I'd like to welcome you here today.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - Cont'd.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: In general, a community committee is supposed to carry on a dialogue with the citizens of its community, communicating their needs and desires to council while keeping the citizens informed as to what the council is doing for them. In terms of civic responsibility, the Act sets out that while the council may add or delete services under their supervision, community committees will initially be responsible for the supervision of employees in the delivery of certain services formerly administered by the area municipalities, including police and fire protection, animal control, libraries, maintenance of streets and boulevards, garbage collection and disposal, health services, social welfare, operation of water and sewer systems, parks and recreation, as well as the preparation and submission to the Executive Policy Committee of annual capital and current estimates pertaining to the costs of these services and the operation of the committee itself.

Unlike the White Paper which clearly placed the responsibility for all new construction upon the Committee of Works and Operations, the new Act is somewhat ambiguous in this regard. While the Act permits council to delegate to a community committee the supervision of employees in the delivery of any service, and presumably this might include the design and construction supervision of new projects, it would seem more likely that once the transition period was over all design and new construction responsibility will be vested with the standing committee on Works and Operations.

The Act is also vague in defining the relationship between the departments of the administration under the Board of Commissioners and those personnel providing services under the supervision of the community committees.

The Act establishes that all employees, including those supervised by the community committees, will be employees of the city and thus they will no doubt come under the Personnel Department and the Commissioner of Finance. Whether those supervised by the community committees would also belong to the various departments under the Commissioner of Works and Operations is unclear and apparently left to the decision of the central council.

Additional functions of a community committee in the area of planning are to discuss formally with council proposed by-laws amending the Metropolitan development plan or proposed by-laws creating a district plan which would affect its community, to hold hearings and report with its recommendations to the Committee on Environment with respect to action area plans and applications for zoning changes within the community, and to hold hearings and make decisions with respect to applications for zoning variances and with respect to objections lodged against building and property maintenance orders.

Further duties of community councils include sitting on existing Parks Boards and Police Commissions as replacements for municipal councillors as well as appointing new citizen members to fill vacancies on these bodies and others such as library boards.

A community committee may set up a sub-committee to perform one or more of its duties but the terms of reference of the sub-committee must be approved by the central council. While a sub-committee may include citizen members, community committee members must be in the majority. Community committees must hold regular meetings at least once a month, and at least once a year must host a community conference to which all the citizens of the community are to be invited to shoot the breeze. At these conferences the citizens present may elect from their number an advisory group to advise and assist the members of the community committee to perform their functions properly. The number of members in this advisory group and how they are elected is up to the citizens present. It sounds a bit like a Red Guard. When a community committee is compared to a present municipal council, it is apparent that this local level of government has lost most of its real power and that which remains continues to exist only at the prerogative of the central council.

With reference to the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Speaker, subject to the powers

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) . . . . . assigned specifically by the Act or by council to the Executive Policy Committee, the standing committees, the community committees or an individual commissioner, the Board of Commissioners is responsible for the general supervision and operation of all city departments and services, with the implementation of city policies and programs, and for advising the Executive Policy Committee and council on matters of policy.

The Chief Commissioner is responsible as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the co-ordination of its duties and may direct any other commissioner or employee of the city in the performance of his duties. He may also, with the approval of council, transfer the responsibility for any department from one appointed commissioner to another. In addition, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for the direct supervision of the Budget Bureau, the information system, the law department and the clerk's department.

Responsibilities of the Commissioners of Environment, Finance, and Works and Operations. As well as being a member of the Board of Commissioners, each of these three appointed commissioners is responsible for the supervision and operation of those city departments and services assigned to him by council.

There seems to be a conflict in the Act as to the possible functions of an appointed commissioner and those of the standing committee to which he reports; that is, the Act specifically establishes those departments and services for which the standing committee may be given responsibility but it does not appear to give council the leeway to shift these functions between standing committees. However, in the case of the commissioners, the Act permits the Chief Commissioner, with the approval of council, to remove the responsibility for a department or service from one commissioner and assign it to another. It would appear necessary in this case that the departments and services headed by a commissioner should coincide with those under the responsibility of the standing committee to which he must report.

If I may speak briefly about the transition stage now, the Act provides that the new council will be constituted following the election this fall, 1971. Between that time and the 1st of January next year when it assumes full power, the council will make arrangements for the organization of council and city administration for the assumption of jurisdiction over municipal services and for the employment of personnel. As well during this period the council will prepare capital and current estimates for 1972 and do anything else necessary to facilitate the takeover of power at the beginning of 1972.

Unless otherwise changed by the new Act or any other Act, and until otherwise repealed or amended by the council, all the by-laws, regulations, resolutions, orders and plans of Metro and the present area municipalities will remain in effect and will be administered and enforced by the new city. Similarly, the existence and the responsibilities of any board, commission, authority, etc., presently constituted under Metro or the area municipalities will continue unless otherwise provided in the Act or until revised by council.

The new city will assume responsibility for all the assets, liabilities, proceedings by, actions against, agreements and obligations of Metro and the area municipalities. With respect to present employees of Metro and the area municipalities, they all will be offered jobs by the city at or above their existing salaries and benefits, with the exception of those who the new council feel received too big a raise in 1971. These people will be offered a salary at a reduced increase over their salary prior to the 1971 raise. It would appear that for the first while at least it will be business as usual for many of the present administrative personnel in the Greater Winnipeg area.

The standing committees of the new council will likely become responsible for the present departments and services of Metro as well as some of those of the area municipalities, particularly in the fields of finance, taxation, permits and licences, utilities and probably development, engineering and new construction. The community committees would take over responsibility for the remaining departments and services of the area municipalities.

In other sections of the Act there are also relevant material that should be looked at. As I pointed out earlier in the report here, most of the sections of the new Act, other than those dealing with the political and administrative structures of the city, are very similar in content to existing sections of the Metro Act and of the Municipal Act, and therefore most but not all of the regulations set out in the Metro Act or the Municipal Act are already in force. There are, however, sections of the new Act dealing with two particular subjects, planning and taxation, that contain enough new regulations and powers to bring about quite significant changes in their respective domains.

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.)

First of all with respect to planning, we might look at planning and taxation. In the new Act provisions for planning are contained in a number of sections lumped under the title "Environment", and the city's responsibility set at these sections will no doubt come under the Committee on Environment and the Commissioner of Environment. The regulations and powers established in the Environment section appear to give the city more power over the citizens in regard to planning, but also appear to provide the Provincial Government with more direct power over the city in this regard than it had over Metro.

The introduction of greater power to the province is in the White Paper and I would like to quote from it. "It is through such improved mechanisms that it will become practically possible to implement and to make effective overall provincial policies and plans with regard to the urban area. There will be clearer definition of provincial policies and better implementation of programs. With the present confusion and ambiguities in the lines of authority removed, it will be possible to proceed for example with measures to control urban sprawl and the application of such techniques as the green belt method of controlling haphazard fringe growth. The province will accept its responsibility in this regard." Well this indicates, Mr. Speaker, that it is the desire of the Provincial Government, I think, to exercise a greater control over the development of Winnipeg.

Under Environment - and I want to relate to this shortly here - under Environment are sections titled City Plans, Zoning, Development Control, Subdivision of Land, Housing and Social Development, Minimum Standards of Maintenance and Occupancy, and finally Environmental Impact Review.

In the City Plan section, the Act provides that council will prepare and enact by by-law the Greater Winnipeg development plan, district plans and action area plans. Initially, the Metropolitan plan will be adopted as the Greater Winnipeg development plan. The district plan seems similar to Metro's detailed area plan now already in existence. The action area plan will set out under the law the city's proposals and policies with respect to action areas throughout the city which will be established in the Greater Winnipeg development plan. An action area plan specifies the city's policy in an action area with respect to development, redevelopment, or improvement or establishment of a social program. Once implemented under by-law no public works may take place within an action area that did not conform to the action area plan.

The new wrinkle under the Zoning section of the Act is the provision that council may require anyone applying for a zoning change in connection with proposed development to enter into a development agreement with the city. This means that a private development may be required or forced to enter into a joint development agreement with the city.

Under Development Control, the Act specifies that council may enact such by-laws to designate areas of the city as development control areas. Such areas must be within a district for which there exists a district plan. In a development control area all zoning by-laws cease to exist and no development may begin until it has been approved by council. Approval may be made contingent on entering into a development agreement with the city.

In the new Act, the Subdivision of Land section provides that council may enact by-laws with respect to plans of subdivision of land, the amount of land to be used for parks and boulevards, the width of streets and other requirements with which a developer must comply.

Under the heading Housing and Social Development, the city is permitted to acquire or build housing and to sell or rent it as it sees fit.

The Environmental Impact Review section of the Act sets out that the Executive Policy Committee shall review every proposed undertaking of public works to consider its effect on human environment and report to council with its recommendations.

The new power available to the province with respect to planning is found under the City Plan section. While in both the Metro Act and the new Act the council can initiate a by-law amending the Metropolitan development plan, in the Metro Act council had the power to, after hearing of any objections to the amendment by a board of adjustment created by and from council, pass a by-law amending the Metropolitan development plan; but in the new Act, if council initiates a by-law to amend the Metropolitan development plan, or as it will now be called the Greater Winnipeg development plan, if there are objections to the proposed amendment apparently from anyone, any individual, then council must have the approval of the Minister before the amendment by-law can be passed. It appears therefore that by any



(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) . . . . individual raising an objection to a proposed by-law amending the Greater Winnipeg development plan, the Provincial Government can prevent any changes to the plan not to its liking, which means referral to the Minister of the Provincial Government where the ultimate control lies. This same arrangement applies to approval of by-laws establishing district plans and action area plans, so it's pretty clear to see where the control lies.

As mentioned previously, under the list of its duties a community committee is given a role in the planning process. Prior to the first reading by council of a by-law amending the Greater Winnipeg development plan or a by-law creating or amending a district plan, a community committee may give its recommendations to the Committee on Environment with respect to the plan's effect on its community. Before first reading of a by-law establishing or amending a district plan or an action area plan which affects its community, a community committee is to be consulted for its comments by the Committee on Environment. After first reading, the Act sets out that the community committee must hold hearings and to submit comments and objections from citizens attending to the Committee on Environment together with the recommendations of the community committee itself.

Finally, the community committee is charged with holding hearings and making decisions with respect to applications for zoning variances, not zoning changes but variances, and with respect to objections lodged by citizens against city orders for building and property maintenance. With respect to the political structure of the city, all of the other planning responsibilities will lie with the standing committee on environment subject of course to the approval of the central council.

Now having talked about planning, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to now direct some remarks to taxation, planning and taxation being the two major changes in the creation of the new Act, the new city.

The sections of the new Act in which are found the regulations that will bring about a significant change in the present tax setup are titled Assessment, Finance and Local Improvements. There are also pertinent clauses with respect to sales taxes in the Miscellaneous section. Property assessment, presently under Metro, and business assessment, presently under the area municipalities, are responsibilities which the council will likely delegate to the Committee on Finance and the Commissioner of Finance. Property and business assessment will be uniform throughout the city and in line with the provisions of the Municipal Assessment Act. The property assessment will be at actual value for land and two-thirds actual value for buildings, while business assessment will be the annual rental value of the premises occupied by the businesses. This indicates, Mr. Speaker, a change in the assessment procedure.

With respect to assessment of utilities, gas companies are dealt with separately from the others. Power and telephone utilities will each be assessed a gross amount of \$1,200,000 as the value of their plants and property in the streets. Gas companies will be assessed for pipelines in accordance with the Municipal Assessment Act, and for gas distribution systems at actual value which I don't think is any change from the present.

The Act provides that council will set up a board of revision to hear complaints in regard to assessment but it does not say whether those appointed to the board are to be council members or citizens at large. Further, the Act says that there will be an assessor but doesn't say who appoints the assessor.

In certain cases a business may pay a licence fee in lieu of business taxes, but generally business taxes will be levied at a percentage of the business assessment. The Act classifies businesses as to type and sets a business tax percentage for each. There is a confliction here between the Municipal Act which permits 15 percent as the maximum business tax but the new Act lists the business tax as high as 20 percent. This is another point that I would like to have clarified by the Minister of Finance through Urban Affairs.

In keeping with the policy set down in the White Paper, the Act provides that with the exception of special rates for local improvements, all property assessed throughout the city will be taxed at a uniform mill rate to raise the sums required to meet the city's annual estimates. There is however no mention in the Act for education levies nor is there any reference to the special provincial assistance to cushion the blow of increased levies in certain areas of the city which were promised in the White Paper and by Mr. Cherniack at his community meetings. Now this also, if it's to be a factor, a question mark is why is it not spelled out in the legislation when other interim measures are spelled out. These items may no doubt be covered in the future legislation giving special grants from the province to the new city.

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.)

The Miscellaneous section of the Act sets out that with respect to purchase of electricity and gas there will be a 2-1/2 percent tax on that used for domestic purposes while the tax will be five percent on that used for non-domestic purposes. A question to the government here is: is this on top of the present tax that is imposed by the Provincial Government on the usage of hydro and gas? This may have been clarified. If the point has been cleared up I certainly have missed it, but the reading here is that they are empowered to tax additionally on electricity and natural gas, and the natural question that arises is since most of the involvement of the new city is in streets and in transit to a very large extent, why wouldn't this provision be made for gasoline purchases for automobiles rather than on households.

The construction or reconstruction of certain municipal services in the city may be carried out as local improvements to be charged in whole or in part against the land benefiting on a frontage basis, or in the case of sewer on a frontage or area basis. Included among the items of new construction and reconstruction which the Act lists as local improvements is work related to roadways, including grading, gravelling, paving, as well as sewers, water mains, boulevards, tree planting, sidewalks, pedestrian decks, tunnels, lighting, water courses, retaining walls, dikes, bridges, culverts, subways, embankments, piers, parks and recreation centres.

If a local improvement is deemed by council to be beneficial to the city as a whole, it may provide for a portion of the cost, generally not to exceed four-sevenths, which will be charged to the city at large. Now this means that an area such as Charleswood which has large undeveloped area, but pending development, with a reasonable mill rate, then are not only going to be levied the equalized mill rate across the city but with the introduction of new services to the area will get an additional tax added which will likely be more than half of the local improvement taxes.

A proposed local improvement may be rejected by a petition of the owner of 60 percent of the total frontage involved, but may be introduced following one year rather than after two years that is now set out by the Municipal Act. And again, why the one year reduction instead of two years?

The city may pass by-laws to establish that the unit costs for the construction in any given year of pavement, sidewalks, boulevards, will be assumed to be uniform throughout the city for local improvement assessment purposes.

The Act establishes that in the case of a sewer constructed in a street the property fronting will be charged \$8.00 per front foot or 6 cents per square foot whichever is the greater. Any remaining costs of the sewer will be paid by the city at large. This would simply apply to sanitary sewers in particular.

Well, all of this means, Mr. Speaker, that there are going to be some pretty large discrepancies in the improvement taxation setup and many of those areas that have enjoyed quite low taxes in this respect, which are the suburbs, are likely to experience some healthy increases in taxation as these improvements are added.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. CRAIK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There appears inherent in this new tax setup a situation in regards to the level of service which will lead to higher costs in taxes - and I think this is important to make in light of the structure as I've outlined it. While the Act provides that local improvements may be paid for by those directly benefiting, the budgets of the community committees will come from the general revenues of the city, apart from those local improvements that I've mentioned. In the past, the citizens of certain area municipalities have been willing to put up with a lower level of service in return for direct tax savings. It is unlikely that this attitude will continue when they must pay part of the costs of the higher level of service desired by other communities. A second reason that expenditures and taxes will likely go up is that the total wage bill will probably be higher.

Now if I can turn in my remaining few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to the political structure. It is true that there will only be 48 elected representatives where previously there were 112, however for many of the 48, being a member of the council will be a full-time job, particularly for those on the Executive Policy Committee and the standing committees who could number as high as 27 members. So we may find as high as that many members faced with a full-time job in this new responsibility. The Act recognizes this and permits the councillors on these committees, as well as those on sub-committees, to get additional pay for their added

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) . . . . . responsibilities. Now for this reason it wouldn't be surprising if the total wage bill for the 48 councillors will in fact exceed that of all the present elected representatives of Metro and the area municipalities.

If I might conclude now with a few general comments, There has been a good deal of speculation as to whether the real powers will lie with the council or with the appointed commissioner in this new government structure for Greater Winnipeg. The answer would seem to be that if no party system develops the council, because of its ponderous size, may become fragmented and weak, and if such is the case the commissioners will probably have a free hand to operate the city as they see fit. If, however, a party system develops - and this is far more likely - then the party in council will run the show to the same degree as at the present time the Liberals do in Ottawa and the NDP does in Manitoba.

It would not be surprising if two main political parties emerged, and while they might not fall under existing labels, they would probably reflect the polarity which should evolve in provincial politics as well. It follows that, as at provincial and federal levels, a community represented by members of the opposition party will not have as much leverage as one represented by members of the party in power. If a party system becomes a reality, since the commissioners are to be appointed by council they will in fact be chosen by the party that wins the election, and if recent events in the provincial arena are any indication, the commissioner could move in and out with every change in city government.

Finally, in conclusion, some of the outside comments may be of value in assessing Bill 36 and these have been heard before. First of all, the comments of Karl Goldenberg in his report regarding Toronto states that while economy and efficiency in administration are necessary, they should not be the sole test of representative government. The recent report of the Royal Commission on Greater London points out that local government is with us an instance of democracy at work, and no amount of potential administrative efficiency could make up for the loss of active participation in the work by capable public-spirited people elected by, responsible to, and in touch with those who elect them. In my opinion, the requirements of both democracy and administrative efficiency will be better satisfied if the administration of such local services, as distinct from area wide services, are as far as possible in the hands of local officials responsible to local elected representatives in municipalities, properly constituted to meet the needs of the Metropolitan area. The plan presented to us by Bill 36 and the structure of the community committees, Mr. Speaker, does not give us any feeling of confidence that the aims and objectives of these two philosophies will be met.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move -- not today, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon West, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Consumer Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter before the committee is Resolution 32 -(a) Minister's Compensation. The Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I feel that at this time I should reply to some of the comments and questions raised yesterday by my honourable colleagues. Firstly, I wish to apologize for disappointing them with my opening statement. As I said at the outset of that statement, I wished to keep my speech short to give them ample time for comment. Well, could it be, Mr. Chairman, that I took them off guard, that they upbraided me for my seeming lack of enthusiasm in my department to cover up for the fact that they were really unprepared to debate my Estimates last evening. I wish to reassure my honourable friends that I am very enthusiastic about my department and the work that it is doing to protect the consumers of Manitoba, and I

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd.) . . . . . am intent on providing ever-increasing protection for consumers if this be necessary to assist them in dealing with those industries and suppliers which continue to defy their responsibilities, as my honourable friend from Assiniboia had admitted is the case.

I would first like to deal with the statements of my honourable friend for Lakeside. He had some words of caution for me about the growing bureaucracy of my department and these words were later echoed by the Honourable Member for Roblin. I believe that the Honourable Member for Lakeside also went on to state a few words of caution about consumer legislation, perhaps moving a bit too far in the direction of protecting the consumer. Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask you, and through you the honourable members on the other side, which section is it of the Consumer Protection Act that they feel militates against the operation of business. If there is some particular section of the Consumer Protection Act that they feel creates a hardship upon the functioning, the growth and expansion of a business operation, I'd like to hear about it, and so far I haven't heard of any, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure that you haven't either.

Now I wish to, getting back to the matter of staff within our department and the fear that the Honourable Member for Lakeside had about the growing bureaucracy, I wish to assure honourable members, Mr. Chairman, that as a fledgling department -- (Interjection) -- yes, I do regret the fact that the Honourable Member for Lakeside isn't here, and neither are some other members who have spoken from his party, but it was the Member for Lakeside who I believe indicated to us that he speaks for his party on consumer matters, even though he disagrees with his leader on many points.

But I wish to assure honourable members that as a fledgling department with relatively little money to spend we are most careful, of necessity, about the additions we make to the department's staff. On the other hand, I recall that the honourable members who spoke all appeared to agree that consumer legislation is necessary and desirable. I would like to ask them whether they could condone the existence of legislation to protect the consumer, or for any other purpose, without providing necessary staff to make the legislation work. Now surely not, Mr. Chairman.

Now let me assure honourable members that my staff in the Consumer Bureau are taxed to capacity, dealing with 4,000 calls for assistance from consumers every month. If they were not, they would not be working in the Bureau. You know, speaking of the increase in staff, it's true that during the past year our staff, or our staff today is probably 200 percent of what it was a year ago, but there's a danger to making comparisons in percentage rates, because you know anybody who has taken any arithmetic, junior high, high school mathematics, will know that the greatest percentage increase in staff occurred when the honourable members on the other side were the government and when they appointed the first person to their staff. At that time there was an infinitive percent increase -- (Interjection) -- Well, I think maybe they could sit down and I'm prepared to do that, and I think some of us on this side can go through an exercise or two in arithmetic to clear that point up.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside seems to feel that because I did not give him more details regarding the number and the nature of complaints registered with the Consumer Bureau, that in 99 percent of consumer transactions the consumers must be satisfied. Well, even if this were so, Mr. Chairman, are not the one percent which remain entitled to any protection? However, since my honourable friend had asked, please allow me, Mr. Chairman, to enlighten him, and although he is not in his seat I do hope that he will take the opportunity to read Hansard, and I wish to enlighten him with some more detailed information on this subject.

Now as I said in my opening statement, from November 1st of 1969 to March 31st of 1971, 1,373 complaints have been processed by the Consumers Bureau. And this is their breakdown: 599 of them were settled; 219 were registered for information of the bureau only - in other words, people may have had some unfortunate experience and they feel that we ought to be aware of what's going on in the business community and they register their complaint for that purpose; 123 were still unsettled; 58 were referred back to the complainant with a suggestion that legal action be taken - we are not a court of law as honourable members will appreciate and problems develop where the only recourse is to a court of law, and if that be the case the complainants are so advised; 71 were deemed unjustified after investigation; 26 were transferred to other departments for action; 277 remain outstanding to date. Now of these

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd.) . . . . . complaints - excluding those which were registered only, unjustified, transferred to other departments and are presently unsettled - a satisfactory settlement, a satisfactory settlement rate can be calculated at approximately 76 percent, which I think you will agree, Mr. Chairman, is a pretty fair batting average.

Honourable members might also be interested to know that in an effort to place a value on the services offered by the Consumers Bureau, a study was recently done on the monetary value of adjustments obtained from complainants successfully served under both the Consumer Protection Act and the Landlord and Tenant Act.

Now it was discovered that a - I don't like using the word, Mr. Chairman - a conservative monetary value could be placed -- (Interjection) -- my honourable colleague reminds me no swearing is allowed in committee, but I'm using the word "conservative" in an interpretation that I think will be acceptable to the committee, to both sides of the House. It was discovered that if a conservative monetary value could be placed on the 351 complaints under the Consumer Protection Act the value would be about \$56,197.00, and on the 35 complaints under the Landlord and Tenant Act the value - and this of course only goes back a short while - the value would be \$4,148.00. And I wish to remind you again, Mr. Chairman, that this is merely a conservative estimate because it is difficult in many cases to determine the exact saving that may be effected. For example, supposing a case of some unethical direct sales practice is reported to us and we step in and take action and nip the whole operation in the bud. Now, you know, what have we really saved the consumer? The amount of a down payment that we may have recovered for the benefit of the consumer in that one instance, or have we in fact saved the consumers several hundred or perhaps thousands of dollars if that practice were allowed to continue unchecked. Now in total, of the 368 cases, the Bureau estimates that the consumers were saved about \$60,000.

Now both the Honourable Member for Lakeside and the Honourable Member for Assiniboia wished to know the nature of the complaints handled by the Bureau. Now an analysis of these complaints indicate that they fall into about 30 categories, ranging from automobiles to retail credit and from collection agents to housewares. It would take me much too long to read the entire list but I can tell honourable members some of the main areas or complaint areas - 283 complaints were received regarding tenancy agreements; 234 regarding automobiles, parts and service; 105 regarding collection agents; 69 regarding home furnishings; 68 regarding books and subscriptions; 68 regarding home entertainment, records, etc.; 59 regarding appliances; 58 regarding home improvements; and 41 regarding dry cleaners. These are some of the more significant and more outstanding areas and about 15 or 20 others. Now surely, Mr. Chairman, this in itself is enough of an indicator that there is a need for a counter force in the market place on the side of consumers.

Now finally, the Honourable Member for Lakeside expressed concern about the open tendering system practised for so long by the government Purchasing Bureau and suggested that tenders let to Western Flyer Coach for school buses by the Public School Finance Board were handled and I quote, and I think that I'm quoting him correctly because -- no, I do not see yesterday evening's Hansard but this is from my own notes and his words were to the best of my recollection, "in somewhat less than an open manner". Now I do not wish to debate the matter of Western Flyer Coach at this time. There was ample time for that on the Estimates of my honourable colleague the Minister of Youth and Education. The Act states that all purchases shall be made in the most economical manner possible. Competitive offers shall be obtained by public tender or otherwise for all supplies wherever possible, and wherever possible, the quality and prices being equal, products of manufacturers of the Province of Manitoba shall be purchased, and the only variation from this would be that for good and sufficient reason it would not be in the public interest that the lowest quotations should be considered. Now it's clearly within the government's jurisdiction to make decisions regarding the public interest which will in no way reflect on the practices carried on under the Government Purchases Act. Now the honourable member will recall, and I'm sure that others will, that this was the procedure in the days of the previous government and it has not been changed.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia also asked questions regarding the number of complaints settled by the Consumers Bureau, and this is information that I have already given a short while ago. However, he also asked how many court cases the department has proceeded with under the Consumer Protection and the Landlord and Tenant Act. To date, two prosecutions have already resulted under the Consumer Protection Act and 12 cases are

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd.) . . . . . presently in progress; 14 court cases are in process under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

My honourable friend also echoed the concern of our friend from Lakeside regarding what they feel is an overlap of jurisdiction between the federal and provincial governments in the area of consumer protection. Now let me assure the House, Mr. Chairman, that the legislative base of the Federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is very distinct from that of my department. The federal department has jurisdiction over weights and measures, standard sizes, packaging, labelling, hazardous products, misleading advertising and other such areas of constitutional concern to the nation as a whole, areas in which the provincial department takes no part at all.

Complaints which come to us on these matters are always immediately referred to the federal officials either in Winnipeg or Ottawa, and I must admit that on occasion action is slow, but our co-operation and communication does continue to grow. Now it's true that Ottawa of late has been moving outward into areas which have until this time been the sole concern of the provinces. One such area, Mr. Chairman, is that of warranties and guarantees, a subject about which my colleague at the federal level, Mr. Basford, had much to say at the recent Federal-Provincial Conference at Ottawa. However, my department welcomes Ottawa's involvement in this and in a number of other areas of mutual concern. Honourable members will appreciate that we are dealing with industry which operates across Canada and in fact internationally, and therefore there is need for federal involvement in some areas such as this and we intend, Mr. Chairman, to work hand in glove with the federal authorities to solve these pressing problems for the benefit of all consumers.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia referred to a consumers' court or a small claims court as being a necessity if consumers are to be adequately protected. Well I couldn't agree more, and I would like to inform my honourable friend that I think that shortly we will see legislation proposed dealing with this particular matter.

He also referred to a problem of availability of farm machinery parts. Well I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable member is aware of the existence of the Farm Implements Act administered by my honourable colleague the Minister of Agriculture which sets certain standards regarding the availability of machinery parts, and if he is not, I would suggest that he check this legislation because I feel that the answers to some of the questions that he raised last night are found within it.

And finally, the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, as did his party leader in similar words some weeks ago, recall attention to the speech I delivered on March 6th before the Canadian-American Law Symposium in Grand Forks, North Dakota. And I'm glad that he mentioned it, Mr. Chairman, because it's, you know, it was one of those speeches that I enjoyed and it's one of those speeches that I don't mind repeating. -- (Interjection) -- I would love to, I would love to read the whole speech. I have my notes for the whole speech. I would, but I would not wish to encroach upon the Estimate time which I'm sure the honourable members in the opposition cherish. Therefore, I will not do that at this time but I hope that there will be another opportunity for me to repeat that speech.

However, I would like to -- my honourable friend expressed some concern about a couple of comments that I made, and in particular he drew my attention to those sections of my speech where I discussed the reaction of business to consumerism, and as my feeling on these matters have not changed, Mr. Chairman, since I delivered that speech I would simply quote from my notes to assure my honourable friend of my sincerity, and I would like to do that because this is in direct reply to the question that he raised in the debate of the Estimates of my department.

I am now quoting from my notes, Mr. Chairman. "The boards of directors of large corporations will assuredly be another important target of consumers. Nader has already wrung some concessions out of General Motors in the face of very ill-organized opposition and surely others will be targets too. This development is a result of the explosion of yet another marketplace myth which also applies to some degree to professional associations, the principle of self-regulation. Now some would agree that legislation which tends to be inflexible is not a good substitute for self-regulation. However, the fact is that many areas of business have not developed a social conscience, have not become good corporate citizens, and their self-regulated principles have become distorted to self-protection of vested interests, often to the detriment of the consumer. But the impact will be broader in a social sense than merely a

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd.) . . . . demand for consumer representation. Lobbies are very likely to demand more women members, an inclusion of the disenfranchised minority groups in the corporate decision-making arena."

That, Mr. Chairman, is a portion of what I said in Grand Forks at that time, and then further I went on to say this, and perhaps it was this that my honourable friend from Assiniboia was concerned about. I said, "Increased public ownership may occur in the future as a direct result of consumer demand." And I will repeat that because this has not only been repeated by me but it has been stated very clearly on June 25th of 1969, and if anybody had any doubt about it it was repeated again on April 5th of this year. "Now in Canada today" - and this is what I went on to say at the Legal Symposium in Grand Forks - "In Canada today the public agrees that" - and I hope my honourable friend will listen carefully because some of these services became the subject of public ownership not during the New Democratic Party Government, not during a socialist government but during a Conservative Government, during a Liberal Government, some of our utilities, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, social security, health and medical insurance - and I also mentioned to the people in Grand Forks that here in Manitoba automobile insurance - and it's recognized by everyone that these services can be distributed more equally and with less expense by government than by private companies. And this we know, Mr. Chairman.

And then I went on to say, "There is every possibility that the heretofore sacred cow of free enterprise may be forced by consumer pressure to yield up even more areas of service to the public sector if the public feels that they function more efficiently under government sponsorship." Now as I've said, this not only I say but this the people of Manitoba said on many an occasion and very emphatically during two years ago, and more recently a couple of months ago.

And then if I just may comment for a moment or two, Mr. Chairman, upon a few comments made by the Honourable Member for Roblin. The honourable member, I believe he only spoke for two or three minutes and I wish that I had my notes with me or I wish that I would have Hansard with me to get his exact words, and I also regret that he is not in his seat because I'm sure that he'd help me along, he'd refresh my memory in the exact words that he used. But he did say something to the effect that when I got up here he hears an expression of NDP philosophy. And he said this as if this surprised him, Mr. Chairman, as if this came as a shock or a surprise to him. You know, at first I was sort of taken aback. I just couldn't understand the reaction of my honourable friend the Member from Roblin, and then it suddenly became very apparent. Of course he'd be surprised, certainly he'd be surprised because he still probably has not recovered from the state of shock that he experienced on June 25th, 1969 and then again on April 5th, 1971. Of course he heard NDP philosophy, certainly. And I will also say this, Mr. Chairman, that the members on that side of the House will continue to hear NDP philosophy from this side for many many years to come. I don't know, I don't know whether the Honourable Member for Roblin will continue hearing NDP philosophy from this side of the House because you may remember that the vote was very close -- (Interjection) -- 90 votes? Thank you. However, we will not deny him his seat in the loge if he should ever wish to come down and treat his ears to some more New Democratic Party philosophy because he will hear much of it for many years to come.

Now he also, you know, he was quite concerned, he was quite concerned about a matter that doesn't really fall within the jurisdiction of my department because it's advertising and it's a federal matter, and he showed us - and this appeared in yesterday's Tribune, headed "Autopac - Protecting Manitobans on the Move" - and he was concerned about this advertisement. Well, Mr. Chairman, I must confess that I did not have the opportunity to read this before my Estimates came up, however last night I did just in the event that perhaps the honourable member may have had a valid point of criticism and I read the ad and I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that I could find nothing in that ad that struck me as being a violation of any legislation governing advertising. I see nothing in there that would prompt me to report this advertisement as being in violation of some legislation, report it to the federal authorities, nothing of the sort.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, in the event that the Honourable Member for Roblin - I don't think he had tabled it although he referred to it last night - but in the event that he is asked or in the event that he may wish to table it, I have brought along another copy for him, and if one of the page boys would come forth and take this to the desk of the Honourable Member for

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd.) . . . . . Roblin because he'll want it, I'm sure he'll want it, he'll want to take it to his constituency to have it as a reference guide and tell the people in his constituency what Autopac is all about. He'll need it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I believe that I have covered all of the questions, most of the questions asked by honourable members and I would certainly welcome further discussion of my Estimates at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I have only a few questions that I'd like to ask, and one thing I'd like to do at the beginning is to compliment the Minister for the interest he's taken in bringing to the House a bill to do with hearing aids. Those people far removed from the city, and certainly in my area, it has been quite a problem and I would hope that as time goes along and this legislation is possibly adopted that a better situation will develop all around the province.

I remember only too well, Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Minister was on this side of the House and milk was going to be increased by two cents, he wanted to adjourn the business of the House to deal with an important matter and I'm wondering if he's watching that situation today as he was very intent at that time. And then also I noticed in the local papers that the First Minister made the statement that he felt quite confident that the people of Manitoba would not object to a further two cents on a loaf of bread. I take it that the Minister will also look into that very seriously.

But as he has outlined to us, Mr. Chairman, it's his purpose to protect the consumers of Manitoba and I have no doubt that he will lend every effort to do that, but I'd like to bring to his attention that I know of a manufacturer that produces his product and gets something less than \$1.00 for it, yet he provides the bottle and he provides the packaging and I believe he absorbs the breakages, and the consumer I would remind the Minister has to pay \$6.50 for it. Now if private business did that he'd be knocking the door down, and heavens to Betsy I don't know what would happen to him. I'm asking the Minister here and now if he plans an investigation of the Provincial Liquor Commission in order that the consumer might get a better deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make just a few brief remarks on this first item of the Minister's Estimates. The Minister started out by saying that he was disappointed that there was no more comment from this side of the House than there was, and he felt that he had to fill that vacuum by talking at length in replying to the questions that had been raised by this side of the House last night. We have no objections to a Minister replying to questions providing that there are answers given in those replies, and the Minister has undertaken to provide answers to some of the questions that have been raised here.

I think one could define the Minister and his responsibilities as the Mr. Clean of the government. He has a number of resolutions, or a number of bills on the Order Paper, some of which have been passed, and in each case when he's introduced a bill he has preceded his remarks with the comment, "this is just house cleaning legislation." The Minister spends more time house cleaning than anyone in this Chamber and he seems to be the person on that side of the House to which all of the grand philosophical ideals of the socialists are going to rest upon. They believe that there is a simple and easy solution to every problem in this country. If there's anything wrong with it you either nationalize it or centralize it, and the Minister's Department seems to be the focal point at which this philosophy is directed.

We can be thankful however, that the Minister of Highways is on that side of the House because he will draw the line when it comes to nationalizing Eaton's and we're happy to hear that. However, we wonder what's going to happen to the Hudson's Bay or Simpsons-Sears, and I can't help resist making the comment here that the Minister is displaying rank discrimination in selecting Eaton's as the stopping point for nationalization idea. I would have thought that for a Minister who prides himself on removal of discrimination and all of these things that the Minister would have not selected one particular concern with which to draw the line.

But I rise primarily to direct a question to the Minister in connection with the Consumers Bureau. I wonder if his department undertakes to keep a record or to maintain a record of prices on a selected group of products, whether they be in the retail stores or hardware stores or whatever the case may be, I think more particularly the grocery stores. I wonder if his department has undertaken to keep a record of prices from week to week on a selected group of commodities to determine when price increases take place, so one then could have some idea



(MR. JORGENSEN con t'd.) . . . . . of how you could relate those price increases to other events taking place.

I say this, Sir, because during the time that the medical insurance program, the Canada Pension Plan and such other programs came into effect and the employers, the people working in the retail outlets and in all of the other areas of production in these commodities came under the responsibility of the owner of these concerns to pay part of their pension plans, I noted then that there was a very sharp increase in prices of goods being sold at the retail level. It might be interesting to find out how closely price increases, that the honourable gentlemen opposite are so easy to blame private enterprise for, how closely related they are to government action - increases in taxes, increases in all of the devious ways in which government can dip their hands into the taxpayers' pockets.

Minimum wages and all of those other things, how do they -- (Interjection) -- yes, if you ask - Mickey Rooney over here continues to pose questions from his seat in the back - I'm opposed to anything that causes the taxpayer to have to shell out more money for programs that he doesn't want or doesn't need, if you really want my answer, and if that minimum wage results in an increase in a price of goods to the consumer, what good is it to anybody? If the increase in that minimum wage is that that same person is paying more for the things he has to buy, what has he gained? What has he gained? That of course has not occurred to honourable gentlemen opposite, and particularly to the honourable gentleman from St. Matthews, who is so wrapped up in this ideological approach to government that he can't see anything beyond that.

But I would like to know if the Minister is undertaking to keep a record of price increases in all the various retail outlets in this city, or indeed throughout the province, so that the record can be produced to the consumer to indicate how prices have gone up on selected commodities. Then they'll be able to relate them to other things that are happening and be able to judge for themselves why prices go up, rather than having honourable gentlemen opposite just saying that the reason for these things are nothing more than the greed of the corporations or the greed of private enterprise. I submit, Sir, that it's not so much the greed of private enterprise as it is the great ever increasing maw of government that is causing increases in prices.

But I wonder if the Minister would undertake to answer that question for me, and if they aren't doing such a thing if they would consider that it might be a good idea on behalf of the taxpayers of this country, on behalf of the consumers of this country, if they would not perform a service by keeping a record of price increases so that they'll be able to judge for themselves as to the reasons why these increases take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rock Lake,

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few comments here after the comments from my colleague from Morris. I think they were most appropriate. After listening to some of the comments from the Minister himself, some of the questions that he did give answers to, I think the latter part of his comments were more of starting to remind me of a campaign that he was hoping that the people in Saskatchewan would hear today.

When we talk about consumer and corporate affairs, then I think we're referring to more or less how the consumer can be better protected against some of the elements that might come before him when he is dealing in the way of business with individuals or businesses or corporations. And he says, as I'm given to understand, Mr. Chairman, that he does not have the legal powers to deal with some problems that come before his department.

But I want to make comment on one particular case, where a farmer had spent I think approximately \$15,000 to build a storage bin for potatoes, and after having completed the building of this project he was given to understand by that company, that filled to a certain depth it would hold. However, much to his disappointment after he had taken off his first crop the roof of this building gave way and he was in trouble. As a result of this - and I'm given to understand that he contacted this government, I'm given to understand that he phoned the Premier's office two or three different times, and I'm also given to understand, I believe, that he phoned the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs - and as a result of all his efforts he was told that there was nothing could be done about it and he had to probably seek a lawyer himself.

But I think that the comments from my colleague from Morris are quite in order and are very appropriate, but I think that the kind of thing - and I'm not speaking against business in any way, shape or form, I'm merely talking about the consuming public being protected against the kind of element, and we have it in all walks of life. And talking about socialism, Mr.

(MR. EINHARSON cont'd.) . . . . Speaker, I have talked to my socialist friends on many occasions, and when we're talking about legislation insofar as it affects the people of this country and I say to them, if there's one problem or one thing that they overlooked, that is the human element. And do you know the answer I've had on more than one occasion? "That is conservative philosophy" is the answer I get from them, and I say "thank you, that's a compliment."

The fact is that it seems to me that the gentlemen opposite don't seem to understand this. Whether they understand it, perhaps they do, but they don't want to face those facts. I think that this is an area in which if you want to really do a service to the people of the country, it's an area in which — and when I have had people be confronted with problems of this kind, they have not been able to get assistance and I'd like to hear some comments from the Minister on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, I too would like to make some comments on the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services, especially so under the Minister's salary. I note that we have no specific report handed out by the department. I would like to know whether one will be made in future and whether we as members will be able to read up what has been done and what progress has been made from time to time, if there is progress to be reported.

The department naturally deals with the matter of consumer protection which has received some consideration and discussion already. In checking the Act that was passed here, was it a year or two ago, there were some matters that were left in abeyance and one was the matter of a central registry for chattel mortgages. Is any consideration being given to bringing in legislation in this connection? I feel that it would have merit in certain respects, especially for those people that are in the business of lending money on chattels of this type, so that a check could be made more readily whether a certain vehicle had been mortgaged or not. Whether this would be very cumbersome or not I think was discussed at the time that the whole Act was under consideration, but certainly I would like to know more, whether further consideration has been given and whether something will come about as a result. Certainly if there's further things to report, how the Act has been working out. I remember getting complaints during the early part that the Act was, when the Act was passed, from certain people about forms and so on that were causing them a lot of trouble. Have these things been ironed out, or what is the situation today?

On the matter of disclosure of borrowings or charges of interest rates, here again I think there was stiff objection to when the bill was considered in committee. And again, how has the thing worked out? Also, to the revolving accounts, how is this thing being handled or are they not reporting these type of accounts?

One other thing I would like to hear the Minister on is in connection with financing, especially second mortgages. This has been a matter that I felt the field was being exploited to a large extent, not only because of high interest rates but also by attaching balloon payments to arrangements that were being set up. What is the department doing in this case? Are you checking these out? Is it still being done, and to what extent, because this has caused much hardship in the past. This has been one big obstacle for those people who could not finance through first mortgages, who had to go to the extent of securing second mortgages, and this pertains I think to many people who want to buy their homes as well. Presently, if a certain person has a fairly large equity in a home and he wants to sell, the purchaser might be able to make the regular payments, but as far as the down payment it cannot be made, and as a result he will then have to secure a second mortgage to make payments in lieu of the large down payment that would be required to cover the original equity of the homeowner. So this is a field that I feel that the Credit Union movement certainly has done a lot in and toward to assist people in this way. Just what is the case at the present time? Certainly if we have a special department to look after things of this type, I feel that we should have some reporting on this to find what the situation is, whether there has been any improvement.

In the matter of bonding, there again the section dealing with licensing also deals with bonds. Have any bonds been cancelled in the last year or two under this section? And also, have the requirements been increased for bonding and the size of the bond or the nature of the bond? These are some of the things that I feel that I would like to have further information on.

Then, moving on, I notice that the Gazette, we're allocating 41,000 toward the Gazette,

(MR. FROESE cont'd) . . . . and when we look at the expected revenues that the province is to receive I find that they're expecting something like \$53,200, so there's a substantial net profit that will come to the Gazette. What is the circulation at the present time of the Gazette? Are free copies being issued, and to what people and what number?

A further point that I wish to raise has to do with the Information Services. Here again, it used to be when the government was on this side of the House they always claimed that the PC were dominating this part of the business under Information Services and that they were using it as a piece of propaganda. I just wonder whether it's not being used as propaganda now by these people that used to criticize the Conservatives so much for this. How many different departments are covered under the Information Services? I've got some copies here, one dealing with Norway House to get credit union, and they go on to explain what the Minister of Agriculture has said at a certain point. Then the Member for Rupertsland, Mr. Allard, has gone to Africa, I understand. What purpose? Unknown. Has he got a pairer for the time that he's gone? This is actually not in the news service but this could be an item that could be reported on, no doubt, and whether he went down there to talk NDP philosophy to these people. What was his purpose in going down? Certainly we could have news of this type, couldn't we? — (Interjection) — Oh, here's one that's captioned "Winkler to get heavy care home." Is that correct? That's the way the caption reads. So I imagine they're giving our area some publicity too, but no doubt the government is involved there as well, otherwise I don't think it would appear. — (Interjection) — Well, I wouldn't say that nothing for Rhineland. Just this afternoon they circulated the construction projects of the drainage and I want to compliment the Minister of Mines and Resources on the allocation that is made to a certain project . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. GREEN: On a point of order, I believe that the compliment was out of order. That has nothing to do with Information Services and I suggest that you stay within the Estimates of the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is well taken. The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I was wondering whether in a later copy of Information Services this will not appear in some form.

One further matter that I think I should comment on has to do with the Purchasing Bureau, and I noted that we are now getting centralized purchasing in so many areas. Naturally the Crown corporations are doing purchasing; we find that the Department of Education through its Public School Finance Board has set up an agency whereby they do central purchasing; and now we have a Central Purchasing Bureau under this department. When the other day we received a report on the Standing Committee on Economic Development, there was mention made of the purchasing practices of this government on page 7. I would like to read one or two sentences. It says here, and it's speaking of the board that made the report: "Our board undertook a study of government purchasing practices and policies." Then further on they go to say, and I quote: "On occasion, for sheer lack of information, Manitoba enterprises have been handicapped in their attempts to achieve the economies of scale that would have enabled them to compete more successfully for the budget dollars of the Manitoba government."

What does this mean? Are we awarding bids to outside of the province or just what does this mean? And there is further references made to indigenous enterprises as well, and I would like to know from the Minister just how he defines "indigenous enterprise" which is handicapped from bidding and which this government feels should be receiving more attention. It says here "the provincial government, which after all is the largest single purchaser of goods and services in Manitoba, behind the indigenous business enterprises of this province." And before that they go on to enumerate a number of points as the government being the biggest purchaser and that they are supposed to look after these very enterprises.

Then, too, I feel that because of these purchasing bureaus and various purchasing departments, it can be very involved. A lot of red tape can result and also a certain amount of patronage, especially if we are not going to adhere to the matter of open bids and awarding contracts to the lowest bidder. Certainly this lends itself to patronage to a large degree and can certainly undermine operations of this kind.

I just wondered about the Election Act reports under that Act. Do they come under your jurisdiction or your department? The Minister shakes his head so I guess this is not under his department so I'll forego that part of it.

He made mention of many complaints that had come to his department. How do you

(MR. FROESE cont'd) . . . . . differentiate in the complaints as to which are handled by your department and that of the Ombudsman? Are certain complaints coming to your department deferred to the Ombudsman and vice versa? What is the situation here? I think it would be well to hear views on those things.

In connection with being a Department of Corporate Affairs; when farms are being taken over; farmers who weren't able to make their payments to the Credit Corporation and as a result who are now being managed by the government, what department is looking after the management of those affairs? Does that come within your jurisdiction or will it come in the future? Because this can become a serious situation, that the government might find itself in a situation where they may be managing many farms in this province if things don't improve, and certainly if this is the case, I would like to know just what the government does in this respect when they engage former farmers to manage and operate the farms for which they were so heavily indebted and the payments on which they were unable to meet, because this can certainly progress in a much larger way and I for one would like to know just what the situation is, at what point does the Agricultural Credit Corporation lose control of the situation or at what point is it being transferred to a department of government.

. . . Continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I have one question for the Minister. Some time last year there was an increase in the price of bread from the large bakeries in Winnipeg, and he announced an investigation into the causes. Could he give us the benefit of his investigation and the reason for the increase in price?

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I inform the Member for Rhineland that his questions pertaining to the Election expenses should be directed to the estimates of the Executive Council. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, in answering questions I'll try to keep repetition to a minimum because there were a number of questions of a similar nature which probably could be answered with one composite answer, so I'll attempt to do that and my hope is that, in doing so, I will not overlook or omit answering any question put by any honourable member.

There is one matter that I would like to deal with at the outset, which was raised by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, and it dealt with a specific complaint or a grievance that a constituent of his has. I'm informed, Mr. Chairman, that this case was really out of the jurisdiction of our bureau for the following reason. As you will recall, the honourable member mentioned that it involved a \$15,000 purchase. There is a limit within our Consumer Protection Act set at \$7,500 so therefore that took it out of the scope of the Act. However -- oh yes, and there is one other exception within the Act and that is that building materials are excluded from the Act. However, my department did attempt to mediate the case and our files indicate that the company denied that they had told the farmer that he could load the building as full as he did, and the farmer disagreed. We are also informed that the company agreed to repair the building at cost but the farmer refused to accept that settlement, and that therefore a state of affairs developed which was nothing else than one for a court of law to deal with if one was to pursue it further.

Now, if I may turn to some of the general questions, or rather one question that was raised by a number of honourable members -- the Honourable Members for Swan River and Morris mentioned it -- yes, and the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie also brought up the same general matter, and that is the whole question of prices. This summer, I am happy to announce that we will be doing such a survey for a ten week period, and when I say for ten weeks, at the end of that period of time we'll be able to assess its effectiveness and determine what future course of action we should take. Honourable members may be aware, from reading all the publicity that goes out about government activities, that we are hiring a Co-ordinator of Research, and this certainly would be one of the functions of the Co-ordinator of Research.

But, having said that, Mr. Chairman, I also wish to add that I don't believe that price surveys per se are good enough, that this is what we want. I don't believe that this type of activity can be conducted effectively just at the provincial level, that is if one province on its own were to do such a study, by reason of the fact, Mr. Chairman, as all honourable members know, that we are doing business with corporations which operate across Canada, which they may have some branch of their industry located here and another branch elsewhere and that type of thing, and we are dealing with corporate conglomerates where one corporation buys from a sister corporation and sells to another sister corporation and so forth, and so for any action of this type to be effective, Mr. Chairman, I feel requires the support and assistance of the federal Department of Consumer Affairs, and this is certainly something that we are pressing for.

The Honourable Member for Morris also mentioned that his impression is that we have a simple solution to all problems, we'll centralize, nationalize, and he offered some suggestions -- I don't know how serious he was -- but he suggested that we consider nationalizing certain business enterprises in Winnipeg or in Manitoba, and I'd be glad to have the Honourable Member from Morris accompany me or any other member of Cabinet, so let's go for a walk down Portage Avenue and let him point out all the businesses that he suggests ought to be nationalized. You know, his suggestions are most interesting.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, now I rise on a question of privilege. The Minister is quite capable of misinterpreting anything that anybody says and he has used that ability at this moment. I never suggested any such thing and he knows it. I have never suggested nationalizing any . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, that is a matter of debate not a matter of privilege. The Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Well, I don't know how serious the honourable member was about his comments but I think that if we read Hansard tomorrow we can determine for ourselves what the honourable member said.

The Honourable Member for Swan River asked about the availability of services of the Consumer Bureau in outlying areas, and this, Mr. Chairman, is as much a concern to me in my department as it is a concern to my colleagues in the delivery of services of their departments to people in Northern Manitoba, to people beyond easy reach or ready access to a telephone or a highway or an airport or what have you, and I can assure honourable members that we are very much concerned about this and it is our hope and our aim to make the services of the Consumer Bureau within easier and closer reach of all people of Manitoba as time goes by.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland commented on the lack of an annual report. I believe, Mr. Chairman, that annual reports are filed pursuant to legislation and I also believe that all the reports which must be filed pursuant to an Act of this House are filed at the time that they must be. You will no doubt know, Mr. Chairman, that in the existing legislation there is no provision for an annual report of the Consumer Bureau although there is a report filed by the Public Utilities Board. Should there be a report filed by the Consumers Bureau, or rather by the entire department? It's a very interesting suggestion and one that I certainly would like to consider.

He also asked about whether there have been any bonds cancelled, I'm not quite sure whether the honourable member was referring to bonds that one must post under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act or under the provisions of some of the other pieces of legislation that my department administers, and I'm now referring to the Public Utilities Board because there are various bond requirements under the Real Estate Brokers, Mortgage Brokers Acts and so forth, but I think that he was probably referring to the Consumer Protection Act and, up to the present time, no bonds have been cancelled. The bonds were set at \$500.00 at first, but we are presently re-assessing the amount of the bonds, particularly bonds on renewal applications for this year, and we hope to relate this somehow to the company's record of sales for the past year, and there may also be a variation of the bonds set for collection agencies.

With respect to borrowing charges - and the honourable member included some pieces of legislation that do not fall squarely within the jurisdiction of my department but they may be related to other pieces of legislation that my department does administer - when he referred to second mortgages, well, in a sense, that does. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, the Tallin Commission which reported, and there was legislation introduced pursuant to it, and we are quite satisfied that most of the inequities, injustices, malpractices which may have existed, which had existed in the mortgage lending business, have been corrected to date through a variety of ways - one through legislation; secondly, through the administration of the Act governing the operation of people in the business.

The honourable member also asked about the circulation of the Manitoba Gazette. The paid subscription is 1,360 copies or issues. As of January 1st of this year, we have discontinued our free list. It's true that the anticipated, estimated revenue for the year is \$53,200 and the cost is estimated to be at \$41,000, leaving a net surplus of \$12,200, of which approximately \$6,000 is paid in postage, leaving a net gain of \$6,200, and part of this, probably practically all of this may go to recapture part of the increased mailing cost.

The honourable member also asked about how do you differentiate between the role of the Ombudsman and the role of the Consumer Bureau. Well, the honourable member well knows that the function of the Ombudsman is to deal with cases where an individual feels to have been some way aggrieved by the action of a government official, but I may add this, that the Ombudsman does receive many complaints which do not fall within his area of jurisdiction and which properly should have been directed to us, and this averages about twice a week. We receive at least a couple of cases a week referred to us by the Ombudsman.

The bond, by the way, I should correct myself; I said \$500.00; I should have said \$5,000.00.

He asked about the role of the Information Bureau. Well, I would just like to take a moment or two to acquaint the honourable member with the responsibility of the Information Bureau, and its responsibility is of preparing and distributing factual information about the programs, policies and activities of the Provincial Government, its Departments, and several of its boards and commissions. Well, it provides detailed information on aspects of Manitoba growth and development, or financial and technical publications, consulates, encyclopedias,

(MR. HANUSCHAK, cont'd.) . . . . textbooks, researchers and for industrial development branches of various organizations, and I am sure that if the honourable member would place this definition before him, this outline of the role and function of the Information Services Branch, and take a look at any press release issued by it, I'm certain that he would not find one that would in any way be in contravention of the role and function assigned to it.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland also wished some explanation of the report made to the Committee on Economic Development: what is meant by the statement that in referring to centralization as a means of correcting the state of affairs wherein at the present time Manitoba enterprises have been handicapped by the lack of centralization of purchases by all government agencies. Well, I can explain this to the honourable member in this way, and I'm sure the honourable member well knows that there are many industrial concerns in the east, many factories, which are much larger than those in Manitoba, and, because of their size, they are more flexible in their operations and they could switch from the manufacture of one commodity to another practically at the snap of one's fingers, and this is more difficult for the smaller business operation in Manitoba to do. So therefore, if a call for tenders is made, or if instead of calling for one composite tender for the supply of that particular commodity for all boards, commissions, Crown corporations, what have you, of government, it's broken down into several, it becomes more difficult for the Manitoba manufacturer to bid because - let me use desks as an example, and I'm just pulling that example out of the thin air.

A tender for 50 or 75 desks may be most uninviting to the Manitoba manufacturer because it may not be to his advantage to convert his operations for the manufacture of 50 desks of that particular type. On the other hand, if it were several hundred, then he may see his way clear to adjust his operations in a way to produce those desks, whereas the eastern manufacturer who is in a position to, as I've said may be more flexible, may be in a better position to stock-pile than the local manufacturer here, is able to bid against the Manitoba manufacturer at a better price and get the contract, and in this way we feel that centralization will assist Manitoba industry and Manitoba economy in general.

Within the Government of Manitoba, there is not a multiplicity of purchasing bureaus - there is only one; and I can also assure the honourable member that he need have no fear of any patronage existing. I dealt with this point earlier this afternoon and I can assure the honourable member again that in the conduct of our purchasing bureau we adhere strictly to the provisions of the Act, and if one does that, then there is absolutely no opportunity for any demonstration of patronage.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that I have covered all of the questions that have been raised over the past while on this . . . of my Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Chairman, I only have a couple of things I would like to say at this time. I'd like to know from the Minister: there's many of these departments such as the Queen's Printer, and Purchasing, and Public Utilities Board, and the Securities Commission. Where are all these departments located now? I used to think I knew where people were in the government but I don't know. I'm sorry the Queen's Printer was moved out of this building, and just a few minutes ago I saw him up in the gallery up there. This was so handy to us when he was in the basement here, and I don't know what the Minister of Transportation -- if he could find him room to get him back here, I think the members would appreciate it. I think this is unfortunate, and maybe I'll talk to that -- it's unfortunate that he wouldn't have all of your different branches of your Department under one roof. I understand some are at one end of the city and some are at the other, and it makes it difficult trying to know where to go or trying to get time to go to see them if you have to go.

Another thing I'd like to bring out here, regarding advertising, and this deals - I don't know whether your department investigates the government itself and their advertising, because I think you could investigate the Government Automobile Insurance Corporation and they did advertise some time ago - and they're great at advertising. Talking about the free enterprise system of advertising, the government is the best and the biggest when it comes to advertising. They don't stop at a half a page, they go for nothing but a whole page, and I don't know what this is going to cost. But there's one - there's about five words in one advertisement. "New and Better Concepts." New and Better Concepts. For those of us who are in the industry such as the Honourable Member for Assiniboia . . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The particular ad that the member is referring to

(MR. CHAIRMAN, cont'd.) . . . . was raised, and was taken as being in order at the time it was raised, as far as the protection of consumers under this Minister's responsibility is concerned. Any reference to the contents of that particular ad, I would, I'm sorry, have to rule out of order. The Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. MCKELLAR: Mr. Chairman, I can't understand your decision and now I'll have to abide by it, I realize that, but I was trying to make a point whether governments investigated government advertising, because after all, this is the biggest consumer protection - I mean the biggest - \$34 million is being spent by the consumers and I'm a defender of the consumer. I am, I am and always have been the defender of the consumer, but I want to see that this Corporation doesn't abuse the laws of the land which we have to abide by as when we're selling something, and this government department is selling a product. And I don't want them telling the fact that this is new and better - and I have to get down to it - when it isn't new and better, and I want your government department to investigate this government department, because I can prove it. I can prove it. I can prove it right now. There is nothing new in the policy that the Insurance Corporation is going to sell.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order, please. I can understand the member's response and being provoked to the answer that he was, but I would suggest - and I'm not trying to curtail the debate - that the proper time to raise his particular comments would be under the Municipal Affairs Department Minister because this is under his purview. Order, please. Order, please. His point as to whether it is or is not misleading advertising is well taken. I know I'm putting the member in a particular position by putting it just this way, but I would ask his cooperation so that we don't open that particular debate at this present time.

MR. MCKELLAR: Well, let's put it this way. I agree that this is your decision. But if the same thing applied to another company who was all presently operative, the government under the Minister would take him to court - take him to court. The same law should apply to the government as it applies to everyone else. This is all I'm saying, and if the Minister isn't going to look into this, I'll have to see my legal counsel and I will do something to prove the point, because I think there's a point here.

I know that this Consumer Affairs Branch, Consumer Bureau is - I see they started at \$131,000 last year, \$131,000, they're up to \$213,000 this year, \$213,000. Just how many people do they have working in that Consumer Bureau, because I would take it there's about 15 employees. Do they work out in the rural parts of Manitoba or do they contain themselves in Greater Winnipeg? This is what I would like to know. Do they look into problems that they're contacted, like hearing aids, or what particular problems do they deal with? I wasn't aware, until you mentioned it, that building supplies are not covered under this Act. If they're not, why aren't they? This is the question I would like to ask.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I guess there's not much else I have to say. I had a good speech lined up, a very good speech, but you made me contain my remarks so I'll just sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I recognize the Minister I would ask the Minister to take into consideration my ruling relative to the contents of the advertisement. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I couldn't agree with the honourable member more that it would be preferable to have all branches of my Department housed under one roof. However, that is not the case. That has not ever been the case, I am sure, and this is one of those problems that we're faced with and we have to cope with it as best we can. If that used to be the case, it may have been but not within my memory and I'm sure not within the memory of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney. That may have been away back in the days before the existence of this building when there was - maybe even before the existence of the building on the corner over here; it may have been away back in the days of the existence of the first building -- (Interjection) -- No, no, no. There was one up near the corner of Portage and Main which was the first place where the Legislative Assembly sat. I didn't even have a department then, as my honourable friend tells me.

However, the location of the various branches of my department; The Information Services Bureau is on the main floor or the basement, whatever one wishes to call it, of this building, and the Purchasing Bureau is on the same level. The Companies Branch and the Consumer Bureau is at 270 Osborne Street. The Queen's Printer is in the old Civic Auditorium, now called the Provincial Library and Archives Building. The Public Utilities Board and the Securities Commission is in the Imperial Building down Broadway a couple of blocks east of



(MR. HANUSCHAK, cont'd.) . . . . Kennedy Street, I don't believe I've missed any - no, I think I've covered all the branches of my Department.

The honourable member's comments on advertising. It's unfortunate that perhaps the honourable member missed my earlier comments on advertising at which time I pointed out that the matter of advertising is a federal responsibility. If he takes exception to the use of the words "new" and "better", if he wishes to ask me for my layman's opinion, I think that the word "better" is quite - it's not contrary to any advertising law; "new", well, you know, we could get into a long discussion here again and I think a case could be made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be no . . . at this point.

MR. HANUSCHAK: However, Mr. Chairman, to go on to the next couple of questions that the honourable member asked. He asked about staff. I have a recollection of having made reference to staff when I told him that last year our staff was seven. At the present time it's fifteen and, as the honourable member will note, the expenditures of our Consumer Bureau are less than 25 cents per person in the Province of Manitoba, which certainly is not an exorbitant amount by any stretch of the imagination.

Have we sufficient staff as the demand increases? If the need becomes warranted and it increases, then certainly we will take into consideration the provision of additional staff.

Are the services of the Consumer Bureau available to rural Manitoba? My answer is yes. My answer is yes, and the services are available in two ways. People do contact us from rural Manitoba. A large number of complaints that we receive do come from rural Manitoba and, in addition to that, Mr. Chairman, our consumer services officers do spend a large amount of their time working in various rural communities throughout the province, and when I mention rural communities, I am also including Northern Manitoba.

The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney wished to know the nature of the problems that we have dealt with. Well, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there is a rule against repetition. I'd like to repeat what I said a moment ago that perhaps the honourable member may have been absent from the House or his attention may have been directed towards something else at that particular time, but I did give a breakdown, you may recall, of the various complaints received by and dealt with by the Consumer Bureau. So if the honourable member would wait until he receives his copy of Hansard, he'll be able to get that information from there.

He expressed surprise at the fact that building supplies were not covered. Well, that surprises me because the Consumer Protection Act that we now have is essentially a product of this House, the results of the contributions of the New Democrats and the Liberals when we sat on that side of the House, and the Conservatives when they were the government sitting on this side of the House, and that is the legislation that is the law of the land today, so that provision was there at the time when the honourable member sat in one of these seats over here, when the honourable member sat here, and he may have been on a committee which may have had a hand with the drafting of the bill, so therefore that should not have been that great a surprise to the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, I want to come back to this question of open tendering. The Minister has said that he's sure that he's living within the provisions of the Act when he doesn't open tenders for school buses, but I wonder if he can indicate, since he's knowledgeable in this area presumably, why the system of open tenders is used in some aspects of government tendering and was used in the system of tendering for school buses by school boards but is not now the pattern that is used for purchase of school buses by this government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the question is asking the Minister to answer, or give an answer that he has already given in this afternoon's debate. The Minister of . . .

MR. CRAIK: He didn't answer it. He said under the Act.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I had dealt with that earlier and the question also touches on matters that I have a distinct recollection of having been very adequately and completely covered by the Honourable Minister of Education when he made specific reference to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, the Minister didn't answer the question; he said simply that he was living within the provisions of the Act. But the question is, and the Minister of Education certainly can answer it from his point of view, but the Minister who is in charge of Consumer Affairs and Other Services for the government is the Minister whom the policy setting rests with, not the Minister of Education, not the Minister of Transportation, but with the

(MR. CRAIK, cont'd.) . . . . Minister whose estimates are now before us, and I think that, aside from referring to his Act, he should indicate to us why this discrepancy, because school bus tendering by school boards was done on an open basis with the tenders open and published but it's not being done by the government now. Can he indicate why?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I said earlier, Mr. Chairman, before I made the comment that the Honourable Member for Riel refers to, when I reminded honourable members, that the Act states that all purchases shall be made in the most economical manner possible. It also states Transit and these are the guidelines that we followed. It also states that competitive offers shall be obtained, by public tender or otherwise, for all supplies wherever possible; and it also states that, wherever possible, the quality and prices being equal, products of manufacturers of the Province of Manitoba shall be purchased; and it also states that the only variation from this would be when for good and sufficient reasons it would not be in the public interest that the lowest tender should be considered. And those are the guidelines followed by the Purchasing Bureau and that applies to everything whether it's paper clips or airplanes.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, the Minister then, from what he has read, must realize that the Act is very likely being contravened; two out of the three sections are being contravened that he's just read: (1) the most economical, and the Minister of Education, if he happened to be listening when the Minister of Education gave his reply, said that the decision that was made cost between 4 and 4 1/2 percent more than it would have if they had taken the lowest tender, and that would indicate right there that the Minister should investigate whether the Act is being contravened in that case. So the answer he has given has done nothing more than substantiate the claim that the Act that he's responsible for administering is not being adhered to by the government itself.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there have been amendments to legislation governing the purchasing procedures of school buses within some other piece of legislation outside of my jurisdiction, which made it possible for buses to be purchased in this way. Now the honourable member states of paying about four and a half percent more. Well, I'll repeat again, Mr. Chairman, and I hesitate to do so but I feel that I must, and the honourable member could check the Act for himself where the Act states that "purchases shall be made in the most economical manner possible." Now, when we're talking about the economy of purchases, surely we're not only concerned about the price tag on the commodity that one has to pay at the time of purchase, we're also concerned about its performance, service, the cost of maintenance, the availability of the commodity, and all those factors are part and parcel that fall under the umbrella of economy, of the most economical manner of purchases.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying then, by those last comments about checking out the service ability, maintenance and so on, that this was in fact done before the purchasing order was approved for those buses?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Of course, The Purchasing Bureau has very complete and detailed data on the performance of many of the commodities that we buy, not only buses.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has suggested that we can read the Act to find out for ourselves, but he doesn't seem to be aware of the Act himself until it gets forwarded to him from the gallery, and I suggest that his department did not check out the performance of the buses; they may check out the performance of paper clips that he's referring to, but that the performance of the buses in question, I suggest to him, were not checked out and that the buses were purchased at an additional cost to the province, entirely without his knowledge that it was being done.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I suppose, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member and I could argue the relative merits of a Ford car and a Chevrolet and he may have his opinions and I may have mine, but I can assure -- (Interjection) -- I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that all the factors which the Purchasing Bureau felt they ought to take into account in determining which would be the best vehicle for that particular purpose from the point of view of performance and safety, all those factors had been taken into account.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, this is interesting, we're now getting some basic information. Perhaps the Minister would undertake to provide us, then, with what background information about the purchases were available to him in order for him, for the government to make their decision to not live up to the legislation with which he is charged with, but to justify spending that extra 4 or 4 1/2 percent, which on -- there was a ten million dollar purchase, \$9 million, something of that order, which is a significant amount of money, perhaps \$50,000,

(MR. CRAIK, cont'd.) . . . . \$45, 000, and can he in fact say that they did a cost study to in fact show that they could spend an additional \$45, 000?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I can assure my honourable member that our Purchasing Bureau is even more efficient and more concerned about all aspects regarding purchasing than ever before, and I say this - I'm not saying this facetiously, Mr. Chairman, because I wanted to add that all of us learn by our experience, and these buses had been purchased in the past; and whatever else we may be talking about, surely we're aware of the performance of articles that we've purchased in the past, and we have record of that and we're in contact with the users of them, so this -- you know, we just didn't pull the names of buses out of a hat and make a decision on that basis.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Chairman, since the Minister has obviously investigated this so completely, as we're finding out now as we ask for legitimate information in this House, perhaps he can tell us what factors were accounted for. How many bidders were there? What were the companies' names and what were the bids?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister? The question has been asked and if there isn't something further to be contributed to this particular point . . . The Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, I find this rather strange coming from a government that professes to reveal all to everybody, and how many times, Sir, do we ask questions on the Orders of the Day and are told by Cabinet Ministers that when their estimates are up there'll be answers provided? Now when we ask legitimate questions, we find that the Minister sits in his seat and refuses to answer the questions. Sir, this is not the Orders of the Day or the daily question period. These are the estimates of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The responsibility of the Opposition is to enquire of the ministry and it is the ministry's responsibility to answer, and we see the strange spectacle now of the silence of the Minister who is quite voluble on any other occasion. Honourable gentlemen opposite seem to think that this is the 29th Congress of the Soviets of the Union of Manitoba and that the purpose of the government is to stand up and self-congratulate themselves, and when the opportunity for self-congratulation is over, then they must not answer any questions. Well, Sir, the responsibility of the government is to answer questions as they have indicated that they would do during the consideration of estimates. I don't know what they expect the Opposition to be doing if not ask pertinent questions relating to the departmental activities, but this Minister, when he's cornered, sits down - sits down and smiles like a Buddha and refuses to answer questions. Well, it's rather a strange sight, the Minister who assumes the role of the person who is going to regulate the economy, who is going to make sure that everybody is regulated and controlled.

During the second reading of the bill dealing with the Mortgage Lenders and Mortgage Dealers Act, the Minister had a startling revelation, and he stated in his remarks in introducing that legislation that he had discovered that there was somebody in this province that wasn't controlled. On Page 1437 of Hansard, the Minister says this: "At present there's no control whatsoever over the employees of the mortgage brokers." Lo and behold, they find that somebody in this province does not have the long arm of the government regulating them; he seeks them out and, having sought them out, immediately brings in legislation to make sure that they are controlled. Well, Sir, when legitimate questions are asked in this House, it is the responsibility of the government to answer those legitimate questions and I would think that the Minister would give the courtesy to the Member for Riel in answering a very proper question during the consideration of his estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I will accept the Member for Morris' contribution to a point of order and the Chair would seek some advice from some members of the committee, in that reference was made to a specific responsibility as to the purchase of buses being under the purview of the Minister of Youth and Education, and I'm trying -- the Clerk at the moment is trying to find the particular piece of legislation, because the Chair is in a little bit of a dilemma; if such is the case, then this particular debate is out of order at the present time, realizing full well the Member for Morris taking his point well, that it is the responsibility and the right of the Opposition to enquire and that answers should be forthcoming. Now, whether they're acceptable or not to the Opposition is another debate. Could I just ask the indulgence of the House for a moment while I see what this legislation pertains to?

The Minister of Labour - to the point of order.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, to the point of order. It is true that the matter of school buses and the purchase to a degree comes under the Department of Education because the Public

(MR. PAULLEY, cont'd.) . . . . Schools Finance Board were an agency to purchase the buses. It's also true, though -- (Interjection) -- They put up the money, yes. It's also true, through, Mr. Chairman, I say in all due respect, that the Minister of Consumer Affairs who is charged with the responsibility of the conduct of the Purchasing Bureau is also involved, so I would suggest that it is proper, insofar as the order of this is concerned, to raise questions as to the purchase of the buses at this particular time as well, because it is relevant to the conduct of the responsibilities of the Minister of Consumer Affairs.

And I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, I was rising to make a comment or two prior to the point of order, if that is concluded then I would like to make an observation to the remarks of my honourable friend from Morris.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Riel to the point of order.

MR. CRAIK: Yes, the point of order. The legislation that was provided in this House under separate cover at an earlier date referred to the method of purchasing to central purchasing which included buses and other major items with reference to the Public School System. Now, the method change was that it be changed from the school division to the government. It did not change the requirements or anything of that sort, outside of the shift from the school board to the Public Schools Finance Board, to take advantage of central purchasing and, as I said earlier and others have said in here, there is not disagreement with central purchasing. What is at question here and there is disagreement with, is whether or not the tenders for these buses -- (Interjection) -- Yes. -- (Interjection) -- It's very much to the point of order. The point was made that this was under separate legislation presented by the Minister of Youth and Education. We agree with that, but the legislation was to provide for central purchasing; it did not have anything to do with the techniques of open tendering or the revealing of the open tenders after tenders were closed. And I wish to speak further on this, Mr. Chairman, but it's not on the point of order, so I'll hold on until . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, there was a section under this particular legislation, and I'll just read it to remind honourable members. Under an Act to amend The Public School Finance Board Act of last year, Section 18 was added, that the act be further amended to -- "the board may purchase or arrange for the purchase by unitary divisions of any equipment, furnishings and supplies suitable for use by a unitary division." That's the one that came to mind.

Now the Chair, realizing that the 80 hours is for the Opposition, is as much interested in operating as an instrument of the Opposition as of the government in this specific instance. Therefore, I would suggest that the particular debate that we're getting involved in is repetitious as the points that are being raised by the Member for Riel at this time were raised with the Minister of Youth and Education. Answers were given by the Minister and the answers that are being given by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs are along the same vein, so that because there is an overlap of the responsibility in this regard, I would rule this particular debate in order. The Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to delay the passing of any estimates. I do not wish to take much time in the debating under the 80-hour rule, but I cannot sit quietly by and listen to the remarks of the Honourable Member for Morris without making a comment or two. He referred from time to time to "the spectacle of" and I think it's very appropriate for the Honourable Member for Morris to refer to spectacles because he creates them quite frequently in this Chamber; he's a past master. But we observe and have grown used to his exhibitions and spectacles, and I want to try and inform my honourable friend, if I may, that it is legislation contrary to his thoughts, that there will be no revealing of individual tenders other than the awarding of the successful tender, and this of course has been legislation in this province for a considerable number of years, the exception being, however, that tenders within the Department of Public Works and Highways are revealed insofar as the costs or the amounts of money, but such is not the case insofar as normal tendering in other departments, be they school buses or paper clips. So when -- I beg your pardon? -- (Interjection) -- Nothing, that's right. That's right. And you're so expert at saying nothing but you take up an awful lot of time saying it though, but you are expert at saying nothing and I agree with my honourable friend from Souris-Lansdowne when he says nothing; I'm so used to him saying nothing, and this extends of course, Mr. Chairman, over a long period of time, but I do want to try, try and enhance the knowledgeability of my honourable friend for Morris. He did spend some time down in that other place to the east of us and he may have had a different ball game down there, and he does try on occasion to impress we Manitobans as to his champion Dief and the likes of

(MR. PAULLEY, cont'd.) . . . . that, but when he talks of spectacles, I just want to say to my honourable friend that he's in a different league here. And what is the rabble doing now? What is the rabble on that side doing now?

MR. EINARSON: What's your comments got to do with the Minister answering the question?

MR. PAULLEY: If you want to speak, you stand up and I'll sit down. But I do want to say, in all deference to my friend, that there are laws governing purchasing in Manitoba. One of the laws is a law dealing with the revealing of tenders as I indicate, Mr. Chairman, other than those in the Department of Highways and Public Works, and when the Minister of Consumer Affairs indicated that on the tender for school buses, all aspects regarding the same were taken into consideration, and that it is the responsibility jointly of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Department of Education to consider all of these aspects, I might say, Mr. Chairman, there is another body as well, and my honourable friend the Member for Riel who was a former Minister of the Crown should be well aware of a third involvement, and that is of Management Committee of Cabinet, which has to consider any deviation from the awarding of a tender to the lowest tender.

Now, I don't know if my honourable friend the Member for Riel, when he occupied a Treasury Bench position, had the experience of being involved with the Treasury Board - but I have - since we formed the government; and before the tender was awarded for the school buses to Western Flyer Coach, it had to be established that it was a justifiable award of the tender to the industry located at Morris and also here in Winnipeg. So I want to assure my honourable friend the Member for Riel, and I appreciate his concern. -- (Interjection) -- What are you rabbling about again? I appreciate his concern but I do want to say that all of the factors were taken into consideration in awarding this tender, and it is true that there may be or there was a variance of three or four or five percent, but it was done after thorough consideration and investigation of all aspects and fully in accordance with the Government Purchases Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm rather interested in what the Minister of Labour has to say because when he was on this side he chastised the government under the Information Services prior to the estimates, claiming that it was PC-oriented. I imagine by now it's NDP-oriented, is it? The Information Services?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please direct your remarks to the Chair. The member is repeating something he has already contributed to the debate. The Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Well, Mr. Chairman, the way I understand it now is that this government has two policies when it comes to the Purchasing Bureau. When it's for the Department of Education, they won't open bids, and the other one they open bids. Is that right? You have two policies. Which one is going to apply in the future? Certainly when this particular report speaks of the study that was made by the Economic Development Sub-Committee, they claim that the government will, from here on, support these indigenous enterprises and cater to them. Then it goes on to speak about communications gap. It says, "We are confident that a systematic remedy will be sought, will soon be brought about to this communications gap between the government and the private sector." This I can readily believe because if the communications gap wasn't there, certainly they wouldn't have nationalized the insurance industry last year, they wouldn't bring in the uni-city bill this year, because these are not things that people want, and surely enough I agree - there is a communications gap here.

The report mentions this in connection with the purchasing practices that have developed, and certainly I would like to hear from the Minister just how he can explain one policy for one purchasing bureau and another for a second one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, I listened intently to the Minister of Labour as he explained this. His arguments would have been very worthwhile and probably very convincing had the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs and Internal Services not already made a statement. However, he made the statement to the effect that he was living up to the legislation which he had to administer. They had checked this particular purchase out from a technical point of view, from a maintenance point of view, from a purchasing point of view, and they had a complete study done, I would gather, from his remarks. It indicated that the legislation which he read out was still being lived up to. Now, if that is the case, the Minister's responsible and let him answer. Let him tell the details, and, better still, why not just publish the

(MR. CRAIK, cont'd.) . . . . tenders in a true and open fashion so that the public can see them and then they can judge for themselves and the government can turn around and say, "We spent an extra \$45,000. We felt it was in the best interests because this was a Manitoba manufacturer." But instead of this, what we do is get a run-around here when we try and elicit information which historically in Manitoba was provided through the open tendering system.

Now that's the sort of thing that let's the Minister justify his salary that we are talking about, and so far all we've got from him is a smokescreen literally over there, a big smile and a whitewash job in saying that "Me and my department, who are at Portage and Main and south and west and east, are doing a good job; we have doubled our expenditures this year but it's only 25 cents per capita. Don't worry about it and just leave me alone."

Now we want more than that. We want answers and we expect answers. The answers are forthcoming in the legislation. Now if the Minister can't get up and answer, it's questionable whether he in fact can justify the \$15,600 that he's appropriated for in these estimates and perhaps we should introduce a motion to the effect. It would put him in the same category as other ministers that have come before us, but so far he's done a pretty lousy job of standing up and, first of all, justifying the creation and formation of a new department, multiplying his expenditures, and not even living up to the legislation that he didn't know existed until somebody from the gallery brought it to him and spelled it out for him.

Now is this what we are to expect from the Minister in this department?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has now reached the supper hour. I am leaving the Chair to return again at 8:00 o'clock.