

Wednesday, April 8, 1998



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 28

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

The following petitions were presented:

Ms. McGIFFORD - Adequate and stable funding for the Evergreen Women's Resource Centre, and other Women's Resource Centres in Manitoba (L. Tretiak, D. King, R. Sigvaldason and others)

Ms. FRIESEN - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (L. Krivak, D. Boresky, C. Park and others)

Mr. DEWAR - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (J. Defoort, C. Hennessy, L. Remillard and others)

Mr. HICKES - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (K. Marr, M. Versace, S. Looker and others)

By leave, the following petition was read and received:

Mr. SANTOS - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (L. McMillan, T. Bochinski, E. Kidd and others)

The following petitions were read and received:

Ms. McGIFFORD - Adequate and Stable Funding for the Evergreen Women's Resource Centre, and other Women's Resource Centres in Manitoba (C. Romanchuk, S. Threlfell, K. Peterson and others)

Ms. WOWCHUK - Adequate and Stable Funding for the Evergreen Women's Resource Centre, and other Women's Resource Centres in Manitoba (E. Meleshko, C. Leblanc, S. Ward and others)

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Mr. EVANS (Brandon East) - An Act to amend the Brandon University Foundation Act (Brandon University Foundation)

By leave, the House reverted to "Reading and Receiving Petitions" and the following petition was read and received:

Mr. MALOWAY - Minister of Health to put an end to the centralization and privatization of Winnipeg hospital food services (P. DeClara, C.R. McLeod, P. Mark and others)

Mr. LAURENDEAU, Chairperson of the Committee of Supply, presented the Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of April 7, 1998, as follows:

IN THE COMMITTEE

The following Resolutions were adopted:

2.1 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding THREE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS for EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION..... \$3,280,700.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999

20.1 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for URBAN AFFAIRS:

ADMINISTRATION..... \$243,200.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

20.2 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding FIFTY-ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS for URBAN AFFAIRS:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
THE CITY OF WINNIPEG \$51,620,600.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

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20.3 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding FOUR MILLION, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS for URBAN AFFAIRS:

URBAN AFFAIRS PROGRAM SUPPORT \$4,220,600.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

20.4 RESOLVED that there be granted to HER MAJESTY a sum not exceeding TWENTY-ONE MILLION, TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS for URBAN AFFAIRS:

EXPENDITURES RELATED TO CAPITAL..... \$21,278,000.00

for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1999.

Resolutions were reported.

Report was received and the Committee of Supply obtained leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. DOWNEY presented:

Supplementary Information for Legislative Review - 1998-1999 - Industry, Trade and Tourism.

(Sessional Paper No. 155)

Hon. Mr. NEWMAN presented:

Supplementary Information for Legislative Review - 1998-1999 - Energy and Mines.

(Sessional Paper No. 156)

Also:

Supplementary Information for Legislative Review - 1998-1999 - Northern Affairs.

(Sessional Paper No. 157)

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During Oral Questions, Mr. ASHTON rose on a matter of privilege and moved:

THAT the matter of the Premier and the Minister of Finance showing contempt for the House by deliberately making misleading statements concerning the unethical appointment of Thomas E. Stefanson to the Board of Directors of Manitoba Telecom Services, allowing Mr. Stefanson and other directors to enrich themselves through a multi-million dollar compensation plan, be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

And Hon. Messrs. McCRAE and STEFANSON, Messrs. LAMOUREUX and SALE, Hon. Mr. FILMON and Mr. DOER having spoken,

WHEREUPON Madam Speaker informed the House she would take the matter under advisement.

Pursuant to Rule 20(1), Messrs. PENNER, JENNISSEN and DYCK, Ms. FRIESEN and Mr. DEWAR made Members' Statements.

In accordance with Rule 21, Messrs. SALE, STRUTHERS, DEWAR, JENNISSEN, MARTINDALE, MALOWAY, SANTOS and HICKES rose on grievances.

Mr. CHOMIAK moved:

Resolution No. 11: Privatization of Food Services

WHEREAS the Urban Shared Services Corporation (USSC) has announced plans to privatize laundry, food services, and purchasing for the Winnipeg hospitals; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that more than 1000 health care jobs will be lost over the next year as a result, with many more privatized in the next two or three years; and

WHEREAS under the terms of the contract, Ontario businesses will profit at the expense of Manitoba's health care system; and

WHEREAS after construction of a food assembly warehouse in Winnipeg, chilled, prepared food will be shipped in from Ontario, then assembled and heated before being shipped to the hospitals; and

WHEREAS people who are in the hospital require nutritious and appetizing food; and

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WHEREAS the announced savings as a result of the contract have been disputed, and one study by Wintemute Randle Kilimnik indicated that, "A considerable number of studies have compared costs of service delivery in health care between self-operation (public sector) and privatization. Invariably, privatization is more expensive."; and

WHEREAS there is a long list of hospitals in Canada that have experienced poor results with centralized food services similar to those being contracted by the Urban Shared Services Corporation; and

WHEREAS several alternative plans were proposed that would keep more jobs in Manitoba, cost substantially less and keep food preparation and purchasing in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS no one in Manitoba seems to benefit from this contract, especially patients.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba condemn the Minister of Health for failing to protect jobs in both health care and the food industry in Manitoba by purchasing both prepared food and ingredients outside the Province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba condemn the Minister of Health for allowing privatization of our health care system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Health to put an end to the Provincial Government's plan to centralize and privatize Winnipeg hospital food preparation and distribution system.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. CHOMIAK, Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK and Mr. ASHTON having spoken,

And Mr. McALPINE speaking at 6:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

The House then adjourned at 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,
Speaker.