

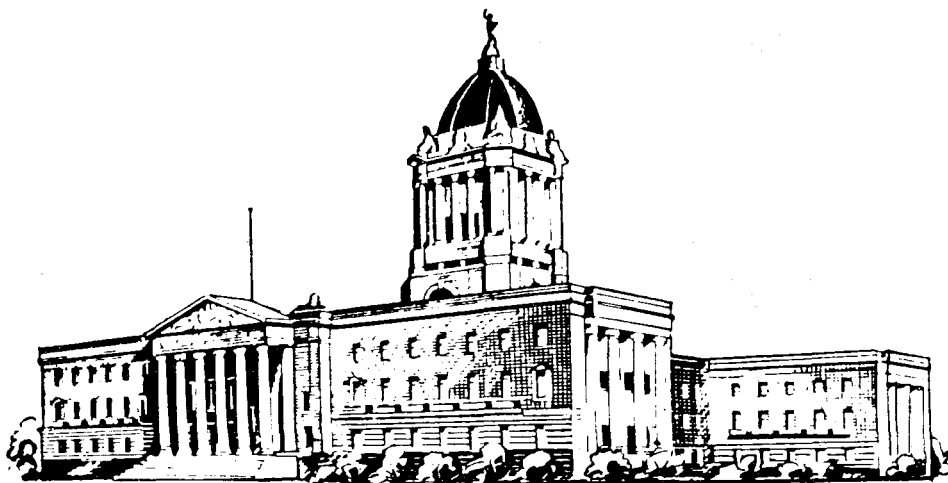


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXI No. 60 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 20th, 1974. First Session, 30th Legislature.

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Electoral Division	Name	Political Affiliation	Address	Postal Code
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ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	ROJ 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
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INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	ROJ 1E0
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RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	ROJ 0X0
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ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
RUPERTSLAND	Harvey Bostrom	NDP	Manigotagan, Manitoba	ROE 1E0
ST. BONIFACE	J. Paul Marion	Lib.	394 Gaboury Place, Winnipeg	R2H 0L4
ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
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SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	ROL 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	1171 Westwood Dr., Thompson	R8N 0G8
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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WINNIPEG CENTRE	J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg	R3E 0R5
WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, March 20, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention to the gallery where we have 50 members of the Bonaccueil Club for Ladies as visiting guests of the Legislature.

We also have 50 members of the Tour-A-Day Golf Association as our guests.  
On behalf of all the Honourable Members I welcome you here today.  
Presenting Petitions. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Arthur Giestrecht and Others praying for the passing of An Act to incorporate the Red River Community College Students' Association.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of the Corporation of the Synod of Manitoba of the Presbyterian Church in Canada praying for the passing of The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Reports and Tabling of Reports. Ministerial Statement - the Honourable House Leader.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management and House Leader) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a meeting of the Committee on Economic Development to receive the Report of the Communities Economic Development Corporation, and I am able to advise the members that the Chairman of the Board of Directors will also at that time be dealing with some of the questions that were raised Friday last by the Leader of the Opposition. That's on Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock, the Communities Economic Development Fund reporting to the Committee on Economic Development.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Yes. In connection with this, I wonder if the Minister is in a position to indicate whether the two individuals, one of whom is a Director of the Communities Economic Development Fund will be present and will also be called as a witness?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't know that there will be any witnesses called but the Fund will be reporting in the normal way on a matter which is normal to its operations. The Chairman will be reporting and he will be able to call on, to assist him, any persons whom he wishes. The Committee of course can go through the usual arguments and decisions as to whether it wishes to hear other people. We've made that round before, Mr. Speaker, and I presume that it can be made again. Perhaps we could just file the script before Committee and that would eliminate the necessity of the argument.

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

MR. I.H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, to the Minister on the same point he makes. Could he indicate when, or if he intends to put before the Committee or the House the financial statement of the Mineral Resources Corporation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps . . .

MR. SPEAKER: This is irregular. I believe we should do that under the question period.

Any other ministerial statements or tabling of reports?

Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Member for Portage.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie) introduced Bill No. 39, an Act to incorporate the Portage Curling Club.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he can confirm, notwithstanding the fact that the matter of the co-operatives raised in this House has been referred to the Attorney-General, whether he is now prepared to have a judicial inquiry.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, the matter was referred to the Attorney-General's Department and in the course of investigation by that department to the possibility of referring the matter to the RCMP for investigation as well. Only upon receipt of a report from that source would there be any merit whatsoever in considering any judicial inquiry as a subsequence to that.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. To the First Minister, another question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the First Minister is in a position to explain to the House the discrepancy that appears to have occurred between the statements made by his Minister of Co-operative Development with respect to the cost of the Southern Indian Lake Co-op and the additional escalation of \$500,000.00.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, matters pertaining to cost estimates are something which are apart from the allegation that my honourable friend was making in the first instance. If my honourable friend wants detailed information with respect to the cost of construction and operation of that particular co-operative, there is the normal way in which to peruse and to analyze the costs and the cost estimates.

I might add for my honourable friend's information that the Provincial Auditor has in the normal way pursuant to his authority, is proceeding with an audit of the Department of Co-op Services and will also decide no doubt whether any subsequent audit of a producer co-op is necessary. By virtue of the fact that it is a borrower I believe it is open to the Provincial Auditor to conduct an audit of the co-op as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Finance Minister. Can he now indicate to the House whether he has now as Minister of Finance after consulting with the Cabinet given instructions to the Provincial Auditor to audit the fishing co-operatives referred to by the First Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, it was not necessary for me to give the Provincial Auditor any instructions. I spoke to the Provincial Auditor as I recall it last Friday afternoon at 4:30 when I was able to get out of the House and he told me that quite some time before that he had instituted his own investigation based on his own initiative in order to deal with what had been alleged in a manner which he thought was the best way and in the best interests of the people of Manitoba, being an independent auditor as he is.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister of Finance can deal with the undertaking given to the Public Accounts Committee that this matter would in fact be taken up with Cabinet and would be referred to the Provincial Auditor if they so decide. Can he report on that?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me time and again the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asks questions about what goes on in Cabinet. What I said then, as I recall, was that I would consider whether or not it is advisable. I have considered; I will continue to consider, and when and if Cabinet makes any decision which is to be given to the public and to the Opposition I will do so. At this stage I've already informed the House what the position of the Provincial Auditor has been as reported to me by him.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. I regret to cause him any anxiety because I know that he's not quite well, he's been ill, but because of the importance of this matter I ask the Minister if he is prepared to make a public statement at this time refuting some of the falsehoods and deceptions in the letter that he mailed to the 35,000 farmers . . . ?

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The question in that sense is argumentative. I'm sure the honourable member can rephrase it.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister if he's willing at this time to make a public statement refuting some of the falsehoods contained in his letter to the 35,000 farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, obviously I'm not prepared to do that because no falsehoods were presented to the general public.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture and would like to ask him, in view of the ballots sent out to the farmers relating to the coarse grains marketing last week, would the Minister indicate whether his department is prepared to extend the deadline from March 29th to say another two weeks?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of a need for an extension of time but if some conditions should prevail between now and the end of the month which would dictate that that would be advisable, we would be prepared to do so. While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I should like to take an opportunity to respond to the Member for Portage wherein he alleges that there has been some misinformation placed before the public. I should like to remind him --(Interjection)-- my understanding of it is, Mr. Speaker, that there were questions put . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister is speaking to a question. Order please. I believe we need one chairman only. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I invite the Minister to complete his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct a second question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could he indicate, of the total number of ballots sent out, how many he has received to date?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: My information is that there are over 5,000 in to date.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley, the Liberal Leader.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture, relating to questions that were put to him a few days ago. Can he now tell us the basis on which his department has doubled the rent charged to farmers for Crown grazing land?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the department is in the midst of preparing a document which we will be able to table for honourable members so that we wouldn't have to get into any detailed explanations. There is a formula and it's quite lengthy and I think that would be the best way to proceed.

MR. ASPER: Well to the same Minister. In view of the fact that these rents have been in force for at least a year now, does he intend to stick with the present rental structure or is it under reconsideration?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the first statement is incorrect. The new rates are applicable only for the first time this year.

MR. ASPER: To the same Minister. Could he indicate whether he has had any representations made to him by farmers who are using Crown grazing land and paying the rent which they've received notice will be doubled?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, as usual, we always have representations from all quarters and in particular, farm people do communicate with my office very frequently.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Does the Minister have any report on the decisions that were made at a large public meeting last evening in Rorketon at which . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I don't know what purpose it serves the procedures of this House as to when a meeting took place in Yorkton - Rorketon.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, in the riding of Ste. Rose is located Rorketon. I may have sounded as though I said Yorkton but I said Rorketon, Sir. It's got a long Liberal tradition. Mr. Speaker, my question is . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ASPER: Does the Minister have a report on the decisions that were made at a

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. ASPER Cont'd) . . . . large meeting of farmers last evening in Rorketon, in the riding of Ste. Rose, temporarily held by the Member from . . . at which he was asked to come to address the farmers and meet with them on this issue?

MR. A. R. ADAM (Ste. Rose): Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose state his point of order.

MR. ADAM: My point of order is that the meeting was not held at Rorketon but at Toutes Aids, Manitoba last night.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Leader of the Liberal Party would not allege that I have been requested to attend a meeting in Rorketon or anywhere thereabouts and didn't attend. I did not have a request from that area for a meeting; and I did not get any report of any meeting being held, at least at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, in view of the 25-35 percent drop in beef prices that the beef producers are now experiencing, is the Minister prepared to rescind the order that I believe was passed sometime in February of this year which had the effect of doubling the pasture rents?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Well, of course, my honourable friend the Member for Lakeside should know, having had the same - well he didn't have, yes he may have had the same responsibility as Minister of Mines - that once you set a formula rate it's based on the year previous and therefore you don't adjust in accordance with current fluctuations.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister of Agriculture not consider, or the government not consider that with the full co-operation of the members opposite that we're prepared to let this government do anything that would take some consideration on this question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Was it the practice of the government to deliver cheques to those people in remote communities who are qualified under the Pensioner's Program for the amount of labour to cover their home improvement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice. I'm not sure whether that's - I'd like clarification whether the member is asking a question with regard to the Pensioner Home Improvement Program, so I'd know where to look for the answer.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, while the Minister is looking for the answer to that one, would he also then check to see whether these cheques were delivered at the same time as the materials?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the member didn't hear me. I'm wondering could the member clarify whether he's talking about the Pensioner Home Improvement Program, so I'll know where to look for the answer.

MR. BROWN: Yes, the Pensioners' Home Program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. Can the Minister advise this House why the upgrading program for Daniel McIntyre High School was reduced to 25 percent of the original amount that was requested?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Not knowing to what the 25 percent refers, Mr. Speaker, I can't answer the question.

MR. MARION: Well, Mr. Speaker, as clarification for the Minister, that was a request made of the Public Schools Finance Board for an upgrading of the facilities at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate and the original estimates were cut back to 25 percent of the original request. That is the question I'm asking of the Minister: Why was it reduced to 25 percent of the original value.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. HANUSCHAK: In the first instance, Mr. Speaker, of what the original request was, I'm quite certain that the Public Schools Finance Board did not recommend a 75 percent reduction, which my arithmetic would make it appear to be on the basis of the honourable member's question. But that obviously was done because whatever was contained in the letter of intent must have been more than the Public Schools Finance Board is prepared to recommend.

MR. MARION: Well a follow up to that question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm the statement by the Winnipeg School Board then that the standards of the facilities at Daniel McIntyre . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It serves no purposes whether the Minister confirms or denies. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Well, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister obtain a report from the Public School Finance Board outlining the reasons for the cutback and will he table that report in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, the Public Schools Finance Board operates within certain guidelines, within certain budgetary restrictions according to the estimates that are approved by the House, and in accordance with that it has to establish its priorities and hence it saw fit to approve what it did approve when it made the approval to enable the Winnipeg School Division to do the necessary renovations and build the additions to Daniel McIntyre High School.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister in charge of Co-operative Development. Could the Minister advise if he has been in receipt of information from the Freshwater Fish Market Board indicating that they will not have the northern fishing co-ops act as agents this year until the present financial problems have been resolved?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe I've had a single direct communicate from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation at all at any time. There may be discussions between that corporation and the departmental officials, but none of those have been drawn to my attention.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister. Has the Minister had any verbal indication from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board in regards to the subject previously asked on?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he could indicate whether any of his department officials had the power to sign promissory notes on behalf of any of the northern fish co-operatives?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: I think, Mr. Speaker, that would apply in those instances where they were given those powers by the local board.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: A supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister could tell us whether any of his officials would have in their possession, or have had in their possession at any time, blank promissory notes signed by officials of the fish co-operatives?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: I would have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development, and it's a supplementary to the question asked by the Honourable Member for Rhineland. I wonder if the Minister could indicate to the House whether officials of his department actually checked the locations where materials were forwarded in the north in connection with the Home Repair Program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: A supplementary again, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister might confirm at that time if there was proper supervision at all carried out by his department with respect to the Northern Home Improvement Program?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the First Minister. Does the First Minister condone the false and misleading letter sent out by the Minister of Agriculture to the farmers of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I'm sure the honourable member's aware that this question is most unfair in the context of Citation 171. The Honourable Member for Portage wish to rephrase?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the First Minister. After having had 24 hours to peruse the contents of the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question, please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON . . . letter that the Minister has sent to the 35,000 farmers in the province, is the Minister prepared to stand by the statements made in that letter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think the situation does demand that the position that the government have taken be clarified. I should like to draw members' attention to two documents which have had wide circulation, which are documents of the Honourable Otto Lang in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board and which have been a matter of great discussion across Canada for some period of time. One of them is dated August 3, 1973, and that is a policy document on domestic feed grain plans and proposals. And the other one is dated as recently as February 12th, 1974. I should like to quote from these documents for the benefit of the Member for Portage. On Page 5 -- well, I think, Mr. Speaker, it might be appropriate if I read Page 4 and 5 of this particular document into the records.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris on a point of order.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Now, the rules with regard to the questions are very explicit in this House. The Minister now intends to read at least a couple of pages of a document. And if the Minister intends to reply at length to the very simple question that was asked him by the Member for Portage, then I suggest, Sir, that we revert to that point in our proceedings where the Minister can make a statement and replies can be forthcoming from this side of the House.

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. SPEAKER: The point is well taken. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: . . . see the will of the House is not to get a complete statement of fact in response to the question that is put.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. USKIW: I'm prepared, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order please. I believe we have a procedural problem. This is the question period and we just cannot presume to have statements during a question period. Now if the Minister has a short answer it'll be entertained. If he hasn't he'll have to find some other procedure with which to make his statements. The Honourable House Leader wishes to speak to the point of order?

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the point of order and indicate that it is sometimes the case, and often the case, that members ask questions which really require lengthy answers, and it cannot be put, as the Honourable Member for Morris said, that it's a simple question and therefore it should be answered in a sentence or two. I think that honourable members who ask questions should sometimes be aware that those questions require very lengthy answers. And I agree with the Member for Morris that that kind of thing should be done as a matter of statements, and perhaps the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie put it right -- would the member make a statement, let us say tomorrow, on ministerial statements with regard to the position, and if the member answers "yes", then a statement is made tomorrow. But because we have got into this procedural box and because



## ORDERS OF THE DAY

(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . . everybody appears to be "hot to trot", I believe that the Minister is prepared to make a statement if we revert to statements. Is that agreeable to everybody?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister also on the point of order?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to what has been suggested by the Honourable Member for Morris and indicated by the Honourable the House Leader, that it would seem that this is the only way in which we can properly deal with the matter. It doesn't lend itself to a succinct or particularly brief reply. I've been asked just in the past couple of minutes by the Member for Portage to make some comment. I believe that all in all the matter can best be handled by reverting to motions and having the Minister of Agriculture deal specifically with the specific statement made yesterday by the Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage also on the point of order?

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. I'm in agreement with the House Leader and the First Minister that we in our group give leave to revert to Ministerial Statements, but we wish it to be understood that the parties on this side of the House have the opportunity to reply if necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River, also on the point of order?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Rules Committee that decided on this particular item, I realize what is confronting you today, Mr. Speaker, and there is no reason in the world why the Minister could not have got up under Ministerial Statements and said that he was going to reply to a question and taken all day if he'd liked. That's the place to do it and we must keep it in that position, Sir, and that was why we decided to have it that way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader further to the . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to do something in some spirit of goodwill. There is nothing that requires the Minister to make a statement. He was asked a question, this question involved a lengthy answer. He does not have to answer it today, he could say to the Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party that he doesn't wish to make a statement. He is inclined to do so and if we revert to statements in a spirit of goodwill, he will do so. If there is some suggestion that there has been some wrongdoing, we don't accept it. If I can underline the point that members who wish answers which involve lengthy explanations should be prepared to get an indication that a statement will be made in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Before we revert by agreement let me indicate just one little concern the Chair has. Since it isn't a written statement, that it may develop into a very long one and I would hope the Honourable Minister will use discretion. And the second concern I have is that the -- Order please -- that we do in the traditional manner realize that the Ministerial Statements are not a debating area, they are strictly statements by all sides.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's a bit of a problem because I didn't anticipate having to give a statement in that context and therefore I don't have copies for my honourable friends, but I do have two documents which would be of interest to my friends opposite, wherein the Government of Canada has indicated its intention with respect to grain marketing policies for the next crop year. And I think that it would suffice to read into the record the proposals that have been put to all of the government across Canada and indeed to the farm organizations, and I want to read from Page 4 of the August 3rd statement of 1973 titled "Domestic Feed Grains Plans and Proposals". This was provided by the Minister in charge of Canadian Wheat Board, the Honourable Otto Lang. Proposals for 1974-75 and beyond.

"The proposals for the domestic feed grain policy to go into operation August 1, 1974, subject to extensive talks between the Federal Government and the grain and livestock industry and provincial governments were described as proposals put on the table by the Federal Government for serious discussion within the next year by farmers and livestock men and their organizations in the hope that within the next 12 months a permanent policy can be devised for implementation beginning with the 1974-75 crop year. Today's extremely strong world markets and uncertainty of adequate world grain supply has created rapid and phenomenal change in the marketing of Canadian grain. In this unusual situation the Federal Government did not feel it should introduce a program extending beyond the current year. Moreover the

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. USKIW cont'd) . . . . Federal Government desires to generate further discussions by producers and interested organizations, have studies and discussions that range across the entire spectrum of the feed grains questions. The Federal Government indicated it would like now to have the grains and livestock industries apply themselves to these particular set of proposals. The Federal Government proposes to hold a series of meetings with grain and livestock producers and their organizations to discuss specifically and in detail the Federal Government proposals. These discussions to take place within the next year are expected by the Federal Government to focus now on a specific set of proposals rather than across the whole spectrum of the federal grain question. Under the proposals complete control of exports of feed grains would remain in the Canadian Wheat Board, while the domestic feed grain market would be opened up to permit less restricted movement of feed grains across Canada subject to supervision by the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canadian Livestock Feed Board."

On Page 7 I think there's another relevant paragraph - and I'm prepared to table these documents so that they can be looked upon in complete detail - and I quote as follows, Mr. Speaker: "Subject to the watchful eye of the Canadian Livestock Feed Board most Canadians who wish to do so would be permitted to buy feed grains in the west for use in feeding animals within Canada." Those are indications of the intention of the Government of Canada as to the freeing up of the market so that anyone in Canada can bypass the Canadian Wheat Board in the purchase of grains produced on the prairies.

Now that was a discussion paper of August 3rd, 1973, a policy proposal by the Government of Canada. But if you move, Mr. Speaker, to February 12th, 1974, and this is a document called The National Meeting with representatives of the grain trade regarding the feed grains policy proposals for 1974-75 and beyond, and it was held at Government Conference Centre, February 12th, 1974. The proposals in detail: "Free movement and price equity across Canada. As it is under the interim plan grain would continue to move freely within the prairies and price differences across boundaries would be reduced to a minimum. In addition, the entire domestic feed grain market would be freed up to allow prairie producers to sell their feed grain directly to buyers anywhere in Canada on an off quota basis." Now that is a very relevant part of this particular document, Mr. Speaker, all of which, all of which leads us to believe that that is the final decision that is going to be made, if it hasn't already been made, and wherein the powers of the Canadian Wheat Board will in fact be compromised so that the private grain trade can get back into the act much more so than they have in the past, at least in the last 25 years, and in effect so that prairie grain producers lose some of their bargaining power.

I should like to also, Mr. Speaker, draw the attention of the House to a meeting that was held in Ottawa on the 31st of January where all the provinces were present. It was a meeting of Ministers of all the provinces with the Minister of Agriculture for Canada and the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. At that particular time we had further discussions on these proposals and at that particular time I had put the question to the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board whether he would indeed consider putting any change of marketing proposals before the grain producers of the prairies by way of referendum to determine whether or not we should make those changes at all or whether we should stay within the present system. His answer, Mr. Speaker, at that meeting was that if there was to be a referendum he would consider that the buyers of prairie feed grains in eastern Canada should have a right to vote on the issue; which demonstrates full well to me, Mr. Speaker, that the intent of the government is not to protect the producers of prairie grains but is rather to compromise their bargaining position by removing from the Canadian Wheat Board complete control of the marketing of grain that is moved outside of the prairie region. That in essence, Mr. Speaker, represents a substantial weakening of the Wheat Board system because in fact it does include the marketing of wheat that is designated for feed purposes and it in fact does mean, Mr. Speaker, that wheat can be of high milling quality but as long as it is designated for feed purposes it could be interpreted as an off board off quota sale, therefore completely destroying the quota system and the equity in other words that go with the quota system in the deliveries, and therefore completely challenges the orderly marketing concept which the Wheat Board was set up to carry out.

Now I'd like to take a moment to also deal with another point raised by the Member for

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. USKIW Cont'd) . . . . Portage wherein he alleges that our statistics were wrong on the amount of grain marketed in eastern Canada relative to western Canada. The Member for Portage questioned the statement in my letter that eastern Canada has traditionally been the largest market for western feed grains and he listed some comparative figures. Mr. Speaker, the figures quoted by the honourable member refer to feed grain consumption on the prairies, not feed grain marketed, and I think that is an important distinction to make.

The Honourable Member for Portage may be interested to know however that in 1972-73 crop year off board sales of feed grains in Manitoba as reported to the Manitoba Feed Grains Marketing Commission were as follows: Wheat 2.9 million bushels, oats 1.9 million bushels, barley 3.5 million bushels, mixed grain .1 million bushels, for a total of 8.4 million bushels. This figure covers all purchases reported by feed mills and registered livestock producers who market more than 300 head of livestock per year. In comparison Manitoba farmers delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board 13 million bushels of oats and 48 million bushels of barley. The honourable member should not compare grain fed on farms where it was grown with grain marketed through commercial channels. Although since 1969/70 when the prairie farm economy was plunged into depression export sales of barley were greater than domestic sales. This was not true during most of the 1960's. Exports of oats have on average been less than one-third of domestic sales in the past ten years.

Therefore the statement in my letter that eastern Canada has traditionally been the largest market for western feed grains is correct. From 1962 to 1973 domestic marketings of western feed grains have averaged 107 million bushels per year. Export marketings of oats and barley have averaged 92 million bushels per year. And by the way, the 107 million bushels includes 20 million bushels or better of wheat. So, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind as to the accuracy of the statements that were made by myself in a letter that was distributed in the current referendum.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, although I think there are more appropriate occasions to deal with this particular subject, since it has been raised and an opportunity under the rules is provided for a response, I'm going to take advantage of that opportunity just to make a few comments. I want to deal with the Minister's letter and his statements at greater length on a more appropriate occasion, but at the moment I would just simply like to deal with his last statement in which he attempts to justify his argument that in eastern Canada we have for western feed grains the largest market. Sir, I have taken the trouble of going through the Canadian Wheat Board reports as well, and the Canadian Wheat Board report not only lists the amount of grain that is purchased by the Board and therefore disposed of by the Board, but also the estimates of grains that are produced on the prairies, and one can only assume that that portion which is not purchased by the Board - and at the present time there is no way that grain can move into eastern Canada without the authority of the Board. The Minister know that. Recently the restrictions between the prairies was moved for the transportation of grain; but that does not apply to grain moving in the eastern market at the present time.

Sir, in the last crop year for which there is a Wheat Board report the report goes on to say that out of a total of 684 million bushels of wheat that were marketed in that crop year, 612 million of those bushels were marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board, which means that the remaining 71 million bushels were marketed outside the Wheat Board, and to a large extent on the prairies. It's obvious the larger percentage of the wheat that is marketed on the prairies is handled and will continue to be handled through the Canadian Wheat Board, because most of that goes into export markets. But out of a total of 370 million bushels of oats that were listed as having been produced on the prairies the same year and marketed in the same year, only 37 million bushels were marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board, meaning that there were 333 million bushels that were marketed outside the Board here in western Canada. And there are various ways in which that grain is marketed. Some of it goes through the feed mills, some of it goes through livestock. It all eventually winds up going through livestock. Some goes through feed mills, some goes through feedlots, some goes on farmer to farmer sales. That's always been the case since 1961. As near as I can make out there is no intention to change that. But to suggest that - as the Minister attempts to suggest - that all the grain - in the very question itself he makes the suggestion, do you wish to continue to sell your wheat, oats and barley as at present through the Canadian Wheat

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. JORGENSEN Cont'd) . . . . Board? --(Interjection)-- I am reading figures, Sir, to show that it is not all marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board at the present time. Out of 370 million bushels of oats only 37 million bushels went through the Wheat Board, so how can he imply in a question such as he has posed in this letter that all of the grain is marketed through the Board? That, Sir, is an outright lie. The Minister is not being truthful to the farmers when he attempts to pose a question in those terms because it implies something that does not exist.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. USKIW: The honourable member alleges that my Department and I have perpetrated a lie in the people of Manitoba and I want him to retract that, because the honourable member alleges that while all of the grain produced is not sold through the Canadian Wheat Board therefore our statement is wrong when our statement really deals with the amounts marketed not the amounts produced.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Sir, that's the point I'm attempting to make and what I'm attempting to distinguish. The Minister falsely implies, falsely implies that the total volume of grain that is grown on the prairies is marketed through the Board. The very nature of the question suggests that and that's why I say it's misleading. And I think deliberately so. I think the Minister framed that question in that way in order to mislead people into thinking that all the grain that is produced on the prairies is marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board. It is not. I suggest to the Minister that that aspect of the question alone is a misleading one that should not be allowed to go without being corrected. Now in the case of barley, Sir, 550 million bushels that were produced on the prairies in the 1971/72 crop year the Canadian Wheat Board handled 289 million bushels; which means, Sir, that the remaining 270 million bushels were sold outside the Board.

MR. USKIW: Consumed not sold.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well the Minister makes a very fine distinction indeed. One that is characteristic of the entire tenor of this letter, and as I say, Sir, I'm going to deal with it on another occasion in far greater detail. I merely want to point out the reason why this matter is raised at this time in the first place. I had no intention of raising it because I wanted to deal with it as I said at greater length on a more appropriate occasion. But since the statement is made I think there should be pointed out that there are inaccuracies in this letter; there are misleading implications that should be corrected, and I hope that the opportunity will provide itself very shortly for that to be done.

A further point is the Minister says he's been in consultation. I don't know of any farm organization, any of the grain handling organizations, The Pool, United Grain Growers, the livestock people or the farmers themselves who have raised a storm of protest over the proposals of the Federal Government in the question of feed grains. It's only the Minister. And the thing that I object to more than anything, Sir, is that in attempting to pursue his ideological idiosyncrasies he continues to use the taxpayers' money. Sir, it is wrong, it is wrong for the Minister to attempt to use taxpayers' money to further a point of view that is not shared by a majority of the farmers in this province and indeed by a good many people across this country. If he wants to do it, he's at perfect liberty to do so, with his own money, not with the taxpayers' money. Now the minister. . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, would the honourable member entertain a question?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. This is not a debate.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to entertain a question, but it is outside the rules to do that at the present time. As I understand it, we are still in the question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please. Let me indicate that this House by unanimous decision reverted back to the Ministerial Statements. We are not having a debate. Questions are not in order because the question period will come again. Although I cannot see that according to our rules a Minister can ask a statement of the other side which is, again, irregular, so if the member suggested, he should look at his procedures.

I am also going to ask that the members contain themselves, the Ministerial Statements are not supposed to take forty minutes or longer. I think they should be short and brief.

Let me also indicate one other thing which arises due to the fact that we have reverted,

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. SPEAKER Cont'd) . . . Opinions may be expressed and I think they should be jealously guarded, but because opinions are expressed and they differ and different conclusions are arrived at, I think members should at least have the courtesy to allow each other that courtesy and not infer because there's a difference of opinion that things are not true or that unparliamentary language is used in respect to the variance of opinion. I think we should try to elevate the level of debate in this House. I am having a very difficult time in this regard and the only way I can succeed is if the members co-operate. Is the Honourable Member for Morris done with his statement?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, yes, a problem has arisen and I concur wholeheartedly with the statement that you have just made. The Minister wants further education on this subject and the only way that can be provided is when we return to the question period unanimous consent will be granted to the Minister to ask me a question whereby I can educate him further.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, my first inclination is to thank the Minister for his further muddying of the waters because - and I understood him to quote from a document that was supposedly the words of the Honourable Otto Lang - and I understood him to say that the subject matter of that document, and I had made notes, was subject to talks, was a set of proposals for discussion with the provinces and with certain agricultural bodies. Now that's my understanding of the document that he quoted at great length.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister is still misleading the farmers in this province because this is not policy, he is inferring that that is policy starting August 1st or August 4th or whenever. That is not policy, it's a set of proposals to be discussed. It's a set of proposals to be discussed and it is not firm policy. Yet the Minister says this in this letter, he says "(a) the Manitoba grain producers should know, (a) that eastern Canada has traditionally been the largest market for western feed grains. Well that is a false statement. It is a false statement. According to figures compiled by Statistics Canada for Canadian Wheat Board Reports, the largest market for western Canadian feed grains has been western Canada, and the document I'm quoting from mentions the years '47, '48, '51, '52.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The member in the Gallery kindly sit down and keep quiet. Please sit down and keep quiet. Would the member kindly sit down. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document I'm holding in my hand contains figures for certain years, and I'll only refer to the 1971-72 year where prairie feed consumption was 606 million bushels. Well the Minister wishes to split hairs. What in hell do you do with it?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: For the same period of time, prairie feed sales to the rest of Canada was 117 million bushels. Now the Minister says well - he seems to see a great difference between marketing and consumption. Well feed grain is for feeding animals, for God's sakes, it's not for storing forever.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader have a point of order?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I believe that the House Leader of the Liberal Party is probably not going beyond what other people have already done and therefore I'm not really trying to be dogmatic about it, but on a statement - the statement is supposed to be short. I presume that opposition members could say that it wasn't. There is not supposed to be a debate arising. There is obviously a difference of opinion between honourable members on this question - but the presentation of a statement by the Minister is not supposed to be responded to by debate. Now I respect the fact that it's difficult sometimes to distinguish between a response and a debate but I would ask the House Leader of the Liberal Party to accept the fact that there is a difference of opinion and that it cannot be debated at this time and that he try to make his response in such a way that the other matters can be proceeded with.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I refer to another paragraph in the letter mailed out by the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, and I quote; "With Mr. Lang's plans to have the marketing of western feed grains returned to the open market and a Winnipeg Grain Exchange, there is controversy again. Mr. Speaker, that is not in accordance with the facts at all. I would like to read a policy statement made February 28th by Mr. W.E. Jarvis,

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. G. JOHNSTON Cont'd) . . . . Ontario Deputy Minister, Agriculture Canada, and co-ordinator of the grains group, and here's what he says: "It is important to note that under the new proposals, prairie feed grain producers would retain the option of selling their feed grain to the Canadian Wheat Board, or on the off-board market as it does now. The choice as to where to sell would rest with the individual producer. This off-board market has always been an important one for prairie producers, despite some problems inherent in it. Last year out of total prairie feed grains crop, seven out of every ten bushels produced were used on the farm or sold to feed mills, feed lots or from farm to farm; so only three of every ten bushels grown were in fact delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board. Of these three bushels delivered to the Board two were exported, leaving one bushel in ten which would be removed from the Wheat Board as the selling agent. The Canadian Wheat Board would, however, maintain exclusive control as it now has over all the export of feed grains. Wheat Board quotas, initial prices and final payments would continue. The orderly marketing process would be preserved and strengthened and the Wheat Board would maintain the overall supervision of grain movement in Canada. The Wheat Board would be given flexible powers to make sure that feed grains moved as it should and that none of it moves unnecessary distances. Priority would be given to Canadian customers to make sure they get the supplies they need when and where they need them."

Mr. Speaker, as I was reading this statement I heard the Minister say that's a sham - well then he says that's a shaft; this is a Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Canada and he is inferring that this man is shafting the farmers. Well let him put that statement on the record. Let him put that statement on the record, that a Deputy Minister of Canada is working against the best interests of farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Minister in his letter makes an implied threat to the farmers; if they don't vote a certain way he's going to do something that will in his opinion put them in worse circumstances because he says, and I quote . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Again I must come to the point of procedure before us, I believe we were discussing the statement of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. It may have escaped my attention but I don't recall him referring to any letter except to try to indicate a number of areas in respect to the policy statements. And I believe the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie is just referring to another letter now and again starting to debate the issue. I would appeal to him to make his statement and get on with it. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . particular point of order that you raise. The whole purpose of this debate and the reason it was raised in the first place is because of the contents of a letter that was written by the Minister of Agriculture, without which there would not have been a debate on this occasion. The letter referred to by my honourable friend, the Member for Portage, is a statement contained in that letter which started the debate in the first place.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the honourable member for his contribution but that's precisely the concern the Chair indicated before we reverted to the statements, that I didn't want it to deteriorate into a debate, that we were to have statements and unfortunately it's deteriorating into a debate.

The Honourable Member for Portage may continue if he has some more.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has the gall in his letter to make a threat, because he says, "if the majority of producers vote no on the second question, the Government of Manitoba will repeal the Coarse Grain Marketing Control Act and farmers will have to fend for themselves." Well the Minister is conducting a ballot based on his opinion of what is happening and it's been pointed out by the Member for Morris and by myself, and by other members on this side in the last few days, that there have been false and misleading statements made and we have proved it. We have proved it, Mr. Speaker.

What kind of ballot is being conducted? It's mailed to the Minister's office, he sends out false and misleading information hoping to sway the vote. He doesn't even tell it the way it is. --(Interjection)-- Aw, come on yourself, this letter is scandalous, for it to be sent out at the taxpayers' expense. --(Interjection)-- It is not a matter of fact and the Minister knows it. --(Interjection)-- I'm not distorting the facts, I stand by everything I say. So Mr. Speaker, I say in conclusion that the Minister's feeble attempt to set up a strawman down in Ottawa and knock him down won't wash with the farmers of Manitoba.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: We are now going back to the question period. The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In view of Energy Minister MacDonald's apparent statement either yesterday or this morning that the price of Alberta and Saskatchewan crude oil would go to 6 or 7 dollars the 1st of April, can he indicate whether there has been any impact assessment of this on prices of gasoline and other petroleum products in Manitoba as of April 1 or shortly following?

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

HONOURABLE LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet seen this statement to which the member refers to. However we will examine it and attempt to make a calculation as to what it might mean in terms of final prices for consumers in Manitoba.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I think the Minister indicated in the House two or three weeks ago that a report was under way that would be presented by the government sometime in the fairly near future. Has he any indication when we will receive that?

MR. EVANS: I can assure the honourable member I am as anxious to receive that overall summary of energy supply/demand as he is. I would hope that it would be available soon, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Can he advise whether we can expect his budget tomorrow night?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister responsible for Urban Affairs. Could the First Minister indicate in his letter of agreement to the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg on provincial sharing of capital projects, whether the grant of \$2.8 million was a block grant or whether it was divided up into a series of specific grants for a series of specific projects, and are those so outlined in his letter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the reference of my honourable friend in his question is not completely clear. I don't know how I can respond other than to take it as notice and ask him subsequent to the question period to give a little more detail as to just what he is referring to.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I could take the opportunity now to rephrase the question. That in the letter sent to the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg indicating agreement by the Province of Manitoba to share 50 percent of the costs of a number of projects related to transportation, was that a block grant of \$2.8 million or was the grant divided up into a series of specific grants for an outlined or series of specific requests by the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the grants by the province to the City of Winnipeg would relate to specific aspects of urban transportation having to do with the transit deficit, having to do with the matter of the per laid mile cost sharing in terms of maintenance of certain arterial streets, and having to do as well with the capital cost of the regional network of arterial streets. So it is componentized, Sir.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'd like then to ask the First Minister whether amongst those components are specific grants for transportation demonstration projects, and could the Minister indicate which demonstration projects those are?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes there are, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't enumerate them all at this point in time but I can provide the information by way of a written document.

MR. SPEAKER: Order for Return?

MR. SCHREYER: Yes.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you. I'd like to ask the Minister one final question then. Is this cost sharing with the City of Winnipeg for transportation and particularly demonstration projects, is this the predicted or proposed urban transportation program by the Provincial Government, or can we expect further urban transportation programs, say something like an urban transportation corporation similar to Ontario as part of the Throne Speech announcement?

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd)

The items or projects referred to are part of a program which we hope will develop to utilize the available funds for innovative and demonstrative projects in urban transportation. Certainly there will be more as time proceeds. I certainly, however, would not want to commit any support in advance for the concept of an Ontario-type of transportation corporation, although that is something which we are prepared to discuss with the city officials.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable, the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister advise the House on the status of his success to date in meeting the urgent labour shortage in the garment industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): The only answer that I can give to my honourable friend - that the garment industry is still in business.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House whether he has supplied 1,000 workers, 500 workers, one worker or no workers since the question first came up in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Not precisely, Mr. Speaker, but I have assured my honourable friend in this House on numerous occasions, I am utilizing my efforts hopefully in achieving the desired end in the garment industry. As a matter of fact at the present time I'm reading a paper dealing with the predicament of the garment industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Can the Minister assure the House that he has some intention of going beyond the reading of papers about the predicament to the point where he intends to take some action on it?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The only answer I can give to my honourable friend in reference to me reading a paper, you can only approach a problem if you have some basic knowledge of the problem and can apply an intellectual attack to your problem.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. On Friday he undertook to investigate the problem of written cheques in blank, or blank cheques. I wonder if he can report on what action he's already taken?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, as I recall it, I reported to the House on action that I took soon after I learned of it, as the honourable member was prepared to tell us, pointing out that he apparently knew of this for a matter of weeks prior to the occasion on which he informed the House about the occasion. On that occasion I gave the information that I had available and if I acquired more information I shall decide then what information to give. The matter for investigation was not one that I undertook to report on but which the government is investigating. If I gave a specific undertaking I would like reference to that, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, on a point of order, because this is the second occasion in which the Finance Minister has used an opportunity to make a suggestion and allegation that was never -- was, as far as I know on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, answered by me on the first occasion it was made in the House. And that was that in some way some information was held back from him. I indicated then, Mr. Speaker, as I indicate now, that one of the two affidavits filed in the House on Friday was signed on Thursday; that in effect from my point of view the only information that I was able to confirm based on that affidavit and other information, including a letter that was also tabled, was brought to the House as quickly as I could, which appears to be faster than the action the Finance Minister is prepared to report to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. That is not a point of order, is an explanation. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I want the record to show on the point of order raised by the Minister of Finance that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Minister of Finance raised no point of order.



## ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, sorry, the point of order that arises from what the Minister of Finance said. I am making a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. There was no point of order. If the honourable member has one will he state what it is?

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Point of order is that there is no obligation whatever by Opposition MLA's to make information available to government. The street flows the other way, and that should be on the record.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. That is not a point of order. But I think it is cogent to the procedures of this House that if anyone is bringing in material they should have the backing of whatever they do intend to utilize this part of the debate. That is cogent to all sides.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I accept your position as the Speaker of this House, but I don't know under what basis or on what proposal that those remarks could even be addressed to this House. They relate to a debate that has already passed which really is between the government and the opposition. They don't in any way relate to a question of privilege or a point of order.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the point was mentioned by the Honourable Finance Minister, was mentioned on Friday, and on that occasion I rose on a point of privilege, and I may or may not have had a right or an obligation, at least, to produce information, but I did. And I resent very much the fact the Minister of Finance on this occasion in answering a question that was put to him by the opposition, answered in the way he did, because in this respect, Mr. Speaker, he is misstating a fact and he is also, either deliberately or otherwise, misstating a position with respect to myself. I'm prepared to debate that and that's between the government and ourselves, between the Minister and myself. But, Sir, I do not believe that it is your function to enter into the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Chair entered into no debate. The Chair just indicated to the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party that there was a question in respect to a point of order and that there was none, and that if there was material to be brought into the House it could be done so by all members of this House, not by one side only. That's the only indication I made. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I presume we're back to the question period and I would like to address a question to the Minister for Education. It relates to a news release by the government dated March 19th, I believe, and headed: "Students Enthusiastic Over Computer Science." Assuming the Minister has read it or authorized the release, could I ask him if the computer that is being engaged and referred to in this release for use in the Manitoba schools, is the computer operated and owned Phoenix Data Limited?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. Are the programs, or the use of the computer in the schools as described in this news release, would he characterize these as "Make Work Programs for the Computer" in order to provide some money for Phoenix Data, or are they an integral part of a school system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: They're part of our education program, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could tell us who is paying for the use of the computer and how much is being paid for it, approximately?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Some portion of a cost, Mr. Speaker, is borne by the Department of Education, and insofar as the rental of the thermal units, that is paid for by the school divisions who are participating in this program. But insofar as the exact details are concerned, I regret I cannot give the honourable member at this time, but if he wishes that, one of two ways that can be obtained, either in my Estimates or by way of order for return.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could short-cut that procedure, if the Minister would answer this question. The Phoenix Data shows a gross volume of \$190,000 roughly, or

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . . \$200,000, could he indicate what percentage approximately comes from this program or from his department? —

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: To whatever extent, Mr. Speaker, that may relate to my department, again I may be able to answer in one of two ways — in one of the two ways that I've indicated to him in my response to the previous question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. In view of the fact that the computer is being used to do such things as keep attendance of schools, does the Minister believe-- the Minister responsible for the MDC might answer--does the Minister believe that this is a worthwhile project in view of the fact that Phoenix Data lost half a million dollars last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I would love to answer the honourable member's question but I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, you would rule it out of order if I were to stand here and take the time of the House stating my beliefs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. In light of the Minister's statement on Friday that he had never heard of one Gordon Tritheart until Thursday of last week, could the Minister indicate upon whose recommendation and on the basis of what qualifications he was made a senior loans officer by the Community Economic Development Fund?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I assumed it would go out through the normal hiring procedure, and I will get for the honourable member the manner in which that procedure proceeded in the case of Mr. Tritheart. I thought the name was Tritter, but when I read it I saw it was "Tritheart".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to if I may, to elaborate on the answer that I gave the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in relation to two blank cheques. I refer to debate of March 15th, Hansard Page 1480 wherein there was a discussion about when the information was available to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. But, I did say, and I quote now: "I brought to this House the little information I was able to bring within the short time allowed to me from the time he presented the letter, and I will try to get more information and I will bring, or others will, and we'll bring it forward, we want it to be known. But if he wants to know the extent to which we'll do it, it will be to the extent that we are able to." Now, Mr. Speaker, as I recall it, I indicated that it appeared as if the cheques--if there were such cheques--would have been drawn on a trust account of a co-operative, and the concern I had was who were the signing officers for that co-operative trust fund? That I believe, at least I confirmed with the Deputy Minister of Co-operative Affairs, he was looking into. I am sure that that information will be forthcoming but it is not my personal undertaking, rather that of government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have five questions for three different ministers. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the Honourable Minister of Public Works. If he can advise the House if a press release had been made on the announcement the portrait of the former Premier, Walter Weir will be unveiled tomorrow in the Premier's gallery?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL J. DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, we have arranged for a brief ceremony about 12:30 tomorrow. I've notified all the Members of the Legislature by a memorandum, and we will be notifying the Press at this time and also through the Information Services, of that occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: I have a question now, Mr. Speaker, of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture is now prepared to call the Agricultural Committee of this House together immediately to deal with this feed grains marketing quarrel that's going on in the province?

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think the matter is well in hand in that the producers of feed grains are currently dealing with the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question now for the Honourable Minister of Health and Welfare and Social Development, regarding the Pensioners Home Program. I wonder can the Honourable Minister advise the House who was authorized to deliver the cheques?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'll add that to the questions I took from the Members from Rhineland and from Minnedosa.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have two more questions which the Honourable Minister can take under advisement. The second one being who selected the people to deliver the cheques; and the third one, can he confirm that many cheques were delivered in northern Manitoba prior to and during the last June election?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development. In respect to the announcement by his department that non-profit day care centres are now eligible for assistance under the Canada Assistance Plan, can the Minister indicate what is the formula that is being applied for the non-profit day care centres--is it specifically per child and is there going to be supplementary funds for operation purposes of those centres?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any announcement that was issued by the department.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: In that case, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister investigate which spokesman issued an announcement on his behalf that has appeared in today's newspapers?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MILLER: Yes, I'll be very curious to see who spoke on my behalf in the newspapers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge have a supplementary?

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, in reference to a question raised last week, whether the government has yet decided whether they will offer supplementary or additional assistance to other child-care programs, particularly lunch and after school programs, because they are not eligible under the Canada Assistance Plan, particularly in relation to summer programs.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The honourable member is debating again. The Honourable Minister.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I think I replied last week to say that the program had not been completed or fully developed. The guidelines have come through from Ottawa but there are still points of clarification. Those have not been finalized and final decision vis-a-vis the entire program has not yet been made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Co-operative Development. I wonder if he can confirm that members of his department in the normal course of their operations had in their possession for their use, by them, blank cheques signed by the co-operatives on trust accounts?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister of Finance did undertake to have an inquiry made so that a response could be brought back for members of the House and I think we should be satisfied with that for the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that when I spoke on Friday I suggested

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . . the probability, and only that, that there were two signing officers, and it seemed to me from the context of the letter that it could well be that one of the signing officers was the sender of the letter and the other the recipient. I said that that was the kind of information I was trying to get to see who were the signing officers. Now, that question that is now being asked, the "fishery" question, is one that I would never have undertaken to do and I'm not now prepared to do it. If my colleague is prepared to make such inquiries, that's up to him, but that is not part of my undertaking on behalf of government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder then if I can pose a question to the Minister of Co-operatives and ask him to confirm that members of his department in the normal course of their operation, had in their possession for their use blank cheques signed by the directors of the co-operatives on trust accounts?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Signed by the directors of the local co-operatives, is that the question?

MR. SPIVAK: Yes.

MR. USKIW: Well, that I would have to take a notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. How much of the \$50,000 grant to J.M.K. Construction was advanced, as shown in the Communities Economic Development Fund's statement?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I gather if it's in the statement it would be a loan and not a grant. I believe that the Communities Economic Development Fund advances money or purchases equity. If it is shown there at \$50,000 as being the loan commitment, then I would take it that the Fund could have advanced all of it. The specific answers to the questions as to the dealings with regard to that particular borrower as well as all of the other borrowers will be available to honourable members when the committee meets on Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, further to an inquiry the other day, can the First Minister in the absence of the Attorney-General indicate whether he has turned over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police the matter of investigation of the Department of Co-operative Development and the fishing co-ops.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I assume that's been done. The Attorney-General did reply to the same question the other day, indicating that the sequence would be that there would be officials of the Attorney-General's Department making preliminary investigation and that this would move from that to a referral to the RCMP if there seemed to be sufficient prima facie evidence to proceed further.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It's a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, and it refers to an answer given to the Honourable Member from Virden. I wonder if he can indicate whether as Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and the Minister in charge of the Communities Economic Development Fund, he has made any investigation of the matters alleged in the two affidavits that were tabled in the House on Friday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I did get some information on Friday afternoon. I also had a discussion with the Chairman of the Board on Friday; I saw the solicitor for the Board, the Manager of the Board and the Chairman, I believe, it was on Monday morning, perhaps Tuesday morning, and I arranged for them to appear before the Communities Economic Development Committee on Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock where they will deal with the matters raised in the affidavits filed in the House by the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder, can the Honourable Minister indicate if he saw the General Manager of the Communities Economic Development Fund? The General Manager?

MR. GREEN: I saw Mr. Jones, I believe. It was Mr. Jones, Mr. Parasiuk and Mr. Wynberg.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if it's the intention of the Minister to meet with Mr. Donald

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . McIvor, who is a director of the Communities Economic Development Fund?

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that the Chairman of the Fund is talking to Mr. McIvor. I know Mr. McIvor rather well, and I don't presume that he's going to be quiet with respect to this matter; that's just from my knowledge of Mr. McIvor, it's not because of any conversation I've had with him.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources can inform the House, as a result of his meetings, whether he has any information to indicate whether J.M.K. Construction received the \$50,000 amount shown in the Communities Economic Development Fund report or not.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that moneys were advanced and I'm well aware of that, that this was one of the companies to which a loan was granted. I would hate to link that loan with the particular item in the books because I'm not sure as to the mechanics of it although it's probably before me. I didn't pay strict attention to that. But moneys were advanced to this company under the Communities Economic Development Fund borrowing and practices.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that the formation of the company R. & M. Construction came as a result of the encouragement and suggestion of the Communities Economic Development Fund.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, again I'd be speaking from recollection and that the - officials of the Fund will be there. But my recollection is something of the following nature, that there was a company that was already in existence that the Board could not recommend advancing moneys to and that another company was formed rather than advancing money to the previous company. However, I would ask my honourable friend to take that as rather imprecise, and that the precise information will be available at Committee on Tuesday morning at 10:00 o'clock.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether at this time he has received the audit report of Dunwoody, Saul and Smith on R. & M. Construction?

MR. GREEN: No but, Mr. Speaker, I'm advised by the General Manager of the Fund, Mr. Jones - and Mr. Parasiuk - that Dunwoody, the firm that he's referring to, have all of the material, not the material, but have the recorded information as it relates to the financial affairs of the company that he's referring to.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. I wonder if the Minister can indicate at what point he as Minister in charge of the Communities Economic Development Fund will be examining the audit of the R. & M. Construction.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I personally will be examining the audit. There will be a report by the Fund. You know there are different degrees of subjectivity on just what this involves, and I know that the Leader of the Opposition has a very high profile with respect to this matter. The Fund will make its report on Tuesday, and depending on whether members consider the answers satisfactory, depending on how the Committee reacts to the report, perhaps other profiles may be raised too. But in the meantime, I am satisfied that the Fund will be able to report on the matters that have been raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, that an Order of the House do issue for a Return showing:

1. Remuneration of each vendor for sale of liquor or beer as recorded on Pages 13 and 14 of The Liquor Control Commission Report for the fiscal year April 1st, 1972 to March 31st, 1973;
2. Which liquor stores are owned by the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission or any other departments of government; and
3. Which stores are rented or leased from corporation or individuals.
  - (a) What is the name of the owners or corporations of leased stores for space; and
  - (b) What is the rent or lease in each case?

## ORDERS OF THE DAY - ORDERS FOR RETURN

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no problem with respect to this Order for Return. It is accepted in the normal way.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, would you call the adjourned debate on the second reading of Bill No. 28.

BILL NO. 28 - SECOND READING

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. MARION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When debate was adjourned, I was attempting to set the record straight with respect to the land development and low housing programs that have encountered what could be referred to as certainly some failure. And I was also attempting to make the point that many members on the side opposite are trying to make, the City of Winnipeg is the whipping boy for these failures and I felt that the record should be set straight and that the City of Winnipeg not be made the fall guy.

I think that there were some comments made during the debate and immediately following the debate that have to be lifted--that have to be raised and have to be challenged. I think that it is wrong to say that the City policy vis-a-vis low cost housing and public housing is to ghettoize the poor in the north end, and this was a comment that was made, Mr. Speaker, by one of the government members. I think that there are poor in all areas, or less fortunate people in all areas of the city and they are residents of all areas of the city. And to say that the City of --(Interjection)--Yes, I suppose that there are some in River Heights too, very definitely. Less fortunate. I would suppose that it is reasonable to say that the City has never been - not only reasonable, but it is a fact to say that the City of Winnipeg has never had a policy that would ghettoize the poor in a specific area. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, one of the basic reasons why the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and the City of Winnipeg have differences of opinion was that they felt that the less fortunate that would be housed in public low rental housing should not be concentrated in any given area, because there were human considerations that if this were done, would not be met - and perhaps the better incorporation into the life stream of the community would be completely lost were these large numbers completely concentrated in any given area.

I think that to further stress the point, it's fair to say that the City of Winnipeg has taken initiatives in certain low rental housing that don't or are not found only in the north end. I'm referring to the Burrows-Keewatin development and surely that can't be called north end. --(Interjection)--I have a very long memory. I would also like to talk of Willowdale. That is even much more recent in the new development - somewhere in your area of West Kildonan.

A MEMBER: Willowdale Park.

MR. MARION: Willowdale Park--(Interjection)--Co-op.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the honourable member address himself to the Chair.

MR. MARION: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I'm being enlightened by the honourable gentlemen opposite. But I think that there have been very serious attempts made by the City with respect to housing that can be made available to those in our society which are less fortunate. And it seems to me that when the argument is made that the City of Winnipeg has been a stumbling block to those considerations that were brought to them by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, I think it is totally unfounded and unfair.

I would like to talk also as part of my argument, on the type of cost sharing that is presently being done by the St. James Community Committee with respect to library and recreational facilities for those residents that are living in the St. James Community Committee area. I think that it is cost sharing with the Manitoba Government and the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation directly, on a one-third basis and this would certainly substantiate the fact that the city was and is concerned about those who are less fortunate. It also became-- the area I refer to also became one of the cases in point where it was felt that concentration in an established area was neither to the good of those people who would reside in the low

## BILL 28

(MR. MARION cont'd) . . . . rental housing or those people who were already inhabitants of the area. That is the reason--and the case in point here is the fact that there were stresses made on some of the amenities in the area that had to be further developed at much cost and a great deal of difficulty. I think that development in general by the City of Winnipeg has always been greatly encouraged, and I think that a case in point was made not so many weeks ago in our newspapers when it was reported that permits were being issued for construction of homes even before the development agreements with developers had been entered into. Now certainly that is a case in point that would show that all kinds of housing is required and that the City was doing all of the things that it could in its power to encourage that kind of housing.

I think that there was a question, or perhaps it should best be referred to as a comment made by the Member for Thompson that read something - I am paraphrasing, but I'm probably right on - he said something to the effect that, let's all send the Indians back to the reserve. Now this is purported, this is a statement that is purported to have been made by one of the Councillors of Winnipeg - and I gathered when the Member for Thompson made this comment, that he was implying that all of the other 49 councillors were of the same opinion. Now I would like to make a comment here and now that first of all the comment is taken out of context. I'm sorry the Honourable Member for Thompson isn't here, because I would certainly relish in being able to tell him very candidly that he's taking the comment first of all out of context when the councillor who made this comment - it was made under a certain basic premise and it is a comment certainly not shared by any of the other members of council - so I think that it is totally idiotic and inhuman for the Member for Thompson to be implying when he reports this statement, that all of the councillors and consequently then the policy of the City of Winnipeg, was to send all of the Indians back to the reserves.

There are some questions to be asked - aside now, I think that I rest my case with respect to the interest of the City of Winnipeg being interested in developing and making all kinds of housing available by co-operating with all of the agencies that are in essence fostering the moves to make this housing available. I think it is fair to say that there are some shortcomings on the part of the government itself, and I would like to illustrate some of those shortcomings. Now, it was said that there was no progress made for the last sixteen to eighteen months on obtaining permits to develop lots that were presently owned by the Manitoba Government and which were zoned properly. If this were the case, then I would make a recommendation to the honourable gentlemen across and I would say to the, it would probably be advantageous, if one really wants this development to be done and if it's important that it be done, that it be handled by other agencies or the lots be put up for sale on a special kind of basis to those who can afford them and the subsidy costs could be incorporated in the turnover of the lot from the government to the individual so that it can be processed, and I'm sure that it would be processed posthaste. I think the Federal Government introduced in the Housing Act last spring a plan with respect to the co-operative type of development. I would be very interested to hear what has been done in this regard by the government. I certainly have not seen any concrete results of the offer that was made by the federal agency to the various provincial governments in the Winnipeg area. Land assembly money is also available and it was made available some months back, and yet the province had to send back - I think it was in the neighbourhood, and I stand to be corrected, but the amount was most important and - in the neighbourhood of six million dollars. This in my opinion would reflect that all of the avenues available were not exercised and I think that no one but the government itself can be made the whipping boy for that kind of a shortcoming.

The Attorney-General said that the province was assisting homeownership in as progressive a way as the federal funding would permit. Well, I say that I have a case in point and I've illustrated it, where perhaps all of the avenues available were not maximized. I think that when my colleague the Member for Fort Rouge was talking about public housing, he mentioned the unfortunate stigma that is attached to both the low rental and row housing for individual vesting. I think that there is no doubt that a great deal of soul searching should be done by the gentlemen across the way in devising a plan, a progressive plan that would concentrate on the removal of that stigma - and I'm particularly referring to two avenues that are available. First of all, I mention that any concentration is one that highlights this stigma and is certainly not one that is viable. I think that we should look for certain percentages in any given area not to exceed - and this is a figure that is perhaps arbitrary on my part - but not to exceed 10 percent. And I think that where there has to be concentration greater than ten percent, then I think

## BILL 28

(MR. MARION cont'd) . . . . that there are a host of social programs that should be aimed at self-sufficiency to help the people who will live in these housing developments in a self-sufficient kind of betterment program. I think that that is extremely important. I think that individual housing is really what I was referring to a moment ago when I said that it is important that low cost individual housing be subsidized to the maximum extent, because too often we forget that there are those that are just marginally less fortunate than others, and I think that there is a great deal that should be done for them.

I am, and have had a hang-up for a long time, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the lack of federal and provincial support on renewal programs. In my speech in answer to the Speech from the Throne, I mentioned that I live in a constituency where one of the prime factors that would help a great deal in restoring the kind of value that the area could have, is that area lying north of Provencher Avenue and bounded by the Red River on two sides and the Seine River on the other. I think that here we have an area that is extremely beautiful, it is endowed with all of the natural beauties that one could desire in any given area of our city, and yet it goes wanting. There is a mix-up of industry and of poorer homes, and of homes that should be certainly razed and infilled; there are homes that are still viable that should be up-graded; there are the programs that the government has instituted, which are worthwhile and have been carried on but in a nature not large enough to make of the area that I have in mind the viable kind of area that it should be. I think that the provincial government has the responsibility to prod the federal authority in making available to it the funds that are required to effectively pursue a redevelopment program in the area that I have in mind among other areas that are viable and that are now being explored by the City of Winnipeg on its limited financial resources.

I think that there are a couple of other aspects that I would like to follow on, and in this debate we're given the permission to sort of cover the waterfront. I would like to address myself now to the hospital shortage. I think that my friend the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development was reported in the newspaper as having made some rather candid remarks, or off the cuff remarks that could be classified - and I regret to have to say this but I have to, as facetious, he is purported to have said that there are at given times of the year, problems arising in specific hospitals and that because these programs arise in specific areas it would be utter folly to have to go out and build additional facilities in that specific hospital every time an accident occurred. I agree with that statement, but I think that there are some very real measures that could be taken by the Minister that could probably have the effect of reducing very greatly the kind of shortages that the Misericordia, among others, have encountered without going into a major construction program.

I have some basic specifics that the Minister might want to listen to and at some time or other give us his views upon. I think that it is fair to say that we have presently in the City of Winnipeg 2790 set up hospital beds. There are - this runs Mr. Speaker, roughly 5 beds per thousand population, if my computation is right. In any event, in those 2790 hospital beds there are 337 beds at present that are being occupied by geriatric cases. Now this is fact, it is not a figment of my imagination. In the hospital that has encountered a great deal of problems with respect to emergency possibilities and acute shortage beds, there are 75 geriatric cases. I humbly suggest that if the Minister were to enter into a lease arrangement on Deer Lodge facilities on a temporary basis, and there are 300 beds available there, and all of the geriatric patients were to be moved over to the Deer Lodge Hospital, it would make it absolutely possible to eliminate some of the very serious shortages that are occurring presently in the hospital situation.

Now I would like to tell the Minister of Health and Social Development that there is another alarming thing happening with respect to the hospital situation. I'm running into a contest here, Mr. Speaker - I'm having a real problem with the Minister of Finance. I think that the point I would like to make is, that he mentioned some weeks ago when we were talking about these critical hospital shortages, that there were waiting lists that were for elective surgery among other things, and there were other people that were able to hold off, and I agree. I think that the point was well made. There is one thing that bothers me however. I think that when the Minister made that comment--I don't think, I know - when the Minister made that comment, the waiting lists if added together accounted for approximately 800 people. Today that waiting list - and we're talking roughly six weeks after the comment was originally made - the list is estimated at 1,000 people waiting for elective surgery, which is not altogether elective, Mr. Speaker.



(MR. MARION cont'd) . . . . I humbly suggest that there are those who should and would have the surgery done immediately but are not able to, because there just isn't any room. I am told by people who work in the health industry that it is very probable that that elective list will go to 1500 prior to the end of June. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that that is almost doubling within a six months' period, and it further accentuates that there are a great deal of problems that have to be coped with, with respect to hospital shortages. I hope that the suggestion I have made will be taken under advisement by the Minister and he will put to good use the possibilities of 300 beds on a lease basis that can make for a lot healthier community in the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: . . .

MR. MARION: When do I have to close? Very well, I will rapidly come to a close to accommodate the Minister of Finance.--(Interjection)--Well, I will co-operate with the Honourable the Minister of Finance. I'm a very co-operative person, Mr. Speaker. I think that there were some comments that were made with respect to an incursion into the debate by the Minister for Northern Affairs when my colleague, again from Fort Rouge, mentioned that with respect to on-site social animation programs in the north, it would be well advised that the government withdraw from the immediate contact with the people it is trying to help by using the facilities or the services of a buffer commissioner board. And Mr. Chairman, I think that that suggestion by my friend and honourable colleague for Fort Rouge is one that had a great deal of merit. I have lived through a number of social animation programs whereby those people who were funding these programs were not directly involved; I think the dangers of the involvement of those directly funding them are apparent, they have been commented on by a number of people on this side of the House; they have been used as examples of the dangers that are maintained or are proposed to this House by Bill 7. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is wrong to refute that the advisability of using a buffer commission or a buffer board where the people that are being helped are not in direct contact with the agency funding the program, has a great deal of merit, and I would think that before refuting it, we should study it and the government should perhaps implement it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister will be closing debate. The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: The honourable member said that he wished to accommodate me, but really I think he should realize that I have the same concern that I assume all members of this House have and that is that we are now dealing on second reading with Supplementary Supply, which is the bill before us. We will be dealing with Interim on second reading, and I'm just looking ahead to the timing, knowing that tomorrow night the Budget Debate comes in; it will end on the 31st of March, and it's normally considered good business of the House to pass Supplementary Supply and Interim Supply in sufficient time before the end of the month to accommodate the Civil Service wages to whatever else we have to pay, both Supplementary and Interim - so that I won't take any more time, Mr. Speaker, we only have five minutes. I propose to call second reading on Interim and we'll see whether the House is inclined to pass it or . . .

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK presented Bill No. 34, an Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the province for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

#### BILL NO. 34

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 34. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, in connection with Bill 34, I'd like to make one or two comments specifically related to a situation at Saunders Aircraft in Gimli involving the commitment both of the Department of Labour and, of course, of the Manitoba Development Corporation. I think we raised in the House sometime ago, Sir, a question as to what was happening at Saunders Aircraft, both in terms of possible additional funding and financial input being put in by the government and in terms of a search for certain classifications of worker for the plant. We raised a number of questions, both on Orders of the Day earlier in the session and in other avenues of debate earlier in this session, having to do with Saunders and precisely the situation there, Mr. Speaker. And I find that up to this point in time, we are still unsatisfied with the

## BILL 34

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . . lack of full disclosure and full information on that situation.

I am concerned in particular about the question of employment and employment requirements at the plant. I know that there are others on this side, particularly in my party who are concerned with the degree to which the provincial government is involved financially through the MDC. And we would like answers with all possible haste, Mr. Speaker, as to the status of that enterprise; as to the projections for the success and the future of that enterprise; and as to the degree to which the taxpayers of Manitoba may have to continue underwriting somewhat blindly, a difficult enterprise, caught in difficult straits that perhaps is not producing the kind of return in our economy that all of us had hoped it would.

At the same time, I recognize that it's a rather delicate question, Mr. Speaker, a delicate subject to approach, because I know that the government has attempted here to provide a viable industry, to provide a viable element to our economy through Saunders Aircraft, and I commend them for those efforts in principle. I know that the government has made the effort to provide a viable job opportunity base, work opportunity base for the Gimli area, for an area that in particular was hard hit by steps taken by the federal government insofar as the economy of the province is concerned, and I commend them for that, so when I approach . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour of 4:30 having arrived, it is now Private Members' Hour. The honourable member will have an opportunity to continue at another date.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR - RESOLUTION NO. 16

MR. SPEAKER: The first item under Private Members' Hour is Orders for Return transferred for debate. The Honourable Member for Wolseley not being present - if we proceed on to Private Members' Resolutions. Resolution No. 16, on which there is an amendment and a sub-amendment. I would like to indicate that the sub-amendment is not acceptable, since it again refers as the first original sub-amendment to the main motion and not to the amendment, consequently it is out of order. The debate may proceed on the amendment. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Assiniboia on the amendment.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I do wish to just make a few comments on this resolution. I listened to, I believe, the Minister responsible for Autopac did speak on this resolution some time ago and indicated to the House that there were no problems, and the government was, as far as he was concerned, was doing a good job in respect to housing. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is not true because we all know that there are great difficulties and problems as far as housing is concerned in this province. In fact, it is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that we have prices, because I'm sure that you're aware of what happened to the price situation of homes just in a very short time. I have a February 8, 1974 Tribune in my hand and it's indicated here where in 1974 in February, the house sold for \$38,000 and only six months prior that same house sold for \$28,000, which is \$10,000 increase. Now, I can give you quite a few statistics, similar statistics, where in a matter of six or seven months one individual home would increase in price by almost 25 to 30 percent. Well, indeed, Mr. Speaker, this must be serious, as far as I'm concerned, and I'm sure that the members in this House will agree, that we have a crisis situation. I know that on the other hand, to a great extent, the home ownership is fading very quickly to many people in this province.

Now, I do appreciate that the Member for Roblin has introduced a resolution. I was looking in the Journals and it is a similar resolution that I introduced some six or seven or eight years ago in this House. And I continually kept introducing the resolutions calling for reduction in the sales tax, provincially and federally. I also continually asked the government, this government and prior government to give consideration to removing a certain amount of the assessment for senior citizens and people of low income. And I know to some extent the government did meet that to some extent, I believe it's certainly a great help to senior citizens in respect to your home ownership tax grant.

But, Mr. Speaker, really, my concern is that the people on low incomes almost are completely out of the ball park, they just aren't able to buy any homes. And a second point, I know that the government has indicated to this House they will be making a 300-dollar grant for the first-time home buyer. And Mr. Speaker, well, you know, this is much too small and will do very little for most people, because a 300-dollar home grant not only will not cover the increase in interest that has taken place in only one year, from last year to this year, but it'll

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . hardly pay the legal cost for any family. So, surely that will not be the solution as well. I think that the need for public assistance, and something has to be done that's universally accepted by almost everybody. I have indicated to this House for the past 10 years, every year that I had the opportunity, not only in the Throne Speech or the budget, but I have proposed resolutions every single year in respect to the housing crisis and what will happen.

And Mr. Speaker, what many people were saying quite a few years ago has happened today, because the municipal governments, provincial governments and the federal government to a great extent, I believe, have failed as far as housing is concerned - failed the people. And it's unfortunate that home ownership is failing, perhaps for almost 70 percent of the people. And really, the government has done very little in this province. The province of Ontario in one year has made available to the people 6,000 lots - 6,000 lots in one year on their home ownership program. What has the government done here as far as land or as far as lots are concerned, for the people? It's done very little or it's done nothing. So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are becoming very quickly a nation and a province of renters instead of home owners. For many years municipal governments, provincial governments and federal governments have prided themselves in the high percentage of home ownership by Canadians, and this is not the fact any more. It has changed very quickly. So I am very disappointed that in the amendment that was made to this resolution, that the government did not proceed to give consideration to take the sales tax off, because it certainly would make progress and would have been the first step to perhaps start eliminating some of the costs as far as home ownership is concerned. And I'm very disappointed that the government is not prepared to do that. Really, Mr. Speaker, one may agree with some of the things that the government has done in respect to tax credits and will be producing legislation in respect to homeowner grants, which have already been indicated to the House of \$300, but really this is such a small measure. It will amount to very little and will mean very little as far as homes are concerned.

So I will not take much more time of the House, because I have indicated to this House on every occasion and every opportunity I had that we will have crisis situation as far as housing is concerned. I've indicated this to the House on many prior occasions and this is what has happened today. Because when you see the cost of homes in this province, in this city, in a matter of six months going from 28,000 to 38,000, a \$10,000 increase which is 30 to 40 percent increase, well, it puts most of the people completely out of the ball park to be able to purchase a home of their own. And I think if this government is really serious, really serious about home ownership and people being able to own their own homes, I think they will start right here, start to give consideration to removing the five percent sales tax on building materials - at the same time, press the federal government to do likewise, to remove the 12 percent sales tax, which, if you take into consideration 15 percent of the cost, this certainly would be a large reduction and would be the step in the right direction, Mr. Speaker. I still feel, and would like to say to the House that I think there's still hope that we could make it possible, we could make it easy for the people, still possible to be able to own their own homes. But let's make some lots, let's make some land available to these people. Like I said, in some other provinces they're able to make lots available to the people; in Ontario, I've stated they made 6,000 lots available in one year. I don't know if this government has made any lots available to the people in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, I will not take any more time of the House, but these are the points that I wanted to make on this resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

MR. JOHANNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to deal with comments made by the Member for Assiniboia and also comments made by the original introducer of this motion, the Honourable Member for Roblin, the Member for Assiniboia - pardon me, St. James - and the Leader of the Liberal Party.

The Member for Assiniboia uses as one of his main arguments in his contribution, the inadequacy of our assisted home ownership program. And Mr. Speaker, I must say that that is a slight change. Formerly he's been berating us, for years now he's been berating us on the grounds that we don't believe in home ownership at all, that we believe only in public housing - and I can recall over the past four years that we've had a running battle on this issue. The member has consistently implied that we are almost exclusively concerned with public housing and that we have no concern with the home ownership. Now we have brought in a

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. JOHANNSSON cont'd) . . . . program - and by the way the federal government has just made available a program for assisted home ownership this last year - that the federal legislation only passed last summer, and the mechanics for actually implementing the program took until fall sometime, I understand. So, the program actually wasn't in process of implementation until last fall.

And I'll assure the member that Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation is co-operating with CMHC in providing additional assistance to those who are taking advantage of this program. The federal plan, the assisted home ownership plan provides for a lowering of the mortgage rate in some cases to, I believe, a maximum of one percent lower than the market rate plus grants up to a maximum of \$300 per year in subsidy on PIT payments. And the provincial government has locked into this program and is providing, not only the initial grants - the honourable member mentioned the fact that we make 300-dollar one-time grants to those who enter this program - we make a 300-dollar grant, a one-time grant to someone entering the program south of 53, north of the 53rd parallel there is a 500-dollar grant to take into account higher home costs in the north. The provincial government is also providing a subsidy to equal the federal subsidy; we're matching the federal subsidy on PIT payments, so that the federal people are providing \$300, the maximum subsidy per year, and the provincial government is matching this.--(Interjection)--What is the city doing? The city is doing nothing in this particular area. They're not involved in this program. And - but that's not a point that I was going to make. I'm merely, Mr. Speaker, responding to some prompting from my colleagues here . . .

A MEMBER: Heckling.

MR. JOHANNSSON: Some heckling from my colleagues.

Now, the forecast is that the assisted home ownership program of the province will probably assist at least 500 people. Now this is a little difficult to forecast, because the program is in its first year of operation and it's really difficult to tell right now precisely how many people will take advantage of the program. But let me assure the member, that although I - and this may shock him - I can give my support to this program, this assisted home ownership program, and this may shock the member, because I don't think he really believes that I believe in home ownership - but I do support the idea. However, I don't have the great expectations that the honourable member may have for the program; and perhaps for different reasons.

The member points out the fact that inflation has perhaps made this program already too late - and he may well be right. But the thing that worries me is not only that problem - the thing that worries me is, that if the province merely adds to the federal assistance, this is no guarantee that this is going to reduce housing costs for those who are purchasing homes, because what will in all probability happen, is that this additional money will simply inflate the cost of housing. You're putting more money into a limited sector of the market - and the honourable member will agree with me that we're talking about housing that ranges in price from 15,000 to -what? 25,000? We're talking about a limited sector of the market, a limited amount of housing--and what you're doing is, you're giving additional money, you're putting additional money into a limited sector of the market, and the probable, the almost inevitable result of this will be to simply inflate housing prices. And I think that unless the province does something to increase the supply of housing in this sector of the market, this money will be simply poured down the drain. So I think that the province really has to exercise caution in this area. Unless the province acts in some way to increase the supply of housing in this sector of the market, this price sector, the only result of these grants--this aid by the federal and provincial governments - will be to drive up the cost of housing. And in fact, the final result of this kind of program could be to make those who would ordinarily have bought housing in this sector, pay more than they originally would have if these programs had not come into effect. So I think there is a real danger in this program and I think the province has to act in order to produce additional supply, housing supply, if this program is really going to be effective.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to look at the arguments of the member who introduced this resolution originally, the Honourable Member for Roblin. He's now spoken twice on this resolution. You know, Mr. Speaker, when I look at his comments in Hansard, I begin to wonder about the honourable member. He is supposedly - he is supposedly a member of the Progressive Conservative caucus, and one would therefore assume that this man was a Conservative. But

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. JOHANNSON cont'd) . . . . you look at his arguments - and I quote from March 6th Hansard, the second time he spoke on this resolution.

A MEMBER: What did he say?

MR. JOHANNSON: What did he say? He said, Mr. Speaker, that - for example he said, "I say, let people do their own thing." Sounds like a "hippie". "Let people do their own thing. Take some of the damn tax load off their backs. Let them be free people and call their own show."

A MEMBER: Set my people free.

MR. JOHANNSON: Set my people free, yes.--(Interjection)--No, he wasn't quite that eloquent, quite that good a stylist.

The Honourable Member for Roblin. He also brought up an example from Denmark of the leader of a party who was anti-tax and anti-bureaucracy. Anti-tax, anti-bureaucracy. He also said, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "Let's get some of these crazy taxes off the backs of people and stand up and help people build their own houses, and again, Mr. Speaker, do their own thing . . ." The honourable member is really in the--I can't repeat the remark of the Honourable Minister. "And do their own thing without a bunch of bureaucrats and government telling them how to do it." He also again referred to the Danish leader who, as he said, came out of the woodwork, and I think this gentleman must have judging by his beliefs. He said, he refers to the Danish leader as an anti-tax man, an anti-bureaucrat, anti-bureaucracy. And those two parts of his platform, Mr. Speaker, I would support - and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, how do you describe a man who doesn't believe in taxes, who doesn't believe in a Civil Service? You know, the only thing I can - the only conclusion I can come to is that the honourable member has become an anarchist. Mr. Speaker, I'm beginning to wonder if the honourable member has taken to reading the works of Prince Peter Kropotkin, a Russian anarchist, but I realize that the members of the Conservative Party don't believe in reading history so I'm sure he hasn't been doing that.--(Interjection)--They're more realistic, yes. They don't believe in reading history.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't quite believe, I couldn't quite believe that the honourable member had become an anarchist and so I decided to check back to see what this gentleman had done in the past, to see whether his past actions would support this seeming tendency toward anarchism. And do you know what I found out, Mr. Speaker? I found out, for example, that the honourable member at one time wrote in to the Minister of Municipal Affairs complaining about the fact that the fraternal societies in his constituency were being subject to municipal tax. Now he took the precaution of sending an open letter - he sent copies to the people in his area to prove to them that he was anti-tax, that he was fighting to relieve them of the load of taxation. Do you know what I found out, Mr. Speaker? That a few years previous, this same gentleman had voted as a member of the Roblin Government to change the Municipal Act, including municipal assessment, and the effect of that change was to impose this tax on those very fraternal organizations that he was now presuming to rescue from their heavy tax burden.--(Interjection)--Yes, how did he vote on the sales tax? Well, Mr. Speaker, I checked into that too. You know, we are fortunate in that we have the Journals of the House available and that the Roblin Government very kindly did begin Hansard, and I find April 18, 1967, Page 378 of the Journals of the House, the Honourable Member for Roblin voted for the sales tax. This is the gentleman, this is the gentleman who is going to relieve the people of what? - lift the burden of taxation off the backs of our people. And in 1967 he voted for the sales tax. Well, Mr. Speaker, I decided to read on - this really got interesting, and I found in the Journals of 1968, May 24, Page 335, the Journals of this House . . .

A MEMBER: Another tax?

MR. JOHANNSON: Another tax.

A MEMBER: He was agin it?

MR. JOHANNSON: The Medicare premium. Mr. Speaker, I found that the honourable member had also voted for that.

A MEMBER: No.

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes. This gentleman who doesn't believe in taxes, who is going to lift the burden of taxation off the people of this province, in 1968 voted for the Medicare premium, the most unfair tax in the recent history of this province.--(Interjection)--Right. The widows of this province had to pay the Medicare premium. And this man voted for it.

## RESOLUTION 16

A MEMBER: Ah, Wally.

MR. JOHANNSON: Now, Mr. Speaker, there are certain restrictions on the language we can use in this House, but I asked my colleagues, what would you call a man who says one thing and behaves in an entirely opposite fashion? Well, some of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, are rather excessive in their language so I won't quote them.

A MEMBER: What did Disraeli say?

MR. JOHANNSON: What did Disraeli say? Disraeli once said yes, that a Conservative Government is an organized hypocrisy. But, Mr. Speaker, he said that before he became a Conservative.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. JOHANNSON: Yes, I'd better get down to the resolution, Mr. Speaker. Now one of the reasons I really don't like the resolution of the honourable member is because it asks the Provincial Government to ask the Federal Government to do something. Now, Mr. Speaker, that's not exactly a very brave kind of action, asking the Provincial Government to ask the Federal Government to do something. It puts me in mind, Mr. Speaker, of the behaviour of the waffle group in our caucus--not in our caucus but in our party. I'm not sure whether they're still in our party; they seem to have departed. Now they have wound up in a different party judging by the behaviour now of the Member for Roblin, because he is -- Mr. Speaker, I've been in our party for many years and the waffle group continually, continually bring in resolutions at provincial conventions demanding that the Provincial Government tell the Federal Government to do something, and I've never really been impressed with this kind of resolution. I prefer that a provincial convention should deal with provincial matters, because this way you get things done.

Now the Member for Assiniboia dealt primarily with the effects of this resolution on housing. He didn't touch on the one very important aspect of it. The one very important aspect, of course, deals with the application of the 12 percent sales tax to industrial and commercial concerns, and really, the effect of the main resolution would be to benefit primarily not homeowners, but industrial and commercial concerns. And I would be--(Interjection)--I don't have an amendment on me so I'm sorry I can't amend it in that fashion, and I wouldn't. Now, one of the concerns that I have about the resolution is that the benefits would primarily, as I said, go to industrial and commercial concerns. In the housing field, the benefits would primarily go to purchasers of new housing; it wouldn't go primarily to purchasers of old housing, and I'll cite my own case.

I bought a house about two years ago, an old house in an old section of the city. And the lady who did own the house would have paid very little in the way of federal or provincial sales tax on that house. She might have paid a few dollars on maintenance work, but very little, and that had no effect on the cost that I paid for the house. What determined the cost to me of that house was the comparables, and the honourable member knows this. The price that I paid for the house was determined by similar prices paid in the neighbourhood and for that kind of housing. So people who buy old housing would benefit very little from this resolution. There are 60,000 - or there were several years ago - 60,000 apartment units in the city, and probably 100,000 people living in them. They don't get any benefit out of this. They don't benefit at all. The greatest benefit would go to people who buy expensive new housing, the least benefit to those who buy poorer housing, and, Mr. Speaker, the final crunch, the fatal flaw in this, is that if the Federal Government were to remove the sales tax, the 12 percent sales tax, and we were to remove the 5 percent provincial sales tax, we have no guarantee that that saving would be passed on. There is absolutely no guarantee that that saving will simply not be absorbed by the house builders and by developers. I understand that developers' profits this last year were very very handsome and this would be a beautiful gift to them. An extra little bit of cream for the developers . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. JOHANNSON: And, Mr. Speaker, that to me is a fatal flaw in this particular resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member's time is up. Are you ready for the question?

## RESOLUTION 16

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- on the amendment? I understand, Mr. Speaker, we're on the amendment as proposed by the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party?

MR. SPEAKER: That is correct.

MR. PAULLEY: And not the main motion of course. I think it would only be proper for me, Mr. Speaker, to make some passing reference to the resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for Roblin because in my opinion he only attacked part of the problem with which we're faced at the present time and that is - and I'm sure, Sir, that you would agree with me that in dealing with the amendment we have to take the context of the whole resolution as amended because we're dealing with the costs of building and maintaining buildings in Manitoba and that they have increased, - I don't think that there's any question of doubt that they have. And whereas the costs of buildings, maintaining private buildings, have increased at an excessive rate in the past few years, the cost of building and maintaining buildings to house our industrial base in Manitoba have likewise increased, and then the suggestion is that Manitoba give consideration to asking the Government of Canada to rescind their sales tax, and then the amendment of the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party suggests also that Manitoba should give advisability of removing Manitoba sales tax on building materials.

I think, though, I can properly say in this House, Mr. Speaker, that the matter of the sales tax is really only a small part in the overall costs of buildings in Manitoba, and elsewhere as well. You know, if it weren't tragic, I think it would be proper for me, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that one of the prime reasons for the escalation of building and other costs, not only in this province but Canada as well, occurred at the time that the Conservative Government was in power at Ottawa when they changed the whole basis of the interest rates in savings bonds and Dominion bonds to start an ever-increasing escalation that we're still confronted with, of interest rates in housing mortgages and the like.

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

MR. ASPER: I thank the Minister for yielding to a question. The question is: would he agree, or would he confirm that the Manitoba sales tax, the provincial sales tax on a \$20,000 home is roughly equal to the down payment on that home? And if he will concede that, will he not concede that that is significant?

MR. PAULLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that anything that is an input into the total cost of purchasing a home has an effect on the purchaser. There's no question of doubt. But the point that I was trying to make was that the commencement, the commencement of the ever-escalating costs of purchasing a home was not really the imposition of a sales tax, but started with the Government of the Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker back years ago when he paid tribute to the money lenders by increasing the interest rates on Canada bonds and the likes of that. And that, Mr. Speaker, was one of the starts of the present situation we find ourselves in. It is true, it is true also, of course, that an input was made by a former Conservative Government here in Manitoba with the imposition of the first sales tax that we've had in Manitoba, notwithstanding the fact that the then Premier of Manitoba, I believe at Swan River when he was speaking in support of the present member out there, said the sales tax was as dead as a dodo, but the dodo has been resurrected and we have more dodos now than we ever had before.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I don't recall Premier Roblin having said such a thing. Would the Minister favour me with the date and the time that Premier Roblin made that statement in Swan River, or retract.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the fact that my honourable friend would want me to give him the precise date, hour and minute of the thing. I believe it was during the election of 1962 when I was on a campaign throughout the whole of the Province of Manitoba, making certain suggestions as to how we could start getting Manitoba on the roll again after having about four years of ineffective Conservative Government, and then at that particular time, at that particular time -- (Interjection) -- Pardon? Well then, he didn't have much faith in the constituency

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . . . of Swan River, that if as the Premier of Manitoba he didn't want to go in to support the member who was elected or Bert -- I just forget his name -- Bert Corbett, that's right. My honourable friend from Souris-Killarney, I think, Mr. Speaker, is supporting my contention. But notwithstanding the precise hour and minute, the start of the problems contained in the resolution today started -- the start of the problems that the Honourable Member for Roblin wants to get around today, rather rapidly, were started, as I suggest, Mr. Speaker, first of all by the Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker's large majority government in paying off, as I say, the kick-off or kick-back to the financial houses of Canada by starting what has not stopped since, and that is an ever-escalating cost of the borrowing of money by interest rates. That was the start.

Then, Mr. Speaker, lo and behold, here in Manitoba after a political and statement by the then Premier of Manitoba that the sales tax was as dead as a dodo, lo and behold what happened, Mr. Speaker, about the first of the second session after we assembled here in this hallowed Chamber, the First Minister who at that time I believe was also the Minister of Finance, introduced a sales tax for Manitoba. Or was it Gurney Evans? I'm not just sure because - you see -- just before -- Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources; he recalls to me now a historical event, that after having made the declaration that the sales tax was as dead as a dodo, he didn't have the gumption to introduce it to his House so he transferred the portfolios just before that and this fell on our former Member of the Legislature, Gurney Evans, in his capacity as Minister of Finance. And I can see, I can see now, Mr. Speaker, in my mind's eye, some of the members opposite who are over on this side of the House, and I believe I sat where the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney as leader of my group at that time, I sat in that seat, and Mr. Speaker, would you believe it? The carpet on this side of the House became dampened with water coming from the tears of the people who got elected on a dead dodo. And now today, Mr. Speaker, and now today we have one of those fellows from whose eyes streamed buckets of water, saying "Let's abolish the sales tax."

These were the people, the Conservatives at Ottawa followed by the Conservatives here in Manitoba, that have made problems for the people in Manitoba who want to purchase homes. Now then, I said, Mr. Speaker, I said that we are not only concerned with the matter of the sales tax . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order Please. The Honourable Member for Roblin state his point of order.

MR. MCKENZIE: The resolution only asks for the rescinding of this tax on building materials.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, why don't you. . . the resolution?

MR. PAULLEY: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the context of the resolution is dealing with the costs of purchasing homes, commercial enterprises, commercial undertakings, that my honourable friend I am sure would like to leave that aside, but I'm trying to establish, Mr. Speaker, that this is only a component of the problem contained in the resolution. --(Interjection)-- On yes, the problem was over here. I frankly confess, Mr. Speaker, that the problem was over here, and my honourable friend from Killarney I'm sure will agree.

But what are some of the inputs, Mr. Speaker, into the costs of construction? High prices of land. The requirement today. . .

A MEMBER: High cost of labour too.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, the high cost of labour too, in order that labour may have the wherewithal in order to pay to the moneylenders their pound of flesh. Of course. This is the reason that we're in our difficulties today because nobody has yet, unfortunately, been able to unravel the situation that was created by Conservative governments at Ottawa and Manitoba. This is the problem, Mr. Speaker, that we're faced with today in buildings, be they residential homes, be they commercial enterprises, in order that labour may have a place to work. These are the problems that were created and yet today we have the affrontery of the member of that once grand party, suggesting to us that we should roll back to where we were; don't disagree that we have to take a close look at the problems of today. But in taking into consideration the problems that are created, I say that the cost of housing



## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd) . . . . is not solely related to sales tax. I say that the greatest input over the years is what was created by the Conservative Party by the application of their policy of paying off the man that calls the tune, the piper, in interest rates.

The cost of land, the cost of land, Mr. Speaker, has risen and risen and risen, far out of proportion to what it should have been, and in the cost of land there's no real input of sales tax. Of course, my honourable friend agrees, they didn't do anything about it when, and we're trying to do something about it in land banking in order that the entrepreneurs, the characters that have the few bucks, cannot continue to scalp the ordinary citizen or even the businessman that wants to go into construction.

Over the years, another area, Mr. Speaker, that has added to the total cost of housing and commercial enterprises - and particularly commercial enterprises - is because the investors in property have so scalped the people of the community by the cost of land that more and more we have to use smaller plots of land to accommodate more accommodation by building skyscrapers and high-rise apartments; and involved in that cost, involved in that cost, Mr. Speaker, are the provisions for what we hope to be reasonably adequate safety fire precautions, which I'm sure is one of the concerns of my honourable friend from Souris-Lansdowne. I say, Mr. Speaker, that when we deal with the question of the cost of housing, we should not isolate the components which have made these costs escalate over the years. I'm told that the modest home that I have out in Transcona that was built by a custom builder for me back in 1953 at a cost of somewhere around about \$12,000 or \$13,000, I could get about \$40,000 for it without making any contribution other than the upkeep, and that's what we've done. That's what we've done.

My honourable friend says it's wrong. I was offered it the other day and I said, "Nothing doing." This is me ain land, this is me ain home and I'm going to damn well keep it until the grim reaper, Mr. Speaker, comes along and gets me.

These are the inputs into the cost of providing housing. Yes, my honourable friend from Souris-Killarney says I'll be there pretty soon. I recall, Mr. Speaker, one of my former colleagues who sat I believe where the Honourable Member for Lakeside now sits, Morris Gray. Some will remember him. He always expressed an opinion that he may die with his shoes on and possibly in this Assembly. I know the grim reaper is going to get me one of these days; I hope I'm still trying to perform the service for the people of Manitoba when that individual called the grim reaper gets me, and I have no compunction, I'm ready at any time, realizing that I've tried to make a little contribution educationally to try and indoctrinate some of my honourable friends opposite, such as the Honourable Member for Roblin, who comes again with tears in his eyes -- I have no tears in my eyes. No, hell no, I'm ready at any time, but when I listen to some of the statements coming from those who had an opportunity to do it when, and because they are on that side of the House today come forward with resolutions to try and correct the errors of their ways, how can I but help indoctrinating for the edification of the newer members in the House, don't be surprised at this type of resolution from those honourable gentlemen across the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister's time is up.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Labour would submit to a couple of questions.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm sorry, the Honourable Minister's time is up. It has to be by leave of the whole House. (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Honourable the Minister of Labour and also the Member from St. Matthews where the Federation of Labour stands on this sales tax issue.

MR. PAULLEY: My answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is that the Manitoba Federation of Labour in all due respects have no responsibility for the collection of taxes in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have another question of the Honourable Minister of Labour and also for the Member for St. Matthews. I wonder, has the Manitoba Federation of Labour at any time expressed their feelings to either of the members regarding sales tax in Manitoba?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, the President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour, Mr. Leonard Stevens, has on a few occasions expressed

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. PAULLEY Cont'd). . . . concern at the application of the present sales tax, and asked the government on one occasion, I believe Sir, to withdraw it completely, and then on another occasion to amend certain provisions in the sales tax. I would like -- I can't ask my honourable friend a question in reply but I want him to consider, because I understand, Sir, that he will have the opportunity of closing the debate at some time, I ask him, has he not had anybody make representations to the Conservative MLAs to amend the error of the ways that they created at the time they were the government?

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

MR. J. R. BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the few moments that are left, I'd like to address a few remarks to this rather important resolution. There has been reference made by some members opposite, particularly the question raised by the Leader of the Liberal Party when he asked the Minister of Labour if he would not agree that the percentage of sales tax as a component in the cost of housing was not significant, and of course the Minister of Labour said it was significant and it is significant. Everything included in the cost of anything is significant, from doorknobs to taxes to everything else, so if the Member for Wolseley, the Leader of the Liberal Party, wishes to raise that, then I suggest perhaps we should consider the elements in the cost and the increasing cost in housing, and if this is what is before us then perhaps we should look at some of the more important contributors to the cost of housing.

Recently there was an article written in one of the papers, an article by Robert Matas, pertaining to this cost of housing and since the Leader of the Liberal Party brought that element into the debate, perhaps we could look at just that for a brief moment, Mr. Speaker, addressing my remarks, of course, at all times to the resolution under consideration before the House.

The article pertains to city housing costs, it says. Are builders misleading the public? And the Leader of the Liberal Party from his seat says they are. Well, I would suggest that perhaps this is another red herring that is being drawn across the public's investigation of the costs, the rising costs of housing. But just relative to the builders contributing to this cost, it is suggested in this particular article that there have been record profits in the building industry, and I quote. "The housing industry in Winnipeg enjoyed record profits last year, BACM Limited said in its annual report of 1973, the best annual financial results in the company's history." Now it seems strange to me, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes we get two different types of information. When companies are reporting to their shareholders or those people who would like to invest in their companies, they paint the true picture, not only because they want continued investments in their companies, but I understand that the Companies Act and securities control mechanisms that we have in place require that the information provided to the public by corporations sticks pretty close to the truth. So I would suggest that when a company such as BACM reports -- and this is a quote from the annual report, I assume, because it's within quotation marks in this particular article; "The best annual financial results in the company's history." --(Interjection)-- I'm sorry, I was just quickly looking through this particular article to see if it included specific reference to dividends, but it doesn't. You know, just as an aside to this point, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that in many of the presentations of information to the public they put in glaring headlines such things as government losses relative to Autopac, but when it comes to reporting such things as 76 percent increase in profits of Exxon, that goes over on the financial page, a little wee small thing, and the Royal Bank of Canada or some other organization, so sometimes it's very difficult to find out exactly in dollars and cents what is going into the private sector. Here's one, one of the largest, I understand, construction companies in our community, has reported the best annual financial results in the company's history.

Now, this particular reporter, Mr. Speaker, goes on to mention one of the other contributing factors in the cost of housing. This particular article, I read through it, and it makes no reference to the sales tax component as being a relative contributing factor in the degree of magnitude as this reporter suggests. It says that "the development companies increased their inventories considerably during the last six months of 1971, with the active co-operation of city officials." You know, it seems strange here that the

## RESOLUTION 16

(MR. BOYCE cont'd). . . . private sector has such active cooperation of the city officials. We heard earlier in some other debates pertaining to other matters that we shouldn't chide the city for some of their lack of cooperation in certain areas relative to development and housing and this. But it does seem strange to me that we keep hearing such things as this, and I quote once again, Mr. Speaker: "But the development companies increased their inventories considerably during the last six months of 1971 with the active cooperation of city officials." And I would suggest that this situation continues.

For another example of this, as another aside - I realize it's aside to the particular issue before us - the multi-million dollar complex at the corner of Portage and Main being proffered to the city by Trizec Corporation, I think the hours spent on looking at this particular complex, with all of the ramifications of it, it was before City Council for something like a half an hour, but yet when the province wants to move to put into place some of the housing which the Member for Fort Rouge chides us for not having placed, they delay us for some 18 months. So that if people are to be sincere in their suggestion that we should move towards reduction of some of the components as costs built into housing through a tax on building materials, I suggest that we're looking in the wrong place, that we should address ourselves to the components which contribute more significantly. In this regard I would say that while sales tax could not be considered as a door knob component in the cost, nevertheless, in the degree of relativity that the sales tax would become much lower. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the honourable gentleman will have an opportunity on another day. I should like to indicate again, just as a reminder for all honourable members, that tomorrow at 2:15 we will have the photographs, so would they bear that in mind. Because if they are missed, they'll be missed and they'll be missing from the 30th Legislature picture.

The hour being 5:30, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon (Thursday).