

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 20 students of the Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology from Toronto as our guests. These students are under the direction of Kathleen Rogers and were hosted by the Honourable Member for Rossmere, the Honourable First Minister. On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here.

Presenting petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions.

MR. CLERK: The Petition of Elsie Kernested praying for the passing of An Act for the Relief of Elsie Kernested, as Administratrix of the Estate of Philip Lloyd Kernested.

REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the second report of the Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK: Your Committee met on Thursday, May 13, 1976, and heard representation with respect to Bills referred as follows:

Bill No. 17 - An Act to amend The Liquor Control Act:

H.W. Duhamel - Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, Local 206.
Dario Perfumo - Manitoba Hotel Association

Bill No. 18 - An Act to amend The Clean Environment Act:

P.W. Aitchison - Manitoba Environmental Council.

Bill No. 21 - An Act to amend The Condominium Act:

R.G. Smethurst, Q.C. - Private Citizen.

Your Committee also met on Tuesday, May 18, 1976, and considered Bills:

No. 3 - An Act to amend The Garage Keepers Act.

No. 4 - An Act to amend The Mental Health Act.

No. 5 - An Act to amend The Condominium Act.

No. 9 - An Act to amend The Snowmobile Act.

No. 11 - An Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act.

No. 13 - An Act to amend The Surrogate Courts Act.

No. 17 - An Act to amend The Liquor Control Act.

No. 22 - An Act to amend The Alcoholism Foundation Act.

No. 28 - An Act to amend The Wheat Board Money Trust Act.

No. 31 - An Act to amend The Oakwood War Memorial Scholarship Act.

No. 40 - An Act to amend The Corrections Act.

No. 42 - An Act to amend The Social Allowances Act and to give Manitoba Regulation 260/75 retroactive effect.

No. 44 - An Act to amend The Civil Service Superannuation Act.

No. 51 - The Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act.

No. 53 - An Act to amend The Registry Act.

No. 60 - An Act to amend The Securities Act.

And has agreed to report the same without amendment.

Your Committee also considered Bills:

No. 2 - An Act to amend The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

No. 6 - An Act to amend The Communities Economic Development Fund Act.

No. 12 - An Act to amend The County Courts Act.

No. 18 - An Act to amend The Clean Environment Act.

No. 25 - An Act to amend The Highways Protection Act.
 No. 29 - An Act to amend The Builders and Workmen Act.
 No. 47 - An Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.
 No. 52 - An Act to amend The Real Property Act.
 And has agreed to report the same with certain amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Point Douglas, that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management)(Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would like to schedule Committee on Economic Development for Thursday to hear the reports of the Manitoba Forestry Resources Limited, the McKenzie Seeds Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion: Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition)(Riel): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister. I wonder if he can advise if there is any further information regarding the position of the Port Manager at Churchill, which position has been under some question. Can he advise whether Mr. Earl Scharf has been reappointed as Port Manager, or what the present state of affairs is?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday in reply to the Honourable Member for Churchill, there is nothing definitive that can be reported inasmuch as a commitment has been given, I believe, by the responsible federal authorities for the convening of some special meeting in Ottawa for approximately 10 days to two weeks hence, at which time that question will become answerable.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister can indicate whether in the interim period that there is management of the Port facility at Churchill.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Industry and Commerce can provide more specific information. I can only express an impression, and then, too, Sir, I point out that this is having to do with something which is essentially not under the administrative purview of the affairs of the government and of this House. My impression is that there is indeed a problem with continuity of Port Management at Churchill, but I do not want to be in a position of gainsaying just how the Government of Canada is running its administrative responsibilities.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder if he can advise the House whether the government intends to present a paper or a position to the Berger Commission Hearings when they're held in Manitoba, or in Winnipeg, on May 20th.

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

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that matter was considered but we have been advised that the Berger Commission wants to hear the pros and cons of the construction of the line along the McKenzie Valley with regard to ecology and environmental matters. They are not interested in receiving representations from groups here with regard to the necessity of future supply of natural gas from the north. They've very distinctly made that clear. They've made it very clear that they're concerned with the environmental issues, and I'm advised that this is what they want to receive briefs on, and as such we don't feel that we want to proceed with making a case on the environmental situation in the McKenzie Valley.

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MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister might also verify, they are looking at the sociological aspects as well - is it the case then that the Manitoba Government will not be passing any comments to the Commission regarding those matters either?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker. It has nothing to do with . . . our intention is not to present a brief. We have a concern about the future supply of gas obviously, but many of the matters, in fact all of the matters being discussed, pertain to the ecology and it may be broadened to sociological considerations, as the Leader of the Opposition suggests, and I'm not indicating that we don't have some concern about this, but this is a matter that has effect in the McKenzie Valley area and the people living in that area.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could indicate if the government intends to present a further brief to the National Energy Board hearings on the same matter.

MR. EVANS: It is our position, Mr. Speaker, to ensure adequate future supplies of natural gas, and oil of course, for the people of Manitoba, and to that extent we have always pressed wherever possible with the Federal Government at Federal-Provincial conferences and indeed with the National Energy Board. Therefore to answer my honourable friend, the answer is yes. We have and will continue to make our position known to the National Energy Board whenever the opportunity arises.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the question was whether the government has any plans at present to make any submission to the NEB on that topic.

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, we will. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development. Has the Minister and his department undertaken any assessment or study of the job situation related to new graduating nurses to confirm or substantiate the report by the President of the Student Nurses Association that there's only 20 jobs available for the some 500 expected graduates of Nursing Institutions in the Province this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development): No, Mr. Speaker, because we employ very few of them directly, this is done by the boards of the different hospitals. I don't say that this is not something that we're concerned with but so far the answer is no.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate whether he or officials of his department have undertaken to meet with the different hospitals or health institutions to determine what the job placement would be for nurses and if there are any measures that can be taken to improve opportunities for Manitoba graduates?

MR. DESJARDINS: This is being discussed at the Commission level, it's not the department directly, it's the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if it is a matter of the Manitoba Health Commission then, can the Minister report on any developments of progress that such discussions might have made in either making rules limiting out of job placements or placements for out of province nurses, or to improve the . . . of the graduates here.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order. The Honourable Member is speculating on a number of issues. Does the Honourable Member wish to rephrase?

MR. AXWORTHY: To rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister report on if there has been discussions with the Manitoba Health Services Commissions with the different Health Institutions in the province to provide for improved job opportunities for graduating nurses?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this is rather something new facing the Commission - just a very few months ago there was a shortage - so I'll have to check with the Commission but we don't contemplate making rules to keep people from other provinces, keeping them out of the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

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MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if the Minister could indicate if the House will receive a report as to his meeting with North Dakota's Governor Link and representatives of Saskatchewan on the Souris Basin Study?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I suppose that that could be dealt with in report form during my Estimates, but I can briefly indicate that there was a meeting yesterday at Bismarck and that in general there was positive response to the initiative of Governor Link that the governments concerned regard the Souris as a basin and try to integrate all information with regard to the Souris Basin. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba and Saskatchewan appeared to be somewhat ahead of North Dakota, in that we do have a Souris Basin Study under way which is expected to be completed in approximately one year, year and a half.

MR. WATT: A supplementary question. Then I ask the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I wonder if the Minister could indicate, will North Dakota's participation or precipitation, if you'd like to put it that way, in the Souris Basin Study, will that delay the report which is expected I understand to be received in 1977.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't indicate that anything specifically will delay the report. I also would indicate that from time to time scheduled dates for completion of reports have not been met, that further information comes up and the objective of those people on the Study Board is to make sure that the report is correct, not that it is filed on a certain date. They set a target date, and they try to meet that date.

MR. WATT: I direct a further question to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. According to the report if North Dakota should enter into a study with Manitoba and Saskatchewan it would take them three to five years for that report to be released. Would this then hold up the report?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is hypothetical in part, the Honourable Minister.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm not able to deal with all of the reports credible or incredible that are received from the Honourable Member for Arthur. I have indicated to him that the Study Board, the study on the Souris River Basin, which was initiated by the three governments of Canada, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, is continuing with due dispatch and will be completed with due dispatch.

MR. WATT: A supplementary question then. I ask this question of the Minister again. Will the immediate problem in Manitoba in regard to the Souris Basin flooding problem be delayed until any report has been received from either the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Study or Manitoba-North Dakota-Saskatchewan Study?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, all flooding problems in the Province of Manitoba are given both immediate and long term consideration. With regard to immediate problems in the Souris River Valley, they were dealt with as and when they arose. With regard to long term consideration and the problem of dealing with fundamental problems, Souris is much ahead of other communities in the Province of Manitoba in that they do have a study looking at their basin where other communities with similar problems have not yet received that objective.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON (Wolseley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Public Works. Can the Minister confirm that there were breaches of the Consumer Protection Act regarding the advertising and use of the government name in selling used cars?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works)(Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, we were not pleased with the advertising, but I don't believe that it was in breach of the Consumer Act.

MR. WILSON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister intend to lay charges or make a public statement?

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, we are studying the matter internally and I think we may register some caveat about future advertising so that it does not look as if our vehicles are being sold by ourselves. In this instance they were our vehicles being sold by a private dealer.

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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, in his capacity as the Minister Responsible for Manpower. Can the Minister advise the House whether from his knowledge the situation with respect to graduating nurses here in Manitoba is general across the country, or limited primarily to this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): Mr. Speaker, as being a very recent close observer of the endeavours and efforts of the nurses, I found that they work very well and very efficiently. The results may not be entirely satisfactory as far as others are concerned but as far as I was concerned I think they did a darn good job. There were no complaints directed towards me while a patient in the Health Sciences Centre. It seemed to me that outside of objections to some of the administration outside of the hospital, that things generally speaking were reasonably favourable. It was the case however, I must confess, that due to wage conditions prevailing between parts of western Canada and parts of eastern Canada there was some migration going to take place this summer regardless of whether there were an excess number of nurses or not.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise whether there are any reciprocal arrangements that can be invoked in situations of this kind that would help to meet the job hunting crises where some Manitoba nursing graduates are concerned?

MR. PAULEY: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm not able to give my friend any further information than I have.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q.C. (River Heights): My question is to the First Minister. Several years ago your government introduced in this House Treasury Branch Legislation. I wonder if you are in a position to indicate when it is the intention of the government to get into the banking business?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, at the time, when the legislation was current, in terms of consideration by this House, it was said then that the passage of the legislation was not to be taken as the intent to proceed quickly, if at all, but we wanted the statutory authority to proceed in the event that certain circumstances continued to prevail in terms of inadequacy of sickly banking services, particularly in parts of isolated communities of northern Manitoba. And we have, I might add, this matter under review by the Red Secretariat, RED Committee, that is to say the Resource and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet. I thought, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friends opposite would rather appreciate the play on words, and it is under current consideration. It is not a matter of high priority and therefore the said committee is dealing with other more pressing matters.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of another question to the First Minister. Then I wonder if you are prepared to confirm that so far as the commercial services offered by banking institutions and credit associations in . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe if we're going to pursue this matter, it can be done under Finance because the Minister's Estimates still have to be done. It is much more appropriate there. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister can confirm that the studies undertaken by the government would indicate no need for the government to enter into the banking business.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware that there is any such conclusion of that definitive a nature. I would tend to agree personally that in the more populated parts of the province that may well be true; in some of the northern communities experience proves that there is need for some incrementality of banking service.

MR. SPIVAK: By way of supplementary to the First Minister. Would you not - I ask the First Minister whether in fact his answers today are not really a change in policy on the part of government?

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MR. SCHREYER: No, Mr. Speaker, because that legislation as was indicated by the Minister of Finance of the day, now the Member for St. Johns, and by myself at the time, was that we wanted the legislation as an optional response - capability to meet needs in certain parts of northern Manitoba primarily.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

TABLING OF ORDER FOR RETURN NO. 26

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General)(Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, if I could have the leave of the House I would like to table Return to Order of the House No. 26, by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

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MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Minister of Health and Social Development. Can the Minister tell us how extensive the monitoring of evidence of the Polio Virus will be in Manitoba? Can the Minister tell us how extensive the monitoring of evidence of Polio will be in Manitoba? Will every lagoon be monitored or every sewage treatment plant?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, I don't know what . . . my honourable friend is talking about. I gave an answer on this last week of what we were doing.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I don't think we've every been told how extensive it's going to be, and that's my question to the Minister: how extensive is the monitoring going to be?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, this is followed fairly closely - why I hesitate, because the Inspectors that are doing this work are in the department of my honourable friend, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Honourable Minister of Highways. I wonder if he can advise the House if weight restrictions have been lifted yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, like I mentioned the other day, some have been increased to 350 from 250, not all, but some have. There has been another order come in, I believe today or yesterday, for further lifting of restrictions to 350, and it is hoped based on the predictions we have from the Highways, that in about a week or a week and a half, barring any unforeseen bad weather, the restrictions should be lifted by that time.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise the House if he, or his government has arrived at any solutions to alleviating the anticipated tax increase to Churchill homeowners of this year, of some 45 percent, which will be caused by the operating costs of the new Churchill complex.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, this would seem to me to be a matter which can be much more fruitfully discussed under Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Acting Minister of Consumer Affairs. Could he confirm or explain the shocking increases in coffee prices in Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) In light of the job difficulties of the graduating nurses, can the Minister indicate whether the Department of Colleges and Universities, or the Youth Secretariat, is examining what the job prospects are of graduates of, the professional schools, our universities, or university graduates, coming out at this spring?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education)(Burrows): Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge expresses an opinion of his own that there are job difficulties experienced by graduating nurses in finding employment. I haven't seen the particular study or survey that the honourable member is referring to, indicating that there are 20 jobs available today. That may well be true, but that in no way indicates that the graduating nurses will not be able to find employment in hospitals for which they are trained within a reasonable period of time, as they have in the past.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, or a repeat of the question. Has the Minister's department undertaken to look at the employment prospects of the graduates of other professional schools in our university or our community college system to determine whether they will be experiencing difficulty seeking employment when they graduate this spring.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is basing his question on the premise that they are experiencing difficulties in finding employment, and of that I'm not aware, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry. --(Interjection)-- The honourable member has pursued that question, five times. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: In a moment. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister responsible for the Civil Service. I wonder if he can advise the House whether a successful conclusion has been reached in the contract negotiations between the Manitoba Government Employees Association and the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister in charge of Public Insurance Corporation.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, when negotiations have been completed I'm sure that the member will be aware of whatever the results will be.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise whether Bill 64 or its contents or its interpretation is in any way affecting the resolution of those negotiations?

MR. URUSKI: Not that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker, while negotiations are on. They are proceeding in the normal course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable the Minister of Highways. It relates to questions put during the past few days, and one which he took as notice last Thursday. I wonder if he's able to provide an answer to that question now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to the honourable member, I was going to reply on Friday, and I would have liked to have done that but the Member was not in the House and I was away yesterday, so I'm glad that the member has reminded me of the question. As I stated earlier, the section from number 10 to Douglas was pretty well completed except for a small portion that hasn't been done, or was not able to be done last fall, it'll be completed this year. I think the honourable member is a little concerned and probably thinks he's got onto something because invitational bids were put out for seal coating. Now just for the benefit, if I may, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the honourable members, that every road that is paved there is what we call seal coating put on after. In some cases it is done shortly after the paving is completed, other times it may take a year or more, it all depends. Now we have been told that it is much better to put a seal coating on sooner rather than later. Now this is not part

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(MR. BURTNIAK cont'd) of the original contract; this is done after the contractor is finished paving, and usually it is done on an invitational bid, and that means the contractors that are within the area are invited to put a bid for seal coating. This has been done and this will be I think proceeded with in the next week or two on that section of the road, but is not part of the same contract.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, then can the Minister now confirm that the contractor, the original contractor did complete his contract last fall.

MR. BURTNIAK: No, he did not complete. As far as asphaltting is concerned there is still a portion, I believe some curbing to be done, and so on. But the seal coating still would have had to go on that portion of the road either now or a year from now, and it was advised to put the seal coating on that section of the road as I say sooner rather than later. So it's a separate deal. It's done all the time. Anytime there is a contract that goes out for paving, once the paving is completed, seal coating is done, but not always in the case that it's done right away, it could be done a year later, but as I said again, and I repeat, that it was advised that based on the material and stuff that we had in that area, that it would be better if it was done now. But it's part of the normal procedure.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, has the Minister and his department been able to determine the cause for the extensive ravelling which has occurred on the surface of that highway in a very short time? Was it materials or workmanship?

MR. BURTNIAK: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the honourable member is talking about, premature ravelling. I happened to be on that road yesterday and there is absolutely nothing wrong with it: it was done to the best way, the know-how, and if as I said the seal coating is going to go on that road, or would have gone on that road regardless of whether it's now or later. So that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the road as it was done at the time last fall, and there's still some work to be done near, as I said, near Highway No. 10, but when the member says something about extensive ravelling, there is no extensive ravelling on there. I'm sure the honourable member has travelled on there, and many times, and I was on there yesterday with my staff and there's absolutely - not for purposely for that, we were in another area but we drove on No. 1 and we took a look at that particular portion of the road and there's absolutely nothing wrong with the workmanship as far as I'm concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister or Minister of Labour. I wonder what work program can the government, or will the government reactivate as promised to the Trades Council Manitoba Construction Council in view of some 3,000 construction workers are unemployed in Winnipeg and Brandon alone, and I wonder what construction programs that the government indicated it had on the shelf could reactivate, I'd like to know what programs will be reactivated.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, through the co-operation of the Building Trades Council, and the Department of Labour, I am supplied monthly with statistics indicating the number of unemployed. They do not, according to the figures that I have, jive with the figures that the honourable member has used in this House just a moment or two ago. It does not appear to me that at the present time the economy of Manitoba is in such a state, despite the efforts of some of my colleagues in the Legislature to make it appear so, that we have to go into emergency programs. I would suggest the latest statistical report on unemployed, employment for Manitoba has indicated that we are still the best of employment in the Dominion of Canada.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the Minister indicate his latest statistics in the way of unemployment in the construction industry? The statistics that have been indicated to me just this week, there are 3,000 drawing Unemployment Insurance in Brandon, the City of Brandon and the City of Winnipeg alone.

MR. PAULLEY: The statistics that I referred to, Mr. Speaker, came into my office last week. When my honourable friend is referring to Unemployment Insurance

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) benefits, I'm sure that on investigation he would find that this is to some degree at least a transferring from one employment, from one employer to another, at which stage there is no cut off of unemployment benefits, and it's conceivable that one person can be implicated as being unemployed for the purpose of records at least three times.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Can he indicate whether he has received any reports from the Youth Secretariat which is running a summer job employment office to the number of applications that they received from summer university or high school students, and how many of those applications have been filled in terms of jobs at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: No, Mr. Chairman, that I do not have, and that too insofar as finding summer employment is concerned, the figures change from day to day, applications are filed for employment, students find employment on their own, and I have every reason to believe that this year we will be as successful as we have been in the past in finding summer employment for students, for some in government STEP programs and others will find employment within the private sector.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture could indicate if he has any intention of extending the deadline for crop insurance to cover land unseeded as a result of waters being held back on the land, as a result of inaction by the government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that if we wanted to adhere to the principle of insurance that one would want to reduce the time period rather than extend it.

MR. WATT: Would the Minister not consider then, rather than reduce the time that acceptance could be made where the government is responsible for the flooding of land that may not be seeded . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate to the member for Arthur that we do not claim to be responsible for the amount of precipitation in any given period.

MR. WATT: Is the Minister saying that the government then is irresponsible insofar as . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, obviously if I was to indicate an opinion, I would suggest that the Member for Arthur is irresponsible with that question.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY - SECOND READINGS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would proceed with the debates on second readings in the order which they appear on the Order Paper, and you can also, Mr. Speaker, proceed with the two Bills that are standing for introduction on second reading.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 37. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Stand.

BILL NO. 46 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE PENSION BENEFITS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 46. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make my remarks on Bill 46, An Act to Amend the Pension Act. I think that this is an important piece of legislation and not only altering the legislation that passed last year or last session, but I believe that it's important because of, I believe, the changing economic conditions in the country and in the world, and we have much longer life expectancy today than we had many years ago, and it's indicated that people reaching age 70, that men will have a life expectancy at least of 10 years, and the women at least 12 years, so I believe that is

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) the reason to support that people should at least have some reasonable standard of living in retirement that they had while they were still working, and this is what all this legislation is all about, Mr. Speaker. It was indicated, I know, at one time. I believe I spoke on the main bill last year. A couple of years ago I called for such a legislation, requiring some form of pension protection legislation in this province. I haven't checked it recently but I believe I even had a Private Members' Resolution, and it was indicated that we had many plans in the country, perhaps covering a couple of million people, and still only a small proportion, small proportion of these people - I believe only 4 percent - when they left their employment that they had any kind of vesting. So there was no vesting at all almost, when you look at 4 percent, so that's the more reason why we need this type of legislation.

I know that we have the legislation as a result of last year, but it was indicated, and we all knew, that many people not only didn't have vesting privileges but many of them when they left their employment they perhaps needed money and they not only took their own portion, if they had vesting they probably took the portion of the employer, and they took that money in their middle ages and when they retired they were left with no pension and very little security. And that's the reason why we have the legislation before us and I have no argument with the Minister bringing the legislation amending the Act in Manitoba. I know that it'll affect many Manitobans perhaps 150,000 to 200,000, maybe somewhere in that neighbourhood, and what it'll do that anyone that has completed at least 10 years of service will have I believe full vesting, if that's the way I understand the legislation.

I think that also it'll clarify many points in the legislation that we didn't have before where a plan is discontinued, and I know that there will probably be quite a few plans discontinued because of the pension requirements and pension legislation coming in, and I'm not saying that many employers will do it but perhaps some employers will discontinue the pension plan and say, look the requirements will be too great on us now - some pensions are on the basis if the employer had a good year he will contribute and if it wasn't a good year he may not have to contribute. Well, now we're going to have regulations that every year there will have to be a contribution, an employer contribution, and we'll have to have written explanations, terms and conditions of all the agreements will have to be given to the employees, and every employee has to be informed, or the Committee of the Pension Plan will have to be informed of any changes in the plan. So I believe that some of these provisions are required and necessary.

Also I believe that if there is any problems as far as investments are concerned, again I believe this will have to be reported to the Commissioner and to the existing plans. So I see very little wrong with the bill, Mr. Speaker. I know that we'll have perhaps some people appear before the Law Amendments Committee when this bill goes into Law Amendments and I may have more to say at that time, but I feel that this type of legislation was required. I think that with many people having longer life expectancy in retirement surely they should enjoy at least some relationship in retirement to the kind of conditions that they lived while they were still working, and all it is is tightening up some of the legislation pension protection, and which I think was required, so I support the bill going into Law Amendments Committee, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House, the Honourable Minister of Labour shall be closing debate.

MR. PAULLEY: I would just like to say one or two words in connection with this bill, Mr. Speaker. I do say thank you to those who have taken time out to make a contribution, and I suggest that the discussion really is small when compared to what the objective is behind the bill, which is up for amendment this year, and also the bill that was passed last year. Manitoba was later than some provinces in establishing a proper pension plan, and we're attempting to overcome that deficiency as rapidly as possible. I indicated to the members of the House that I believe that as of March 26, we commenced the employment of a new Superintendent of Pensions to assist us in carrying out this job, and I'm sure that members of the Assembly will wish him well. We are often given to talk about the pensions. We talk about the old age pensioner, we talk about the CNR

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) pensioner - of which I happen to be one - and various types of pensioners as well, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that I'm of the age that really does qualify me to say, let's just not be old age pensioners, but let us be young pensioners, because that is what the country needs today and has needed for a good number of years. There are a number of us, as my honourable friend the Member for Swan River, who fortunately through choice or otherwise of employment got into areas of employment where there was provision for employment pension plans, and as a result, and of course accompanied with the Good Lord looking after us to see that we live long enough in order to get the benefits. But that combination of the two, Mr. Speaker, made it possible, whatever the reason for it, that we were able to reach an age in retirement with a pension.

It's all too factual today that whereas there is a growing increase in the number of young men and women entering into the work plant, and into the work force, a lesser percentage of numbers, at the present time at least, are becoming contributors to pension plans. And I think that one of the things that has to be done by this and every government is to try and induce not only those who are working at the present time for those institutions but also to try and to assist in the setting up of reasonable pension plans as inducement for elderly retirement positions with the young that they attract into their pensions. And I'm going to ask those who become members of the Staff of the Pensions Commission and the pension staff to do what they can in order to carry forward the education as to the requirement, indeed possibly the necessity, of contributions into pension plans.

I suggest that the retired pensioners of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, were most fortunate in that they had an assembly and a government who had the financial backing and the financial resources that made it possible for the addition of Cost of Living bonuses to be paid to those on retirement, in addition to the pensions that they were receiving. I'm sure if honourable members of the Assembly had, as I have had, an opportunity of taking a look at some of the very small pensions that originally enured to those who had rendered service for our Civil Service of Manitoba for many years, amounting to somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$40.00 and \$50.00 a month, they would realize that the fact that the men and women of this Assembly, at least in this instance, had understanding and heart, for many of those pensions have been increased three times over what they were before.

But I suggest that if we had established a sort of a system plan that took into consideration possible requirements and necessity of requirements for increases, it would be to the advantage of the community as a whole, the community that we're living in today, and the community in which those who are younger than we are today will have an opportunity of fulfilling their destiny in life in the future.

We just started another plan within our superannuation government plan, Mr. Chairman, indicating to those about to retire plans of how they can control their pension, how they can make a greater contribution to well-being as a result of being able to take a reasonable pension benefit. These are just a few of the things, Mr. Speaker, that I hope and trust, as the Minister sponsoring this bill through the Legislature, the things, the objectives that we have.

I believe the Honourable Member for Fort Garry said he hoped - I believe the Member for Assiniboia as well - expressed the hope that when Law Amendments Committee meet there will be members of the Commission and also the Superintendent of Commissions present to ask questions and to get greater information as to what we're attempting to achieve, and I want to say to them, Mr. Speaker, I hope, and have every intention of requesting the members of the staff to be there to assist the members of the Assembly, and also that those who may be reaching preretirement years, how they can best utilize their assets which they can obtain as a result of the application of financial resources prior to retirement.

Sometimes there are those that say, it's so damned silly these days to salt away a dollar because of the fact that its worth will never be returned. I think there are a great number of individuals, far out-numbering those who think that it's useless, who found that as a result of a reasonable contribution into a pension plan, that their remaining spell on earth has been further enhanced.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd)

So I do say, Mr. Speaker, thank you to the members who have taken part in this deliberation. I think that they would join with me in considering this type of approach as being one which is non-political, because all of humanity can benefit and gain as a result of the contribution that this present Assembly has made by first of all, the Act itself of last year, and secondly, being prepared to consider additional requirements as they arise from time to time.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 62. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

(Stand)

Bill No. 65. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. (Stand)

BILL NO. 54 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE TEACHERS' PENSIONS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 54. The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows) presented Bill 54, an Act to amend The Teachers' Pensions Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce for second reading Bill 54, an Act to Amend the Teachers' Pensions Act. There are several significant sections to this bill and I propose to deal with some of them today.

One amendment contained within the bill deals with the practice of providing supplementary allowance to persons on pensions of disability allowances based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, and the formula as proposed in here is exactly the same as that used in 1973, '74 and '75. You will note, Mr. Speaker, that the supplementary allowance is extended for only one year. Now this does not mean that we intend to discontinue the practice. We have received a number of requests, not only from teachers, but also from civil servants, for a permanent formula of indexing pensions to be written into legislation, and I'm sure you realize that there are some very significant cost implications in here which we must review very carefully. I'm informed that the Task Force and Superannuation and Group Insurance has already begun preliminary investigations, and it is hoped that discussions can be held with interested parties in good time.

There are two sections in the bill which are required in order to ensure that all clauses referring to supplementary allowances are updated.

A further section gives the Teachers Retirement Allowances Fund Board corporate status, in order to allow the Board to hold certain types of investment in their own right rather than through an investment firm acting as servicing agents.

A further section allows for the payment of an honorarium to each member of the TRAF Board, as well as the Chairman. The members of this Board often give up hours of their own time, evenings and sometimes weekends, and it was felt that they should receive some remuneration, and any rate set would be subject to approval by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Another section is a protective clause. We want to ensure that in the rare event of a mistake being made a person entitled to pension or disability benefits is not denied those benefits through no fault of his own.

Then there is a housekeeping amendment to ensure that moneys collected under certain special provisions of the Act are credited to the correct account.

Another couple of sections are intended to give more flexibility to the board's operations, first by allowing the board to invest up to 30 percent of the book value of the total assets of the Fund in first mortgages; secondly, authority is being sought to allow the board to establish a line of credit to tide it over the brief gap each month between the pay out of pension and disability allowances and pay in of government shares in investment income, and this will allow the Fund to retain a fully invested program during these few days.

Then, Mr. Speaker, we come to the War Service Amendment. Manitoba has for

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(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) many years given persons who were teachers in the Public Schools within one year prior to enlistment, and who became teachers within prescribed limits after discharge, full credit for war service for pension purposes. There are however another group of persons who do not meet the terms set out in the Act, they may not have been teachers prior to enlistment, they may not have returned to teach in the public schools within the prescribed limits, there are a number of reasons. Representations have been made on behalf of these people and a number of ways of accommodating them have been carefully reviewed. A decision was taken this year, Mr. Speaker, to permit these persons, believed to number less than 50, to obtain credit for their service provided the financial position of the Teachers' Pension Fund was not adversely affected. This meant that such persons would be allowed to purchase credit for service in the armed forces during war times at a rate which would ensure that the Fund would not be affected. This bill, Mr. Speaker, provides for the purchase rate to be 12 percent of present salary for each year of wartime service to be purchased. It is felt that this is equitable in terms of the benefit which would accrue to these persons by virtue of the increased pensions to which they would be entitled, by reason of the additional service, and in line with a similar provision contained in the Civil Service Superannuation Bill, which was unanimously passed without amendment in Law Amendments Committee earlier today.

I would wish to impress upon honourable members, Mr. Speaker, that this is another step by my government by way of legislative action to bring about a greater measure of similarity as between pension plans and to remove some of the inequities which have become apparent. It is not unlikely, Mr. Speaker, that in future years need for further amendment of our pensions' legislation may emerge, as the need will become apparent appropriate action will be taken. In fact, our in-government Task Force to which I referred earlier, is continuing its review of our pensions' legislation with a view to bring about the maximum measure of equity to all teachers, not only to the few whom this amendment in the bill affects.

A further section of the bill makes provision for teachers to purchase this service over a period of years on terms to be set by the board. I should mention also that teachers purchasing the service will be able to claim a sizeable portion of their contribution as income tax deductions, since they are buying service before they became contributors to the plan.

I also have news for the Winnipeg School Division. Mr. Speaker, in 1957 when the Winnipeg Teachers' Pension Plan was amalgamated with the Provincial Teachers' Plan one of the liabilities of the Winnipeg fund concerned payment of future service pensions. The government of the day insisted that Winnipeg School District accept responsibility for this liability, and an annual payment of \$50,505 over a period of 35 years was agreed upon. Acceptance of this plan was a condition of amalgamation, so Winnipeg School Division had no option but to accept. In 1963 the requirement of School Boards to contribute to teachers' pensions was dropped and the Provincial Government guaranteed the employer's share of each teacher's pension at the time of retirement. No other school board was asked to assume any liability for service pensions. Winnipeg School Division however has continued to make its payments under the 1957 agreement. However, Mr. Speaker, this government has reviewed the matter and has decided to relieve the Winnipeg School Division of this payment, and a suitable amendment will be introduced at Law Amendments Committee.

In closing, I would like to say that we have received a number of additional requests for amendments to the Teachers' Pension Act; these have not been forgotten, nor have they been ignored and they will be studied carefully.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of this government's responsibility, not only to teachers but also to other persons whose pensions are also a responsibility of this government, where possible consultations will be held with interested parties before final recommendations are made, and I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that motions concerning the section dealing with Winnipeg's payments will be introduced at Law Amendments Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

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MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL 56 - THE FOREIGN CULTURAL OBJECTS IMMUNITY FROM SEIZURE ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 56. The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk) presented Bill 56, The Foreign Cultural Objects Immunity from Seizure Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to indicate that the reason for delaying the second reading of this legislation is that there has been steady contact between the Canadian Government through the National Museums Corporation acting on behalf of the Federal Government with officials in the Soviet Union to ascertain whether or not sovereignty can be extended in order to encompass what we desire to do as per this bill. That still seems to be hanging in mid-air, difficulties, and the last word which I have received is that it may, and likely will be impossible for the legal difficulties and the technical difficulties to be ironed out. So that I think that the legislation before us therefore ought to be introduced and proceeded with, so that we can indicate to the Manitoba Art Gallery that, in fact, they can proceed with whatever arrangements they have to make in connection with this exhibit.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery was offered the opportunity of being one of two Canadian Institutions to exhibit master paintings from the Hermitage and the State Russian Museum from Leningrad. The exhibit apparently consists of some 43 works of art valued at some \$34 million in total. The exhibit has been on tour in the United States and is an exceptional treasure of Old Masters.

Now I want to say at this point that I am, Mr. Speaker, probably the last member of the Legislature that ought to be dealing with art because I, unlike my colleague the Minister of Public Works who is a connoisseur of fine art, I must admit that I fall very far short of that, and when it comes to cultural matters I have difficulty in distinguishing the names of the world's famous musicians from the world's famous artists. I must be frank and admit that, so that members are not misled in thinking that I'm a great art enthusiast or a great specialist when it comes to matters involving art.

But I have been handed a list and I had the opportunity to show my colleague the Minister of Public Works this list, and he's assured me that it's a very impressive list of some of the paintings by different artists that will be shown. For instance, under the French art pieces apparently there is a painting by Tragonard called "The Kiss" which is apparently a famous art piece; Cézanne, "Still Life"; Gauguin, "The Woman Holding Fruit"; Matisse, two famous pieces by the French artist Matisse; Spanish artists participating will be, in the paintings, Velázquez and Picasso; Gainsborough, Van Dyck, Rubens. A number of famous Italian painters, Caravaggio and Tiepolo; Cranach who is a German painter; Hals, who was the artist who painted the "Portrait of a Man", and Rembrandt, two paintings by Rembrandt, along with many other famous art pieces and paintings. All these paintings dating back some two, three, four centuries old. So there's no question as to the calibre of the art.

The exhibition is being brought to Canada as a result of a request by the Canadian Government, the Department of External Affairs and the National Museums Corporation of Canada. As a result of the request from the Canadian Government the Russian Government did agree to bring these paintings to Canada after the completion of their tour through the United States with these exhibits upon condition that they would receive some guarantee that would prevent third parties utilizing legal procedure to interfere with the exhibition while in the province itself.

Now in the United States the U.S. Congress passed legislation, doing in fact exactly what is being proposed here. On October 19th, 1965, legislation was passed in the United States, and as a result of the passage of that legislation in the United States

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) by the U.S. Congress this same Hermitage was shown in major centres throughout the United States.

The art exhibit is to commence in July and carry on into August and once the Winnipeg Art Gallery is assured that in fact: 1. that such legislation as this is passed; and 2. they've received a definite commitment that the art will be received in Winnipeg, and they understand that it's certain upon passage of this legislation, then they will proceed to initiate any necessary publicity in connection with the exhibition.

I'm also informed that the Government of Manitoba will have no responsibility regarding insurance of the works, nor costs for the exhibition. This will be a cost that will be borne by the Winnipeg Art Gallery itself.

I know that some members will be somewhat concerned about passing this type of legislation. It's rather unique legislation. I just say to honourable members the following facts: 1. That legislation was passed in the United States to permit the showing of these exhibits. 2. That the art is being brought to Canada at the request of the Canadian Government, not at the request of the Soviet Government, so that it's not in those circumstances unreasonable to expect that the Soviet Government would respond to the request with some understanding in return as to whether or not the exhibit would be free of any possible seizures.

This is a matter that receiving approval in principle would proceed to committee. I would think if honourable members anticipate that anybody would come forward to committee with some prima facie case showing that they would intend to launch civil proceedings, that certainly that committee would be open for any such representations of that nature.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, because it is a matter that on both sides of the Legislature I suspect there may be members that may wish to vote against this legislation free from a party whip, that we have decided that it ought to be a matter that is free from the party whip so that members can vote according to their conscience rather than according to the dictates of the party whip.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Lakeside, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair for Tourism and the Honourable Member for St. Vital in the Chair for Municipal Affairs.

SUPPLY - TOURISM, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer you to Page 55, Resolution 109(a) Minister's Compensation, Salary and Representation Allowance--pass. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions to the Honourable Minister regarding the operation of the Liquor Control Commission. I wonder if he can advise the committee of the total staff of the Liquor Control Commission, or can he give me any idea of what the advertising program for the year 1975, and the budgeted and proposed expenditure for television advertising for 1976? I wonder if the Minister would also advise - I've been told that there's been a shortage of French and Italian wines in the liquor outlets for the past three or four months, and I wonder if the Minister can give the committee any advice or indication if the stock will be replaced, or why it's short at this time?

I'm also wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could advise me of the licence fee. What fee do you charge to a liquor licensee or say a canteen licensee and to a beer vendor licensee? Is there a certain charge that's levied against those licensees?

SUPPLY - TOURISM

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I was waiting for other members to get up because I notice that the Honourable Member for Morris wanted to speak equally so I could attempt to respond to more than one member at the same time.

In regard to the first question posed of me by the Member for Roblin, the exact number of employees at the Commission I don't have with me now. I've got the chart of employees of the Commission as they stand pertaining to Head Office. I could relate the positions and the approximate number of employees as a whole in Manitoba pertaining to not only 1555 Buffalo Place but other liquor stores that we run directly without issuing a licence for liquor vendors. That would be around 500 I believe, all told, but I'll be more precise pertaining to the exact numbers for 1976 when I get the information from the staff of the Commission. I don't have that before me.

The advertising budget for 1975 was approximately \$200,000 and that was all-inclusive for all types of advertising. For 1976 the amount has escalated to \$225,000, an increase of \$25,000, and the bulk of that would go towards TV advertising. If we compare with other provinces in Canada pertaining to advertising being had through the Liquor Commission itself, for whatever purpose, we happen to advertise for individuals who attempt to contain themselves pertaining to excessive drinking, the amount spent in Saskatchewan last year I am informed was approximately a million dollars for a province which is less in number than the Province of Manitoba.

The problem pertaining to shortages of French, Italian and other wines, I've been informed that it relates really to a transportation problem that we've had from overseas and in regard to a failure of a crop in France - I'm informed again that this should be rectified fairly soon - but some accuse us of holding back French and Italian wines because of the increase in price on the 3rd of May, which we haven't. The honourable member is welcome to visit the stockrooms at 1555 Buffalo Place and will notice that we don't have the type of wines that we don't find on the Liquor Commission shelves at this time. It was not a holding back of stock, it was only, not a possibility of the Liquor Control Commission to supply those types of wines. The honourable member would equally notice that on the list that we have in our own dining room downstairs we don't have French wines available. They're just not available. We're now the 18th of May and if it had been the policy of the Liquor Control Commission to hold back it would have been released some time ago. So hopefully that within a short while we can expect to receive stocks of imported wines that seem to be in favour in our province.

Pertaining to beer vendor licencees' fees, I will attempt to get the information for the honourable member. I don't have the particular costs or the price for one obtaining a beer vendor licence, but I will get that information for the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Chairman, from time to time the government make a point of attempting to advise this House and the country at large the extra efforts that they're putting into assisting people in the northern areas. We have no quarrel with those gestures, imagined or real. But it strikes me as somewhat deceitful when they use the term to continue to proclaim that they're doing so much for areas in the north while at the same time recognizing the differences that exist, largely in the way of distances that have to be overcome, and many other problems, why it is that the Liquor Control Commission in their evaluation of applications for licences, and indeed the conditions upon which licences are granted, make no allowances whatsoever for the differences that do exist between the northern part of the province and the southern part of the province. I make particular reference to the granting of licences in hunting and fishing lodges. I think at the present time there are only two that are held by operators of lodges in the north, but they persist in the regulation that is applicable as far as I'm concerned to the southern part of the province, which is one of the recommendations of the Bracken Commission.

They insist in adhering rigidly to the rule that as much food must be sold in those lodges as there is spirits. Now an examination of the conditions under which these

SUPPLY - TOURISM

(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) lodges operate will reveal two or three things that are so greatly different from the way similar operators would run their business in southern Manitoba, that one would think that those differences would be taken into consideration in the granting of licences.

First of all, 80 to 90 percent of the clientele in those lodges are American. Secondly, to a large extent the operation of those lodges are light housekeeping in many instances and the people who frequent them prefer simply to come into the lodge for a drink before retiring or after they come in from a day's fishing, and I just find it difficult to understand the reason why that the rule that an equal value in food must be sold in comparison to beverages that are sold in those lodges, which is the rule in southern Manitoba, why that rule has to be applied in those isolated areas with such rigidity. It's almost as ridiculous I find as insisting that in some of the rural beer parlors that they've got to have pile rugs on the floors a foot thick before they can continue to have their licences to operate. No consideration is given to the fact that those people are perfectly happy to enjoy themselves in that kind of a surrounding and are not asking for anything better.

It seems to me, and I made this complaint before, that those who are entrusted with the responsibility of administering that Act do so with a single-minded purpose of asserting their authority whether it is applicable or not, that they haven't got an ounce of common sense when it comes to determining what the existing circumstances are in each area. I wish that the Minister, and I know that he's had representations made in this subject, I wish the Minister would assert himself, because he is familiar with what goes on in rural areas and what goes on in remote areas, and the difference in the kind of criteria that applies as opposed to what perhaps is quite legitimate and quite proper in a city or in an area where there are larger populations and perhaps people with greater wealth. It seems to me that a distinction can be made and that a distinction should be made, but I find that the Inspectors of the Liquor Control Commission either refuse to acknowledge that there is a difference, or should be instructed by the Minister that there is a difference and that it should be taken into consideration.

I would appreciate very much if the Minister - he's relatively new with this part of his responsibility; I would think that here would be an opportunity for him to assert himself and to let it be known to those who are responsible for the administration of that Act, that some common sense must be used in the application of that Act, and that he as the Minister is going to be responsible for what is done. It seems that it's a good opportunity for him to assert his authority and to ensure that some common sense prevails in making distinctions between rural and urban areas, and northern areas and rural areas, or urban areas in the City of Winnipeg.

I know that he has had correspondence on this subject and I hope that he has given those lodge operators some opportunity. . . that he's going to look at that situation for them and make an effort to give them a square deal commensurate with the surroundings under which they must operate. I would like to hear if the Minister can give us some idea of what his intentions are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all the points made by the Honourable Member for Morris certainly merit consideration, not only pertaining to areas in the north, but equally pertaining to some rural, isolated areas in the southern part of the province. There's flexibility now under the regulations and policies of the Liquor Control Commission to in a sense be more flexible pertaining to the 50-50 split between the food and liquor, depending on the type of licence that is applied for. If it's a dining room licence, I believe it's a good policy to attempt to have a split of 50 percent food and 50 percent liquor, especially after having considered the other types of policy that's implemented in other provinces in Canada - and here I'm thinking of Ontario and the Province of Quebec where they don't have this split and where we see a lot of problems pertaining to a conflict between licences.

If a lodge, as an example, applies and qualifies for a cocktail lounge licence, if we don't make it a condition that there be a split of 50-50 between food and liquor, we

SUPPLY - TOURISM

(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) do insist that food be available on demand, that there not necessarily be a split in reporting figures at the Liquor Control Commission. If the honourable member looks at the Orders-in-Council that were passed in the last few months, he'll notice more applications being approved, well that is recommended by the Liquor Control Commission and ratified by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, issuing lodges in the north to qualify under a cocktail lounge licence, which will allow them more flexibility pertaining to the subject matter that the honourable member is talking about.

This will not alleviate all of the problem and I believe for one that there needs to be a review, not necessarily of the Act itself, of the Liquor Control Act, but certainly pertaining to regulations and policies of the Liquor Control Commission, and that I've done. I've set up a committee, an In-House Committee. I reported this to the House just about at the opening of the House. The Committee will be reporting to me very shortly pertaining to their recommendation as it pertains to the report that was submitted to me and the Minister of Corrections by Justice Rhodes Smith, just at the time that I became Minister responsible for the Liquor Control Act. They will be making their recommendations pertaining to the Liquor Control Act itself, to regulations and policies of the Commission.

I meet with different groups involved in the industry quite frequently, individuals, groups, like the union representing workers, the Manitoba Hotel Association, to find out what they believe the Liquor Control Policy should reflect, and I attempt as the representative of government to weigh all of these recommendations and eventually have the Commission adopt policies that would favour all those concerns, and more particularly the consumers of this province.

There was a section, an amendment passed on the Liquor Control Act in 1975, that not too many people avail themselves of, and that was a permissive section of the Act allowing practically any restaurant in the Province of Manitoba to avail themselves of a wine licence, without conditions, without having carpets on the floor, without having chairs with arms, and so on, mainly those restaurants that are considered to be family owned, small places where they specialize in different types of food, ethnic foods, and so on. Only three to my knowledge have availed themselves of this section of the Act: two in Winnipeg and one in Dauphin. I believe that that particular amendment should be considered by more business people in Manitoba, not only in Winnipeg, but in different areas, and certainly in the rural and northern parts of our province.

So my answer for the honourable member is, certainly there are a lot of things that should be looked at pertaining to liquor control, and the assessments of the Liquor Control Commission pertaining to the industry, and pertaining to consumers that are in some cases adversely affected.

I'd like to lay on the record, Mr. Chairman, some information pertaining to how we compare with other provinces in Canada, pertaining to overall sales of liquor in the Province of Manitoba, and this is for the fiscal year 1974-75: British Columbia as an example, the overall sales were \$336,777,802; administrative expense was \$25,542,856, that was a percentage cost of administrative expense of 7.58; Salaries \$21,183,000. Then we go to Alberta, the overall sales were \$266,444,000; administrative expense \$20.3, a percentage of 7.63; salary expense \$15,676,000. Saskatchewan, \$101 million; sales \$645,565; administrative expense \$4,702,000; salary expense \$2,778,000. Manitoba had overall sales of \$137,684,911; administrative expense \$8,538,762, for a percentage of sales of 6.20; salary expense \$5,578,788. And I could go on pertaining to other provinces in Canada. The highest in pertaining to salary expense and administrative expense generally, would be Prince Edward on a per capita basis, and their percentage of sales is much lower than the "have not" provinces. We always attempt to reflect these figures in arriving at a settlement with those affected in delivery of service pertaining to distribution of liquor in the Province of Manitoba.

I'd like to indicate to the Honourable Member for Morris, although we seem to be somewhat adversely affected if we live in an isolated area of Manitoba, for a lot of cases it can pertain to milk, bread, and many other basic commodities, but pertaining to supply of liquor in the Province of Manitoba, whether you live in Churchill or Winnipeg

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) you pay the same price for a bottle of rye whiskey or a case of beer. I would only hope that we could follow up on a lot of other basic commodities leaving aside liquor pertaining to this equalization of charge to the consumer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: . . . the Minister, I can tell him right now that I'm not happy about subsidizing somebody else's drinking. But be that as it may that's the policy of the Liquor Control Commission, and it's been the policy of the Commission for many years, and I doubt very much, no amount of pleading on my part is going to change it, but I am just as opposed to subsidies in that particular area as I am in any other area.

But one other point that I wanted to raise on this item is the question of the granting of licences for beer gardens. I've raised it on previous occasions with another Minister, and I want to raise it again with a new Minister in the hope that my suggestions to him may get a favourable response. Let me at the outset say that I am not opposed to the Liquor Control Commission's suggesting to anyone applying for a beer licence, or anyone operating an outlet, that they be compelled to have on supply, or on demand, quantities of whatever product is asked for by the customers. That is, I think, the responsibility of the proprietor of the establishment and the breweries themselves. The argument that the Liquor Control Commission or its chairman has given us, that they want to make sure that the customer has the right to order whatever brand that he chooses from the major brewing companies in the Province of Manitoba or indeed in Canada. But that very edict and the very method by which they have chosen to enforce that rule is in fact denying customers the right to have the brand of beer that they choose at a beer garden.

Now, I'm speaking from some considerable experience, not in the drinking end of it, but certainly in the operation of the beer garden at the Morris Stampede, and I can tell the Minister that the edict of the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission is denying the patrons of that establishment the right to the brand of their choice by a very wide margin, and I would think that it would be sufficient for the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission to exercise his authority in determining the life-style of the people of this province by simply suggesting to anybody who is operating one of those beer gardens, that they make sure that they do have a supply on hand of whatever brand is required, or whatever brand is asked for, and if one brand outsells another one, that's surely not the responsibility of the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission. It's none of his business what the customer demands. I think that he's perhaps within his rights to insist that the beer gardens do have a supply of whatever brands that are asked for, but surely it should be left up to the people who are applying for the licence to determine what those proportions are going to be because they have a better knowledge of what the demand will be in that area than the Liquor Control Commission. I could tell the Minister that a great deal of resentment has been created by the attitude of the Chairman of the Liquor Control Commission on this particular subject.

The Minister would be . . . if he's having an examination made of the Act, then I suggest to him that he instruct those who are carrying on that examination to have a deep look at this particular subject, and also the edict that went out to the proprietors of the outlets, to the proportions and the ratios that they must have on hand from month to month in their warehouses, and you find that the unwanted brands, brands for which there is very little demand, continue to pile up in the warehouses, and they have no way, and it's a costly procedure for them to maintain those stocks, and it's even more annoying to them and to the customers to find that they can't get the brands that they want because of that regulation and the enforcing of that regulation by the Liquor Control Commission. I wonder if the Minister would care to look into that particular subject as well, and have that investigated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Morris was indicating in his remarks just a moment ago about the life-style that Manitobans have adopted in his particular area with respect to the beer gardens and the Morris Stampede, and he expressed some concerns about them, well, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) draw the Minister's attention for a brief moment while we are discussing life-styles generally, the all too common and accepted life-style that we now have in so many of our beverage rooms where along with the Smorgasbord that we enjoy at noon hour that we, of course, also have the review and the hue. I want to ask the Honourable Minister just where the responsibilities of the Liquor Commission come in with respect to the delightful ladies that entertain from time to time in the buff in our beverage rooms - you know, you read every once in awhile of a damsel in distress being prosecuted for obscene performances - can the Minister give us in his own words some indication of what constitutes an obscene performance? Who, in fact, makes the decision of laying the charge, and the number of charges or convictions that have been laid in this specific area in the operation of beverage rooms during the last year? I was looking through a series of offences that the various establishments were charged with over the last year and there are many interesting offences listed including one of the patrons asleep at their table despite the performance that seems to be offered so often in most and many of our establishments.

But seriously, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, is this a responsibility - you know, it's difficult to ascertain who has an area of jurisdiction and responsibility here - when a charge is being laid, does it emanate as a result of inspection by the Liquor Control Board inspectors, or are the police of the jurisdiction of the city involved, that walk into the beverage room and from time to time make judgment as to the acceptability of a particular exotic performance or not? The stage of dress or undress, Mr. Chairman, can hardly be called the question, because I'm told, Mr. Chairman, I'm told, and on occasion have viewed it, that that criteria in itself is not a matter of judgment because in all instances it seemed to be of total nudity that is being displayed on the stages of our beverage rooms for noon hour consumption. I'm told that if you rush out you can also catch it at 5:30 in most instances, or 6:30 whatever it is.

I'd appreciate the Honourable Minister, after all being the keeper of our morals with respect to our drinking problems, would indicate to us his responsibilities, or more precisely, Mr. Chairman, the responsibilities of the Liquor Commission in this particular area. The inspectors of the Liquor Control Commission have very broad sweeping powers, they can close establishments up for umpteen reasons. I have not seen any indication here as to whether or not any of their jurisdiction expands to include the performances of the type I've just described, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister indicates to me that that is entirely still within the realm of the local police, whatever jurisdiction they're operating, whether it's rural Manitoba, perhaps it's the RCMP or whether it's in the City of Winnipeg the City of Winnipeg police, then he may so wish to indicate.

But I'm troubled, because every once in awhile, once a month or so, you read of a particular performer that has been brought to trial and brought to justice for performing in a manner unbecoming to the established morals of the community, and I'm at a loss to be able to understand just what those established morals are in this permissive day and age, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to raise a problem that's been drawn to my attention with regards to the beer gardens that are opened on many of our sports days and many of the sporting events and the field days that we do have in rural Manitoba. There has been some concern expressed by people that because the gardens open in the early morning, that usually by about seven or eight o'clock there's quite a bit of unruliness starts and where that particular day such as a sports day should probably be spent with the family at the midway watching the baseball games and that type of thing, we start having problems as far as rowdiness and other behavioural problems at an early point in the evening.

Now I don't know how exactly the Minister can solve this problem and I appreciate it that it's probably a tough one - and I should mention at this time also that there are some areas which are watching it close and are doing a good job of controlling the problem. I note that some areas if they notice that a problem is starting they'll close it down for an hour and clear everybody out and that way try and control the goings on in that particular beer garden.

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd)

I think what should possibly happen, and I don't know if maybe the Minister can enlighten me on this fact, do his inspectors actually go into this and watch some of these facilities? I'm not talking about going in there at two or three in the afternoon, I'm talking in the evening, towards the evening, because there are certain problems that arise and it is causing people concern. So I would ask the Minister if there are people going in to inspect the beer gardens making sure that there isn't an excess amount of over-service to different people that are patronizing that beer garden. I'm sure that these sports days and family affairs where people do take their children, it's traditional I think in many of the areas to have different functions such as the baseball tournaments. Of course, with the event of fastball we've got a lot of teams participating. It's a good family outing and I'd hate to see that we'd lose some of that family spirit by allowing too many of the other spirits to take over in that place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have three or four questions I'd like to add to those that have already been raised in committee. This one about the prosecutions under the Liquor Control Act - and again it boggles my mind that the statistics were basically the same last year as they are this year, whereas in the Annual Report of the inspector there were 6,234 convicted in rural Manitoba and only 539 in the city.

A MEMBER: Unbelievable.

MR. McKENZIE: These statistics are almost basically the same. These rural convictions contribute some \$246,000 in fines and the city only \$16,000, and I just can't understand it. Is it different type of policing? And those figures were basically exactly the same last year. The Chief Inspector of course in his report, he lists all the communities in the rural areas that were "nailed" and the moneys that they contributed, but for some unknown reason he doesn't show the city ones.

The other one, Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the Minister, due to the fact that Saskatchewan and some of the other jurisdictions are taking a look at the change in the age of majority, I wonder if he is again reviewing it in this province and maybe can give us some answers if his department are studying the possibility of the change in the age. It was discussed earlier in the session very briefly, but maybe we should spend a few moments at it at the present time.

The other one that I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, is the problem that was related to the Chairman when he made a trip in the north there this spring in the Thompson area, of the aircraft bootlegging the liquor into these isolated communities by charter, I guess, if in fact they've been able to resolve that problem; and the concerns that were expressed by the native people at that time to the Chairman. The other point that came up was the fact that the detoxification centre at Thompson was badly understaffed and they did send a plea out with the Chairman of the Liquor Commission to hopefully find funds to bring the staff up to normal.

Another point that was raised there at that particular seminar, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that for some unknown reason native people are not being employed by the Liquor Commission. I think that the Chairman said at that Thompson meeting that he couldn't find native people with the qualifications that they were looking for in the commission. But I suspect that maybe that should be reviewed again by the Minister and I don't see any reason why our native people can't meet the qualifications of the commission and be employed the same as anybody else.

There are some questions I have as well in the Annual Report. Does the Minister have a copy of the figures on the Annual Statement? There was two or three items there, the one of the Liquor Commission's schedule, general and administrative expenses for the year ending March 31st, 1975, it shows that the public information services charged in 1975 were \$148,226.71; in 1974 it was only \$16,557. I'm wondering if the Minister could advise us why there was such an increase there?

Apparently in the Chief Inspector's department, there is an increase there from 1974 from \$254,000 to \$309,000, but he maybe has taken on additional staff. And there's one other. I wonder if the Minister could advise us the amount of money that they are committed to the Federal Government by their excise tax on liquor in Manitoba for the year 1975.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to attempt to respond to some of the questions posed of me. The Honourable Member for Roblin asked me a while ago how many employees at the Liquor Control Commission. The information that I get is 485 as of March 31st, 1975. A canteen licence fee is \$2.00; beer vendor licence, no charge.

The Honourable Member for Morris indicated that he is not in favour of subsidization pertaining to offering of services and certainly not pertaining to the provision of liquor in different parts of the province. That is a policy of the Liquor Control Commission that I don't intend to change. I only indicated that I would rather see a continuation of that policy in other areas especially in those basic necessities of life pertaining to different areas of the province.

The licensing and operation of beer gardens in the Province of Manitoba in some cases is creating some problems. The problems brought about by the report that we've received, as an example, from the Morris Stampede is certainly something that the committee is reviewing and hopefully will report certain recommendations that don't affect the Act itself but would affect regulations and policies of the commission. I happen to believe in the rights of individuals to ask and hopefully receive the type of beverage or services that they happen to favour if they're in a position to pay for them. If that is a difference between Carling-O'Keefe or Molson, in most cases certainly if there is a provision to make available different brands, that the favorite of individuals controlled by the marketplace is favoured by myself.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside is talking about go-go girls and et al in different licensed premises in the Province of Manitoba. I certainly don't take that comment as very likely, in the sense that someone is responsible for the performance of individuals within the licensed places in the Province of Manitoba. If go-go girls, robed or unrobed, are serving liquor, serving within the licensed premise, they're jointly responsible with the licensee pertaining to services offered to clients in the sense if it's causing problems, if it's causing individuals to contravene sections of the Act, they're held jointly responsible. That is, the individual in question serving - now licensed by the Liquor Control Commission, which went through Law Amendments this morning, that that compulsory aspect of licensing individuals over 18 years old will no longer be required; that the individual in question serving liquor in the licensed establishment will still remain responsible with the licensee pertaining to his or her actions within that premise. What I'm really saying is that if a fully robed or partially unrobed or completely unrobed individual is contravening a section of the Liquor Control Act, that they're subjected to prosecution directly by a charge being laid by inspectors of the Liquor Control Commission. If it's because of information being laid before a police officer or before the RCMP or any other members of the Attorney-General's department, action would have to be taken by saying so.

In most cases pertaining to unruly affairs within a licensed premise is checked by inspectors of the Commission or police officers or by information that is laid by the public. This is why in some cases we have more, say, infractions if we can call them such, reported because of more reporting being had through the rural areas as we have in the City of Winnipeg. But pertaining to those infractions that are happening now within the City of Winnipeg, the City of Brandon, the City of Thompson, as compared to rural areas and isolated northern areas they will all be reported in the same fashion. There is no question of wanting to hold back names because they happen to be within the City of Winnipeg. The honourable member will notice in future reports that every one will receive this equal treatment pertaining to being brought before the public to account for their actions.

The Honourable Member for La Verendrye unfortunately is no longer in the House, will read in Hansard that pertaining to beer gardens at sporting events being unruly and not conforming to provisions of the Act, they can be shut down by the individuals responsible for the sponsoring of the beer garden in question. They can be shut down by inspectors of the Liquor Control Commission or by the police officer responsible to the

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(MR. TOUPIN cont'd) municipal authority or the RCMP, and that has happened in many cases. The responsibility is on the licensee to see that the beer garden question is conforming to provisions of the Act, and that's most important. Again in most cases, because we don't have the number of inspectors that one could have, we actually respond to complaints that we receive from different areas.

Last Friday I indicated that we had approximately 25,000 occasional permits in 1975. Well, it would be totally impossible for, say, 23 inspectors to be able to have more than a spot check on those occasional permits being had through the Liquor Control Commission. But hopefully because of some problems and because of reporting of problems by individuals, we can have more spot checks of social events and those occasional permits that are issued in 1976, without augmenting staff at the Liquor Control Commission to any great degree. We have added liquor control inspectors since the beginning of this calendar year, a few more will be added, but mainly on part-time. I wouldn't intend to hire that many more liquor control full-time inspectors, but part-time liquor control inspectors that would work evenings and be able to be more effective in some cases than we are now.

In regards to the specific questions posed of me by the Honourable Member for Roblin, I would prefer being able to give him specific answers pertaining to the financial statement. I have the financial statement before me for 1975, projected for 1976 and 1977, the revenue that we passed on to the Federal Government, the net revenue that we got to the Crown here, and equally what is projected for this fiscal year and the next. I would rather not take the time of the House now and supply him with that type of information and any other member of the House that would require same, to be more specific pertaining to those nitty gritty questions pertaining to the financial statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Committee rise.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Do we have a quorum gentlemen? Order please, I would refer honourable members to Page 44 in their Estimates Book, The Department of Municipal Affairs, Resolution 91, General Administration (a) Minister's compensation. The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: First item, Mr. Chairman, I do want to express appreciation to the staff of the Department. I feel we have a good staff, in the person of the Deputy Minister, Mr. McNairnay, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Jack Richmond, and others. I would like to also just mention briefly the work of one Gerry Forrest, who is the Director of Municipal Administration who has been doing tremendous work within the department during the past year, and I must say with all sincerity, I don't think one could have a more loyal and dedicated staff than that which we fortunately have within the Department of Municipal Affairs. When I say loyal and dedicated staff, that loyalty and dedication is I think expressed to the municipal people of the province, and I do think that they in general feel the same way in that connection.

I also want to just mention that I want to also express my appreciation for the assistance and advice which I have received from Municipal Advisory Committee which has representation from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, The Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities and Secretary Treasurers Association. We've had several meetings during the past year. These meetings are always very worthwhile and I think we gain on both sides, the municipal people gain and certainly I gain as Minister of Municipal Affairs, in that experience of exchanging views, ideas, and developing a better understanding of each others problems.

Now to deal with some of the events of 1975-1976. First I would like to relate to municipal financing. Because of the high interest rates, municipalities during the past few years have tried to restrain capital borrowing, nevertheless as of December 31, 1975, there were \$11,643,000 of municipal debentures unsold in Manitoba. (There's Mr. McNairnay. I regret you didn't come two or three minutes ago, Mr. McNairnay, I was saying some nice things about you.) This was partly because of difficulty in the market-place, partly because of the reluctance of municipalities to issue debentures at the current high interest rates. The authorization for some of these debentures go back as far as 1973. As of December 31, 1975, there was still 141,000 dollars in debentures unsold from 1972 and prior years; \$3 million unsold from 1973, and \$1.8 million unsold from 1974. In February of 1976 the Minister of Finance advised that the province was prepared to buy the debentures for the account of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. These debentures will be purchased at par with interest to be paid at the rate of 10-1/2 percent on one to five year debentures, 10-3/4 on six to ten year debentures, 11 percent on 11 to 20 year debentures. All municipalities have been advised should they wish to take advantage of this offer from the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

Availability of Secretary-Treasurers. While we have a record enrolment in the Secretary-Treasurer's four-year extension course in the University of Manitoba, we experience a shortage of fully qualified secretary-treasurers. Hopefully, within the next two or three years this problem will ease as graduates of the course become available. Graduating from the secretary-treasurers course does not immediately qualify the graduate to assume the responsibilities of secretary-treasurer. In some of our larger municipalities we will probably continue to have a shortage of Secretary-Treasurers with a number of years experience to fill vacancies in some of the more active units of government. The result of this has been a very rapid escalation in the salaries of secretary-treasurers, especially in our larger urban communities and in our more active rural municipalities. This in itself should attract a good quality of candidate to this field in future years. This is important when it is realized that the average age of a secretary-treasurer is now within 10 years of the retirement age. I'm sure it is clearly understood how important it is to local government that there be available a continuous supply of trained and experienced administrative staff. In addition to the four year training course we continue to hold courses at Gimli for the purpose of upgrading and expanding the knowledge of secretary-treasurers.

Municipal Councillors' Seminars: We have continued the program which

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) commenced in January 1975 of holding two-day seminars for councillors at the Gimli Industrial Base. These were well attended in 1975 following the October elections of 1974 and have been well attended again this year. Some of the councillors have returned for the second time. This course has been extremely well received by municipal councillors, we have received a number of letters from councillors who have attended the courses expressing their appreciation. Indeed, while the course was originally structured for new councillors, the councillors attending the last series of courses included a number of councillors with many years experience, which is encouraging; indeed, complete councils attended, which is an indication of how well this course has been received.

Municipal Employees Pension Fund: You will recall that last session of the Legislature, there was an amendment to the Municipal Act which established the machinery for municipalities to establish a pension plan for all municipal employees. A committee was established in accordance with the legislation, with representation from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Association of Urban Municipalities, the Secretary-Treasurers Association, and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which is a certified bargaining agent for a number of municipal units, where pension plans now exist. The Chairman for this committee for the past number of years has been Mr. Gerald Forrest, Director of Municipal Service and Mr. J.S. Richmond has now taken over the responsibility of Chairmanship. The Committee has requested the firm of Turnbull and Turnbull, to be appointed as actuaries. It is hoped that the committee will be in a position to report to the municipalities by mid-summer on a proposed pension scheme for municipal employees. After a number of years during which this matter was delayed, I am pleased that it is now moving forward, and we hope that by January 1, 1977 all municipal employees in Manitoba will have the opportunity of participating in a pension plan.

Annual Meeting, Ministers of Municipal Affairs: The Ministers of Municipal Affairs of the 10 provinces met again in August in Newfoundland, discussed a number of matters of mutual interest. Topics which seemed of greatest concern to all provincial governments at this time respecting municipal governments are assessment practices and the rather broad number of exemptions from assessment, taxation, and the planning problems which arise from peripheral development, particularly around our smaller urban communities.

Turning to the Estimates of The Department of Municipal Affairs, you will notice a substantial reduction from the previous fiscal year. The reduction in fact is from 23,542,000 to 11,371,000, a reduction of 12.1 some million. Most of the reduction will be found in the budget of the municipal budget and finance branch. In the fiscal year 1976-1977 the estimates for unconditional grants showed 13.4 some million. As announced in the Throne Speech in 1975, the moneys which will be paid to the municipalities on conditional grants commencing the year 1976 will be derived from the amount of moneys realized from two points of the personal income tax, one point of corporation income tax. This is in the nature of a transfer payment through to the municipalities .

I would like to now deal specifically with each category in the Department of Municipal Affairs Estimates. Under General Administration: You will note the only increase here is in the appropriation 13(1)(b) Administrative Salaries. This is an incremental increase over the previous year in accordance with the general salaries increase negotiated with the Manitoba Government Employees Association.

Municipal Board: Here again, the only increase in municipal board expenditures is in the area of salaries. **Municipal Budget and Finance:** You will note a slight increase in Salaries and in Other Expenditures. The increase in Other Expenditures is a marginal 12,200.

Other Expenditures: The term Other Expenditures includes such matters as printing and stationery, computer programs, data processing, travelling expenses. Most of the increase is attributable to travelling expenses because of the addition in 1975 of a professional accountant to assist secretary-treasurers. This employee visits municipal offices, gives advice to secretary-treasurers on accounting procedures. Having in mind the number of new secretary-treasurers which have come into municipal service in the past two years, we considered the addition of such expertise as essential.

Under Municipal Assessments: Again in the Assessment Branch, the major increase is in the areas of salaries due to the Manitoba Government Employees Association

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) Agreement and to additional travelling expenses. We hope to add 9 additional staff to the assessment branch in 1976, in order to handle the increasing workload. For a number of years now, the assessment branch has been working toward a goal of reassessing every municipality in the province at least once every five years. The number of property changes and construction of new buildings has put a heavier load on what we referred to as the maintenance program, an addition of nine staff when fully trained should give some relief in this area.

All municipalities with the exception of the City of Winnipeg are now being assessed by the provincial municipal assessor. It should be kept in mind that it takes approximately four years before an assessor can be trained and is competent to work on his own in this field. A comparison with other provinces shows that the assessment of municipal property in Manitoba is carried out with considerably less staff and at a much lower budget than most other provinces. Even the Province of New Brunswick has almost doubled the staff of the Manitoba Municipal Assessment Branch. The Assessment Branch in British Columbia has a budget of \$22 million and a staff of 765, with 470 assessors. It is essential to speed up the reassessment process of the municipalities so that assessment cannot get too far out of date. This will obviously mean additional staff in the future.

The Municipal Services and Research: The increase in costs in this branch though minimal are attributable to salary increases and to the increase in the computer costs. This is the branch which is responsible for producing all municipal assessment roles and tax roles for municipalities.

Municipal Planning Branch: The new Planning Act was passed at the 1975 session, proclaimed January 1, 1976. Since December 1975, some 29 municipalities have indicated an interest in joining together in approximately seven planning districts under the provisions of the new planning legislation. We've had discussions with the municipalities and what now must be determined is the cost-sharing arrangement between the planning district and the province. Once this matter is settled the municipalities should be in a position to proceed rapidly to the formation of the planning districts. And I just might add here that within the last week that formula has now been determined, and I'm in a position to discuss that now with the committee because I wanted to have it in time for our estimate review, I don't know whether this possibly would be the time just to - no I think we'll just leave that until we reach that section and then I'll detail the cost-sharing formula. Notwithstanding anticipated increase in the planning workload with the new legislation, there has been no increase in the staff man years in the Municipal Planning Branch. We feel that it will be necessary to work with the new legislation for a number of months, possibly through to the end of the year 1976 before we're able to gauge accurately the speed with which the planning districts will be formed and the demand which this will make on the planning manpower. In the meantime, the expenditures in the planning branch have been kept at or below the previous fiscal year. The involvement of the Municipal Planning Branch in the Canadian Northlands Agreement, was completed in the last fiscal year so that no moneys are shown for the 1976-1977 fiscal year. The Canada-Manitoba Rural Areas Agreement was not completed as anticipated so there are no expenditures under this heading in the 1976-1977 fiscal year.

Members can see the proposed spending estimates for the Department of Municipal Affairs in '76-'77 is very much a question of holding the line both in dollars and in manpower. The only consistent area where there has been any increase in the various branches of the department is in salaries and this in accordance of the negotiated agreement with the MGEA. Other than salaries the level of service throughout all branches has been kept at the same level as the previous year. In order to maintain the level of service in the Municipal Assessment Branch an additional nine staff man years is required.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 91(b), Administrative Salaries. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a few comments. At the moment I would like to reiterate what the Minister had just said in regards to his staff.

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(MR. WATT cont'd) I would be the last one to get into a quarrel with the Minister over his staff. I would like to quarrel with the Minister himself, but unfortunately I'm not really in the position to do it because I can't find any of the Reeves or Councillors throughout the municipalities that have any particular disagreement with this particular Minister. If it was the Minister of Highways it would be a little different, we could probably take up some time.

I was a councillor for about 10 years and during that time I represented a ward which included the incorporated village of the Town of Reston, and at that time I received a great deal of co-operation from the department, many of the staff are still with the Department of Municipal Affairs and at that time I found that they bent over backwards and helped me to carry out the programs the Conservative Government had started at that time - I'm talking particularly about the water supply and the excavation and back-filling and access roads to towns and villages - and I found the department, particularly the Municipal Board, who are of course responsible for checking on the amount of debt load that any town or municipality could carry. I'll have some questions on that further, but I just want to say at the outset that I think that we in our group are pretty happy with the administration as far as the department are concerned. Those are the only comments that I have at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 91(b)--pass. 91(c) Other Expenditures--pass. 91(d) Honorariums and Consultants. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: I wonder if the Minister could just give us some explanation on this particular . . . what does this involve?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, we used the services of Darryl Kraft, Professor Darryl Kraft dealing with taxation around urban areas, and just obtained a report from him in connection therewith. As well, we've used consultants with the Planning Branch in assisting us in the preparation of the legislation pertaining to the Planning Act and planning districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 91(d)--pass. Resolution 92, 2. Municipal Board, (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Chairman, in connection with the Municipal Board, I was wondering, where do they report what happens to all of the different cases they review? I'm referring now to a particular private member's Bill I brought up last year with Mr. Toews at Lowe Farm, and I was wondering what type of a settlement it was and if it's been reported, and where.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: I understand that the matter involving Mr. Toews and the municipalities of Roland and Morris, or Morris-McDonald School Division, isn't it, that it's presently before the Municipal Board and there still has been no determination in connection with that case. The other cases before the Municipal Board are I think, all reported, statistically reported and filed in the Legislature under the Municipal Board Report. But the particular case that the member has referred to is presently before the Municipal Board and I could make sure that we relate to the honourable member the results from the Board hearing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: There has been some hearings on it already though, you feel.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, we don't know whether it has come up for hearing yet. The Board is running behind. That could be checked out. We do know it's before the Board, though, it's in process.

MR. HENDERSON: When it comes up before a hearing, who all is let know, just the different municipalities involved and . . .

MR. PAWLEY: Yes . . .

MR. HENDERSON: . . . the different farmers involved?

MR. PAWLEY: Right. All interested parties, which would be the municipality, the school division, all the property owners . . .

MR. HENDERSON: Probably in all the local papers, eh?

MR. PAWLEY: Right.

SUPPLY - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to bring a point under this item, I believe it's the only place we can bring it, unless the Chairman will indicate to me where else I could bring it, and it's something that the Minister said in his introductory remarks, when he indicated the difficulty in selling some of the municipal bonds and the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation picked them up. During his meetings with other municipal Ministers across Canada, and I know they meet every year, would the Minister consider, and I think it would be a good proposal, we have difficulties getting land services, we have difficulties putting in sewers and waterworks in most municipalities, the City of Winnipeg, because there's a shortage of money, if the Ministers would agree that where people get the opportunity to invest in municipal ... (mike trouble) My question to the Minister is, why shouldn't somebody be able to buy say, 2,000, if you put a limit on, that say one person that has got all the means and money wouldn't buy too much, because then it wouldn't be fair to the rest of the public, but say if each person would be able to have the opportunity to buy \$2,000 or \$3,000, or put an upper limit on it in recommending to the Federal Government to have tax free interest, you know, the interest be tax free. So, my purpose in asking the Minister, I think in your next convention with the Municipal Ministers, I'm sure they would agree, you would be able to generate the kind of capital we require from municipal infrastructure, and I'm sure that if all the provinces or the Ministers would agree, you'd have enough pressure put on Ottawa, that you'd be able to get this type of legislation passed. So, I think it would really be a great asset to most municipalities, to everyone that requires capital to put infrastructure, put sewers and water and so on. You'd have to put a limit, I know that there's dangers and problems, because somebody that has all kinds of money would say, well that's a great scheme for me. So, I'd say if you put a maximum limit, what would be the limit that each person can invest, the returns from that investment would be non-taxable, the interest on that investment, say if I purchased \$3,000 or \$4,000 worth of municipal bonds, the return on that would be tax free, would not be taxable. Because every municipality is in need of capital. So, I'm asking, would the Minister agree with something like that, I'm sure that it has been talked over before by the municipal people themselves, and I think at your next conference, the Ministers' Conference meeting, if that would be agreed, you'd have no difficulty in getting rid of your municipal bonds, I think there would be a lineup waiting for them, and with the proper limitations, I think it would allow the kind of financing that most municipal governments require.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe, what the honourable member is speaking of, is a matter of taxation and hence would come under the Department of Finance. But since the member has brought it up I will allow the Minister to reply.

MR. PATRICK: Well it's in respect to what the Minister indicated in his remarks about the municipal bonds, that he had difficulty in getting rid of municipal bonds and the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation picked it up, so that's . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Certainly the comments by the honourable member, I think are worthy of consideration. Most of the small issues are picked up locally within the RM, it's when we're dealing with the large issues rather than the small issues that apparently the difficulties occur.

One of the areas that some governments have embarked upon, as they have in Saskatchewan and I believe in Alberta, is to establish a Municipal Finance Board which borrows all the money and then re-loans it to the individual municipalities. I think that is an area that we have to take a further look at provincially. With the power of one board borrowing large sums of money, there could be in fact some savings to municipalities in doing that.

As the honourable member of course would no doubt agree, the question of exemption from taxation re interest would be a federal matter as to whether interest derived from municipal bonds would be exempt. I suppose a portion would now be exempt under the Income Tax Act, but only, I believe it is, up to a \$1,000 level for all interest rates, and would have to be a matter which would have to be dealt with

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(MR. PAWLEY cont'd) federally as to whether or not further exemption should be undertaken. Most large issues are for 20 years, and the market apparently has been most reluctant to purchase 20 year debentures, and this is where the difficulty has occurred, it's the large issues, 20 year debentures, that there has been the difficulty in finding a buyer for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I would say the Minister is right, and I hope that he will give serious consideration to establishing a sort of municipal borrowing, the whole province establishing a board and set up each municipality on its own, because the savings would not be small, I think the savings would be quite substantial, because certainly when you establish one with a government backing you have a much better potential of getting better interest rates than say a small municipality with very little assets. So I think the quicker the Minister gives that full consideration, the better. But I still come back, you know, it's done in some jurisdictions in the United States, and I feel that it would be of great benefit to many municipal governments if at least the Minister would give consideration to bring it up at the next Municipal Federal-Provincial Conference, I think it would have some merit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, this would be the conference in August, I believe. There is probably an item under Debentures, so that it would certainly be in order to raise this matter at that meeting and I would certainly wish to discuss that aspect.

MR. PATRICK: Uh huh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 92(a). The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: The Municipal Board I know travels out to have hearings throughout the country and I remember last year we were discussing the possibility of having people within the area on the Municipal Board, in other words if they go to Brandon, there should be somebody there that knows the particular situations pertaining to that area. Has there been anything done in this respect?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, there has been more, during the past year there has been a regionalization to some extent as to who serves on the Board and for instance, if we take the Brandon, each area tends to have residents which are generally municipal people that have background experience in any particular area and they are involved principally in the general area in which they reside.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Uh hm. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 92(a). The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Chairman, I just wondered if the Minister could give us some explanation of the total activity of the Municipal Board and their, shall I say, terms of reference in regard to borrowing by municipalities. My understanding is, or has been, that they have a figure established at approximately 30 percent of the total assessments of a municipality or town or village, is it still in effect, and is it at the discretion of the Municipal Boards?

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, the rule of thumb, and it's only a rule of thumb rule, but it's generally applied by the Municipal Board, is 30 percent on equalized assessment.

MR. WATT: Well, I wonder, could the Minister explain then, just roughly running over the municipal borrowings here, how much latitude is here. It's pretty hard to tell the total assessment here and the amount of borrowing that has been done in the different municipalities. To what extent - let me say, what latitude is allowed and is it at the discretion of the Board to go to 40 percent or to reduce from 30 percent to 20 percent of the borrowing power of the municipality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, it's completely within their discretion, they can certainly exceed the 30 percent and I assume that from time to time they have allowed in excess of the 30 percent. Certainly it's within their discretion to so do. They might impose certain . . .

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Well would this be based on the merit of a particular municipality or, you know, how would they decide whether a municipality could borrow more or less than, say the figure of 30 percent?

MR. PAWLEY: It would depend upon a number of factors, I think, growth of the municipality, the nature of the intended work, and any number of other circumstances might develop. For instance, a town of rapid growth and was applying for sewer and water facilities, would be possibly a candidate for exceeding the 30 percent guideline, because although it's additional debt, there is already an expenditure including septic tanks and what not, within the municipality, cost to each ratepayer . . . is, so it's really transferring it from one cost to another cost. And, as well, if the projections were for a substantial increase in assessments from growth in that municipality, all these factors would be taken into account.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. In accordance with our rule 19(2), I'm interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour, and return to the Chair at 8:00 p.m. this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I was waiting hoping, the first item which is public bills, that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge would be coming from the other Committee. Is he? He's not coming. We'll give him a minute. We are on Private Members' Hour, Public Bills, Bill No. 48. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

BILL 48 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL ACT (2)

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words in defence of the bill that was introduced by the Member from Portage la Prairie. I should say that this particular bill is a continuation, or an additional item in the kind of proposals that we've been making in terms of looking at the way in which government operates, and the issue of the openness of government, and the degree to which the growing power of the executive parts of government as they increasingly get themselves more deeply into more complicated affairs can, if not carefully monitored, begin to abrogate and dissolve the rights of the elected person to provide a proper control and restraint, and there have been examples on the municipal level where this again has happened to the point where even the elected person, notwithstanding even the private citizen, but the elected person himself, has had trouble in obtaining the kind of information that's required to make a judgement on matters dealing with city affairs.

Now the Attorney-General in responding to this bill indicated that there is under The Municipal Act the option of municipalities passing their own by-laws requiring the councillors or elected aldermen be given full access to any information or documents. But the key to this one, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that it's a local option, it is not part of the basic structure of local government in the Province of Manitoba which is what we think it should be. We don't think it should be a local option exercise, it should be a right that is fundamental to every elected councillor at any point and we think that the Legislature of Manitoba has the responsibility of determining the kind of government that will exist on the local level - constitutionally it's our responsibility and I think that politically it's our responsibility. And this is an omission in the present Municipal Act that has been brought to light by recent events in some municipalities, particularly where the charges were made, at least, in the case of Brandon, where a major dispute occurred in that city over a development project, and some of the councillors involved claimed that they were not given full access to all the documentation and in fact, as a result, were not able to make the kind of case they felt was justified.

So, Mr. Speaker, on those grounds, I think it is a sign of the times, that local government is no longer dealing with simple matters of turning the lights on at five o'clock or making sure the snow is picked up in time. Many municipalities are getting into much more complicated affairs, dealing with heavy involvements of expenditures of money, of rights, and with a lot of basic disputes about what should be done and if it is in the interest of a majority on council, or a mayor on council, or the administration on council not to provide the information then in many cases, Mr. Speaker, they won't. I think that certainly I guess we've had enough experience in the City of Winnipeg to realize that particular problem, that you can't make government if you're flying half blind, and unfortunately too many elected representatives in this province, I suppose at different levels of government, are faced with that situation, not through their own doing, but simply because the rules and the procedures do not allow them access to the kind of information that they need.

Let me just simply say, Mr. Speaker, that I can understand perhaps the position of the government. They are advised by their civil servants and I think if there is anything that is an anathema to a civil servant, it is the idea of freedom of information that's for an elected representative. They are able to perhaps exercise their particular prerogatives of power because they, only through the protection of that monopoly, through that privilege of they being the only one to know what is going on, and as much as they can, I'm sure it is in their interest to try and keep things as cozy and as tight and as confined as it possibly can be, and I believe that that is a particular base of power monopoly that I oppose, and the Member from Portage opposes, and I know the Member

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(MR. AXWORTHY (cont'd) from Assiniboia opposes. We may be the only ones opposing it, but the fact of the matter is Mr. Speaker, that it is becoming ever more of an issue at all levels of government, it is one which, to my regret, this House didn't see fit to acknowledge in dealing with the matter on a provincial level, but at least I think in the provincial level where there has been such a clear and blatant case that some action should be taken I guess what we're really saying is that what we should be also thinking is anticipating the future, that many of our municipalities will be increasingly involving themselves in ever more detailed and conflicting problems, and I think that the onus and burden being carried by the elected members will be all that much greater, and therefore, at this time we should arm the elected person with as much right and privilege and prerogative to get all the information he or she needs so that they can properly represent those that elect them, and make sure that the workings and functions of local government do so in as open a fashion as possible.

I must confess, Mr. Speaker, to being somewhat confused by the arguments presented by the Member from Wolseley, and mind you it's not the only time I've been confused by the arguments presented by the Member from Wolseley, but when he said that he was against the bill because he thought that if councillors got too much information, they might start using it to, he seemed to suggest, advance their own self-interest in some way. I suppose that is a danger Mr. Speaker, but I guess it is less of a danger if the system is more open than if it's continually closed, and I wouldn't make that charge against local councillors. But if there was, he being a local councillor would certainly be closer to the scene than I am and they have more inside information about what really takes place, in fact, Mr. Speaker, if that is a concern from the Member for Wolseley, then I would suggest that an Act like this is perhaps one of the better protections, so that if everyone knows what's going on then no one can gain any special benefits, so that all information would be available, and once it's all available then there would be no advantage to anyone at all. I think that that particular axiom should be evidently self clear, but I would encourage the Member from Wolseley, well he's not here, but if and when he does take a look at it, he may see the wisdom of that case.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is an important bill in terms of improving the ability of elected members from local governments to represent their constituents, to ensure that the functioning of local government is conducted in the most honest and accessible way, and the fact that we are able to pass this bill, then it may provide some forerunner for what we should be doing on a provincial level.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The intent of the resolution as far as I'm concerned, I can't argue with, but I think there's one thing that disturbs me about the bill and that is that any employee of the municipality, in other words anybody working for the Public Works Department or working for the Recreation Department can go into the municipality and demand certain records or rummage through certain records. I believe that the clerk or the secretary-treasurer that has been hired to be custodian of the books and look after the running of the municipalities should be the one that lets out this type of information, and I don't think that anybody just by reason of working for the municipality should have to go ahead or be able to go ahead and get any information that he wants.

The Secretary-Treasurer's Association is concerned about this and I had several secretary-treasurers in my constituency come to me and express their concerns and pointed out at their meeting several weeks ago that they unanimously turned down, had a resolution saying that they were against this particular type of legislation for the very concern that I have expressed, that other people that are in the employment of a particular municipality can come in and go through their records, of course, as long as the office hours are open, but they feel that would be a problem as far as they're concerned. So I would at this time mention that to the Member from Portage la Prairie who introduced this bill, and maybe some changes could be made at committee with regards to that problem that the secretary-treasurers are concerned about.

I must say, having served myself on council for a number of years, I never

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(MR. BANMAN (cont'd) found this to be a problem, but I guess the resolution was prompted by the so-called "Brandon Affair," and there were some people thought they had not received the proper information. I know myself that I have put myself in the situation where the secretary-treasurer in the municipality that we were in would give us any information that we asked for, and I think basically because he was responsible to the council that was elected. I suggest that any secretary-treasurer or clerk who doesn't provide the right information or provides the wrong information is subject to pretty tough scrutiny from the councillors that are there because after all they're the ones that do the hiring and the firing of those particular individuals, and the secretary-treasurer by not giving the proper information or the right information is definitely leaving himself very open and very vulnerable.

So with those few words, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can clarify that particular concern that the secretary-treasurers do have and after the committee has gone through the bill and if there is not a substantial change made, Mr. Speaker, I would find myself opposing the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe I didn't speak on this, the Honourable Member for Radisson is challenging my . . .

MR. SPEAKER: No, the Minister hasn't spoken on this Bill. --(Interjection)-- What is the problem?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in connection with this particular bill, I want to indicate first that we have not received complaints that this has been a problem throughout the province. I know that in the instance of Brandon, there was a particular circumstance where it was alleged that a councillor did have difficulty in obtaining certain information. I concur with the Honourable Member for La Verendrye that certainly any bill such as this should restrict it to the secretary-treasurer; if this bill is passed it should be restricted to the Secretary-Treasurer, should not include any and all employees within the province. The honourable member is right in regard to the reaction of the Manitoba Secretary-Treasurers' Association, they are concerned about that particular aspect of the bill and so indicated in a recent convention in which they dealt with this resolution and had passed a resolution unanimously opposing the bill introduced by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. So that the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie might feel some sense of satisfaction in knowing that the secretary-treasurers have responded very quickly to the introduction by him of this legislation in the House.

Because of the reaction of the secretary-treasurers, I've been anxious to get a response from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and from the Manitoba Urban Association. I'm somewhat embarrassed because I was hopeful that I would have some indication from the two municipal organizations so that I could relate that to the members. I have not received same yet, and I don't know whether resolutions or views are being related to me presently in transit or not. So what I would like to suggest in this connection, because I have very mixed feelings in connection with the bill, I do feel that the bill is hardly necessary. I do feel that by a procedural by-law the members of council can ensure that any and all information is available to any member of council requesting same from the Municipal Office. On the other hand it is very difficult to object to the principle here, that elected representatives should have all information at the Municipal Office level. I would like to suggest the following: That the committee be approved to committee, and that in Committee, No. 1, there would be an amendment which would delete certainly the reference to any but Secretary-Treasurers; and secondly, that we would look forward to representations at that time, possibly from the Union of the Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Urban Association. We know where the Manitoba Secretary-Treasurers Association stand, they expressed grave concern about the resolution, but particularly that portion which related to any and all being able to give out this type of information and understandably this would exert tremendous pressure upon a Secretary-Treasurer if that was to be the case. So on that basis, Mr. Speaker, I would recommend the support only to get this bill into committee, to ascertain whether or not those in the municipal world do wish to express an opinion in connection with the bill at that stage.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the bill is too broad. This government couldn't operate under a bill of this nature if every member could go in and find out all the information he wanted at any given time. You couldn't run a business that way, and certainly a council shouldn't operate that way. The council gives authority to the people within the municipality or the city to go out and negotiate, say, on a land purchase or something of that nature, and if the negotiations at any time are brought forward or made public the city or municipality is going to be in terrible straits. The administration does not have the authority to start the negotiation unless the council gives that authority and they don't have the authority to complete that negotiation. They come with a recommendation to the council on negotiations made, say here is the package that we have put together and we recommend it to council, and the council makes the final decision. They can throw it back and say we don't have to accept that, go back and negotiate, or they can accept it, and to have to say that the elected member of a council is a sacred cow that can come walking in and interfere completely with negotiations in departments is just being a little bit in the clouds. The council can ask for information and it is given to them, they can have meetings within committee and it can be asked through council, and there is a definite projection to the city and municipality because it is done that way at the present time; and if you change it too much and if you open it up wide, you're going to ask for nothing but trouble, and I know of no way you can operate a government, a city, or a business on that basis. The council does have the supreme power of starting negotiations by giving instructions, by starting the motion to have any roads built or anything at all of that nature, or ask for quotations, and then it comes to council and they are the supreme authority as to whether that is accepted or not accepted, and to have interference in between can only be asking for many problems. Mr. Speaker, I believe the bill is too broad and will only create problems for cities and municipalities rather than cure them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie will be closing the debate.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the members who have taken part in the debate. There have been a number of different points of view expressed, and I am inclined to agree with some of them. When I first opened debate on Bill 48, I did say that on reflection I considered that information should be given out to the Clerk or the Secretary-Treasurer and no one else, and that if the bill went to committee I would either make that amendment myself or someone else could make it, that only the councillor could go to and receive or deal with the Secretary-Treasurer to obtain information, not any employee. So, perhaps I would answer that objection that has been expressed. But I was a little bit surprised myself when the Member for Wolseley as much as said that you just can't trust councillors, that kind of shook me a little bit, that they may get some information and take it out and make use of it. Well, that is a risk that we take, whether it's an elected representative or a civil servant or an administrator with the same information, because from time to time we do read of scandalous positions where someone has taken advantage of a position of trust, and to say as the Member for Wolseley has suggested, that you just can't trust everybody, meaning elected representatives, I found that pretty hard to take. That means that everybody is sort of suspect on council, and I don't think he meant that at all. Now I've been reading the newspapers for a few years, and trying to follow the intricacies of the Trizec project down at the corner of Portage and Main, something's gone wrong obviously, when there's a valuable piece of real estate sitting there vacant. A lot of good buildings were torn out, a lot of people were displaced, and the interest on the money that has been spent in the dislocation, to me there has been a tremendous bungle there somewhere. And when the president of the company that is proposing to carry on can now stand up and say to Winnipeg City Council that not one wheel is going to turn by way of construction until the city has built a 1,200-stall parking garage, and that's it, and he has the power to do that, because of the agreement that was made. It seems to me that I've read where some Winnipeg councillors have complained that they didn't have all the information

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(MR. G. JOHNSTON (cont'd) they thought they were entitled to when the time came to vote on that business development between Trizec and the City of Winnipeg. It seems to me, I can't tell you what their names are, but I'm sure that I've read where some councillors strongly objected that they did not have all the information to make their decision before they cast their vote. Now, I mentioned the Montreal Olympics, and the mess that the Drapeau administration has made at the Montreal Olympics' construction. In Montreal they refer to those councillors who were asking questions and trying to get information as the Opposition Party, they're called that by the press in Montreal and by the people. And there is a definite group who are fighting tooth and nail against Drapeau and his administration and the councillors that support him, and that is one of their big quarrels, that they are being asked to make decisions on spending, open-ended contracts, and no contract allocation of jobs, and they have been fighting this for years. If they had had an Act that said that they had, as elected people, they had the right to go to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Montreal administration and get this information, I'm sure that the Olympic spendings would have been controlled because it was open to the council, there would have been a great deal of care exercised by those making the decisions. And we know now that those who did make the decisions behind closed doors made some scandalous decisions that are going to cost the people, of not only Montreal, but the people of Quebec - and indirectly I guess the people of Canada are going to have to pay for what has happened there, and it goes back to the fact that the 26 councillors, I believe it is in Montreal, didn't have all the information that they were entitled to, so if the members saw fit to allow this to go through the second reading it would certainly be amended to say that the councillors could only inquire of or deal with the Secretary-Treasurer or the Clerk of the municipality.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Resolution 22. The resolution is open.

QUESTION put, MOTION as amended carried.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the end of Private Members' Hour. I am now leaving the Chair and the Honourable Members can reconvene at 8:00 p.m. in Committee of Supply.