

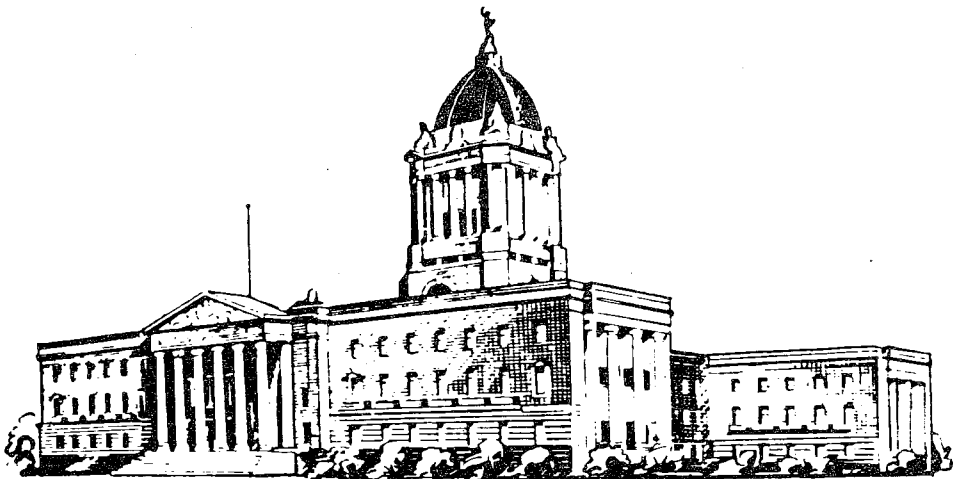


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 127 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 24th, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock Wednesday, June 24, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I'm not intending to proceed with this bill and I would ask that it be removed from the Order Paper.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this point I wish to introduce to honourable members our guests in the gallery where we have 60 Grades 4 and 5 students of the Niverville Elementary School. They are under the direction of Mr. Braun and Miss Weins. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye. And 25 Grade 8 students of the Landmark Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Reimer and this school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. And 34 Grades 5 and 6 students of the Starbuck School under the direction of Mr. Lupkowski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Morris. And 22 members of the Dryden 4-H Club of Dryden, Ontario, under the direction of Mr. Lick. And 70 Grades 1 to 8 students of Gnadenthal School in Plum Coulee under the direction of Mr. Giesbrecht and Mr. Wiebe and Miss Janzen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

On behalf of all the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

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

MOTION OF URGENCY

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for LaVerendrye, that the House do now adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; namely, the failure of the Manitoba Government to recognize and deal with the desperate plight of the farmers in certain areas of the province who have suffered from adverse weather conditions to the extent that many will be unable to plant crops this year and therefore be without income.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to thank the Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party for complying with the rules in giving me proper notice. I perused the proposed motion of the honourable member and may I refer honourable members to Beauchesne 4th Edition, Citation 100, subsection (5), which reads in part as follows: "The adjournment of the House can not be moved with reference to critical conditions generally prevailing in certain parts of the country." The honourable member specifically states that the state of affairs complained of is in certain areas of the province.

May I also refer honourable members to subsection (8) of the same citation and I quote: "On the 13th of April, 1894, a member asked leave to make this motion, to discuss the neglect of the government to take measures for the relief of agricultural depression during the present session. The Speaker said, 'I do not think that a motion on the subject of this kind, having such a very wide scope, was ever contemplated. What I think was contemplated was an occurrence of some sudden emergency either in home or in foreign affairs, but I do not think it was contemplated that a question of very wide scope which would demand legislation to deal with it in any effective manner should be the subject of discussion on a motion for the adjournment of the House, because if that was so, we might have repeated motions made by the opposition of the day, not so much in the direction of censuring the government for action which had been taken or not taken, for bringing to notice some grievance demanding instant remedy as in the direction of wishing to introduce legislation on some particular subject. That is not the purpose of a standing order and would I think cut at the root of the order.'" Therefore, I rule the motion of the Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party out of order.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us when the Province of Manitoba has requested assistance for farmers who have been unable to plant crops because of flood damage, when he requested assistance of Ottawa?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I didn't say that I had. I said that we were working on a proposal.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister not aware that there have been indications in Ottawa made publicly that the Federal Government is willing to help but they must receive the request from Manitoba?

MR. USKIW: Well I think, Mr. Speaker, it is presumptuous on the part of my honourable friend to assume that at this early stage one can have all the data with respect to the amount of problems in the province or the area. I think one has to recognize the fact that there is still seeding going on in the province, many parts of the province, and until that is complete or nearly complete, it is hard to evaluate very adequately from my point of view just the extent of damage that has occurred, and that is being done by my department in the proposal that's being drafted.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister inform the House approximately what percentage of proposed crop land is unseeded at this stage?

MR. USKIW: Well of course that, Mr. Speaker, would have no relevance because a lot of land is not seeded for different reasons. We have federal programs which are encouraging people not to seed land; we have individual decisions not to seed land for reasons other than the weather; and if my honourable friend wants to know how much is involved with respect to weather conditions, at this point I can't give him that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question, a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. I ask the Minister, has he made direct representation to the government for assistance to those farmers who we know will not seed a crop in 1970? This is now June 24th.

MR. USKIW: I think my honourable friend ought to know, if he's a good farmer at all, that there are people still seeding land in the Province of Manitoba today.

MR. WATT: Could my honourable friend indicate to the House what they are seeding?

MR. USKIW: Flax is one example. My honourable friend knows that there are a number of crops still being seeded - barley is still being seeded; some people are attempting to seed oats.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to my honourable friend. Is my honourable friend not aware that after the 24th of June that any crops seeded now, there is only one chance in a hundred that there will be any cash revenue derived unless it is fodder.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the risks involved, but I am also aware of the fact that many people are prepared to undertake those risks.

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

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the reply of the Minister though to the first question asked by the Member for Arthur. Has the Minister made representation to Ottawa on behalf of the farmers?

MR. USKIW: My reply was, Mr. Speaker, that my department is compiling the necessary information and is preparing a submission to the Government of Canada giving a complete outline of Manitoba's position.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): May I just elaborate on that question by saying, Mr. Speaker, that in the event that some farmers in some of the area referred to as being under heavy rainfall and flooding, in the event that they are able to seed crops before the end of this week, if that is the case then of course the problem does not continue; if they are not able to seed then there is, between now and harvest time, opportunity to work out an appropriate form of assistance and/or compensation, whether under PFAA or some similar program. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that I am personally aware of many instances and cases where PFAA assistance was something that was requested and then subsequently worked on for many months before it came to fruition and final decision.

MR. USKIW: Well, I think there is one other consideration and I don't have the detail with me, but as I recall -- (Interjection) -- No I'm not, I simply want to add more information

(MR. USKIW cont'd.) to the questions that have been put, and that is if I recall correctly, I believe that within the crop insurance program there is provision for people that want to insure summerfallow, to have insured it against this eventuality, and this may be a factor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the Minister not aware that agricultural land subject to flooding around Lake Winnipeg is not eligible for coverage in the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation?

MR. USKIW: I might undertake to make my honourable friend aware that major new policies will be shortly announced with respect to land being flooded by Lake Winnipeg.

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

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I gather then from the reply of the Minister of Agriculture and the First Minister that no approach has yet been made to Ottawa.

MR. SCHREYER: . . . not quite right, there has been a communication addressed to the Federal Minister back on the 29th of May. There has been no response and as a consequence I have addressed a Telex to the Prime Minister as of today and we intend to follow it up with a further communication from the Minister of Agriculture bearing on the question of flood damage and flood damage compensation, both as regards flood damage to property and flood damage in the sense that it prohibits the seeding of crops - on both counts.

MR. MOLGAT: I wonder if the First Minister would be kind enough to give members of the House copies of that correspondence.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I see no difficulty in doing that. After the Telex is copied and the communication from the Minister of Agriculture is copied, it can be distributed one copy to each party I suppose. Mr. Speaker, I suppose I must put a caveat on that. It is normal procedure to obtain concurrence of the other level of government in tabling documents or correspondence between two levels of government. In the event it's forthcoming, there should be no difficulty.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. He stated that there would be policy and a program for the farmers around the Lake Winnipeg area. Might I ask him, will this program that he is about to announce, or will announce shortly, will it be in the interests of the farmers?

MR. USKIW: My honourable friend ought to know that any program that the Government of Manitoba launches into is in the interests of the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I just have two questions of the Minister of Agriculture. The first one, when is the Minister of Agriculture calling the Special Committee on Agriculture?

MR. USKIW: If my honourable friend would open his eyes he would see something on the Order Paper a long time ago.

MR. MCKENZIE: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Agriculture or the First Minister toured any of these areas that are concerned today?

MR. USKIW: I believe the Minister of Transportation, the Premier and water control people have made extensive tours of flooded areas of Manitoba in the last month.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is it true that the Manitoba Government has not offered any financial assistance towards the establishment of a Fish Marketing Plant at Selkirk as late as Tuesday of this week?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, a letter went out on Friday to the Honourable Mr. Davis, Mr. Jack Davis, Federal Minister of Fisheries, proposing a plan which would aid in the establishment of the fish plant at Selkirk. Unfortunately, there is mail tie-ups and I suspect this is the reason. If the Minister - I note he was quoted in the paper today as stating that he had not yet received a letter - if he had not received a letter I would presume it was because of the mail tie-ups, but a letter was mailed from Winnipeg on Friday last.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the Minister to tell the House that this is the first offer of assistance made in that regard?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we have had extensive discussions with the federal officials for several months, and as my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources

(MR. EVANS cont'd.) who has an interest in this matter as well points out, the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion has offered, any many months back, has laid on the line to my understanding a 1.4 million grant towards the establishment of the plant at Selkirk, and it was the opinion of the research done by the consultants in my department that this was adequate to ensure the location of the plant at Selkirk. However, the Board of Directors of the Corporation have some difference of opinion on the matter, and because of this we have made the offer which I referred to a moment ago.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. For clarification, do I understand the Minister to really tell the House that really the first offer made for financial assistance was made in a letter last Friday?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, based on the research that was done by the economists in my department and verified by an outside consulting firm, our advice was that it was not necessary for any further financial assistance over and above the DREE grant.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in the event that there is some persistent misapprehension about this matter of cost-benefit analysis, it should be made clear that we were advised by the Federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion itself that the amount of grants they were prepared to make to the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation if the plant were located in Selkirk was enough in itself to more than offset the cost-benefit disadvantage to locating in Selkirk. In the light of the advice received, we felt that the question of additional financial grants was entirely academic.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Selkirk): . . . the honourable member would permit me to add to the reply.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: . . . the Minister to operate within the rules, I'll ask him a question. Does the Minister of Municipal Affairs recall his words when he spoke to the protestors on the steps of the Legislature when he said that he was doing everything within the province's power to have the plant in Selkirk, and if what the Minister of Industry and Commerce tells us is true, he didn't do everything within his power at that time.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I could respond to the House Leader of the Liberal Party's question, I would be pleased to advise the member in question that on two occasions I was present in delegations to the Ottawa people, including the Honourable Minister of Fisheries in the Federal Government. It was with some surprise that I read of comments made by the Minister in respect to provincial assistance because it was made very clear to the town officials and myself on each of those submissions in Ottawa that any assistance that would be granted by the town or by the province would result in a reduction of the federal monies available in respect to the DREE program. Only so much public money is permitted to be used in the subsidizing of any program. It was made very clear to the Town of Selkirk officials and myself that if the province did inject any public monies into this program there'd be a reduction in the amount of monies being offered by the Federal Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Does the Minister believe that it is really necessary to lure Crown corporations. .

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member is asking for an expression of opinion.

MR. ENNS: I'm asking a question. I'm asking a question of the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Whether he will pursue it as a policy to attempt to lure Crown corporations to the location of anywhere in the province or any situation.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Government is concerned with balanced economic development within the Province of Manitoba as is the Federal Government is concerned with balanced economic development throughout Canada.

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

MR. WALTER WEIR (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inquire of the House Leader. The other day he indicated that we could expect two more bills. I note the Notices of Motion today show four. I'd like to inquire of the House Leader how many more we can expect.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry the Leader of the Opposition wasn't in the House this morning. I assure him that Votes and Proceedings was as much a surprise to me as it was to him and I indicated to the House that there were three bills which I hadn't expected; one of them I indicated would not be brought forward, that is The Public Libraries Act, so you can discount that one. The Municipal Tax Deferral Act was apparently brought forward because it

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) could not be put as an amendment to existing legislation. The Municipal Act I'm informed is made necessary because of a bill that was approved in Municipal Affairs Committee to cover a gap, so it's not something that I anticipated. Mr. Speaker, that means there are two bills there that I didn't know about. I removed one this morning that I did know about so we have a balance of one extra which I assure you I didn't know was coming.

MR. USKIW: I'm aware of a private member's bill that will be introduced which my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Resources is not aware of, having to do with the Town of Beausejour.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. The other day I asked him privately and then later on I put the question in the House. Has the Flood Claims Committee been given approval so that claims from the Altona and Gretna area that was flooded recently by heavy rains, so that they would qualify?

MR. GREEN: . . . no approval has been given but I believe that that's one of the areas that is being looked into and I believe that that's one of the areas that has been raised relative to my honourable friend's question.

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

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Did I understand him correctly in his comments regarding the fish plant that if the province were to make a contribution that the Federal contribution would be reduced accordingly?

MR. PAWLEY: Yes. As I'd indicated earlier, in the submissions that were made by the Mayor of the Town of Selkirk to the Chairman of the ARDA-FRED Board and myself to various officials with DREE, it was made very clear to us that any monies that would be provided towards the establishment of that plant either by the Town of Selkirk or by the Province of Manitoba, that that sum of money would be reduced from the federal monies made available. This was the very clear indication to not only myself but to the other Town of Selkirk people that were present on two different occasions. That's why, Mr. Speaker, it was with some surprise that we did read of the comments by the Federal Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Davis, in the House of Commons, but it has given us an opportunity to therefore approach the Federal Government. But we had been led to believe this in these meetings earlier.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, more information. I really wouldn't want any misunderstanding to arise because of the last statement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister's statement is correct except that there was a revision made in the policy being followed by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in Ottawa. That was their initial position as has just been outlined. Subsequently, however, we were given to understand that the department would be making an offer of so and so much in the way of grants and that this would not be affected by whatever might be done by the province, if anything. And I say again, Mr. Speaker, that the position that was taken by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the Government of the Province of Manitoba with respect to this question has been one and the same. We have taken the same position as to the desirability of the plant being located at Selkirk and as to the amount of money required to offset whatever cost benefit disadvantages to locating at Selkirk. There has been no disagreement whatsoever between that federal department and the provincial government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, you and I are used to the diversionary tactics of this government and

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member a question?

MR. McKENZIE: I think, Mr. Speaker, this is the seventh time that I've asked this question. Could I ask it again? I would ask of the Minister of Agriculture: when, when, when, when is he going to call the Special Committee on Agriculture?

MR. USKIW: If my friend would look at Page No. 5 and read it carefully he will find out that the answer is contained therein.

MR. SPEAKER: Order of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Cultural Affairs. In his absence I wonder which Minister could field this question? The First Minister? Centennial information was issued concerning historical publications which are

(MR. CLAYDON cont'd.) being supported in part by public funds. Will these publications be made available to the general public, and if so, when and where?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice and bring it to the attention of my colleague.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

STATEMENTS

MR. EVANS: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I could have leave of the House to make a brief statement respecting Manisphere and the Provincial Exhibition in Brandon.

I'd like to draw the attention of the House to the Manitoba Government's exhibit organized by my department which opens at Manisphere in Winnipeg this Friday and the Provincial Exhibition in Brandon early next month. This year as a tribute to Manitoba's 100th birthday we felt that the Manitoba Government exhibit should reflect the Centennial spirit of Manitoba. To do this we asked through the good offices of my colleague, the Minister of Education, for help of the school children all over the province. Early this month the Manitoba Government School Broadcast Branch in co-operation with the CBC developed a special "It's Fun to Draw" broadcast based on the new quality of life theme being introduced by my department at the Exhibition. The response I'm pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, was overwhelming. More than 6,500 children from all parts of Manitoba submitted drawings depicting the quality of life of their own community, a truly enthusiastic and spontaneous reaction. Drawings flooded in from Churchill, from all over Winnipeg, from the West-Man. area, from the Central plains area, from each and every region of Manitoba. Almost 400 of these pictures have been selected for showing at the exhibitions and more pictures will be displayed at special touring exhibits that will be sent to every region of the province.

I believe we owe a vote of special thanks to the thousands of children in Manitoba who worked so hard to create these pictures and to their teachers and especially to the hard-working team of art educators in Winnipeg who planned and made the broadcast and who sorted and selected the pictures into the final exhibit. I commend each member to make a particular point of visiting the exhibit to see the qualities of life in Manitoba as seen by our young people, Manitoba citizens of tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. Is it true that the Clean Environment Commission has given Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company four years to solve their pollution problem? And if so, why so long?

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I would have a tendency to take this question as notice but the Honourable Member for Flin Flon had told me before that he would be asking the question so I have a copy of my press release here. It will take four years before we can actually expect this company to really take care of their problem of pollution to the satisfaction of the Clean Environment Commission.

MR. BARROW: Is it also true that the company will conduct their own tests on this pollution and these tests be accepted as final by your Commission?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, the company in question will be conducting their own tests but we will be conducting our own equally.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Minister of Industry and Commerce for his comments this afternoon and I would like to know whether or not this exhibit is going to the Swan River Rodeo and Fair at the end of July?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that we would attempt to send parts of the exhibit to various regions of Manitoba and I certainly will look into the member's request.

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

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the First Minister for his clarification of the matter of the grants to the proposed Selkirk Fish Plant. Could the Minister indicate when the change in policy occurred in this regard, clarifying that any provincial contribution would not affect the Federal?

MR. SCHREYER: It's not possible Mr. Speaker, to give an exact date, but I would say approximately 30 days ago, approximately so.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, then a supplementary question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Was the Minister of Municipal Affairs aware that this change had occurred?

MR. PAWLEY: Occasions on which I was present and making submissions was prior to 30 days ago. The first indication I had of this was the statement by Mr. Davis in the House which I believe was approximately two to three weeks ago.

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

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a further question to the Minister of Agriculture. Because of the late spring or because of flooding and late seeding, is the supply of buckwheat seed adequate or has the department had any request for additional seed to be brought in?

MR. USKIW: No, it has not been brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. You were aware though of the change when you made your statement earlier in the House today regarding the matter?

MR. PAWLEY: The question posed to me was in reference to my own personal role in respect to this. As I had indicated in replying to the House Leader of the Liberal Party that I became aware of a change in the attitude of the Federal Government by the statement from the Honourable Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Davis.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour and perhaps the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Has the Minister of, the Ministers that I've mentioned, have they had representations either by individuals or by associations with respect to the proposed wage Act whereby two and a half times regular pay would be paid on statutory holidays for work? Has he had any representations from people or concessionaires who operate in provincial parks to the effect that they may have to close on that date?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my honourable friend was in the House this morning when I introduced the amendments to the Employment Standards Act. I took pains to point out at that time that it is erroneous to refer to any two and a half times wages to be paid on a general holiday. I pointed out that any employer will have to pay on a statutory holiday the equivalent of a day's pay for that holiday. I also pointed out that if an employer required an employee to work on that day he would have to pay one and a half times his normal payment in addition to the holiday pay for which he is entitled. I have had representations made to me, Mr. Speaker, from both labour and management. Labour because of the fact that I'm not including enough holidays, and possibly I will get something similar to that from the Honourable Member for Assiniboia when he takes part in the debate, and I have had some representation from management protesting the payment for the holiday itself when the employee does not work. So the answer is yes, on both sides.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. In view of his somewhat vague reference to the dates of the Manitoba Provincial Exhibition at Brandon this year, I wonder if he's aware that the precise dates are July 7th to the 11th this year, both dates inclusive?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, indeed I'm aware and I hope to be there at the opening of the Brandon Exhibition or the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on the same subject and I maybe didn't understand the Minister correctly. I'm assuming that this exhibit will appear at all the A, B, and C Fairs in the province, is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I didn't state that. I stated that we would attempt to distribute it as widely as possible throughout the province and I didn't indicate that it would necessarily be in connection with particular types of fairs, agricultural or otherwise. But we will make every effort to see that it is widely distributed so all parts of Manitoba may have the opportunity of viewing this wonderful exhibit provided by the efforts of the children of this province.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary then. Did I hear the Minister correctly when he made the announcement? He said the Winnipeg Exhibition and the Brandon Exhibition.

MR. EVANS: Yes. Initially we will begin with the Manisphere or the Red River Exhibition as it's sometimes referred to and with the Provincial Exhibition at Brandon, but beyond

(MR. EVANS cont'd.) that and after that there will be regional showings.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. A number of Manitobans applied for and paid a fee for a licence for fish farming in the province. A considerable number of these people that were licenced were unable through no fault of their own to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member a question?

MR. WATT: Well yes, Mr. Speaker, I was going to direct a question on fish farming if I would be permitted. A number of these applicants who did receive their licence and paid \$15.00 were unable to procure fish stocks. My question is: will the fee of \$15.00 charged be refunded to those who were unable to receive stock for their ponds or lakes or what have you?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm quite sure we haven't formulated a policy on that. I do know that the fee for the licence is based on work that is done preparatory to granting a licence, so the departmental work would have been done whether or not a man went on to engage in the operation or not. But I'll have to look into his question more fully.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on second reading on the proposed motion . . . The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if you would please call Bill No. 134, Page 4 of the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading, government bills. Bill No. 134. The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I was making general remarks relative to the introduction of Bill 134, and at this time I'd like to point out some of the highlights of the provisions of Bill 134. One of the things that is proposed in the legislation is to include under the heading of donations received, donations in kind, because I think that someone who donates advertising space or an office or staff to a political party should have that kind of donation or assistance recorded in the same way as a donation of cash.

The bill also proposes that political parties should make public annual audited statements of revenue and expenditure, because if this is not done then it becomes very difficult, if not impossible, for the enforcement of the intent of the Election Act. If annual audited statements are not required under law, then the only time when there can be any kind of systematic analysis made is in the reporting that is done in the election year, and that in itself would hardly seem to suffice, at least that seems to be the experience of years past.

We are also asking in the legislation, if passed, the law would provide that candidates deposits be eliminated for provincial election purposes. As honourable members know, the long standing requirements of the law has been the depositing of \$200.00 at the time of the filing of the nomination papers by individual candidates and we propose that this \$200.00 deposit requirement be removed entirely.

In order to offset that - and I can appreciate that some members would feel strongly that there should be something in the Election Act that would discourage those candidates who are less than serious, and if we remove the \$200.00 deposit that some I know will argue that this is an invitation to non-serious candidates entering the field - so in an effort to cope with that kind of eventuality we have increased the number of signatures required to accompany nomination paper from 25 to 50.

The Act also proposes, the bill proposes that candidates will have entered opposite their name the name of the political party which they are representing. In the case of candidates who are running as independents, that fact will be noted in the space opposite his or her name.

The bill also provides that central political parties appoint official agents to handle much the same, to perform much the same kind of function as is performed by the official agents acting on behalf of candidates at the constituency level, which latter requirement has been part of the Election Act for many long years. We are proposing that the same kind of function be acknowledged as existing at the central political party headquarters level.

There is also provision in the legislation to limit election expenses for a central political organization, or a provincial party in other words, and limiting it at eight cents per voter for the total number of voters in all of the constituencies in the province in which a party has nominated candidates. The practical effect of this provision, Mr. Speaker, is to increase the

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) present limit - the present limit in the Election Act is \$25,000 as I said earlier - and this would be increased to about \$44,000 if a political party had candidates nominated in all ridings. This figure of \$44,000 is based on a calculation of there being about 550,000 eligible voters at a provincial election.

There is also included in the bill a provision to set limits on spending by individual candidates. Now while the existing Elections Act has put a limit on the amount that can be spent by the party headquarters, there has been no limit imposed on the amount that can be spent by individual candidates, and so we have from time to time seen the spectacle, and I think it is a spectacle, of monies being expended by an individual candidate in the order of 20, 30 and 40 thousand dollars, and it is proposed -- and by the way, may I say that that kind of level of spending means that an individual candidate in one riding could have, and has in recent years, spent more than the entire political party province-wide has been allowed to spend under the existing provisions of the Election Act, because I think that the records show that while 25,000 is the limit that can be spent by a party operating on a province-wide basis, individual candidates have spent more than that in certain cases. We suggest that this is not a justifiable kind of situation and so there is a proposal to limit spending by individual candidate committees more properly, and we suggest in the legislation that a fair limit would be 40 cents per eligible voter within the constituency. We've had something to guide us in this respect, Mr. Speaker, in that there has been provision similar to this made in the Election Acts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, and while the exact amount in each of these provinces is I think on a graduated scale basis, nevertheless it averages out to about this amount.

The Act also provides that both central offices and candidates shall file returns showing how much was spent in an election campaign and from whom donations were received. We will also put forward, are putting forward in the legislation, the requirement that advertising media be required to file a return showing the expenditure by candidates and by party headquarters during the campaign, and lest there be any thought that this might be an onerous requirement to put on the advertising media, I'd just like to make this point clear. Really all that is required is that the advertising media business offices, that would be their offices, would forward carbon copies or xerox copies of invoices that they are sending out billing the parties, the agencies or the candidates, whichever the case may be, for a particular amount of advertising that has been arranged for or contracted for or bought. This is not an expensive procedure at all and is not really onerous in any respect.

One understands that the media does send out their invoice billings almost immediately after an advertisement runs in the media, whether it be the newspapers or the electronic media. They send their invoice billings out soon after the ad is run and they do that because there is a two percent discount for payment promptly. So requesting that simply additional copies of the invoice billings be forwarded to the office that is enforcing the Elections Act and that they should do so within twenty days is in my view, and I hope honourable members will agree, not an unreasonable nor onerous requirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say in conclusion that the legislation before us is really in every respect intended to attempt to provide for realistic limitations on election spending, which sentiment seems to be widely shared, but which in most jurisdictions we have so far failed to achieve. We have the desire; the will should not be lacking, the means I suggest is not lacking. All that is required is an updating and a tightening of the Elections Act, and I would hope honourable members will see fit to support it at least in its major intent.

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

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

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): ask a question before it's adjourned? Would the First Minister agree that each community within the constituency should be visited during an election campaign?

MR. SCHREYER: . . . that that is the ideal, that is the desirable thing, but sometimes it is not possible.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. WATT: Before the question is put, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would answer another question. He referred to Section 62 (6) (d) of the bill which refers to the political affiliation of the candidates being listed on the ballot. My question is, has he decided in what order they will be listed?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that problem doesn't exist because I believe that the practice is that the candidates names are listed in alphabetical order and that will continue to be the case.

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

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you call Bill No. 43, please.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable the First Minister, Bill No. 43. The Honourable House Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in examining Bill 43, I can well realize how some of the suspicions that have been enunciated by my friends on my right could happen if they were perhaps dealing with dishonourable people, and perhaps there might be a temptation there even if honourable people were going to operate under the terms of Bill 43.

I notice in the main section that there appears to be an effort on the part of the government to now set indemnities of the members by Cabinet and not by the Legislature as before. I think that some years ago there was a great deal of disapproval to the Honourable Duff Roblin when a Cabinet meeting was held and a raise of pay was passed by the Cabinet Ministers, and then they hid themselves off to the farthest point in the province, namely Churchill, to wait for the storm to blow over.

MR. ENNS: I didn't go, Gordon, I stayed here.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, perhaps my friend from Lakeside missed the plane. He tells me he didn't go but the others certainly waited out the storm of public opinion in the confines of Churchill, if I remember correctly. So I suggest to the sponsor of the bill that I believe that this should not happen --(Interjection) -- Well, I'm reading the Act, the bill as it states. It says: "A member of the Assembly may accept from the government any indemnity, allowance, salary or reimbursement." I understand that to mean that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council will now be setting the indemnities of this House. I think that there was a committee that spent a great deal of work on this subject and they made a report to the House and the report now rests on the Order Paper waiting for the Committee of the Whole House to decide on what should be done, so I'm asking the First Minister to not ignore this committee but to let the committee make its report.

Members who have spoken previously have inferred, and as a matter of fact they have stated that they consider the bill as a method of creating two levels of salary in the House, one for opposition and one for government, but, Mr. Speaker, I have too high a regard for the First Minister to think that he would do that. I really don't think he would do that. -- (Interjection) -- I don't believe so. I don't believe so.

However, the First Minister in his explanation said that he had intended by the bill to create the position for four legislative assistants. Although it is printed as five, I understand him to say that he means to amend that at the earliest opportunity to be four, the number four. I note that in the last session, or sometime before the last session, the First Minister appointed two legislative assistants, the Member for Osborne and the Member for St. Boniface. It is my understanding that the Member for St. Boniface has served and attended numerous meetings both in Ottawa and around the province at his own expense, and I believe that if he is working for the province he should not be required to be out of pocket, nor should the Member for Osborne if he's working for the province and has had a great deal of expense and has had to do extra work, that he should be compensated.

I can appreciate the fact that there is a place for this type of legislation. I might say that we feel that two legislative assistants are enough. I don't know where the figure 4 comes from. Certainly there'll be a competition amongst the Cabinet as to who should have a legislative assistant, and the next thing you know this could lead to an escalation where it's a status symbol and each Minister will be pushing and pressing and wanting to have a legislative assistant. In the nine years that I've been here, and the First Minister has been here a good part of that time himself, I don't think we've ever heard a Minister say that he couldn't handle his department, that he was being overworked. I notice in the telephone book that Cabinet Ministers have Deputy Ministers and Assistant Deputy Ministers. They are allowed within their budget to hire assistants who may be sometimes termed as political appointments, and I see nothing wrong with that, but while we in this party are going to allow the bill to go and vote for it through second reading, we have our reservations about the need for four. The two who are appointed are not assisting a Minister; they, I presume, are being given jobs that are required to be done not under any particular department.

(MR. G. JOHNSTON, cont'd.) The danger I see in four is the Minister of Education is liable to say, well I should have one; and the Minister of Highways is liable to say, well I should have one; and then the competition goes on. So the easy way out for the First Minister is next year to amend the bill to increase it to six or to eight or to whatever.

So I say to the First Minister that we will not oppose this on second reading, but by way of amendment we may be trying to amend the bill to reduce the number from four to two.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, Bill No. 17. The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. BILTON: You're calling me, Mr. Speaker, on 56?

MR. SPEAKER: No, I called Bill No. 17.

MR. BILTON: May I have that matter stand, Mr. Speaker. (Agreed)

MR. SCHREYER: In the absence of the House Leader, I would suggest that you proceed seriatim through the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, Bill No. 56, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Morris in amendment ~~in~~ thereto. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that applause, but I think it is reasonably obvious to members of the House that I stood this in the name of the Honourable Member for River Heights, who since that time has had family problems that require that he not be in the House at this particular time. So without any further ado, Mr. Speaker, I will resume my seat and allow this matter to go to a vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment? The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, a great deal has been said on the Bill and on the amendment to date and I do not intend to cover all of the territory once again. I think I've made my position clear, but I want to make my position and that of our party clear on the amendment that is before us at this time, and I must say that we have mixed feelings about the amendment, Mr. Speaker. We really do not feel that simply delaying the bill is the right answer to the question. What we would like to see is some action taken on the question and this is why we had proposed an amendment, which my Leader proposed in the House, recommending that the government should take the Bill back at this point voluntarily and spend that time to really assess what is in the best interests of the people of Manitoba. On this score I remain convinced that the best thing for the people of Manitoba is what my party has proposed, and that is compulsory auto insurance, with the government involved in it as one of the selling agents for insurance but in competition with the other enterprises presently in the insurance business.

I think here that there's a difference of opinion between the various parties in the House and I gather that the Official Opposition takes the position that the government should not be involved at all. So far the government has taken the position that they should be involved wholly, and no one else involved. We hold to the position which we have presented some time ago, in fact before this debate came up in the House this year, that we would support a government agency in the business but on the basis that it was in competition with present agencies. I have appealed to the First Minister and I appeal once again, for the government to reconsider this course which I think is in the best interests of Manitobans.

I have quoted at length on various occasions from the Wootton Report. I know my honourable friend, the Minister of Natural Resources particularly, says that it was not facts. I would refer him back to that same report because if there's one thing that that commission enquired very carefully into on an economic basis, not as the Minister suggests on a political basis but on an economic basis, and on which they make a clearcut recommendation from their standpoint that there are no economies of scale in this area, no significant economies of scale and therefore no need for a government monopoly, except the stubborn doctrinaire position of the Mines and Natural Resources. That's the only justification, and I remind my honourable friend the First Minister again, that he had better get hold of his party, better exert his control over his party because he's losing it, much to my sorrow and much to his sorrow later on when he finds out the real gouging he's going to get from his radical friends, but my honourable friend doesn't

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd.) seem to think that at the moment. Well, I warn him, the time is approaching very quickly, and better he exert the control over his party, which he can exert at this time because he is the Leader of the party - and, Mr. Speaker, the large number of his colleagues are there by virtue of the Premier. They may not recognize that but that is the fact. -- (Interjection) -- I certainly do. I certainly do. I admit that, that it is by virtue of the Premier that this government is presently in power and by virtue of the Premier that a large number of the backbenchers are in this House now. -- (Interjection) -- My honourable friend can object if he wishes; those are my readings of the facts and I think the people of Manitoba will support me in this position.

So I would urge on my friend the Premier to exert that power which that position gives him. Next election round will be a different story and he will no longer have that same power. -- (interjection) -- Well, my honourable friends can disagree with me; my honourable friends can disagree with me all they wish. I have had the opportunity of observing the political scene in Manitoba for some years now and I'm expressing my opinion. They can disagree, but I would urge strongly on the First Minister a serious reconsideration at this time of the direction which he is taking.

So, Mr. Speaker -- (Interjection) -- Well, my honourable friends may think my analysis is bad; just wait till the G and G group take a little more power. You just wait till the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources gets a few more radicals in this House and then we'll see who's going to rule the roost over there. He's already exerting his muscle, and unfortunately the First Minister has let him go too far in my opinion because I don't think it's in the interests of Manitoba.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that we acted at this point and not simply delay. That is why I have reservations about the amendment as it is. -- (Interjection) -- Certainly.

MR. SCHREYER: My honourable friend usually makes a good analysis of things. Would he care to comment at all on the equally rational analysis made by his colleague of sorts, the present federal Minister without Portfolio, the former Dean of the Saskatchewan Law School, Otto Lang? No doubt the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose has read his analysis in the Law Review periodical on auto insurance?

MR. MOLGAT: No, Mr. Speaker, I regret I have not read what the Honourable Mr. Lang has said on the subject -- (Interjection) -- Well that may be, but I would suggest that Mr. Lang maybe ought to come -- (Interjection) -- That's it. But I would think that Mr. Lang ought to come and spend some time in this House and look at the face of my friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources when these subjects come up and then he might have a different view on the subject -- and listen to the speeches that go on. In fact if he would go back over the record, Mr. Speaker, I could recommend to him some speeches made by the present Minister of Mines and Natural Resources when he used to sit on this side, and these would open his eyes too as to the direction -- (Interjection) -- What speeches? I shall be glad to go back and get my Hansard because I marked them carefully my honourable friend. I made very careful note of them at that time as to what the views of the Minister were, and I submit that those views are not the ones that I believe are in the interests of Manitoba. In fact I said so at that time to my honourable friend. -- (Interjection) -- That may be, and I repeat, you're over there by virtue on one thing and that's your present leader. The luckiest thing that ever happened to your party, my honourable friend, is that you, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources weren't chosen the leader. It was a stroke of luck and a stroke of genius because had that happened, had that happened, my honourable friends would have remained in the Opposition.

However, be that as it may -- (Interjection) -- Well, my honourable friends may not agree with my analysis. That's quite all right, it's a free country. I know what I think and I'm saying so. But what I'm concerned about, Mr. Speaker, is what is really in the interests of Manitoba now, and I submit again that a competitive system would be better, that it would have the advantage of not creating the tremendous disruption in our economy that this will create - the difficulties with, for example, our own Manitoba-based companies, Wawanesa and Portage; it would have the advantage of not giving the impression outside of Manitoba to other people who may want to come here that the government is proceeding on a nationalization basis when it is not required to do so. I think it has every advantage at this point.

I think from a practical standpoint, Mr. Speaker, from the government's own position, that they would have a lot less trouble themselves on the competitive basis, because, Mr. Speaker, one of the difficulties in the auto insurance industry is that it affects people directly.

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd.) They have an accident; they claim; they are unhappy about the claim. Very few people are happy about the results of the claim. It's one of the reasons that they're mad at insurance companies a good part of the time. This way, if they had a choice and they can go from one company to the next, then if they're not happy with one they go to another. If it's only a government-operation, they're going to be mad at the government, and I say now, as a purely practical consideration, if there were great advantages in it I'd be prepared to look at it, but there has been to this point no proof that there are such advantages in the government's monopoly.

Therefore, I say why do it? If you're going to disrupt the province, disrupt the people in the province, disrupt the insurance agents, disrupt the companies that are here, make it more difficult to get other businesses here, unless there's an overwhelming advantage for a government monopoly, then why do it? Let's at least try the competitive route. If it doesn't work out, as I have said, I will support a straight government monopoly if this doesn't work out. I agree that there would have to be a provision, whether it be an assigned risk plan or some other . . . method, whereby all the bad risks couldn't end up in the government operation. This obviously would be unfair. But this is workable and it has been worked before.

So, Mr. Speaker, I wish the government would reconsider that position. I know it's difficult, I quite understand that commitments have been made and so on, and this is why we had hoped that if our motion was in order it would give time for the government to give that reconsideration. It will take some time, in any case, to complete the government's program because the rates aren't established and all the details, so from that standpoint, I would like the government to reconsider.

The second position, Mr. Speaker, I really don't think it is fair to ask members to vote without more details on exactly what the government plan is going to be in any case, and I don't think it is fair for the people of Manitoba. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I think the zones should be set out, the premiums should be set out, the structure should be set out. -- (Interjection) -- Well, whatever the rates are, the rates then. -- (Interjection) -- Well, there's the categories. Mr. Speaker, I've been at a couple of meetings recently with government Ministers, one particularly recently in Dauphin with the Minister of Municipal Affairs - and I have to say it was a very pleasant meeting in fact and I think the Minister will agree it was a good crowd and a very orderly crowd. After it was over with, several people came to me and said, but we don't know any more about it now than we did when we came here, which wasn't I suppose much of a compliment to the Minister or the Member for Roblin or myself who were the guest speakers, but what they were looking for was some details. They said, What's it going to cost us? That's what they wanted to know. They wanted to know what's it going to cost us. They said, How can we judge whether it's good or not? We know what we're paying now but we don't know what we're going to pay under the new plan. Why doesn't the government tell us? This is the real concern of the people there, that they wanted to know what the details of the plan were and there are no details available.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'm not going to repeat the whole of the discussion we've had. I appeal to the First Minister again to reconsider. The bill is not ready for implementation because I don't think the government has all the plans worked out. If it has all the plans worked out, then at least give us that much so that we can make an assessment on the basis of those facts. I don't think that they are worked out and I gather from the Ministers in their comments that they are not and it will be some time down the road before they are. If that is so, then there is no need for the bill to pass immediately. Let the government take it back temporarily, reconsider it, reconsider the competitive aspect, then come back to it.

On this basis I am going to support the amendment as proposed, although I only do it on the basis that the bill would come back to us at the earliest possible time with details and, hopefully, on the competitive basis. I don't think we should keep on shelving the question of auto insurance; it's been shelved for too long. We have to deal with it. I suggested how we feel it should be dealt with. We are supporting this, not because we don't want something done but because we think it can be done in a better way than is presently proposed by the government.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the honourable member a question?

MR. MOLGAT: Certainly.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has said that the most fortunate thing that happened to our party was that I was not selected as leader. Would he also agree that one

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) of the most fortunate things that happened to our party is that he was the Leader of the Liberal Party for the past seven years?

MR. MOLGAT: Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a fair assessment. That's my honourable friend's opinion. I was not the leader, however, at the time of the election. I'm sorry if my comments hurt my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Resources personally.

MR. GREEN: Not at all. Not at all.

MR. MOLGAT: They were not really meant in a personal way. It's not a personal dislike of the individual at all. In fact I find the honourable gentleman a very pleasant individual as an individual; it's his policies that terrify me. It's his views on how the province ought to be run; it's his views on government; it's his attitude of government and people.

MR. GREEN: We've had the answer.

MR. MOLGAT: The honourable gentleman is convinced that government ought to run everything.

MR. GREEN: I never said that.

MR. MOLGAT: The honourable gentleman has the opinion that big business runs every thing now and he'd rather have big government run everything. Mr. Speaker, I don't subscribe to that philosophy and I don't think the bulk of the people in Manitoba do. The bulk of the people in Manitoba want to . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that my question gives the honourable member a choice of making another speech; it has nothing to do with my question.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, the Minister asked me for an assessment of the situation and I am giving him an assessment as to why

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I asked him for an assessment of his own position.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please.

MR. MOLGAT: I take it my honourable friend doesn't like my assessment.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I have reservations in my mind as to the propriety of the question and I doubt very much whether it's that closely related to the motion before the House. The Honourable Member for St. Matthews.

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): He's just been giving the Premier some political advice. I wonder if his opinion, or if in his judgment, considering the results of his past political judgments, whether the Premier would be wise to accept his political advice.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend thinks that that's going to bother me in the least, it doesn't. I may have given bad advice in the past; I may have taken bad advice. I may have made many mistakes. I don't proclaim anything else. That's perfectly proper. I did what I thought was right at all times however, and I can stand up anywhere in this province and defend anything I ever said or did on the basis of that. I may be giving the Minister bad advice now, it's entirely up to him to take it, but I would like to suggest - and I know that it can be difficult to accept on that side of the House - but if they had talked to more people in Manitoba I think they might find that I have a lot of backing for the advice I'm giving.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, before we have the vote, I should probably make a few remarks qualifying my voting on the amendment that is before us. I feel that the government should give consideration to the amendment before us. Why not accept a waiting period? I feel that there is considerable things to gain. In the meantime, they could have second thoughts about it themselves so that they might not proceed after all, because in my opinion we have taken up a lot of time on this bill in this House and were it not for the sake that it is going to be a monopoly and that no competition will be allowed, I don't think the issue would be as large and it would probably be considered a more trivial thing than it is now.

Certainly, as already stated, we've spent so much time debating this bill, whereas we had some departmental estimates go by without any discussion at all. We had the Municipal Affairs Department spending some \$14,700,000 and no discussion; we had the Mines and Natural Resources Department of \$20,491,000 - no discussion; Consumer Protection estimates of \$666,000 - no discussion; Legislation - \$1,429,000; Executive Council - \$2,089,000. All these estimates were passed without receiving proper discussion, and surely enough if we were going to devote the amount of time that we've spent on Bill 56, surely we could have spent some more time on the estimates, discussing the estimates and making sure that the monies are well spent, correctly spent, and spent --(Interjection)-- Yes.

MR. USKIW: Is the member suggesting that we should alter the rules of the House to extend the hours of debate on estimates?

MR. FROESE: I would certainly approve of this. I have always taken this stand in committee, when the rules committee met, that this should be the case, that we should not have a limitation of 80 hours on estimates. I certainly would abide by that and I certainly would have spoken on some of the estimates that we left untouched.

There is another matter. If the Bill was hoisted and a further delay was made, the government would have time to prepare their regulations and bring forth the regulations. This is what we need in the bill; this is what we would as members of the House like to know. Certainly they took the same position when it came to the Revenue Bill or the sales tax bill a few years ago. They appealed to the government time and again to bring forth the regulations, and if they didn't believe it at that time, if they didn't believe in it, then the whole thing was a farce that they did. On the other hand, if they did believe it, surely enough they should give consideration to bringing forth the regulations at this time before we deal with the bill in committee so that honourable members would have a greater knowledge of what the bill and what the new corporation will be like and what we can expect from it in the future. --(Interjection)-- Yes.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I think that the member is mentioning an important matter and I would like to know whether he is advocating the bringing forward of regulations prior to the passage of an Act, if he's advocating this as a universal practice to be followed by parliaments in the future or just with respect to this particular bill.

MR. FROESE: I certainly would think that it should apply to all the Crown corporations that we set up.

MR. GREEN: Would the honourable member permit another question?

MR. FROESE: ... if I answer him probably a little more fully. Members will know at the time we discussed the Revenue Bill that if we had not had the regulations, which were eventually produced at that time, that we would not have been able to bring forth certain amendments the way we would have, had we not known what the regulations contained. I am sure if the regulations were made available we could give better judgment to some of the propositions that we will be making in committee as far as amending the present bill.

MR. GREEN: Would the honourable member not agree that the regulations that were shown to the House could be amended by the Cabinet the following week?

MR. FROESE: Sure, that's the prerogative of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, of Cabinet.

MR. GREEN: What's the point?

MR. FROESE: What's the point? Well, what's the point of us making the laws? I'm sure that the regulations have to be within the laws of the statute that we are passing, so that if there were any changes made in the regulations they would still have to be governed by the Act itself. --(interjection)-- Yeah, we got them, we got them before the -- well, I'll check it, and if I'm wrong I'm certainly going to admit it because it's not that I want to take the wrong attitude at all.

There are many other matters that I think should receive attention and priority to the bill that is before us. We have discussed it in the House, we have discussed the farm situation at

MR. FROESE cont'd.) noon today by questioning the government, and certainly this matter should receive its proper attention at this time because the situation is growing worse day by day, and as has been pointed out, many farmers will be without an income this year as a result. I think we should devote the proper time, and because of the happenings that have happened during the latter part of the session, our agricultural estimates were passed quite a while ago and since then we have had occurrences which in my opinion deserve that the matter be re-discussed or that we take action accordingly. Then certainly the road system has been mentioned here, the provincial roads. Time and again this has come up. Surely enough we could have further discussion in that regard.

But, Mr. Speaker, coming back to the motion before us to hoist the bill, I feel, as I pointed out yesterday, that this is only the beginning, that there are more things to come, more corporations will follow this one. There is a bill on the Order Paper, the Development Corporation Act. I haven't seen the bill yet but no doubt this is another corporation for development purposes. What kind of power it is going to get I don't know at the present time, but as I pointed out when speaking on Bill 17, every time we set up such a board we delegate large powers to the boards of these corporations which actually remove certain powers from the Legislative Assembly as a result. And this happens to the --(interjection)-- certainly, I don't subscribe to all the powers that we are giving to certain corporations under the Companies Act. I think there should be a revision. I don't go along completely with what's in that Act. So just because we have certain other statutes on the books, that doesn't mean that I have to go along with what's there.

No doubt there will be political reaction to the bill or to the corporation once it is set up and to the things that are being done by the corporation. You mentioned the matter of reducing the insurance premiums to young drivers. This has been also the case with the P. C. plan, that they were going to subsidize the young drivers who will have a good record, who have a good record and will continue having a good record. I think the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources - was it yesterday when he indicated that this could be done with their plan just as well? I wouldn't be one bit surprised if that happened to draw the voters. This can be done in various ways and I won't criticize him for doing it, because I would be advocating that we should not be penalizing the young driver who has not had an accident, who is not at fault. I think we should work in reverse and make or give incentives to those people that are good drivers and are making an effort along that line. Well, if the Corporation is being set up, then naturally the corporation will have to do it.

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member submit to a question, Mr. Speaker?

MR. FROESE: . . . set the policy I take it for the corporation.

MR. USKIW: Would he not agree if the insurance company took a very sizeable premium and the individual in question didn't have an accident, that the insurance company should give the subsidy?

MR. FROESE: Well, if the insurance companies were to remain in operation, certainly they could reduce the premium. There is no reason why they couldn't do it and I would think that that would be a wise thing to follow. Let's shelve the bill and let's ask them to do that very thing. I'm sure that we can make improvements in the present system and this would be one way of doing it.

A MEMBER: Make sure they give farmers low rates too.

MR. FROESE: Well, there is another area where I feel that the regulations should be brought in so that we would know what is going to happen in that way, because as has been pointed out on previous occasions, wherever you have a concentration of a large number of cars such as in the City of Winnipeg, you automatically have more accidents and that's where your rates are going to be higher. If you are just going to average it out right across the province, this means that the farming community will have to subsidize the people living in the City of Winnipeg in auto insurance rates.

MR. SCHREYER: Would the member permit an observation for his information? I'll put it in the form of a question in order to remain within the rules, Mr. Speaker. Is the member not aware that we have said time and time again that there would be a two zone or two territory zone system in application, so that the very point - at least two and possibly three - so that the very point the honourable member is making has been anticipated.

MR. FROESE: Well, I thank the Honourable First Minister for that but we don't know what the zones are going to be --(interjection)-- The Minister of Agriculture says North Winnipeg and South Winnipeg. Well you extend a large part of the rural block to south Winnipeg and

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) another large block to the north. --(Interjection)-- If you can bring about the results that you did in crop insurance that's pretty good, but you must remember that where you brought hail insurance into the crop program that those very crops were already insured and that all you did was you brought in a different system as far as hail is concerned, so that any losses that would result from hail would come from the top down and not from the bottom up. That's about the only difference there is in the two, and for that you are now getting an extra premium through hail insurance coverage.

I feel we are getting too many Crown corporations. We've been adding on to them year after year. Since I have been in the House we have had any number of Crown corporations being set up, not only by this government but by the previous government, and I feel that too much of our economy is presently depending on the Crown corporations. When we take a look at some of the federal Crown corporations such as the Canadian Wheat Board, it actually sets the amount of money that the prairie provinces, the farmers in the prairie provinces will get in a certain given year, because they know the number of bushels that they are going to authorize that can be delivered, they set the price and so that's it, that's the amount of money that the farming people will get in the prairie provinces. --(Interjection)-- I would like to see floor prices and have it on the open market. Yes, and have floor prices, then I am sure we wouldn't be building up the surpluses that we have been building up in Canada.

The matter of driving a car itself, if I understand correctly, the premiums will be tied in with the driver's licence and that it will be one transaction at the time that you purchase your licence. I feel that driving is a right; it's not a privilege, it's a right. I feel that anyone in this country should have the right to drive a car. This doesn't mean that he shouldn't learn how to drive a car first, but certainly he should have the right to drive a car, unless he's blind or he has any other shortcoming. --(Interjection)-- Sure I'm serious. It's a right; it should not be dependent on the price tag of an insurance policy that should keep him from driving. He should retain the right to drive an automobile in this country. --(Interjection)-- Well, there again without insurance we have many people of means who would set a bond, and this has happened over the years, so that these people will take care of themselves. Those other people that feel that they need insurance, they will get the insurance and I think it should be voluntary. The system that we have been operating under, I think the system is good. Why change it? If we can improve it, let's improve it, but let's not throw it out altogether.

MR. GREEN: . . . automobile insurance program enacted by the Social Credit Government in British Columbia?

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. I have some serious reservations about this type of question which has been continuing for some time, particularly questions which suggest their own answer. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, in that case then I'll just proceed. I do not have too much more to say, although I feel that by bringing about automobile insurance and Crown corporations, it's changing our way of life, and it also means that as time goes on there'll be a change in the sense of values. And when I speak of that surely enough we know that if those people that work for Crown corporations, that work for government, they will not have the opportunity to develop as some other people who will start out on their own. Then too, we need people with initiative; we need people to go in business for themselves such as the insurance agents have done, the private insurance companies. We need more of these people in Canada and especially in Manitoba to bring about more industry, more development and if we are going to start creating Crown corporations, monopolizing these industries and giving them to the government, we're removing the purpose of these people, that what's the use of starting out, building an industry, developing it only to have it taken over by the government. This is going to reflect on the people of this province when we start taking them over as the government and making Crown corporations of them left and right.

I don't think it will remain with the auto insurance industry alone. We will find other ways and other areas where this is going to happen because we've seen it in Saskatchewan. I mentioned it yesterday, the matter of building the roads. Why can't the government have a Crown corporation doing the road building in Manitoba? So this is probably an area that will come next and certainly wherever the government is spending large amounts of money, in those departments, that's where the -- well the reason that those areas should be done first. I know that it's a very risky business because I know too many road building firms that have gone broke and if there ever is an area of bankruptcy it's in the road building companies that go bankrupt.

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)..... I've seen too many of them go.

As already mentioned, removing the purpose and stifling initiative, I think this is going to come about. I think if it's not already there certainly if we're going to take over more of industry and more of the development in this province by the Crown that you will find that people will have less initiative, will do less on their own and I feel this is a wrong course to take as the people of this province. And at the same time I think we're destroying a certain confidence of the people that are there in business today and this is a thing we should watch very carefully, we should not treat lightly; we should give it every consideration.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I don't feel there is the urgency for this bill to proceed. I feel that we should give consideration to the amendment before us that the matter be delayed and I do hope that the government will do accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment?

..... Continued on next page.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I'm only going to be on my feet for a few minutes. I see this has unanimous consent of the House. In all probability we would not be here today if it hadn't have been for Bill 56 because I think both sides of this House have been hung up on it. But on the other hand, by the time that it has taken government to bring in the last of the bills, I suppose 56 has been a saviour for them because it has given them time to get their legislation ready.

I think definitely that this government should be taking a look at the alternative offered by the Leader of the Opposition in respect to many of the parts of the program in which he introduced into this House. Certainly because one party are in power is no reason to say that they have all the brains in this House. -- (Interjection) -- I heard that. From people such as the Minister of Transportation as he has just said it when I sat with the Conservative Government on this side of the House, we heard it many times and particularly by the New Democratic Party. So they admit it, that just because you sat on the government side of the House you didn't have all the brains nor did you have all the ideas. But it would appear that Manitoba and the New Democratic Party, they are hung up on Bill 56. They're determined to go ahead. The interest, the time and the money that they have caused to be spent on this bill up to date, up to date, is more than -- so far as I'm concerned -- the bill is worth as it now sits in this House.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I am parochial in my thinking but if the government had taken the money that they are going to spend in bringing this bill into force and the investment that they are going to spend in cars, taking over the white elephant of Winnipeg, City of Winnipeg down here, remodelling it -- it'll be, what will it be? The Pawley Insurance Building? I suppose, I don't know. But I would presume that if it isn't half-filled with insurance then the insurance will be in some other building in which it will be taking up the equivalent in space. There's the cars and everything else. It's not going to pay its own way, not from a running start. But there are a lot of other things, Mr. Speaker, if they had a priority that they could have spent the time and the money and the interest in in Northern Manitoba. -- (Interjection) -- The money? The money to buy buildings, the money to set up offices, the money to buy 70 some-odd cars. -- (Interjection) -- You're going to buy them and you're going to buy them for an insurance program and anything the government gets into costs money and government is getting bigger all the time. It just doesn't have to get bigger because the budget gets bigger; it's because the fact that they want to get into more and more of the people's lives and once you get into the people's lives, you get into their pockets too and this costs money.

But the time bothers me. You could be spending it so much more wisely. There's many other ways of spending time rather than trying to get into something that is already established in the Manitoba community. There's been alternatives given here before you committed yourself to this compulsory government plan that would drive out industry. -- (Interjection) -- Compulsory insurance, not compulsory government insurance. Have a competitive insurance plan if you want but everytime and I said -- don't forget Mr. Attorney-General that I sat on this side of the House for many more years than you did and every time that a Minister brought in something it had to be compulsory as far as he was concerned if it was going to be good. And in those cases they found that many members of that party said no, and in one I can say the Member for Brandon, Mr. Lissaman, always said that if it had to be compulsory it was not good, it was not good. He said that if you can't do it by yourselves in competition, then stay out of it. -- (Interjection) -- He had a very open mind, a much more open mind than the Member for St. Matthews because he's tied in, hung up on Bill 56.

I think that really we're getting a snow job here. The 10 to 15 percent they offer is the incentive to buy a government compulsory insurance program. Ten to fifteen percent reduction in administration costs, this is going to be passed on to the general public. If you take your car -- and I don't know what it's going to cost you to drive it a year -- but take a Minister's car that's doing maybe 40,000 miles in a year, take the cost of that car and divide it into the \$20.00 or the \$25.00 that you're going to save on this type of a program and you'll find that it is very minute in as far as the total over-all cost of operating a car on a year-round basis whether it be a Volkswagen or whether it be a Cadillac. -- (Interjection) -- I can't prove they save money in Saskatchewan, I don't go there but I can say to you that the money, any money -- tell me the money that you're going to save and divide it, divide the cost of your car into that and find out, tell the people just how much they're going to save because out of this you're driving

(MR. BEARD cont'd.) out a pool of money which has been here to invest in bonds, debentures, etc., in the Province of Manitoba, and unfortunately I didn't bring it today, but in 40 companies they invested more last year in the Province of Manitoba than they collected in premiums. They invested this money in bonds, municipal bonds, I believe there was school debentures, taxes; all those things are lost, all those things are lost but the public is not saving that kind of money.

When the public look at it and find out what percentage they saved in respect to their operating costs of the car on a year-round basis, they will find that they are not that much further ahead, if any, and I of course have my doubts that they will be any further ahead. But I'll leave that for you people to prove, because I think you'll have a lot of proving to do. We're skeptical on it but you apparently have enough of a vote to ram it through the House and this is fine and dandy but as it's voted, you'll all have to account for it in a year or two years from now and we who vote against it will have to defend the point that we took in defending the rights of companies that have been established here for many years and I think this is fair, I think it's fair. -- (Interjection) -- Sometimes histories take so long that we're dead and gone by that time -- (Interjection) -- I hope so but you really drive me to frustration when you come in with these types of things.

I shouldn't really be on my feet today because I think that the Member for Ste. Rose really summed it up so nicely that, not taking away from the Member for Rhineland, but if he and I had left it the way the Member for Ste. Rose had placed it, I think he placed our case nicely as could have been done. He has said what we are trying to stumble around saying and I believe that all in all that the government have unfortunately made a decision to make what could be their first mistake. Up until now, I haven't been too unhappy. -- (Interjection) -- Second mistake? You made two?

A MEMBER: Yes.

MR. BEARD: What was the first mistake? If you've got some hidden mistakes they're normal for political parties. I suppose we all have them.

Mr. Speaker, I can't waver from Bill 56. I haven't got anything more to say really except that as far as I'm concerned they're not such a bad bunch of fellows on this side except they're hung up on Bill 56 and that's what happened with a fellow by the name of Riel, he got hung up on something and history records that he made a mistake.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. PAWLEY: Would the honourable member submit to a question? Is the honourable member aware that motorists in Lynn Lake and Churchill and in his constituency pay one of the highest rates in the Province of Manitoba for car insurance presently?

MR. BEARD: Yes, I realize that the expenses are high. In fact they're high in Grand Rapids but I'll answer it by the answer that the Honourable Minister of Finance gives. He says that he wouldn't answer questions that were glibly asked.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): I wonder if the honourable member would submit to another question. Early in his speech, the honourable member was mentioning or talking of a figure of 70 cars. Are you suggesting that these cars have already been bought by the government?

MR. BEARD: Is that question from an agent or . . . I have an understanding from out in the hallways that there have been 70 some odd cars plus 2 half tone trucks that have been bought with no trade-ins.

MR. SCHREYER: In order for the honourable member to have an opportunity to keep the record straight, may I ask him this: Is he aware that the number of cars bought normally in a given year is about that number, and has nothing to do really with whether or not there is going to be an additional department established.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the amendment lost.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Ayes and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS: Messrs. Barkman, Beard, Bilton, Claydon, Craik, Einarson, Enns, Ferguson, Froese, Girard, Graham, Hardy, Henderson, Johnston (Portage la Prairie), Johnston (Sturgeon Creek), Jorgenson, McGill, McGregor, McKellar, McKenzie, Molgat, Moug, Patrick, Sherman, Spivak, Watt, Weir and Mrs. Trueman.

(STANDING VOTE cont'd.)

NAYS: Messrs. Allard, Barrow, Borowski, Boyce, Burtniak, Cherniack, Desjardins, Doern, Evans, Fox, Gonick, Gottfried, Green, Jenkins, Johannson, McBryde, Mackling, Malinowski, Miller, Paulley, Pawley, Petursson, Schreyer, Shafransky, Toupin, Turnbull, Uskiw and Uruski.

MR. CLERK: Yeas, 28; Nays, 28.

MR. SPEAKER: I choose to vote in opposition to the amendment, and I do so to avoid the least imputation on my impartiality and in the manner not to make the decision of the House final and to leave the House another opportunity to study the question. Are you ready for the question on the main motion?

The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I think that at this point, since no one else is apparently wishing to speak, that it behooves me to say a few words with respect to Bill 56. May I say at the beginning that I've listened with interest to most of the speakers that have taken part in the debate on Bill 56, and I have gone to the trouble of having compiled, under separate attachment, the pages of Hansard recording the remarks of those that participated in the debate.

I'm not saying that all who spoke have not contributed something worthwhile that tends to bring about a better understanding of the problem that faces us in respect of Bill 56, but I also must say, and I must say it with all the emphasis I can muster, that there has been a good deal said that doesn't make sense, that is drivel. Much has been said in a way that has been far from being dispassionate, has been said in a way that can only conjure up a most great emotional feeling. There's been great exaggeration and I must say that the Honourable Member for Fort Garry will probably stand out for a long time as one who has so couched his words in this debate as to put the most inflammatory and even despicable connotation on what could be interpreted from this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is not as though what we are proposing here is without precedent in British parliamentary history. There are in other places in the British Commonwealth, there are examples of plans, auto insurance plans in operation, operating in much the same way as what is proposed in this legislation, and I challenge the Honourable Member for Fort Garry or anyone else and say that liberty or freedom, however one wants to put it, is any less to be seen in New South Wales or New Zealand or the Province of Saskatchewan than it would be here after this bill becomes implemented.

Is there anyone here would suggest for one split second that liberty of the individual, that freedom of expression, that freedom of enterprise is any less to be seen, any less meaningful, in the places I have just mentioned than they are here or than they will be here. So talk about liberty dying a little, to suggest that freedom of the individual and of enterprise is somehow being done a death blow here is unworthy of the honourable member, and I've heard him before. I've heard him speak here before and in the House of Commons. I can't say that I agreed with him at all times, but I felt that he did approach problems of public policy with a much more calm and dispassionate mind and objectivity than he demonstrated in this Chamber when he spoke, unfortunately when he spoke a few weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, there has been much said as to whether or not this government has a mandate to introduce legislation of this kind. Now instead of wasting honourable members' time and yours and mine by dealing in vague generalities, I would like to bring to the attention of honourable members the result of some research done on the question of previous election results in Manitoba. I want to actually have honourable members consider actual past election results. In 1953, 1958, 1966, provincial elections were held at which time the party forming the government received, in terms of percentage of the votes cast and in terms of percentage of total votes eligible, a percentage very very close to what was received by the governing party at last June's election. Now why is it, Mr. Speaker, that all of a sudden the argument is put forward that we do not have a sufficient mandate, when that was never suggested in the aftermath of the elections of 1953 and '58 and '66? Did anyone here in this Assembly argue on the other side in the aftermath of the 1966 election, that the Roblin administration did not have a sufficient mandate to introduce legislation? Did anyone suggest that? That being so, I must ask why anyone would have the temerity to suggest that this government has less of a mandate with respect to the popular vote, the percentage of votes cast and the like than these governments of 1953, '58, '59 and '66, '69 because what are they? These are the percentages by the winning party. In 1953, the percentage won by the Liberal Party at that time was 38.8,

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) percentage of total eligible votes, 23.45. In 1958 the percentage won by the Conservative Party, 40.22; percentage of total votes of total electors, 25.54; 1966, the Conservative administration won 39.71 percent of the votes cast; in terms of percentage of total electors, 25.53; in 1969, this government won 38.07; in terms of percentage of total electors, 24.48. And so at most there is a differential of one percent.

Now I want to, in order to provide more information — (Interjection) — no, just at the moment, please. Let's look at the federal scene. In 1962 the government that emerged after that election, June 1962 obtained 37 percent of the votes cast, and 29.23 percentage of total electors. In 1965 the Pearson administration elected with 39 percent of the votes, and that is the administration, Mr. Speaker, that introduced Medicare, that introduced the Canada Pension Plan, that introduced a number of rather wide-ranging universal comprehensive social programs of one kind or another, and it did so with a percentage of the votes cast that was almost identical to that received by this administration. So that I think that it is illogical for anyone to suggest that in some significant way the mandate that we have is any less practical terms than the mandate that was received by a number of previous administrations in this province.

Mr. Speaker, leaving that question aside, and it's been suggested that we are as a government being callous because we see fit to introduce a program that will have some dislocative effects on a number of people working in the insurance industry. Mr. Speaker, I must say that this is a question that I have had to confront and it has been perhaps the only significant, the only difficult aspect of this matter that I have had to contend with. I want to assure the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose that while I do not have any dogmatic attitudes relative to the question of public or private enterprise, nevertheless I have felt confident all along that taking the underwriting of risk in automobile insurance into the public sector was something that was right, was something which experience had demonstrated in other jurisdictions could be done well. But the one significant problem that I felt had to be overcome was that relating to the dislocation that might be suffered by those individuals who were heavily, if not wholly, dependent on the auto insurance industry for their livelihood and I intend to say something about that just a little later.

But I want to ask honourable members since we are on this question of dislocation of individuals, how often in human history have there been episodes where not just one or two or two hundred or three hundred but thousands and tens of thousands of people have been put to dislocation because of the changing face of the economy of technology and the like? What system of government, if I may wax philosophical for just a few minutes, what system of government that man has yet been able to conceive of, has been able to avoid the problem that arises when new inventions and techniques come up? They have so much argument going for them as to why they should be adopted and implemented, that they, when implemented, cause dislocation to large numbers of people, and what system of government yet devised by man has been able to deal with this problem in any perfect way? We know that private enterprise in its *laissez-faire* sense has been responsible for great human suffering. It's only in the twentieth century when private enterprise has been modified by social democratic philosophy and ideals that human suffering has been reduced. The experience of the western world since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution starting back in the Seventeenth Century, and I dare say even before, has been a history where large numbers of people have been not only caused dislocation but have been put into abject misery and suffering because of the application of *laissez-faire* political thought to the operation of the economies of countries.

Then on the other extreme we have since 1917 Communism where, in pursuit of an ideal, dictators have seen fit to butcher millions of people, where in pursuit of capital formation, dictators haven't cared at all about the fate of whole generations and that's been in the broad sweep, Mr. Speaker, the story of the past 200 years. Two extreme systems: *Laissez-faire* on the one hand, Communism on the other. *Laissez-faire*, which said that the profit motive unmodified by any concern for human dislocation, was perhaps the right way. The other hand, Communism which in pursuit of immediate capital formation for the glory and benefit of the State, generations or at least many tens of thousands, if not millions of people made to suffer in pursuit.

I don't want to digress too far, Mr. Speaker, the point I'm making here and I'm reminded by the way about the episode of the Luddites in the Industrial Revolution. There were those people who thought that no invention, no discovery, no better way of doing things should be adopted if it meant — even if it meant only the temporary dislocation and loss of jobs and so

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) what did they do? They took out their axes and they put new machinery to the axe, broke it up because they feared job displacement. Well, that could hardly be tolerated. I don't think that the human family wants a state of affairs where new and better ways of doing things are not adopted because of temporary problems and dislocations. What must be done is for society as a whole to adopt programs and policies which will be such that new and better ways of doing things will be adopted and at the same time those who are adversely affected and dislocated can receive the benefits of transitional assistance. It's only in the last decade or perhaps two, that we have really made any significant progress with respect to working out public programs of assistance to those who suffer as a result of technological or administrative changes or changes of any kind which are adopted because they work to the benefit of the general community. If a certain way of doing something works for the greater benefit of the general community, why should it not be adopted providing those immediate persons who are adversely affected can be given the benefits of some form of transitional adjustment grants and programs of assistance. This is the concept that has guided us with respect to the problems associated with the implementation of a public auto insurance corporation and which I will deal with in more detail at the appropriate time.

I want to deal now with some of the things that have been said about the auto insurance plan itself. If one were to believe the Opposition and the private insurance spokesmen, one would assume that there was nothing good at all about the proposed plan that we have put forward. It would be, many members opposite have claimed, have argued, that our proposal will result in more expensive auto insurance, it'll be slower, more red tape, more cumbersome, the coverage will not be broad enough. Mr. Speaker, after starting with the almost totally negative criticism of the Opposition, it was rather interesting to see the strategy that was adopted last week. The Leader of the Opposition, perhaps sensing that they were not getting too far with their totally negative attitude towards our proposal to change our system of auto insurance service, come forward with a great deal of fuss and fanfare with a plan of his own, the so-called PC Plan, people and cars plan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not one who has ever - I don't believe I have ever used the expression here - Why didn't you do it when? I know a federal politician in Canada who has used that expression a number of times. — (Interjection) — No, I wasn't thinking of the Member for Morris; I was thinking, in fact, of the former Prime Minister who in many ways may have been justified for using that expression. But the fact is he used it a good deal in chastising the previous government before his and his favourite expression was, Why didn't you do this and this when, when you were the government? I've not used that expression, but in this case, in this isolated case I believe that I would be justified in looking across at my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, and asking him, Why didn't you do it when? Now he had a partial answer for that kind of question for someone else in these benches did use that question the other day. And the Leader of the Opposition replied that there are so many things, there are such a multiplicity of problems that press in on a government of the day that it is virtually impossible for a government to cope with all of them and I can appreciate that. But in this case, surely even the Leader of the Opposition will have to admit that it is the problem of automobile insurance, the many problems being seen within that industry and in the providing of service to the motoring public is something that had been brought to the attention of the previous government in a very specific and direct way so they can hardly say that they were not made aware of it.

I've been here since 1958 and my colleague, the Minister of Labour has been in this Assembly since 1953 and while I couldn't swear to it, I dare say that for at least the past ten years, if not every year, almost every year, there have been formal resolutions moved in this Assembly bearing on the question of automobile insurance. Finally in 1966 a committee of this Assembly was struck off to look into the question of automobile insurance. I don't know how many times the committee met in 1966 or 1967 but I am quite sure it wasn't called for very many meetings. Whether it was or not, the fact remains that no specific proposals were brought forward. I believe that is an accurate assessment. Whether any specific proposals were recommended by that committee or not, the fact is that the previous administration didn't adopt any of them, if there were any. So that is how we carried on through the entire decade of the 1960's with no substantive changes to our automobile insurance law or system.

At the same time there has been mounting dissatisfaction with the way in which it operates. And if this is not so, tell me why it is that in so many jurisdictions on this continent,

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) commissions of enquiry, committees of enquiry, royal commissions, presidentially appointed special investigators have been appointed to delve into the problems within the automobile insurance industry. A royal commission in British Columbia, a State Commission in New York and Pennsylvania and California, a presidentially appointed commission in the United States operating at this moment, the Secretary of Transportation, John Volpe in the United States appointed by the President to give priority of investigation to the automobile industry. Or is the industry operating the way one has a right to expect it to or the way one would hope that it would? Lest there be any doubt about the matter, let me just add one more bibliography to the many commission reports that have been tabled in recent years. In this month's issue of the Consumer Report published, by the way, in Washington, D. C. not anywhere close to the battle scene here, there is a feature article bearing on automobile insurance and it shows pretty clearly that there is need for bold experimentation and innovation in that industry and that is precisely what we are doing here.

But every important change is painful. It's painful to somebody. And all we hope to do and all we have an obligation to do is to ameliorate the dislocation in the best possible way. But I can think of no worthwhile reform that has ever taken place over the course of history, that has taken place without opposition and concerted opposition at that from certain select groups. I'm not blaming them particularly because if they are very directly and intimately involved they have a position to protect, and so they protect them. What is so unnatural about that and what is so despicable about it? Nothing. But it certainly is incumbent upon government to work toward programs that work to the general advantage of the public.

I want to say to honourable members, in case there is any doubt in any of their minds, that I have not been forced into the position we're in on this issue, because I have been of the view for many long years that the automobile insurance plan that is in operation in Saskatchewan is one that has worked well and to the general advantage of the public of that province. Of course it has been suggested to me by some of my friends opposite - I hope I still have some friends opposite - and it has been suggested to me by some people in the automobile insurance industry that the Saskatchewan Plan isn't all that good, that it has certain weaknesses. Well I accept that it is something less than perfect. I know of no human creation that is perfect, but I just smile to myself when anyone would try to suggest that with taking its imperfections into account, that the Saskatchewan program works less well than what we have here or in Ontario or in some of the other provinces. In my mind there is no doubt at all, just no doubt whatsoever that there is greater efficiency of operation because of the inherent nature of the insurance plan in effect there and I know that his analysis has been invoked in debate here already, but I do so once again in order to try and get some kind of rational reaction from the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and Portage la Prairie and Souris-Killarney.

I refer again to the analysis that was published in a law journal by the present Federal Minister without portfolio from Saskatchewan, former Dean of the Saskatchewan Law School, who said in so many words - it can be paraphrased in a very few words, that because of the very nature of the plan, that it was possible to realize savings in providing auto insurance service to the people of Saskatchewan that is impossible to do in other provinces at the same price. But despite that, honourable members still wish to challenge the basic figure being put forward that under a public plan it should be possible to provide the basic insurance coverage in such a way that 85 percent of the premium dollar is returned back in claim settlement; that only approximately 15 percent - and by the way last year it was 13 percent - is diverted into non-productive purposes - I say non-productive in the sense that it doesn't go towards the purpose it's originally all about and that is to settle claims - 15 percent or so goes into miscellaneous general operating expenses. They don't accept that; they don't accept that, despite the fact that two successive governments in Saskatchewan have given us the signed annual reports to that effect and they have been vouched to by auditors. Now if all this be just a game and if Honourable Ministers of the Crown in that other province are signing false documents let honourable members say so.

If chartered accountant firms are vouching for the accuracy of records in a way that is not accurate or truthful, let honourable members say so. But I accept that as being the correct range of figures. May I say furthermore that in the other jurisdictions where they have a similar kind of auto insurance program - and I refer to New South Wales in New Zealand where they have compulsory third party liability - the ratio of premium dollar to general expenses is more or less the same as it is in the Saskatchewan program. So that further attests in my view to the accuracy of the figure that 85 percent of the

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) premium dollar in a public plan can go towards settlement of claims which is approximately half of the case in our present mode of auto insurance operation here.

So here's where there is one area of significant saving. It is not the only one. There are others. The fact that there'll be less litigation costs if we start introducing no-fault features into insurance coverage, litigation costs decrease. That should bring about additional savings. There can no doubt be some savings in adjustment costs as well. All of it, taken in its totality, Mr. Speaker, in it aggregate, leads us to believe with all of the conviction that it is possible to muster that the public, the motoring public of Manitoba, under the plan we propose, there should be average savings of 15 percent; there may be more but we say at least 15 percent in its total operation.

Because we believe this to be the fact, the die is cast; we have no alternative but to proceed with the program. We may ultimately be proven wrong but I doubt it very much and in any case, Mr. Speaker, it is not arrogance but rather conviction that motivates us to proceed with the legislation. If honourable members would argue that it is necessary in our time to have compulsory automobile insurance, to have insurance as a condition of driving and of registration of a vehicle, then it is incumbent on the state that is making it compulsory, it follows that it is incumbent on the state to make sure that that consumer who is required by law to have insurance is able to get it at the lowest possible cost and I cannot say otherwise but that it is available at the lowest possible cost under the kind of arrangement and program that has been in effect in Saskatchewan for the past two decades. We have the experience to show us that this is the way to effect the greatest possible saving.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have dealt with the program that was brought forward by the Leader of the Opposition just a few days ago, his people and car plan, and he brings it forward, as I said, after 11 years in office and after two months of debating the new government's plan, this province's Conservative Party finally develops a position on auto insurance. And to the surprise of many, some of the points that had been criticized under the government plan had all of a sudden become virtues under the Conservative plan. The basic government plan will call for \$200 or an option of \$100 collision deductible. Now this was initially criticized because that amount of deductible meant that extra coverage would be desired by quite a number of motorists to reduce the deductible to \$50.00 or \$25.00 deductible all-perils, whichever their desire was.

Now the basic Conservative plan calls for no property damage covers at all, so that excess coverage becomes necessary to reduce the deductible to any amount, even \$200. Now under this people and car plan that my friend the Leader of the Opposition brings forward, the \$300 immunity feature, it will be necessary to go for extra coverage in order to get the deductible down to even 200 or 100 or 50 and there'll be substantial extra premium cost there. The Opposition has claimed that the government plan would cost more even though agents' commissions, unnecessary duplication of service and effort would be substantially reduced. So they propose a plan that retains agents' commissions and duplications and claims it will cost somehow less. If it does, it's because the amount of coverage being provided a motorist is less. So what's so great about that? Of course the cost can be reduced if the coverage is reduced, it's about as simple as that.

I say again, Mr. Speaker, that the proposal we are putting forward will save money for most drivers in Manitoba while they will be receiving the same coverage that they are now buying. Lower cost for equivalent coverage. I put that forward and I put it forward as a full assertion. The Conservative plan, I'm advised, recognizes the no-fault principle for personal injury compensation; so does the government proposal. So at least there is agreement on this one important step forward. But there are substantial differences in a number of key areas and these are worth examining briefly.

Let us look first at the proposed property damage provisions. The Conservative Plan calls for a \$300 immunity clause but leaves all property damage coverage optional. The government plan will provide either a \$200 or a \$100 deductible and coverage up to that. So I think it's fair to compare these two ideas but let's compare them fairly, not the way the Conservatives have been doing it by assuming that the motorist will not buy excess coverage under the government plan but yet it would be prepared to do so under their plan. Let's make two simple comparisons, both involving collision. In the first case let's assume that the motorist would buy either the basic Conservative plan or the basic plan we are proposing with no excess

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) coverage. In the case of a collision with \$300 damage to each car, this is what would happen. Under the Conservative plan both drivers would have to pay their own damages. The driver who was not at fault would have no right of recovery against the negligent driver. Under the government plan, under the plan we are putting forward, whether it be \$200 deductible or \$100 deductible, the amount over that amount would be paid to each driver automatically. In addition, the liability insurance would cover the first \$200 or \$100 of damages for the driver who wasn't at fault. Only the driver who caused the accident would be out of pocket.

A second example would involve the same accident but where the drivers had purchased \$50.00 deductible additional coverage. Under both plans we are talking about, the drivers would receive full payment for damages, less the deductible amounts. But under the government proposals, the motorist who was not at fault could still recover the \$50.00 as well and under the Conservative Plan he could not. Both the plan proposed by my honourable friends opposite and the proposals that we are putting forward provide that a motorist may purchase additional insurance but even here there is a major difference, because under the government plan, the additional premium costs for collision insurance would be less because the private insurer would only incur losses when the insured vehicle is at fault. Under the plan being put forward by my honourable friends, the collision insurer would incur a loss in every case and would not have the right of subrogation to recover against the negligent motorist for the first \$300 of loss because of that immunity feature.

In Manitoba approximately 75 percent of the accidents, my information tells me, approximately 75 percent of accidents involve two or more vehicles. In such cases, one or the other motorist or both would be at fault and therefore on the average, an insurer would expect to recover in half of these accidents or in 37-1/2 percent of the claims. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the cost of the additional collision insurance for those motorists who desire it would be 37-1/2 percent more under the Conservative plan than under the proposal that we are putting forward. The difference would be even greater because the motorist would require coverage in excess of \$300 up to the full value of his automobile under the plan being put forward by my honourable friends.

Mr. Speaker, another feature of the Conservative plan is the suggestion that the government pay \$100 a year for two years to those who are new drivers presumably just starting to drive at age 16, 17, with clear driving records. Now this is a kind of proposal which appears to have considerable merit to it but it is necessary to ask this question: What is the present practice? What is the present practice in the private automobile insurance system that we have, with respect to those young drivers 16, 17, 18 years of age? I'm told that actuarially there is no justification for charging them the same rate of premium as those who are 20, 21, 22, 23 years old, the latter group having driven a few years, a greater actuarial experience of accidents per thousands in that age category and the likes. Because the actuarial data would indicate higher risk, premiums are higher; I can understand that, Mr. Speaker. But the 16, 17, 18 year olds with no driving record, no accident record being charged premiums, obviously can't be on the basis of actuarial data; it must be on the basis of arbitrary judgement. As everyone knows, this age group do pay very high premiums so I can sympathize with the suggestion that there be some form of incentive, whether you call it an incentive or a reduction in premiums to make it more in line with actuarial data, I really don't care either way. What there is agreement on is that this particular age group should have some relief with respect to the insurance premiums that they are expected to pay. I think it's important to justify just why this relief should be provided in the form of subsidy from the Crown in the form of \$100 grants to these young people or whether they should be provided this incentive or relief in the form of premiums about \$100 less and a little closer to what they should be in the light of actuarial experience.

I find it ironic that we should have the concept put before us of subsidization here when we heard so often that whatever else you do with a public auto insurance plan, you must never subsidize it. But yet, yet under this P & C Plan if it were kept in the private auto insurance industry's hands there would be \$100 per capita subsidization by the state. Where would this \$100 per young person come from? -- (Interjection) -- Shall I stand here, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps the honourable member who said I was wrong would rise in his place and indicate in exactly what way I am wrong. Where is this \$100 to come from per capita? If it comes from the general revenues, consolidated revenues of the province, it's a subsidy. Now we have

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) never suggested that there should be subsidization of a public auto insurance industry. We also say that there should be no subsidization of a private auto insurance industry. And I would say - and I would say and I think my honourable friend from Rhineland would be particularly interested in this - that just as there should be no subsidization, neither should there be any expectation that it would be a source of revenue, that a public auto insurance corporation should be a source of general revenue. In fact the intention would be that there would be a non-diversion clause that the public auto insurance corporation would be self-sustaining; it would be neither subsidized nor could monies be diverted out of there as a source of general tax revenue but that whatever reserves are accumulated in a given year or two or three would be used toward maintenance of premiums or reduction of premiums, whatever the case may be. Now this is sound operating principle and this is what we intend to abide by.

Well, Mr. Speaker, after claiming incorrectly that the government plan would somehow involve tax dollars in addition to premiums, the Opposition now come forward with a plan which calls for an indirect subsidy by Manitoba taxpayers to the private insurance industry. I'm told that the P & C Plan has met with faint, but nevertheless, approval. Faint approval but approval nevertheless by the auto insurance industry. Mr. Speaker, if that is so, I'm hardly surprised. Why wouldn't the auto insurance industry, as it exists now, welcome a kind of arrangement whereby premiums of a certain category of drivers are being subsidized by the State? They are the ones who say they are opposed to subsidy. Statistics show that some 10,000 young drivers might be eligible for the \$100 subsidy each year according to the proposal, which means that the proposal would cost the taxpayers of Manitoba approximately \$1 million a year.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of doing something to provide for insurance premium amelioration for young drivers is a good one, but I have already said and I repeat that the better way and the only logical way to do it is not by subsidy from general taxation but by coming forward with an insurance plan that will result in savings in premium of something in the order of \$100. I am confident that this can be done under our proposal and I'll tell you why, because when you look at the rates that are paid by young drivers in the Province of Saskatchewan and compare them with what are paid here, what is the answer? The answer is that they save more than \$100. So there it is.

So for those who have such great feeling for the difficulties being experienced by our young drivers in Manitoba, I say to them and I say to them without any fear of being contradicted, that implementation of the proposal we have before you will result in premium savings that approach the \$100 that is being talked about in this subsidy plan, without subsidy. I'd be very interested to hear the replies from the other side on this, either in committee or in third reading or anywhere, because no matter how they try to dress it up, Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that if the money has to be provided out of consolidated revenue it is a subsidy being paid by the taxpayers. We have proof, and experience in our sister province is further proof, that we can have premiums \$100 less for these young people than what they are paying now. I don't think that that's an exaggeration at all. In fact they could probably have premium savings greater than that.

Mr. Speaker, one more point that I must deal with is the one that has been put forward repeatedly by a number of members opposite, in particular by the Member for Ste. Rose and by other well-meaning people whose advice I respect from time to time, and that is that yes, by all means make auto insurance compulsory and establish even a public auto insurance company, but have it operate in competition with existing auto insurance companies.

Now I must say that I have pondered that possibility and proposal for quite some time and I have asked for advice on it from quite a number of people of diverse attitudes and backgrounds and opinions. Before I say anything more about it, I must however relate the position that was taken by the Liberal Party during the Throne Speech debate, at which time they appeared to be of the belief that the government was going to do just that. So what was said by the Honourable Member for Portage, and I believe someone else as well - and I don't have the actual page quote here but I'm confident that the Member from Portage will not want to challenge it. The member is quoted in Hansard as saying that if this is what the government intends to do, set up a publicly owned insurance company to operate alongside those already in operation, well why have that duplication and extra administrative costs and the likes.

Mr. Speaker, it was therefore difficult, very very difficult for me to understand the

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) rationale behind the Liberal Party's proposal that we should proceed by way of setting up a public auto insurance company to operate alongside the many that are already in existence, when I know that just a few weeks earlier they had been anticipating that this was what we were going to do and were already commencing criticism thereon. But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I mention that at the beginning only as an interesting example of the kind of attitude we were likely to encounter from the other side even if we had taken that road.

But we didn't and I would now like to indicate why. We did not take that approach because we were satisfied that to do it this way would result in a state of affairs where the private companies - and you could try to regulate and legislate all you like - that the private companies would continue in their efforts to cream the preferred risk. In a sense the Member for Portage is right, if we had adopted that approach we would not have maximized the administrative savings possible. I'm not exactly faulting the Member for Portage for his analysis, I'm faulting him more for his willingness to accept it now when six weeks ago or a month ago he would have criticized us for doing that very thing. But I think he was right the first time.

— (Interjection) -- Yes.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Did I not also say at the time that if this system did not work that we would support the monopolistic plan?

MR. SCHREYER Mr. Speaker, Hansard will show, because I've read that passage with great interest a number of times, Hansard will show that the Member was anticipating there and then that it wouldn't work. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly our point of view as well; it will not work well. There are many problems that would be encountered, one of which I have already made reference to, and that is the problem of trying to cope with creaming of preferred risks, plus duplication of effort, duplication of administration and the like.

And to bring in compulsory insurance by the way - and this point bears emphasis - to bring in compulsory insurance with a multiplicity of insurers is an experience that the State of New York is living with now - and, Mr. Speaker, they're living with it in agony. They're living with it in agony because there is no easy way to ensure that those who are on the highways in fact remain insured. I'm advised that they have over 1100 enforcement officers employed by that agency, a public agency enforcing something that is being underwritten by private companies. It is not a good arrangement. I am confident that after various alternatives are tried that the majority of people will come to the view that the underwriting of compulsory automobile insurance is something best done by their own instrumentality, their government, just as the majority have come to that view in past decades with respect to hydro, telephone service and utility services generally.

It should also be said, Mr. Speaker, that if it is bureaucracy and red tape that honourable members are worried about in a public corporation, they should look at the New York experience where they are using bureaucracy of the State to enforce a condition, to enforce a state of affairs that is causing difficulties in order to accommodate a private insurance company.

The government of British Columbia has had its problems in dealing with automobile insurance in that province. I know that they have not implemented a public automobile insurance setup but they are not happy with the state of affairs as it exists there now. As a result of recommendations of the Wootton Report, compulsory automobile insurance has been brought in and private companies are subject to rate review, and they are trying to cope with the problem of creaming of preferred risks through internal arrangements and the like. The fact remains that in testimony before the Wootton Commission, the Commission was advised by private insurance companies that rates could be maintained at a certain level. Following passage of the legislation in British Columbia last year, what happened to the rates there, Mr. Speaker? I wonder if the Honourable Member for Rhineland or anyone else is in a position to advise what happened to auto insurance rates in British Columbia. They've been increased, increased in the face of statements of undertaking given to the Wootton Royal Commission by representatives of the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I was rather pleasantly surprised to hear certain members opposite, who appear to be conservative in their general political attitude, I was pleasantly surprised to hear them argue for more public regulation. They wanted more public regulation on the private insurance companies. Now I've been here long enough to be able to recall so distinctly great and sustained arguments by Conservatives against public regulation, but in this case they would favour public regulation. Let it be understood that public regulation is not achieved easily

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) either, because to regulate effectively it is necessary to establish expertise, to hire experts and to set up a chain of administrative capability. And that means bureaucracy. Regulation in itself is not necessarily always the best way to proceed. Of course the public interest must be protected, and one of the ways to do that is by way of public regulation of private enterprise. I fully accept that, but in certain select circumstances public ownership is the simpler, more expeditious, more efficient - yes, more efficient way of doing something.

Mr. Speaker, it being 5:30, may I call it 5:30.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of . . .

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before the Honourable House Leader puts the motion of adjournment, we have 100 Morden High School Grade 7 students with us under the direction of Mr. Epp, Mr. Peters and Mr. and Mrs. Kroetsch and Miss Day. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Pembina. On behalf of the Members of the Assembly, we welcome you here this afternoon.

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

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition) (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, just before the adjournment, might I enquire of the First Minister whether he had concluded his remarks or whether he intends to continue, whether it'll be the first item called this evening or what is our position?

MR. SCHREYER: The position is that I've not concluded and I will be resuming remarks when this item on the Order Paper is called this evening. It will not be the first item but it will be called early in the evening.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make an enquiry of you on a point of order. Is it customary for the Speaker when he casts a vote to qualify his vote?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, since this is a point of order and it's always in order to receive advice on points of order, may I refer you to the statement made by Mr. Speaker Harrison in this Chamber in 1959, in February of 1959.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Cultural Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 8:00 o'clock Wednesday evening.