

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, March 15, 1972

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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 27 students of Grade 11 standing of the Wawanesa Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Dean Boyd. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

We also have 60 students of Grade 6 standing of the Nordale School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Turner and Miss Pepin. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

And we have a further 40 students of Grade 11 standing of the Teulon Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Messrs. Masters and Allan and Miss Carrison. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Gimli.

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

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of privilege of this House and I do so, not only as a member of the Legislature, but also as the Minister responsible for reporting to the House on behalf of the Provincial Auditor. In yesterday's newspaper there was a report of a speech made by, I quote, "Manitoba Liberal Leader Izzy Asper" which, if accurately reported, I think is one which deserves consideration by the House. He speaks, according to the report, of the Provincial Auditor General's Report which was tabled recently in the House, as, and the quote is: "modest report aimed at maintaining his source of income," and goes on to say that he was critical of the New Democratic Party government for firing the independent auditors last year and replacing them with Mr. McFee who is responsible to the government. Mr. Speaker, I would excuse ignorance but I certainly can't excuse not only ignorance but, coupled with that, an attack on a person appointed by this -- or who serves this Legislature, questioning his professional integrity in presenting reports. I refer to the Provincial Auditor's Act, Section 3(1), which states that the Provincial Auditor shall be paid a salary fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council which shall be charged to and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

3(2): The salary of the Provincial Auditor shall not be reduced except on resolution of the Assembly.

4(1): The Provincial Auditor shall hold office during good behaviour.

4(2): The Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, on a resolution of the Assembly, carried by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Assembly voting thereon, may remove the provincial auditor from office or suspend him.

4(3): Heading Suspension when Legislature not Sitting - Upon written advice of the majority of a committee consisting of the President of the Executive Council and the recognized leaders of the members belonging to the several political parties in opposition, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may, at any time the Legislature is not in session, suspend the provincial auditor for cause but the suspension shall not continue in force beyond the end of the next ensuing session of the Legislature.

Clearly the Provincial Auditor is a servant of this Assembly. Clearly the Provincial Auditor is not accountable to the government for his actions but accountable to this Assembly. Clearly the government itself has no authority whatsoever to reduce his salary, or indeed to suspend or dismiss him. It has to be a vote of two-thirds of this Assembly. Even between sessions the Premier is given only one vote on a committee made up of the Premier and the leaders of the recognized parties - and in this case there's only one but it has to be a majority. If there were two in opposition then the Premier would obviously be in the minority. Clearly the Provincial Auditor is never subject to direction or control by the government. The suggestion in this report, which may not be accurate, is that he gave a modest report aimed at maintaining his source of income.

I think this is a slanderous statement. I think it's one which the Provincial Auditor has

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) a right to deal with if he wishes to in the civil courts, but I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is a very serious matter to this Assembly to have this kind of statement made. I point out further the other quotation was that the government fired independent auditors replacing them with Mr. McFee who is responsible to government. There is a suggestion here that he is not independent, which is untrue, and there's a question here of his integrity as a chartered accountant, as the Provincial Auditor-General of this province. I think, therefore, Mr. Speaker, rather than go through the more rigorous suggestion of bringing this person to the bar of this Legislature, which I think this Assembly has a right to do, the least that ought to be done is that he be required to clarify but I think really apologize for this attack on an individual who otherwise has no opportunity of any kind to answer for himself.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I believe it's within the providence of the members of the Opposition to follow up with a short statement made by a Minister in this regard, and it will be very brief, simply to disassociate very clearly any suggestions that were implicit, implied by the comments that have just been attributed by the Honourable the Minister of Finance to the other party leader hereto mentioned, and that there is no question at any time on the part of the Official Opposition as to the integrity and to the independence of the Provincial Auditor, who I am pleased to state is one of the few representatives left of the past administration, served the past administration well and capably, and who at no time had his integrity or his impartiality or his judgment reason to be called into question. I concur therefore with the remarks made by the Minister of Finance. A charge of this kind is particularly serious in the sense that the avenues left open for that particular person are limited, that is in the public arena such as we have here, and that I concur and support with whatever actions the government insists or feels that should be taken, to clear this particular matter, this perhaps slur on that gentleman's office, up in a forthright manner and as quickly as possible. Most Manitobans, and all Manitobans including the Official Opposition, have this kind of regard, this kind of feeling for the integrity of those persons in charge of the auditing, the Provincial Auditor's office particularly, of the affairs, the financial affairs of this province.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other tabling of reports? Ministerial Statements. The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I want to rise on a question of privilege, privileges of the House as well. Not only, Mr. Speaker, has the attack on the integrity of the Provincial Auditor occurred outside of this House, it occurred inside this House as well, and I refer to Hansard of Tuesday, March 14th; the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie on page 45.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has a point of order on a matter of privilege? The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): The rule, as I understand, is that questions of privilege must be raised at the earliest opportunity. My understanding was -- and I was in the House during the course of the remarks made by the Member for Portage. So was the Attorney-General. If he had a question of privilege to raise he should have raised it at that time. He is approximately 24 hours late in raising his question of privilege now. -- (Interjection) -- in the House at the time that the speech was made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General on the point of order.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the correctness of the member's remarks. I merely want to confirm that I wasn't certain of exactly what the honourable member had said. It is now verified in Hansard, and I wouldn't want to have challenged the honourable member on my recording, my verbal recording, my memory recording of what he said, because it is certainly a serious breach of the ethics of this House, and I would suggest under the circumstances that once Hansard has established that there has been an attack upon someone who is responsible to this House, it is open to any member of this House to ask the honourable member who has made such an attack to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, unless you feel, Sir, that it is possible to rule immediately on the point that has been raised, I would suggest that honourable members desist from pursuing this rather fine point of order today in order to give you, Sir, an opportunity to reflect on the matter, to take it under advisement. The fine point,

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . it seems to me, is to whether or not the long-standing rule - and I agree with the Member for Morris, it is a long-standing rule - that a point of privilege should be raised at the time when privilege has been abused. On the other hand it seems to me, Sir, I do recall of instances where a member has been able to argue with validity that it was the first opportunity for him to see the printed record and to satisfy himself as to whether or not the privilege of this House had been abused. So therefore, Sir, it seems to me it's a case of weighing those two rather fine points of practice and rule, and to make a ruling after due consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable members. I shall take the matter under advisement.

Ministerial Statements. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table some reports that are required pursuant to statutes. One, copies of Returns under the Controverted Elections Act for the calendar year 1971 from the Court of Queen's Bench, from the Court of Appeal. Eight copies of each have been forwarded to the Clerk of the House for distribution.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Report of the Provincial Auditor covering the report and accounts for the year ending March 13st of The Liquor Control Commission.

Also, Mr. Speaker, 48, the Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Liquor Control Commission for the fiscal year April 1st, 1970 to March 31st, 1971. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that 56 copies have been handed to the Clerk of the House for distribution.

Mr. Speaker, also I would like to table the Annual Report of the Public Utilities Board for the year ending December 31st, 1971. The Queen's Printer is preparing the usual copies for distribution to all members and I shall forward these additional copies or have them distributed as soon as they are available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table information required by Order for Return No. 9 filed by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge in the Session of 1971.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. MACKLING introduced Bill No. 2, an Act to amend The Legislative Library Act, and Bill No. 3, an Act to amend The Mortgage Act.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Acting Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood) introduced Bill No. 4, an Act to amend The Department of Public Works Act. (Recommended to the House by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: Oral questions. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the First Minister. Can the First Minister tell us whether or not he or this government has given any thought to continuing the PEP program? Into the summer months, that is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member is aware, the program does continue up till May 31st. Certainly there has been no decision taken as yet as to the advisability or necessity of carrying it forward beyond that date. I think that decision will have to wait further refinements of data with respect to unemployment levels in the months of March and April.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on a point of privilege so that I can express myself. I would prefer if the House would give leave, and that includes myself, that the Attorney-General can make his statement today and whatever course of events take place, so be it. The reason I make that request is that I will not be in the House tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair is undecided as to leave for what kind of a statement - what part of the order are we dealing with at this moment? A personal privilege - is it agreed?

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) (Agreed) Will the Honourable Member for Portage explain his . . .

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I was clearing the way for the Attorney-General to make his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I find it irregular since the Ministerial Statements according to our Orders of the Day have already been passed. The Attorney-General had his opportunity. If he wished to make a statement I am sure he would have. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the confusion arises because the Honourable Member for Portage follows the unusual practice of asking the House for leave so that a person on the benches opposite might make a statement. This is a rather unusual request, and in any case, Sir, the subject matter which the member for Portage has in mind I believe, has to do with the very point of order which you have taken under advisement; so it would be rather difficult to presume now to proceed with the same subject matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable First Minister for the explanation. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): I wonder if the way out of this thing is for you to delay your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that there is no precedent. You have said that you would take the subject matter under advisement. The House should give sufficient confidence in you, as indeed I do, that that will be done and it would be improper for a Member of the Assembly to suggest to you, Sir, that you hold in abeyance or reverse the decision which you announced that you would do, and in all due respect to the former Speaker of the House, the Honourable the Member for Swan River, in whom I have the utmost of respect, that has already been decided upon by you, Sir, as the presiding officer of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River, has he got a point of order?

MR. BILTON: I appreciate the opinion of the Leader of the House. He has just overlooked the matter that the Speaker did ask the House as to whether or not the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie should have leave to speak, and the House gave him leave. The Speaker is now searching for a solution to the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Members are debating the question and there is no point of order before the House. Oral questions. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Labour. I wonder, Sir, if the Honourable Minister could indicate to the House whether or not he has information that could tell us the exact number of employees that are currently affected by the lay-offs at the International Nickel Company in Thompson.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The information that I have received, Mr. Speaker, recently, rather than the lay-off there will be an increase in the staff complement at Thompson. There was a lay-off at Thompson and Sudbury a month or so ago and I want to say that the management of Inco gave me the courtesy of informing me as to the reductions at that particular time, so I have no information as to further reductions but a statement that the work force is increasing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce and notice for these questions was given to him in advance. Can the Minister indicate to the House what percentage of the total capital stock of Saunders Aircraft is now owned by the Government of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry & Commerce) (Brandon East): Well, Mr. Speaker, that question was asked of me yesterday and at that time I requested that an Order for Return be filed, and I would like to have that request stand, please.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the Minister indicate if the total financial involvement of the MDC in Saunders Aircraft now exceeds \$3,000,000?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, unlike the previous administration, we do make this information public by means of quarterly reports, and the information is published and available for everyone in Manitoba, Canada, and indeed the entire world, to read if they so wish. So it is public information.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, a final question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he now tell me how many aircraft have been licensed and delivered to trade customers by Saunders Aircraft. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I am certain the honourable gentleman is aware that we have had a custom of giving notice on certain types of questions. I find he is asking for statistical information. It would be much more suited to having an Order for Return filed and he would probably get a much better answer. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (Bud) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I understand it's National Health Week. I wonder if the Minister of Health and Social Development could inform the House what the policy of the government is in connection with National Health Week?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, March 12th to 18th inclusively has been recognized as National Health Week in Canada, and the Department of Health and Social Development last week submitted a press release that was actually carried by quite a few weeklies, but unfortunately the two largest dailies in the province of Manitoba have not carried the information included in that press release, which is to the benefit of all citizens of this province.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, who is responsible for Autopac. It has to do with the reduction granted to the City of Winnipeg for the operation of their bus fleet insured with Autopac. My question is, will rural school divisions be given the same opportunity to negotiate a lower rate for their bus fleets?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Commissioner of Northern Affairs) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, this is an area of policy. We are of no reason to feel that there is any need for any reduction whatsoever in the area referred to by the Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware that some rural school divisions have had their rates under Autopac doubled and more?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the statement is untrue.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is the Churchill Forest Industry complex operating in the black or making money as per the latest financial statement or report?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a difficult question to answer. I believe the general manager of the complex will be appearing before the Rhodes Smith Commission, the commission of inquiry, and will be presenting detailed information. As the honourable members of the House can appreciate, the fact of the matter is, unfortunately, because of a deal made by the previous government, this project is highly over-financed and the problem is one of unduly heavy financial overhead and the interest payments that are due thereon.

MR. FROESE: A further question back to the same Minister. Have any changes been instituted in the manner and disbursement of funds re CFI loan made by the Development Corporation?

MR. EVANS: I am not exactly sure what the honourable member is getting at but I can tell you that under our administration there is a very close and careful check of all loan payouts, and indeed there are many, many checks and balances that have been brought into effect to insure that we have full accounting of every penny that is loaned out to any company, whether it be CFI in receivership or any company whatsoever.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a further question to the First Minister. Can the First Minister provide us with a copy or a financial statement of CFI, as requested at the previous session, and my understanding was that it was agreed to? Can he do this at this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know why the Honourable Member for Rhineland is asking me for a copy of the financial statement of CFI. He was quite willing to ask the Minister of Industry and Commerce certain information and I should think that if he were to ask the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce, he would find him as accommodating as I am. The fact of the matter is that the financial affairs of CFI are matters which will be analyzed by the inquiry commission headed by C. Rhodes Smith, and I am sure that information

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) will be made public in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable gentleman has had two supplementaries. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he would care to comment on the lengthy report in the Free Press yesterday, respecting the winter navigation on the St. Lawrence River and the use of up to twelve ice breakers and \$19 million worth of ice structure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, whether I had some valid comments or not perhaps may be beside the point, but I think there is a jurisdictional question here. It is not within the jurisdiction of this government. The jurisdiction of this government does not extend to the matters of the St. Lawrence Seaway, although indeed I must add that we are very concerned about navigation on the St. Lawrence Seaway but we do not have direct control over the regulation of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

MR. BEARD: A supplementary question - am I not right in thinking that some of the jurisdiction of the Port Authority . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I realize that members would like to have their thoughts recorded in the form of a question than making a statement instead, but it is not one of the methods or rules of this House. The Honourable Member for Lakeside. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Is the provincial government authorized to enter into negotiations in respect to the Port Authority at Churchill in the future planning?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Member for Churchill would find it interesting to note that the restructuring that has taken place with respect to the authority that operates the Churchill port, is such that it is still under the operational authority of the government of Canada. What has changed is that the government of Canada has restructured the nature of the National Harbours Board so as to allow for provincial and local representation, and that is what has happened. The province of Manitoba was consulted as to the appointment of a person to the Port Authority but it is still under the aegis of the government of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: . . . a question then to the First Minister. Did in fact then the province of Manitoba appoint members to the Port Authority?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, It would be more correct to say that we were asked to recommend persons to be appointed. The actual appointing thereof was done by the federal Minister of Transport.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General, having to do with the report just distributed. For the past hundred years, Mr. Speaker, the white community, perhaps rightly, has been accused of debauching our Indian brothers with liquor.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the honourable member state his question?

MR. ENNS: . . . appearance of a very attractive picture of an Indian Chief in full regalia in any way absolve us of that sin, long-standing sin?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): I have a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I would ask the Minister if he has been able to investigate whether or not a subsidiary of Westons has purchased controlling interest in Silverwood Dairies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I did not undertake to make any investigation, but I have been advised that there hasn't been any formal transaction take place.

MR. GONICK: A second question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he would tell the House how much money was paid by his department to the Winnipeg Free Press advising in an ad to the people of Manitoba that this is a nice place to live? It appeared yesterday.

MR. EVANS: I would ask the member to file an Order for Return, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, my point in rising relates to a question that was

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) addressed to us by the Honourable Member for Rhineland. If he would specify the nature of the kind of financial and operating information relative to CFI that it is that he wishes, we would undertake to provide as much of that information as possible. I have no way of knowing whether he was referring to start-up costs, whether he was referring to, for example, the level of production, the percentage of capacity production that has already been achieved, and so on; so if he would care to be more specific in a written form, we will try to accommodate him.

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

MR. PETER ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Mines and Environmental Management. Could he indicate to the House if his department intends to undertake steps towards rehabilitation of Lake Dauphin and Lake Winnipegosis this year?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Education. I wonder if he has an answer for my question which he took as notice yesterday.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. It's a supplementary question to his directed to the Member for Rhineland. Can he -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. Can he indicate, as a result of his indication in this House, if there is a particular cut-off date to which the Inquiry Commission will make its inquiry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, no cut-off date as such has been set. However, I can advise the honourable member that the commission was asked at the outset to conduct its affairs and its inquiry with all due dispatch. And if I may express a hope, I would hope that the report, a report, is available before year's end, certainly well before that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the First Minister advise me what members of the present Treasury Bench will be before the Inquiry Commission?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is very simple. Such members as are requested to appear by the Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, can the First Minister advise what members of the Treasury Bench have now received advance notice to appear before the Inquiry Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I wonder if this is relevant to the House. It's an inquiry that's beyond this House and is not pertaining to the matters at the moment. The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: I'd like to direct another question to the Minister of Education. I wonder if he could advise us as to when the bursary application forms will be circulated to schools; also when the new textbook order forms, the pink forms, will be circulated to the schools. Some schools are waiting for those.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Insofar as the bursary forms are concerned, Mr. Speaker, as soon as I receive them. Insofar as the textbook order forms, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: One supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister suggesting that he has to be receiving the bursary forms before they are sent out? Are they not sent out directly from the department?

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they are sent out directly from the department that issues them.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may have your indulgence to advise the Acting House Leaders of groups opposite that it is my intention to move motions of condolence tomorrow in commemoration of the years of service here in this Chamber with respect to the late Mr. Claydon and the late Mr. Edmond Prefontaine.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. I asked this question a couple of days ago; I wonder if he has the answer. It's in respect to Western Flyer Coach MDC loan. Is it true that the interest rate has been reduced from 10 3/4 percent to 8 3/4 percent?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to provide the information as soon as possible.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Vital, and the amendment thereto by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and the further amendment thereto by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have you presiding over this Assembly and I wish to compliment you on the impartiality that you have shown in the past, and I know that you will carry out your duties with the same fairness in future sessions. I also, Mr. Speaker, listened with great interest to the speeches of the mover and the seconder of an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable Members from St. Vital and Ste. Rose, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on the fine manner in which they carried out their traditional functions.

I would also at this time, Mr. Speaker, like to take the opportunity to welcome to this Assembly the new member for the constituency of Minnedosa. I'm sure that he will find his duties exhilarating. I'm sure that he will look forward to taking part in the debates that take place in this House as much as we are looking forward on this side to hearing his contribution to this House.

Now, Mr. Chairman, as the chairman of the Industrial Relations Committee during the recess of this House, and as a trade unionist and as a working man representing a working class constituency, the Constituency of Logan, I welcome in the Throne Speech the proposed legislation for a Manitoba labor code dealing with industrial relations and employment standards. Between sessions, the Industrial Relations Committee heard many and varied briefs from both labour and management and other interested parties dealing with these two subjects, and it's my sincere hope that the proposed legislation that will be presented to this House will go far towards helping to solve the problems that were raised during the presentation. One of the thornier problems that the Industrial Relations Committee faced during the hearings was the one dealing with Workmen's Compensation, and since this Act is due for some pruning or updating, as has been suggested in the Throne Speech, Number one, to raise the benefits. However, Mr. Speaker, a raise in benefits alone and proposed amendments alone will not help solve some of the public misconceptions of its rights under the Workmen's Compensation Act. This message, Mr. Speaker and members of this Assembly, came through loud and clear during the hearings and is a continual complaint that I face and I'm sure other members of the Assembly face. We're always hearing complaints about Workmen's Compensation and the rights of the workers and what their rights are under the Act.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a small booklet that has been published by the Workmen's Compensation Board. I think it's called "What I should do if I am injured at work," which briefly outlines the proper procedure for a worker to go about in case of an industrial accident on the job. Now I've found, Mr. Speaker, from my own experience as a member of a trade union and as one who has distributed these booklets at my place of work to fellow workers and have later found that the same booklets have been thrown helter skelter around the shop floor, it's very obvious that the wrong method is being used to acquaint workers of their rights in this respect. And if I may be permitted to make a suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I hope you'll not rule me out of order, but I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister and perhaps to the members of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

I think that they have a very fine program at the present time on television which outlines safety practices that the Board would like to see workers adopt and of course industry adopt, and I think it's a good program. It's a media that people of today understand and really it's perhaps one of the finest pieces of educational apparatus that we have in the market today. I think an extension of the program that the Workmen's Compensation Board is presently engaged in when

(MR. JENKINS cont'd) the new Act is brought in to this House and subsequently passed and becomes the law in statutes of this province of Manitoba, that this program should be enlarged to set out what the rights of workers are, how's the proper way to go about compensation claims, and I think it would be a more effective way in this electronic age of getting this message across with some impact.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that in conjunction with this TV program on safety and rights of workers - and employers, I might add - under the Workmen's Compensation Act, that a new booklet - and I want to express this point very emphatically, that it would be in very simple layman's language, short, snappy, and to the point, perhaps something set out along the lines of the present interpretations I think of the Landlord and Tenants Act, which I think is a good thing, which sets out the rights and responsibilities of both parties and in this case it would be both employees and employers, and it would be one that they would be able to interpret quite easily. I think, Mr. Speaker, that an educational program of this nature combined with the existing safety programs would go a long way towards alleviating much of the distress, both economic and psychological, suffered by workers involved in industrial accidents.

Another major complaint, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee heard during the hearings was one on the abuse of the Workmen's Compensation Act by some employers, and I want to make it quite plain here that I don't say that all employers do this, and it's a very difficult thing to actually pinpoint. This is the one of exerting undue pressure on industrial accident victims to either remain on the job or to return back to the job, in spite of an injury, so that the industrial safety record of that employer will not be adversely affected. Unfortunately some of our workers and employees are not aware of the fact that they are under no compulsion to return or to remain on the job until they are declared medically fit by a medical board of the Workmen's Compensation Board. Therefore, an updated education program by the Workmen's Compensation Board would help stamp out this practice.

Another hardship, Mr. Speaker, and one that I've had considerable flak on from members of the trade union, and I see that it's going to be dealt with in the Throne Speech, and that is the hardships of many members of our society, workers, others in the labour force, in the loss of income in carrying out their compulsory duties of citizenship when they act as members of a jury. It's one that I've had considerable complaints about, and I think, and I welcome the mention that it is going to be updated, and it's true, Mr. Speaker, that while some collective agreements in the Province of Manitoba, perhaps some that are held federally under federal jurisdiction, they cover pay awards for jury duty, awarding full wages in return for the signing over of the jury duty fees to the employer; however, I would say that the majority of people in Manitoba who in exercising - and I fully uphold their civic and citizenship duties in acting as members of jury - do suffer great financial loss and I feel that they should be compensated. I don't feel that anyone should be performing a civic duty to society, that society and the state should make sure that he is not doing this at an economic hardship to himself. Many people who are summoned to appear for jury duty sometimes are not in the best financial straits and it works great financial hardship to them. And therefore, I hope that the proposed increases in the jury duty fees will be in line with today's increased cost of living.

It has also been suggested, I don't know whether seriously or perhaps in a jocular manner by some members of the Opposition, I think one yesterday, the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, I believe - I stand to be corrected if I'm wrong - that some serious consideration be given to compulsory arbitration in industrial dispute. And I point out, however, Mr. Speaker, that it is interesting to note that the conciliation services of the Department of Labour settled 97 percent of the disputes dealt with without any work stoppage and I think this record speaks for itself. Still in the field of labour . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Just on a point of order. I wish to correct the honourable member. He was referring to me in the comments he just made. I think he really meant the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. I had nothing to say about the arbitration - I said nothing in my speech about labour.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the comments that the member is referring to was only what I reported in my speech as being the words of someone else.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said that I stood to be corrected on who had

(MR. JENKINS cont'd) made the statement, and I believe I also said I wasn't sure whether the member was serious or whether he was advancing this in a jocular manner. However, Mr. Speaker, still in the field of labour we heard a very interesting and intriguing suggestion here the other day in this Chamber for the first civil service transplant to be performed, not by Dr. Bernard, but by a non-practising lawyer, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, the record for a successful transplant is extremely rare so I think we'll just leave this proposition to the realm of science fiction where perhaps it most rightly belongs.

The burden of educational taxes, Mr. Speaker, this year will be greatly eased by the rebate up to a maximum of \$50.00 to all home owners and tenants. This will be especially beneficial to old age pensioners and people on fixed incomes. Senior citizens home repair program -- the senior citizens home repair program I might add for my constituency and the amount of inquiries that I've had about it seems to have been highly successful and I think it's one that will, with other measures that will be proposed in this House, enable to ease the realty tax burden on our senior citizens and people on fixed incomes in order to enable them to keep their homes.

Now still in the field of education, Mr. Speaker, while everyone recognizes the need for a constant upgrading of our educational system and our government's policy of making all phases of education available to Manitobans is a step in the right direction, realizing, however, that we must cut our educational garment according to our financial cloth so that all our people benefit from what our institutions have to offer. And I want to emphasize this very strongly so that all people benefit from what our institutions have to offer we must insure the continued operation of our public school system that has endured and expanded since its inception and is the basis of economic and social progress in this province. And as a former member of a school board in the Province of Manitoba, while the public school system at various times comes under some pretty severe criticism, I as one who served as a member of a board of education and as one who was a product of the public school system -- I think that goes for perhaps the vast majority in this House -- want to state here and unequivocally that I support the public school system fully, to the fullest extent, and it is my intention to do so now and in the future.

It occurs to me as perhaps it has occurred to many others in this House -- and I see that the Minister of Education is here -- that an improved course in civics or call it by whatever name you might like explaining the different levels of government in this country, their function and their jurisdiction would be of great help in cleaning up some of the confusion that seems to exist in the minds of many people, and I'm sure that other MLA's have had the same problem, in the minds of many people of just where is the proper authority for their own particular problem. People are confused. I think that information on this subject would be of great value to all Manitobans, and I leave this thought with the Minister of Education.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have heard much from the opposition side that this government is in a state of collapse. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if this government is in a state of collapse it's the healthiest state of collapse that I've ever seen. Unfortunately the Leader of the Official Opposition isn't here. I understand that he's suffered some sort of a collapse. I thought of making some comments on his contribution to the Throne Speech; however, I think it was summed up quite well by one of the editorial staff writers of one of the daily newspapers -- I'm not going to name the person but I think that it was much sound and not much foundation or something to that effect -- with respect to the debate and the contribution of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, the House Leader of the party whose leader has aspirations to reach this House some way or other -- (Interjection) -- aspirations, I believe that's the word. I really can't comment too much because really there isn't too much that is worthy of comment. I would be delighted to spell that for the Honourable Member for La Verendrye any time he wishes me to do so. I believe it comes under the new method of spelling.

Before I sit down I would like to take this opportunity to thank the First Minister and the members of this Assembly for electing me to the position of trust and honour that you have bestowed not only upon myself but upon my constituency, the constituency of Logan. I also want to say that I shall try to carry out the duties of your Chairman of House committees and Deputy Speaker to the best of my ability. I have chaired several committees outside this House and I think that I've had fairly good cooperation before with all members and I hope that this will continue as we carry on the business of this House. And also, it's unfortunate that the former deputy is not in the House right now but I would like to pay tribute to the contribution that he made in the past Session and I hope that I will be able to carry out the functions and traditions of this post to the best of my ability and thank all members of this House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first words are to you, Sir, to extend felicitations and appeal to you for continued fairness and good judgment in your conduct of the affairs of the Chamber. I would like to extend my congratulations, too, to the new House Leader of the government side, or is it the old House Leader on the government side. As we had occasion to remark last night it seemed like old times to have the Honourable Minister of Labour back in harness as House Leader on the government benches and it was interesting and rewarding to note that he has lost none of his fire, none of his ability to leap into combat in this arena at the drop of a point of order or even a suspected point of order and we wish him a happy and an interesting time as he attempts to cope with the procedures of this Chamber in the weeks and months ahead.

I want also to extend congratulations to the new Ministers, to the Minister Without Portfolio from The Pas, to the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs from St. Boniface and to the Acting Minister of Public Works in particular on his elevation to portfolio status.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I have personal congratulations that I wish to extend to the new Chairman of House Committees and Deputy Speaker and on the strength of his contribution to the Throne Speech debate a moment or two ago may I say that he seems to be off to an exceptionally good, fair, objective and impartial start. That may not be the kind of statement that can be made about many of his colleagues, certainly I don't think it can be applied to either the mover or the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne although I congratulate them on their selection for those roles, but I think that the new Deputy Speaker and Chairman of House Committees has demonstrated that he brings a coolness and an objectivity at least at this stage of the proceedings to the Chamber that will be welcomed and respected by all.

Mr. Speaker, a word also to my colleague, the new Member for Minnedosa. The new Member for Minnedosa has demonstrated great leadership in the fields of commerce and community development in the past and I assure you, Sir, that he promises to make an equally notable contribution to the public life of the province in this Chamber in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat dismayed however by a glaring omission on the part of several speakers, notably the Minister of Municipal Affairs, last evening in the course of the address of their many complimentary remarks to many members in this Chamber whose seats and/or whose stations have changed since the last time we sat here. I say I was dismayed because in remarking on the changed seating of the Member for Birtle-Russell in particular and the Member for Swan River, the Minister of Municipal Affairs made no mention whatever of my colleague, the Honourable Member for Brandon West who has moved from his old seat in the third row to this seat beside me, and I can only conclude, Sir, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs does not feel that that is the kind of a move that is worthy of complimenting the Member for Brandon West for having made. He would not consider it I take it a promotion.

Before saying what I want specifically to say in the next few minutes, Mr. Speaker, let me deal with the Minister of Municipal Affairs for one more moment or two. He took great pride last evening in showing the House a copy of a newspaper advertisement which purportedly had been placed by supporters of the private automobile insurance concept in the Province of Ontario and he pointed it out as part of what he obviously feels is a campaign in Ontario to mobilize public opposition to a state-run automobile insurance program similar to Autopac here. Well I was surprised that the Minister should take such umbrage at and exception to an undertaking of that nature by the supporters of free enterprise whether or not he agrees with the free enterprise and freedom of choice concept in the automobile insurance field, for after all, Mr. Speaker, after all, since when was it unethical or disreputable or even illogical or unreasonable for supporters of that particular concept to take paid space in a newspaper, to take paid space in a newspaper to state their case, space for which no doubt they paid themselves. I say that I find that surprising on the part of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, because under his automobile insurance program we have -- and I in my position outside this Chamber in the newspaper and publishing field been in particular subject to a never-ending stream during the past five months, four to five months, a never-ending stream, Mr. Speaker, of press releases and promotion pieces from the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation which are certainly not being paid for out of the pocket either of the Director of that Corporation or of the Minister or of anybody else connected with that publicly-run enterprise. They are being paid for by the taxpayers of Manitoba. And I have here just a sample, just a few of those press

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) releases that have crossed over my desk from the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, all single press releases adding up to a pile that's probably an inch and a quarter thick, Mr. Speaker; starting here October 22nd running through October 25th, October 26th, October 27th, right through up until February 9th, February 10th, February 14th, February 21st, right through up until the 6th of March, Mr. Speaker, and that is not the whole list, that's not the whole list. And these, Sir, are being -- this largesse of opinion, of one-sided opinion is being distributed graciously to the reading public of Manitoba by the taxpaying public of Manitoba, which is something that didn't happen in the instance that the Minister cites in Ontario where supporters of the free choice concept paid for their own advertisement in that newspaper. Mr. Speaker, so much at the moment for the double standard of the Minister of Municipal Affairs where the dissemination of argument is concerned in the public at large.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that bothers us most, and I think certainly it applies to everybody on this side of the Chamber regardless of particular party affiliation, and perhaps indeed to everybody in the Chamber, including the government benches, is the skyrocketing climb in health care and medical costs in this province, indeed in all North America, and the conspicuous absence, Sir, in the Speech from the Throne of any specific proposed remedies for this critical problem. Let me say one thing here, Sir, about the government's program or non-program for the current year in this field of health care and medical costs. We for our part are as dismayed as the average Manitoban by the government's posture on community clinics, by a posture that can only be described as one of indecision, by a push me, pull me posture that has at one point encouraged emotional argument on the part of the public and on the other hand at another point shut it off and muzzled the public and muzzled debate. Once again, as my colleague from Lakeside points out, a program paid for by the taxpayer, but a push me, pull me program that has said nothing in terms of clear-cut direction as to what this government has in mind in the sphere of community clinics or in the sphere of control of health care and medical costs - nothing in the way of clear-cut suggestion as to how to grapple with the problem outside doctrinaire terms. The confusion and the misunderstanding that has been sown in the public's mind on this question, Mr. Speaker, was surpassed only by the confusion and the misunderstanding sown in the public's mind at the time that the first great debates on Autopac and the first great debates on Unicity were launched by the government. The confusion and misunderstanding is general and as a consequence, whatever the government attempts to do in this field now, there will be an enormous - an enormous program of education and communication necessary in order that not only the medical profession but Manitobans who rely on their medical profession for the protection of their health, understand not only the rationale for any such community clinic program that is introduced, but also have an appreciation of the kind of benefits that such a program properly constructed could bring.

Mr. Speaker, the Conservative party has gone on record and goes on record again as stating clearly and emphatically that we are not opposed and never have been opposed in principle to the concept of the community clinic. What we are opposed to, Sir, is the unnecessary implementation of or placing of community clinics in those areas and among those specific community societies where they are not wanted by the people who live there. There are, of course, a number of areas in Manitoba where properly constructed, properly administered community clinics could do a rational and a constructive and a much needed job, but there also are a number of other areas in Manitoba where the people themselves, the Manitobans themselves neither want them nor need them, and any kind of blanket, umbrella, doctrinaire program that insists on introduction of community clinics in areas such as those, among people such as those, will be met with all the resistance that this party can command. But as for the concept, we are in accord with it, provided it can be demonstrated, provided it can be demonstrated that those clinics will go in areas where they are needed and wanted, and provided, Sir, that it can be demonstrated that they will achieve what the Minister of Health and Social Services and what the Minister of Higher Education and Universities, have insisted from the beginning that they will provide, namely more efficient delivery of health care and cheaper delivery of health care.

Now, Sir, if those ministers, if this government can demonstrate that those two things will be achieved, that health care delivery will be more efficient and that costs will be controlled and the skyrocketing effect will be contained, then of course, of course, it stands to reason that all Manitobans of conscience and good sense would be partially disposed, would

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) be kindly and charitably disposed to that kind of a program. A rationalization of our health care services is necessary and long overdue. But, Mr. Speaker, there has been not one whit, not one ounce of evidence offered up to this point by the Minister of Health and Social Services or any of those who have argued this doctrinaire case with him to indicate, to demonstrate, far much less than to prove that there will be one of the effects of which I speak, much less both the effects of which I speak, namely control of costs and a greater efficiency in delivery of the services.

And there is one third question we would ask on that point, Mr. Speaker. With all the medical expertise available here in the Province of Manitoba, and heaven knows that this particular part of the North American continent is blessed with medical expertise in abundance, why is it necessary to go outside the province, to go outside our bank of expertise and import other opinions - import non Manitoba opinions on this question? Why do we have to turn to the outside and to the imports when we have the knowledge and the expertise here? These are the questions, and the problems that exorcise experts and practitioners in the medical field today, Sir, that exorcise authoritative journals in the medical field, like the Medical Post that exorcise Manitobans in general and that certainly exorcise the Progressive Conservative Party, and until we get answers to those questions, we say that the Minister and his colleague, the Minister of Universities are operating in an abstract sphere and dealing with what really is up to this point, an academic subject. Until the benefits can be demonstrated and until the people are involved in the decision, region by region, area by area, community by community as to where and when and how those community clinics should be placed and how they should operate, the whole thing is NDP abstraction and theory and philosophizing. We want answers.

Mr. Speaker, I had great difficulty at first in determining the kind of position that I was going to take in this Throne Speech debate. I was going to start out this year, Sir, by being nice to the government. I was going to start out at least, Mr. Speaker, by being relatively easy on my friends opposite. After all, Sir, there is nothing in the Throne Speech with which anybody could take umbrage. There is nothing in the Throne Speech that could get anybody's dander up. There is nothing in the Throne Speech that could get anybody mad, because, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in the

It is a harmless and an innocuous expression of banalities and propaganda and one is exceedingly hard put, Sir, to get a toehold in it, and a take-off point for debate. It's a sad commentary in reality, Sir, on the condition of these government benches. My Leader has spoken on that point, my Deputy Leader has spoken on that point, and I daresay a good many more of us on this side will comment on that point, because it is a sad reflection of the state of the great hot eyed revolutionary band over there, Sir, who was going to reform this province and reform society. . .

Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare had Mark Anthony say "I am dying Egypt, dying" and that is a statement I think that speaks and reflects volumes in terms of the present attitude of the First Minister and his colleagues and the Members of the government benches. They are dying, Sir. Where is the fire on the NDP benches of old, Mr. Speaker? As I said, as I said, Sir, as I asked rhetorically sir, as I asked rhetorically -- and I emphasize the rhetorically -- where are those hot eyed revolutionaries of yesteryear. Where have all their ideas gone? Where have all their grand reforms gone? Where has all their energy and drive gone? Is the First Minister like Alexander - now deploring the fact that he has no more worlds to conquer and no more revolutions to run and are his colleagues in that state and that condition? This is the message of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker.

I reiterate, Sir, that I was going to be easy on the government this year, because of the blandness of that document from the Throne and the disarray in the government ranks, Sir; I was going to be peaceful and docile and quiet, and really I wasn't going to have very much to say until, until out of the silence and the confusion and the error and the stumbling, and the blandness and the nothingness of that Throne Speech, came the Honourable Member for St. Vital. Along came the Honourable Member for St. Vital with an address in reply, Mr. Speaker, an address in reply that was just too much - an address in reply - I'm not sure but I understand, I understand he smiled all the way to the grave. Mr. Speaker, an address in reply that just can't be allowed to remain on the records without a word or two or comment.

By and large, Sir, there is not much that this government ever says on a continuing basis with which we on this side can find ourselves in agreement. But that changed, but that changed last Friday, Sir, when my friend the Member for St. Vital told this House that the

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) New Democratic government sitting opposite since coming to office in 1969 had produced -- and these are his words, "a record of achievement unequalled in the history of this province". A record of achievement unequalled in the history of this province. Mr. Speaker, from that moment on, I was unable to keep myself out of the Throne Speech debate. I was unable, Sir, I was unable, Sir, to contain my eagerness in rushing to get into this particular exercise. Because, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for St. Vital with wisdom beyond his years, really said a mouthful, and for once, all of us on this side can agree with the words of a member on the government side of the House, that this government has produced a record of achievement unequalled, unequalled in the history of this province.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the catalogue of that record. Here are some of the things that this government has achieved. It has achieved corporate and personal income tax rates which are among the most onerous, if not the most onerous of any province in Canada. Now that's some achievement, Mr. Speaker. It has achieved the waste of three years of revenue, the waste of three years of revenue and the benefits of that revenue for the people of Manitoba from our Northern Hydro Electric Resources which have been turned by this same government into a political football.

It has achieved, it has achieved, Mr. Speaker, the departure from Manitoba in a manner unprecedented in our history of talent, of enterprise, of capital and of people with initiative. And the Minister of Finance shouts "proof" and he's got the proof in his own records.

It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, in effect, the discouragement, if not the virtual strangulation, of much of the productive element of Manitoba society. It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, the elimination of freedom of choice for Manitobans where selection of their automobile insurance coverage is concerned. It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, elimination of the desired livelihoods of several hundreds of private automobile insurance agents. It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, the expansion of the civil service by some several hundreds of bodies. And I use the term "bodies" in its generic sense.

It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, a government patronage system that has provided hundreds of appointments and safe employment cocoons for the government's political followers. It has achieved, Mr. Speaker, it has achieved, Mr. Speaker, the importation to this province of a depressing parade of NDP theorists and party hacks who have constituted an enormous and oppressive load on the public purse. A depressing parade of NDP followers who marched through Manitoba in socialist lock step and who dole out their NDP theories for the Manitoba taxpayer to live by while lining up twice a month, Mr. Speaker, twice a month, for their own little pittance from the taxpayer's wallet - their own pitiful little salaries of \$25,000 and \$35,000 and \$40,000; and yes apparently, even \$62,000 counting all perquisites that go with some of those jobs.

And it has achieved, Mr. Speaker, it has achieved in its department of Industry and Commerce a level of surrender and incompetence and fiddling in the face of economic challenge that would make Manitobans of entrepreneurial spirit laugh, if it weren't so serious that it makes us cry. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is a tremendous, unequalled record of achievement, and I agree with the Member for St. Vital, a record in the words of that Honourable Member that is unequalled in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker, not only is it certainly unequalled in the history of this province but a million of Manitobans will say thank God for that! If there were any other records like this last one, the Province of Manitoba would be one massive ghost town.

I'll say one thing about achievement though, Mr. Speaker, one thing about achievement and accomplishment, and it ties in with the Minister of Municipal Affairs again, and that is this - he's got one point to crow about. Autopac has certainly accomplished its objective. It is bringing those desired millions of dollars in cash flow into the government's cash drawer, and from the standpoint of this government, Autopac is a resounding, a bell-ringing, a cash register ringing success. So that is one achievement that they can point to and point to with some satisfaction.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps what's worst of all, most important of all, and the thing that troubles me most of all, is that I believe that among all that other sad, tragic, dolorous catalogue of achievements that I have just listed and this government has chalked up, there may be one that is worse and it is more serious than all the others, and I implore my friends on the government benches to ask themselves whether in some of the arbitrary positions that they have taken with respect to some legislation of theirs in the past two and one half years, to ask themselves whether they have not really contributed to a climate of divisiveness in

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) this province. I think they should seriously ask themselves through some of the things they say and some of the things they do and certainly on the basis of some of their conduct with respect to presentation and passing of legislation whether they have not in many cases turned one Manitoban against another. And I am not talking about the Manitobans in this Chamber who purportedly should be able to stand on their own two feet and defend themselves against each other or take the consequences, I do not extend my remarks to cover the representation in this House, I'm talking about society at large, and I think that government members should ask themselves that question, Mr. Speaker. I think that in many of the things that this government has done it has played what I call confrontation politics. I think it played confrontation politics with Autopac in 1970 when it said, "to Hell with the consequences, we'll ram her through." I think it played confrontation politics with the Unicity legislation in 1971 when it said, "to Hell with the politics, we'll ram her through." I wonder and I feel uneasy as I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what kind of arbitrary, what kind of strong arm tactic program or approach is this government going to take this year in which it is going to say, in which it is going to say, "to Hell with the inflammability of the situation, to Hell with the consequences, this is the way we want it, let's ram her through." And I ask this government to think about that because I suggest seriously by some of the things it has said and it has done, it has, whether wittingly or not, it has contributed to a divisiveness in Manitoba's society that we never had before, that we do not need and we certainly never want to have in the future.

I say, Mr. Speaker, that several people on the government benches have to take a responsibility for that and there are several that I would specifically exclude from such responsibility. One I think who does have to take responsibility for sowing seeds of innuendo at least that lead to social division is the First Minister himself, who never, Sir, or scarcely ever passes up an opportunity to snipe at River Heights and all people who live there. I suggest that that, Sir, is a dangerous kind of a tactic. Whether the First Minister means anything by it or not is for him to say, it's not for me to say, but I think it would be in the interest of all Manitobans if he took a look at those kind of things that he says from time to time, which I say are socially divisive.

My friend the Attorney-General talks about the rich and the poor and how his government is helping the poor by soaking the rich. That kind of talk, Mr. Speaker, is straight out of 18th Century Socialist textbooks. There's no need for that kind of social divisiveness and differentiation and sort of subtle undercover reference to class and class differences and class distinctions, and I say, Mr. Speaker, that there are other members of the Cabinet and the NDP caucus, and I specifically exclude the Minister of Finance and the former minister who has just taken his seat, the Honourable Member for Inkster, from this accusation, there are several other members of the Cabinet and the NDP caucus who clearly demonstrate that they see everything in terms of "them" and "us". They see everything in terms of a so-called working class and a so-called establishment. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that's pure rubbish, that is divisive, that is inflammatory and it is dangerous and destructive and unkind to Manitoba and Manitobans. It has never been a part of Manitoba's life style and it has no place in this province that kind of talk, that kind of reference. Mr. Speaker, . . .

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

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, let us remind ourselves again that the Member for St. Vital pointed with pride to what he claimed is an achievement on the part of this government unequalled in the history of this province. Well in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as I race the clock for my last two or three minutes, let me say that in the opinion of most Manitobans that I have talked to in the last six months since this House last sat in Session, this government has achieved two major, twomain and fundamental achievements which I haven't specifically crystallized in the remarks that I've made up to this point, but which stand as the hallmark, which stand as the hallmark of NDP administration in Manitoba.

This government has achieved the blunting of the Manitoba economy and this government has achieved the stifling of the Manitoba spirit, and I appeal to the First Minister and his colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to do whatever they can in the weeks and the months left to them in their administration which is now in its waning period, to restore a climate of confidence to Manitoba, to give Manitobans a pride again in the kind of things that this province stands for and is trying to do here and is trying to achieve and to which they can contribute equally and proudly. I appeal to the First Minister to quell those fires and expressions of division on his part and among others in his caucus and to bring us together again, to restore a climate of

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) confidence in Manitoba and to bring us together again. If he would do those two things, Mr. Speaker, it would be better than all the welfare cheques that he likes to see his bureaucrats dole out.

On the strength of that, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased and proud to say that I support the motion put forward in this House last Friday by the Honourable Member for St. Vital as amended by my Leader.

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

MR. MCGILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this time somewhat reluctantly and feeling a little pale in the glow of my colleague's oratory. The Member for Fort Garry has made his points so eloquently and with such telling effect upon the members opposite.

Sir, I greet you at this time in the opening phases of this Session and echo the sentiments of other members that we look forward to this Session as one in which there will be some mutual respect and confidence and tolerance in the business of this house and that you in the high office you occupy will find in us the kind of co-operation and tolerance that will aid in this conduct of the business. I would also, of course, like to congratulate the Honourable Member from St. Vital and the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on their having been selected to move and second the Address from His Honour. And it would be appropriate as well to note the newly appointed members of the Treasury Bench, the Honourable Member for St. Boniface and the Honourable Member for The Pas; and to congratulate as well the Honourable Member for Logan on his preferment as Deputy Speaker. And finally, to welcome as a colleague and a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in this House, the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

Sir, during the last few minutes and in the past two days, much has already been said of the content and the tone of His Honour's Address. An impression which persists and which has been described many times, and which has been denied and objected to an equally great number of times from the other side, is that this message is one which lacks the sort of confident, full throttle damn the torpedoes mood of the Throne Speech of a year ago. There's a pre-occupation, I think you will agree, with past performance and there is in my view an obvious hesitancy to announce new initiatives. This suggest to me in many ways that the Manitoba Ship of State after more than two years of constantly rising head winds, has lost a great deal of its forward speed. The Lord Schreyer is beginning to open up at the seams and it's beginning to take some water. We notice that it's riding a lot lower in the water and the captain has decided that strategy and the decision taken by the captain of the channel dredge that was moving to Playgreen Lake last fall was a sound strategy when he decided he'd get into the shelter of Matheson Island rather than face the storms on Lake Winnipeg. So the Manitoba ship is also pulling into shelter, it's riding low in the water and there may be more than one reason for that. One of course is that the crew is greatly increased and the weight of carrying all these people is making it more difficult. Another suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is that the inexperience of a large number of the new members of the crew below decks may have been that instead of being in charge of pouring oil on troubled waters, they may in their inexperience have inadvertently opening the seacocks. In any event, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that some of the crew have already taken to the lifeboats.

But, Mr. Speaker, while admitting failure to meet objectives in three important government programs, His Honour is advised by his government that they feel the economy of the province is so sound that it can opt for a program of selective economic growth. Mr. Speaker, who are we to believe? A government which says that economic development is so sound that we must take care not to be excessively preoccupied with growth which can lead to a self defeating policy of growth at any price, or a minister of the same government who said two weeks earlier that things are so bad in Manitoba that half of the province's natural increase in population is lost as a result of out-migration and that he must find 2,000 additional jobs every year in order just to retain the natural increase in population.

Sir, in our province, the feeling persists that the Department of Industry and Commerce lacks a clear sense of direction. There is a need to relate the regional preventional and national objectives so that these are not in conflict. There's a need to re-examine the results achieved by economic development programs that are funded by the department and to consider whether the number of jobs produced warrants an allocation of roughly four millions of dollars of tax money, the amount that was estimated to be expended in fiscal '71. At a time when

(MR. MCGILL cont'd) mortgage money is freely available, when banks are ready to talk to men with ideas and when the Industrial Development Bank is making its services better known to the manufacturer and the businessman, not only in north and south and central Manitoba but also in the periphery of Metro Winnipeg.

The Industrial Development Bank is a Federal Crown corporation that is protected from the kinds of social and political pressures obviously distorting the judgment and decisions of our MDC management people. As a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada, IDB has the protection and the climate necessary to impose sound and unemotional business judgments on loan applications. As a result it has paid its own way. MDC on the other hand is clearly suffering from government imposed decisions and is not self-supporting. Losses to date are estimated at \$9 million. In addition, we have the warning from the Provincial Auditor that some of the loans now outstanding may prove uncollectable. Sir, the results achieved by MDF and its successor, MDC, do not, in my view, warrant the expense which the taxpayer has to meet. There is a good case to be made, Sir, to the position that had this and other development programs not been undertaken by the Department of Industry and Commerce, the same amount of growth might have occurred during the normal process of events. At least, Mr. Speaker, approximately 4 millions of dollars saved annually by the elimination of these programs could well have allowed our province and our provincial corporation income tax to remain competitive with other prairie provinces. It appears to me that the money involved in these programs would be sufficient to reduce nearly the two points that we remain higher than Saskatchewan and Alberta in corporate income tax rates.

Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are convinced that at the present stage of Manitoba's economic development, the major support should be for an agricultural program that will expand our productive capacity. We feel that we shouldn't turn our backs on the kind of technology that has made agriculture so remarkably productive in the past 15 or 20 years. The same technology, Mr. Speaker, we feel is on the verge of making breakthroughs that will enable us to process, refine and extract from the increased productivity to the advantage of this province. We feel that the best prospects for economic growth are in the processing of agricultural products. But this, Mr. Speaker, great though the prospects are, may be exceeded in the near future by the booming tourist industry with its rich employment opportunities. The service industries related to tourism offer immediate jobs in many kinds of service occupations and the role of government should certainly be to assist in the improvement and accessibility of the variety of tourist attractions so that greater numbers of people will come to Manitoba and greater amounts of money will be spent. Lake Winnipeg may well become Manitoba's most valuable tourist attraction of the future as the demand for water based recreation rapidly increases. Its revenue possibilities in this field probably far exceed any contribution which it might make as a hydro reservoir. In this respect, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Tourism has an obligation to future generations to insure that any artificial regulations of lake levels undertaken by his government does not reduce the availability or attractiveness of beach areas. It's our view that the Provincial Government should protest much more vigorously than it is now doing, the quiet but gradual imposition of the so-called wilderness concept on one of our most important Manitoba tourist attractions, Riding Mountain National Park, which is second only to Banff in the number of visitors each year. If tourist attractions and tourist services continue to be discouraged by this regressive policy, attendance will suffer and jobs and businesses will disappear. Not only should Manitoba be urging the Federal Government to reconsider this program in a federal park because it is one of our most attractive tourist assets, they should also be urging the government to provide direct access roads from the Agassiz ski slopes so that skiers might be accommodated at Wasagaming and hotel and motel operators in that area might be encouraged to improve their facilities with the prospect of year-round business.

Sir, some of the previous speakers have been somewhat unkind to the Minister of Industry and Commerce so I would like at this time to change the pattern, in a sense to congratulate him, the Honourable Member for Brandon West -- Brandon East -- on the degree of success he has achieved in implementing the recommendations of the TED Commission on Regional Development, particularly in the western area of the province. He has stated on numerous occasions, and frequently without provocation, that he and his government have spent 35 millions in the Brandon area in an effort to promote regional growth. Now it may be, Sir, that a few programs that were approved by the previous administration have somehow

(MR. MCGILL cont'd) . . . slipped into the arithmetic, but that really is not important. What is important is that the present administration has shown that they are ready to accept the principle and the need for the stimulation of growth centres in Manitoba remote from the Winnipeg area.

Mr. Speaker, is the NDP administration now prepared to show that the steps taken in the western area of the province were not taken in isolation and were not taken with hesitation? Are they prepared to follow up with a plan of careful and gradual decentralization of government departments, of say Agriculture to the west, of Mines to the north? We think they should be at this stage ready to consider such steps. The achievement of better growth patterns in the province makes this desirable. Modern communications and modern transportation makes this practical, and it's practical now when 20 or 25 years ago it might not have been.

Mr. Speaker, is the Schreyer administration now prepared to hold the University of Manitoba at its present enrollment and its present size, and to adopt a policy intended to expand Brandon University until it reaches an optimum size? And this should be determined in the near future. What is optimum size for a university? Perhaps this is 5,000 of an enrollment. So we think this should be determined, we think the government should be considering this planning, and we suspect there would be considerable support for such a university plan for Manitoba within the present Cabinet although it might indeed place the present members of the University Grants Commission in a somewhat difficult position inasmuch as they, most of them I believe, are owing some allegiance to a common Alma Mater. I'm sure the Minister of Industry and Commerce would support a program of regional development and decentralization in this field of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, some mention has already been made by speakers earlier in the debate about the changes which have been effected in the operations of McKenzie Seeds Limited, the Brandon-based seed company, approximately 94 percent of the shares of which are held in trust for Brandon University by the McKenzie Foundation and by now the Government of Manitoba. We note with pleasure that the latest financial statement indicates that this multi-million-dollar enterprise has made a profit of \$150,000 and for the second consecutive year has operated in the black. The first year's profit was \$30,000.

A MEMBER: We left you a great legacy.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry and Commerce, who is a modest man, is reluctant to take full credit for this improvement. He would be the first to insist, Sir, that credit be given where credit is due, and if he were aware that management decisions on marketing and mechanization of packaging prior to his government's takeover were in any way responsible for some of the success of last year, I'm sure he would say so publicly. Mr. Speaker, I notice that the honourable swordsman for Inkster is on his feet and I would remind him that there will be an opportunity at the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, whatever else may be said of the Minister of Industry and Commerce it will not be said that he is guilty of the fault of understatement. I would like to quote from a press report in the Brandon Sun of the 17th of December last year in which the Minister, who is responsible for McKenzie Seeds as part of his Cabinet duty, told the employees' dinner that, and I'm quoting here: "No company in Canada has made such progress in 1971 as McKenzie Seeds." I'm sure that other companies in Canada would be somewhat discouraged by the Minister's assessment of their relatively poor performance in 1971. Nevertheless, Sir, we do recognize that this company has made substantial progress.

. . . . continued on next page

A MEMBER: Make sure those seeds don't sprout.

MR. MCGILL: Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Minister and his team of international trade experts flew to Mexico to engage in an experiment in cross-pollination with their Latin American counterparts. Judging from the press releases on this sortie, it would appear that the captain of public enterprise from Manitoba made a complete shambles of the Mexican marketplace using a simple technique which he has frequently described to the House as fully understood by every first year student in economics. Now with the . . .

A MEMBER: The hot tamale from Brandon East.

MR. MCGILL: . . . olays of the vanquished Mexican seedsmen ringing in his ears, the Minister made this statement from Mexico City presumably in English. "This new Mexican venture will result in substantially increased international trade and eventually more jobs for Manitobans, and of course substantially more dividends." Sir, you will appreciate, as we all do, the confident tone of this special bulletin from Mexico City. We on this side wish, Sir, that the Minister had gone to Mexico years ago. He makes it sound so deceptively simple.

A MEMBER: Are you kidding? We'd be at war with them now.

MR. MCGILL: Brandon University as the principal stockholder no doubt has received this assurance from the Minister and will have some lead time to plan the disposition of its substantially more dividends. We will await with interest the results of this venture into the Latin American seed market and trust the Minister's unequivocal assurances that profit and pleasure will certainly result.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, there is one other field of endeavour in which the Government of Manitoba has seen fit to become heavily involved. I refer to the MDC penetration into the ownership and as a lender of last resort in the aerospace operation of Saunders Aircraft Corporation. I was not aware until the recent issue of the Manitoba Gazette of the extent to which this involvement had taken place, but I would think, Mr. Speaker, that it is a prime example of artificial insemination into the Manitoba family of industry by government development agencies. In an area where perhaps Manitoba has no real natural advantages to offer, the stimulation of DREE loans and grants and assistance from Manitoba Development Corporation loans and purchase of equity interest in the form of shares, has given this organization a total financial assistance from the Government of Manitoba which exceeds \$3 million, I am told.

Mr. Speaker, two factors must be considered as weighing heavily against the ultimate success of this venture. One, that Manitoba has no natural advantage to offer an industry in the highly competitive field of aircraft manufacture, and two, that the industry generally has been in trouble across Canada for a number of years. Technology in aircraft design and aircraft construction and in aero-engines is advancing so rapidly that a conversion of an obsolete airplane and an obsolescent turbo prop power plant may find it an extremely difficult sales market to penetrate. In the language of the race track, Mr. Speaker, it's apparent that Saunders Aircraft is "in too tough" here.

Mr. Speaker, as long as the Manitoba Development Corporation is subject to business decisions imposed by social and political pressures, its management cannot be expected to conduct a viable and self-supporting operation. Its function as a lender of last resort is no longer its only function, and in addition there are other sources of risk capital which are now available to the small business and manufacturing enterprises. This operation should be, in our view, terminated as quickly as this can possibly be done, and during the winding down process there should be an immediate and adequate reserve for bad debts and it should be set up as recommended by the Provincial Auditor so that a proper financial accounting could be given which would more accurately reflect the true financial position of the operation at this time and more accurately convey to the people of Manitoba the cost of a development program of this type.

Mr. Speaker, these are a few of the observations and views which I wish to present to you at this time, and I thank you for your attention.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable Member for Brandon West now permit a question?

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to receive a question.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, is the Honourable Member for Brandon West not aware that all of the reports regarding McKenzie Seeds prior to this administration taking office recommended that the situation was hopeless and that the firm should be sold to an American firm?

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Inkster refers to "reports". I am not sure where these reports emanated but in any event I have not seen the reports to which he refers.

MR. GREEN: Is the Member for Brandon West aware that the management of that firm at that time had no prospect for the future with regard to McKenzie Seeds?

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not able to convey or reflect to this House or to the Honourable Member for Inkster what the management had in their minds. I am attempting to convey to the House that the management had, in the course of their duties, recommended a mechanization of the operation of the plant which was in the process of being effected at the time that this government took over the operation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. George, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Possibly should be begging your pardon for not being as attentive as I should have been. I didn't get the motion being put forward by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: I appreciate the fact that the motion to adjourn is not debatable. However, I did note that the Honourable Member for Minnedosa rose to his feet. If it was his inclination to speak I'm sure my friend and colleague from Point Douglas would be prepared to allow -- we would be pleased to receive the contribution of our rookie member of the Assembly. However, if it was the question of an adjournment that he was going to take, then I suggest that the adjournment should stand in the name of my colleague from Point Douglas.

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

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time. I understand that there was some agreement reached that if the Throne Speech was adjourned somewhere close to 5:00 o'clock or thereabouts, that there was an inclination on the part of members of the Assembly, in view of the fact that we are going to be privileged this evening to be hosted by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, that at that particular time it may be appropriate to adjourn the House early rather than at 5:30. And if my information is correct, Mr. Speaker, and agreed to by the Opposition members, then I would make that motion, but of course, prior to doing that, I want to have that agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Government Whip, we are quite agreeable to the House adjourning at this time. I think that was the understanding that was made to us by the Government Whip.

MR. PAULLEY: That being the case, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that the House do now adjourn.

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