

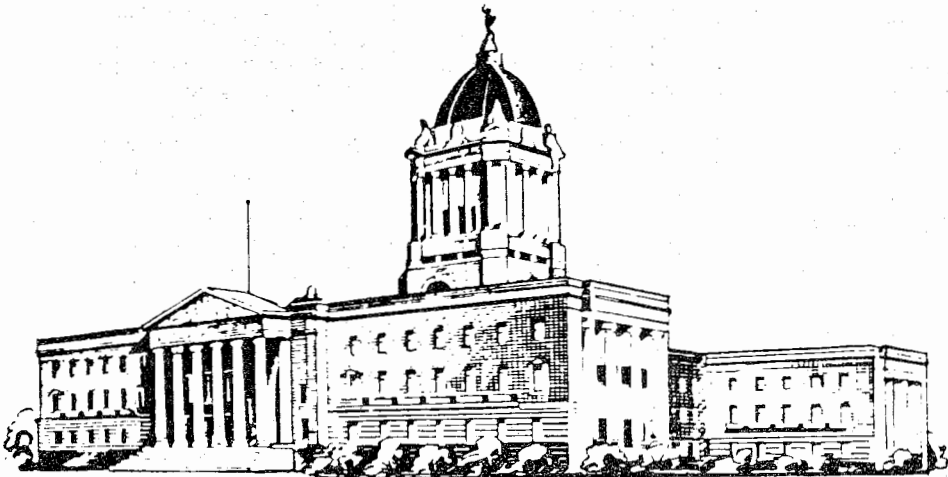


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XVIII No. 57 8:00 p.m., Monday, May 31st, 1971. Third Session, 29th Legislature.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	NAME	ADDRESS
ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	Reston, Manitoba
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	10 Red Robin Place, Winnipeg 12
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	Binscarth, Manitoba
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon, Man.
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
CHURCHILL	Gordon Wilbert Beard	148 Riverside Drive, Thompson, Man.
CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ELMWOOD	Hon. Russell J. Doern	Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1
EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RUPERTSLAND	Jean Allard	602 - 245 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface 6
ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 580, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	23 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	D. J. Walding	31 Lochinvar Ave., Winnipeg 6
STE. ROSE	A. R. (Pete) Adam	Ste. Rose du Lac, Manitoba
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	Box 1295, The Pas, Manitoba
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Philip M. Petursson	681 Banning St., Winnipeg 10
WINNIPEG CENTRE	J. R. (Bud) Boyce	777 Winnipeg Ave., Winnipeg 3
WOLSELEY	Leonard H. Claydon	116½ Sherbrook St., Winnipeg 1

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

8:00 o'clock, Monday, May 31, 1971

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: The matter under consideration is Resolution No. 68 and the amendment thereto, the motion of the Leader of the Opposition.

Are you ready for the question? The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great interest to the words of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I want him to know that my absence from the Chamber was only because of the fact that I believed that the bills were going to provide us with some freedom to be able to discharge some responsibilities I had in my office, and unfortunately I had someone who was waiting for me and as a result I had to leave to be able to come back into the Estimates. I did not anticipate, as I think he did not anticipate, that we would be on the Estimates as early as we were. Well, one of the problems is that the Minister of Finance didn't communicate with the House Leader - and I don't expect the Minister of Finance to communicate with me but I certainly expect the Minister of Finance -- (Interjection) --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. We did not do it all afternoon and I insist that we don't do it this evening. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: It may be more entertaining if we have this little banter throughout the next few moments, Mr. Chairman.

I find the remarks of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources sad, preposterous and incredible. I find it sad because I think in many respects it indicates the very great problem that the members of the opposite side who form the Cabinet have and the problem of the First Minister. I consider that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is the most competent administrator on the other side. I consider him, I consider him -- (Interjection) -- it's no joke, it really is no joke. I consider him as probably, certainly the ablest debater and certainly one of the natural leaders if not the real leader of the government, and I believe that when the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources stood up in this House and presented his Estimates, he presented it as a man who understood his department - and I think he does, probably better than the other Ministers - and a man who has reason to believe that he has been competent in the manner in which he's handled himself in terms of his department, and the sad part is that among his colleagues the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources stands out head and shoulders above them. No one will dispute that. Therefore it is sad, it is sad that there has to be what he considers an outrageous attempt on our part to highlight weaknesses in the administration of his trusteeship.

Now those weaknesses do not stem from the Minister's lack of ability. He has that ability. It stems from, frankly, a lack of an awareness or appreciation of the overview that he and the other members should have with respect to their responsibility to Manitoba. The problem is that the other members on the opposite side have been so preoccupied with carrying out the political -- or acting and concerning themselves with the political behaviour and posture and image of the government that in terms of the administration of their departments and the responsibility which is there, they have failed in almost every department, and anyone who has done business with the present government or is doing business with the present government knows this to be the case and knows this to be true. -- (Interjection) -- Well, the First Minister says nonsense. Usually the member behind him, the Member from Radisson is the one who yells nonsense, and from him we can sort of expect it - you know, this is his contribution to the level of the debate. But the First Minister will have plenty of opportunity to enter in and to defend -- (Interjection) -- Not his Minister, his Minister can defend himself very well, but defend his administration, because I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that my statement is correct, because all you have to do is ask the people who deal with the government and its various departments. All you have to do is enquire. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I am having difficulty seeing the relevancy of the particular member's comments relative to the Mines and Natural Resources. If the member has comments to make relative to other departments, I would suggest that he make them during the debate on that particular department's Estimates. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, the competence of the Minister is in question and the Minister has challenged basically the reduction as being sort of an outrageous act, and I want

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) to -- (Interjection) -- The whole procedure already. I wonder if Mr. Mumbles from Thompson would just relax for a few minutes. You know, he reminds me of Mr. McGoo all the time. Just relax for a few moments.

You know, Mr. Chairman, I'm going to repeat it once more that the Honourable Minister, who I think is probably one of the most competent if not the most competent person and who has had to carry I think a load beyond his responsibility as Minister, nevertheless cannot understand that in terms of his responsibility that there was an obligation to the fishermen earlier than what his actions had indicated. He began his concern, or showed his concern and in turn there was a responsibility which has not been discharged with respect to Lake Winnipeg and to the cottage owners and to the people of Manitoba.

Now there is no doubt that the Honourable Minister anticipated a criticism to be levelled about his administration, about the fishermen. It's been said before in this House and it's obvious that he has prepared his defense. One of the things that is very interesting is that the Honourable Minister stood up and indicated the things that he thought I was concerned about and he made specific reference to Information Service and the time that I was in government as an indication of my motive, of my preoccupation.

But there's one thing that rings very clear from what the Honourable Minister has said to me. He's been concerned about my legal knowledge - he's expressed it several times today - and that could be a tip-off, Mr. Chairman, of what has happened with respect to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, because while I may not practice in the courts as much as he did there's a basic technique, a form that lawyers use that I'm aware of and in my limited experience I understand, and that is in preparation of your case you do the best you can to manufacture evidence and the best way you manufacture evidence -- (Interjection) -- Well, you'll have your opportunity. The best way you manufacture evidence is to write letters, Mr. Chairman. You write letters, and in the letters you recite all the things that you want to recite and then if you're fortunate enough, if you're fortunate enough, you then file them or you then indicate that they represent a point of view, particularly if they are not accepted.

Now -- (Interjection) -- After, Mr. Chairman. No, not now. -- (Interjection) -- I'm sure that you do and I'm sure that there'll be many questions. So if you were in the position of the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources who knows that he's going to have to defend his whole program with the fishermen, who is aware now that the matter is in the House and that there is an issue, what would you do? You'd write the Minister of the Federal Government and you'd blame him; you'd recite the details to indicate all the things that you've done and you'd also blame the Opposition for bringing it in the House and for protesting that this is what is happening. Now I have not had the opportunity because we haven't had the photostat to examine the letter fully to Mr. Davis.

And that's a very interesting thing, Mr. Chairman, that the honourable members on this side asked the members on the other side for an Order for Return for documents with respect to any matters between the provincial and Federal Government. We always receive the standard answer, we can't give this to you because we have to get the approval of the Federal Government, and once we've got the approval of the Federal Government then we'll give it to you. That means you may get it or you may not get it, really depending on whether the Federal Government will give it or whether the honourable the members on the opposite side want it to be given. But here we have no hesitation, reluctantly, to produce the letter that was written to the Federal Government. No, without an Order for Return and dated May 26th which recites what happened on April of last year and which recites the details of what has taken place.

You know, I indicated in my remarks, Mr. Chairman, and I indicate again, that in terms of the fishermen there's no point of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources trying to convince me or the members on this side, what he has to do is try and convince the fishermen. What he has to do is go out and talk to the fishermen. And he has to tell them and explain his program to them personally, and he has to try and win them over and he has to try and use his debating skills to explain his position to them, even his position as the trustee for the people, because you know what I sense of what he says is that he is representing the people against the fishermen. He's bargaining and he's going to bargain from the best points, because obviously they're going to be bargaining from this point, and he's representing the people against the fishermen who've lost their living and who are facing a disaster. And that's in effect what he said. I realize and understand he's been involved probably in arbitration matters, certainly he's been involved in litigation, and he recognizes the position that counsels take

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) representing clients, but his trusteeship and his responsibility is not the same.

Now, if you were the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources having to face the problem of having to answer specifically in detail what he has done with respect to the fishermen, there are several things that you would do. You'd write a letter to the Federal Government indicating how bad they've been and indicating all the things that have happened so that you've got that documented. You would -- if you had to answer the question of how many employees or how many new people are being appointed to the department-- and there's been some representation of 150 - you had to break it down by saying there was only 50 that actually are increasing under normal ways, 20, and then you set up Crown Corporations so you can put the people there and they won't have to be listed in the 70. But the truth of the matter is this, it doesn't make any difference whether they are in Crown Corporations or otherwise, there is an escalation at a time, Mr. Chairman, it is the contention of this side, that there should have been a cut-back over-all with respect -- (Interjection) -- After, Mr. Chairman.

The other approach of course would be to commence what would be called a borderline ad hominem approach. Not entirely an ad hominem approach but a borderline, because in this way you probably could -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I'm sorry, if the Minister of Transportation doesn't understand it, possibly the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources will explain that to him -- (Interjection) -- Well, why don't you explain it to the Minister of Transportation. I'm not concerned about the explanation, he happens to be.

You know, there are a couple of other things that the Minister mentioned which are very interesting with respect to the question of the whole problem of mercury pollution. He indicated that in his opinion - and this is based on intuition - that he does not believe that the tolerances are correct, but he obviously has to abide by some regulations which in fact control the situation. He's shaking his head in agreement. Now, it's a strange thing because the Minister has applied that same logic for the question of Lake Winnipeg, because in effect what he is basically saying is that in his intuition that what is taking place will be all right. But here there are no controls or restraints because he has the acquiescence of the First Minister and of course he has the acquiescence of the Chairman of the Board who is busily at this point defending his position of his first report.

And, Mr. Chairman, there's something very interesting. The Chairman of Hydro has appeared before the Committee, and will appear tomorrow, and he has blinded all of us with his eloquence, with the graceful manner in which he makes his presentation and answers a question. As a matter of fact, when he answers a question we have an hour answer for every question, and one has to wonder whether you really want to ask any questions or not. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources today in rebuttal of the presentation that was made today I think went for an hour or an hour and a half - I'm not sure of the exact time - and obviously his association with Mr. Cass-Beggs is rubbing off on him. And it's not that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources has not stood up in this House before and has spoken in debate and has spoken at length, but I would suggest that the kind of arguments that were advanced by him in rebuttal of his position and his concern for the manner in which he fought for his salary is indicative of a new element of -- a new quality of debate which would only come as a result of his association with Mr. Cass-Beggs.

Now it's very interesting. Reference was made by the Honourable Minister to Damascus Steel and our situation and our concern and our compassion. Well, the Honourable Minister is in charge and is the government. I don't know what happened with respect to Damascus Steel in the two years that you've been there, or almost two years. I don't see any change to this, I really don't. -- (Interjection) -- Well, if I bring the dead man back, he's sitting right over there. As a matter of fact, I have to tell the Honourable Minister of Transportation of the days when I used to walk by when he was sleeping in the morning, we used to arrive here about 8:30, he used to be sleepy. I don't know what time he went to sleep. I always thought he was a dead man and it's obvious he's come back to life.

I think in the correspondence that the Honourable Minister has in his possession, there's enough evidence for the Minister of Mines and the Minister of Fisheries, enough evidence for the Manitoba Federation to indicate that there was a willingness on the part of the Federal Government to share on the cost basis of -- (Interjection) -- Well, the Honourable Minister says No. Well, let me read into the record a letter dated April 16, 1970. This is a letter from Mr. Jack Davis to the President of the Manitoba Federation of Fishermen. I'm not going

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) to read the whole thing and it's to be filed and tabled in the House. It'll be tabled in the House.

Let me just deal with one or two paragraphs. "Lake St. Clair in Ontario has been closed to fishermen as a result of mercury pollution. In this area, in co-operation with the provincial government, we have offered to make advances to commercial fishermen thereon on a 50-50 basis with the province. A joint task force is presently in the area assisting fishermen and assessing their damage claims and determining the advances to be provided. I have offered similar assistance to Manitoba." This is the Minister of Fisheries writing to the President of the Manitoba Federation of Fishermen, April 16th, 1970. "I expect to meet with the Honourable Sidney Green on Monday, April 27th, in the afternoon. I'm quite willing to provide a senior federal official to work with the provincial officials and your Federation to thoroughly assess the full impact of the problem, to put into effect the agreements which I anticipate from my meeting with Mr. Green." So I think there's evidence now that at least the Federal Government was prepared to work on a 50-50 basis.

The other interesting thing is the whole question of the President of the Manitoba Federation's opinion of Mr. Green -- or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I have a clipping from May 6th, 1970 of the Tribune in which the heading is "Green Dismisses Fishermen in Claim for Compensation." The article states, "Resources Minister Sidney Green has told the Manitoba Fishermen's Federation that he can't afford to deal with everyone who has a problem in the province. With those words he cut short the presentation of a brief being made to the government by the Federation. MFF President John Ateah said after the meeting that" and I quote - "in 20 years of dealing with the government I've never been treated like this, he didn't want to talk to us!" The article goes on.

So there may very well be some praises but there's also some criticism, and the criticism comes I think more than anything from the lack on the part of the Minister to understand and sense his responsibility, not as a person who is representing the people of Manitoba against the fishermen but his responsibility as trustee for the resource and his responsibility as Minister to attempt to be as compassionate as possible in solving their problems. And that even goes back to this whole question of the \$4 million, the million dollars and the \$2 million, because the truth of the matter is this - he quarrels with an argument that suggests that a ten year average was not the correct way of doing it. He quarrels with me on that. But, Mr. Chairman, if you examine what took place in the years preceding mercury pollution, it's known that the catches were not so great, it's known as well that there's no explanation for that; that it either came as a result of the pollution or came as a result of some change in the ecological balance.

So therefore it seems incredible - and this is why I say incredible - that the Minister would take the position that in dealing with the fishermen we are dealing with only the last year or two. Why should we only deal with the last year or two when we know that there's a basic problem. Surely we should have indicated and taken a position which would show some averaging to at least reflect the true position, because his objective is not to bargain as he suggests, not at all, his objective was to see to it that the fishermen received fair and just relief and assistance from the government over a situation which they had no control, which could either be short term or long term, which would require either short term solutions or long term solutions. This is what was required, and if there is a criticism which he would suggest to me of the proposal being outrageous because we have suggested that his salary be reduced to 50 cents, it's simply because in his dealing with them he's forgotten part of his responsibility, not as the trustee representing the people against the fishermen but his responsibility of showing the kind of compassion that should be shown.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have already referred to the fish processors and I'm not going to deal with them again today, but the Minister has exhibited this peculiar way of dealing with people, even with respect to the fish processors who have been out of business for two years and who have really received at this point no compensation that I'm aware of from the government. I know there are in the fish processors only a dozen people, and they represent the wicked people who made profit over the years and they represent different groups of people, some who obviously are very wealthy and others who are not. But I know something of their particular problems, at least a couple of examples, and their situations have been desperate and are still desperate, and their situations are desperate because they anticipated that they would be treated in a reasonable way and fairly.

And then the question of judgment comes - what is the Minister doing? How does he

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) represent the people against the fish processors and there's only twelve of them? Well, how does he represent them? So far they have received nothing. What they have been told - and he said it - is we will buy your assets for what they are worth. You can't do business with these assets in Manitoba so we'll buy them for what they're worth, sell them on the open market. Well, that's a peculiar sense. I notice the First Minister is listening. It's about time he listened to us, because with respect to the attitude of the government in this particular situation, and you can zero in right on it, and you can have it as a microscope of the attitude of government on the other side for people, and I suggest to you that the criticism has to be levelled at a government who is still more concerned with its political posturing and image-making than it is with respect to the problems and the trusteeship that it has.

And now we go to Lake Winnipeg. -- (Interjection) -- Oh, you say it's stupid -- (Interjection) -- oh, stupid anyway. Well, the First Minister has gained something from the language of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources -- (Interjection) -- the Minister of Highways, well, that's another matter. -- (Interjection) -- If the First Minister wants an explanation it's very simple. You are spending all your time politically posturing and concerning about your own image-making. You are spending time trying to - you know, trying to keep the balances within your own caucus and within your own Cabinet, and as a result the administrative end of the government is not being carried on and you know it and I know it and so do the people. -- (Interjection) -- Oh, I know you say nonsense, why wouldn't you say nonsense, but ask the people who deal with the government; ask the civil servants who have to deal with you and have to get a decision made and ask the fishermen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

MR. SPIVAK: No, I will permit questions afterward. No, I'm not through, no, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I would ask the member to direct his remarks to the Chair and perhaps this may not re-occur. The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, we should now deal with the way in which government looks at its particular situation on Lake Winnipeg and the problems of Hydro and the problems of representing the people of this province with respect to Lake Winnipeg.

The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources said we have a situation in which we have a government corporation, Manitoba Hydro; we have a government body, the Water Commission; and we know that we don't have to go among ourselves and ask for permits or anything else, we can just proceed, because we can take action. Terrific! You didn't say that on South Indian Lake, not at all, but South Indian Lake was different. - (Interjection) -- Oh, you said the same thing? -- (Interjection) -- Yeah, you said that the government could have done this without going, but they did it. All right, now the government has made up their mind to do it. How they made up their mind to do it? They made it on the basis of the best evidence in front of them, they made it on the best evidence in front of them, That's how they did it? That's how they did it, on the basis of the best evidence that they had in front of us, on the basis of the judgment of Mr. Cass-Beggs - okay? And your judgment's based on that.

Well then I'd like to, for the benefit of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, read a transcript of a discussion on CBC television, the program 24 Hours on December 2, 1970. The participants were Mr. David Cass-Beggs; Mr. Clay Gilson; Mr. Ed. Kuiper, Professor of engineering, University of Manitoba - and I'm going to talk about him in a few moments - and John Harvard. Now it opens with Mr. Harvard's first question - the Minister of Transportation's best friend - Mr. Harvard says, and I quote, "Mr. Cass-Beggs, I know these gentlemen want to get at you but I want to start off by saying why no public hearings, because if you harken back to the Southern Indian Lake controversy, to Hydro everything looked so rosy in the early stages and then suddenly the public hearings were held and things weren't so rosy. Wouldn't the same thing apply here?" And Mr. Cass-Beggs said - and I'm going to quote what he said because this is important, the government is relying on the evidence they have as articulated by Mr. Cass-Beggs - and Mr. Cass-Beggs says, "I don't think so. The position of course, the decision on the hearings are up to the government not the Hydro, but the position taken is that the hearings are to assess the details of damage and so on, while the Lake Winnipeg proposal is clearly acceptable to the vast majority of people and the government makes its judgment and proceeds with the basic problem." Let's understand this - while the Lake Winnipeg proposal is clearly acceptable to the vast majority of people and the government makes its judgment and

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) proceeds with the basic problem.

And now we get back to the lecture on civics that the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources gave this afternoon. He said, "Our trusteeship is that we represent the people in this province, and therefore when we make the decisions we make the decision on behalf of the people because we're the government." And I'm saying to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources that with respect to what you're doing on Lake Winnipeg, to take that position and to suggest that because you're the majority you do not have to account to either this House or the people you're mistaken. And I want to suggest to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and the First Minister, you may not want to account to the people of this province now but you're going to have to account to them, you are going to have to account to them, and I can suggest to you that you have no evidence to support your position except the intuition of the Minister, which in this case he can exercise because he has no restraints as he would have had on the issue of mercury pollution, because he knows or he believes that the tolerances that the Department of Health, or whoever regulates it, have are not correct.

And this is a very interesting exercise, Mr. Chairman, because this really goes to the heart of the whole issue on Lake Winnipeg, because in effect the government has taken this position, not prepared to go to hearings, not prepared to have people who have some expertise on this to present their position as they did here. I mentioned Professor Kuiper because I think that's very interesting, because I think his comments are very interesting, and as far as I know he's probably the leading authority on water resource, one of the leading authorities in the world. He happens to be absent, Mr. Chairman, from this province right now, and I would hope that the First Minister and the government would not take action until they've had an opportunity for him to appear before the Public Utilities Committee. I'm deadly serious. I'm deadly serious, because I want to tell the First Minister through you, Mr. Chairman, he knows more about Lake Winnipeg than you do; as a matter of fact I think he knows more about Lake Winnipeg than all of the people there combined. He certainly knows more than Mr. Cass-Beggs, because Mr. Cass-Beggs admitted he doesn't know anything about Lake Winnipeg; all he's basically suggesting is that the Lake Winnipeg proposal is clearly acceptable to the vast majority of people. I don't even know how he knows that, because I don't know how anyone knows that.

I'm suggesting that Professor Kuiper should, in fact, come there because I believe that if he was there, based on his comments in that interview, you would probably have the kind of expertise that would indicate the error of what is being done, because the issue is not surely that as a result of what Hydro is doing we're going to control Lake Winnipeg, the issue is whether Hydro should be doing this at all. That's the issue, and the issue is whether Hydro should be even spending \$50 million at this point at all, and when Mr. Campbell has his opportunity of making his presentation and when the facts become known, it will be interesting to examine the posture of the government and to be able to examine its defence with respect to it. I say they may not have to explain to the people now because they have a majority, and this is obviously the logic of the way in which they carry on their government and the way in which they feel government should operate, but I'm suggesting at one point they're going to have to answer to the literally tens of thousands of people who use Lake Winnipeg for recreation, who have cottages -- (Interjection) -- what nonsense. Do you think it's nonsense? I wonder if the Honourable Minister Without Portfolio, who obviously because he hasn't a portfolio has a lot of time, I wonder if he would within the next day or two drive and visit the municipalities affected and say to them -- (Interjection) -- I'm scaring you? Scare tactics?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Chair would solicit the co-operation of the committee. I'm afraid this particular debate is degenerating into a specific debate on the Hydro, whether they should or should not flood Lake Winnipeg, and I believe this matter is before the Public Utilities Committee. Now I understand that we do allow a certain amount of latitude in addressing ourselves to the Minister's salary, but I feel that too much specific reference is being made to something which may be under the consideration of the Public Utilities Committee and I would appreciate some assistance in this regard.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that the Honourable Minister of Labour can't fall asleep at this point.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that one of the reasons for reducing the Minister's salary is because of the fact that he has not taken the action that I suggest is his responsibility for Lake Winnipeg, and for that reason this is an issue with respect to his salary. We are going to have plenty of opportunity to debate the issue on Lake Winnipeg, but because I

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) mentioned Mr. Kuiper, Professor Kuiper, let me just quote two parts of the transcript: "You say, Mr. Cass-Beggs, it is absurd it will stay at 715 for any length of time. We regulated the lake on paper in the lake studies ten years ago for power interest and you will see several periods of three to four or five years in a row where the lake level stays constant at 715 for power interest to retain that storage and to release that storage when the dry years come, so in my opinion it is quite feasible that for power interest alone the power operator would wish to retain the lake level at 715 constant."

And going on: "But as the licence stands now, there is no guarantee that the levels will be kept at 714 or 713. There is talk about a 715, and if the high level in the summer is at 715 then the interest of the cottage owners will be damaged. You will have your level two feet higher than normal and with an average beach slope of one in twenty, that means that 40 feet of your beach is submerged." Now how that can be to the advantage of the cottage owner, I do not see, and I suggest through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, that if he's going to exercise his trusteeship he should get in touch and spend some time with Professor Kuiper.

Now, there's another point. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources says there doesn't have to be hearings. He's given us his legal basis to prove that he's a good lawyer, a good debater, take one side when on one side, take another side on another. That makes him a good lawyer. However, there have been indications, there were indications that public hearings would be held, and as a matter of fact I believe that when the Minister of Industry and Commerce was Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in 1969, he told the Legislature that there would be hearings. Now, if I'm wrong, the Minister of Industry and Commerce can stand up and say that it wasn't so. In 1969 he told the Legislature that there would be hearings on Lake Winnipeg. -- (Interjection) -- Well, now then we go into a definition of what hearings are. Are hearings after the licence has been granted and after the work has been done - which is what the Minister suggests - we're going to have a 650,000-dollar study and then we're going to have hearings afterwards, or were hearings to be held before? I wonder how the members on the opposite side would have been, or would have acted if we had suggested that South Indian Lake grant the licence, proceed, and then have hearings afterwards - you know, maybe a year or two afterwards. I just wonder what the legal position at that point would have been of the Minister.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): We would have heard a story about Tolstoi, I think.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, we'll probably hear it again - and I would agree with the Minister. When the Minister stood up and talked in his opening statement, he indicated that he was concerned on the representations that I made of the 150 people who would be employed in his department because it would really mean that he would have to answer to his colleagues on the opposite side. Now how he was able to get 150 - well, I'm satisfied that they don't have the vehicle of Crown corporations as he does to be able to achieve that objective.

But having said that, this goes now to the matter with respect to his salary. Some of the other Ministers who are not as competent as he is, who do not understand the departments like he does, spend little time with their deputy ministers and with their directors and other people in effect in the department, who really should not be Ministers, why have we allowed them to not be put in the position of having their salary reduced? Why pick on him when he knows he's competent, I know he's competent - why would I pick on him? -- (Interjection) -- Well, the First Minister says I'm silly. All right, the First Minister says I'm silly, and I'll tell the First Minister that that decision was not silly. We've had two examples, which have not been disproved, of situations in which the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources has not exercised his responsibility as trustee for the people because he still lacks the proper overview that he must have as a Minister with respect to his responsibilities as a Minister of the Crown.

Now I must tell you, there is only one or two people that can possible exercise this. The First Minister should exercise it as the leader of the government, but we can show example after example where this hasn't happened. Then the Minister should do it because of his general competence, but because of his concern and preoccupation and lack of compassion for people, and because of this peculiar way in which he feels that he is a negotiator because of his upbringing and because of his training, he does not realize nor sense his responsibility in fighting for the interests of the people.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources may say to this House that he would have thought that it was perfectly all right for the government to have flooded

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) South Indian Lake and to have granted a licence without the hearings and with what took place. Probably if that had happened we would not have had an election and probably if that had happened he would have been on the other side. But he could argue this, that was perfectly justified. No question of a legal justification for it, there was the legal right to do it. I'm not quarrelling with that, but it wasn't done that way. Having set that precedent, he cannot argue about the moral obligation or the moral right of the government to hold proper hearings so that people who have legitimate concerns and doubts can have that answered properly before we proceed with something that will be ir retrievable. I suggest that the Minister cannot argue that there was no moral obligation on the part of the government to exercise that and I suggest he cannot argue of his primary responsibility once the First Minister said that Hydro was going to be granted an interim licence, to have indicated as he has done before, publicly or privately that's up to him, publicly or privately to the First Minister, but you know there is this moral obligation because I have a responsibility, because I as Minister of Mines and Natural Resources am the trustee for the resources and the water resources affected and people have a right to be heard and there are questions and doubts that are being raised and I have a right to see to it that we execute ourselves in a way that is proper and fit and is above suspicion.

But what we have now is an arbitrary, autocratic action by a government who apparently are not going to be concerned about answering legitimate doubts or questions, are not prepared at this point to bring forward the people who have some expertise to either present a supporting position or, if they have some doubts, to maybe offer a contribution that may assist in what's being done; rather we have the rushing in because the members on the opposite side want to be able to say politically - and this is their concern for their political posture - that whereas the previous government will use storage on Southern Indian Lake, we're so smart, we needed storage on Lake Winnipeg and we got some side benefits as well.

If we weren't concerned about that political posturing and that political image-making, if we weren't concerned about that, you would have listened to the complaint and to the presentation of Mr. Campbell whose presentation will deal with - and I won't deal with this in any specifics - whose presentation will deal with and who as yet remains unanswered by the correspondence so far tabled with the committee. -- (Interjection) -- Well, my fighting friend has just risen. I don't want to argue about Jack McDowell now. Those were days many many years ago when I -- I know you would like to talk about the past. -- (Interjection) -- You're right, you're on the other side. Mr. Chairman, I am rather amazed by the Minister of Labour. I think he probably -- (Interjection) -- No, I don't think he should be sent outside, I think he should be sent up to Flin Flon, it may do some good.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister is outraged because of the reduction. I suggest the reduction is justified. I suggest the reduction indicates what I think is the obvious quality that has characterized the government, that while it talks about people it really isn't concerned about people, that in exercising its judgment for what is best in the future, it is motivated by a large extent by the concerns for the present, the immediate concern for the present. The Minister can talk all he wants about the particular situation with the farmers and the fishermen, but as I've indicated before, the Fishermen's Federation wasn't a factor in Ste. Rose Du Lac and so therefore we didn't have the kind of offer that was made to the farmers in Manitoba for that by-election.

They lacked the political leverage, but in effect a government that was concerned for its people would not have put themselves in a position of fighting with the fishermen who wanted to be compensated on the basis of a ten-year average rather than to be compensated on the year before or two years before, if it was two years - I'm not even sure that it was two years -- (Interjection) -- two years - because in effect it was known that the catch was low, for undetermined reasons as far as I know, and so therefore for a government that claims it's concerned for people they should -- (Interjection) -- Well, the First Minister can ask about the Conservatives in Ontario. I don't know what the Conservatives in Ontario did but I can tell you one thing, I know what the New Democratic Party in Manitoba did.

I know what took place, and I know as well how the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources reacted and I know the pressure that has been exerted to get some action. And I know as well that the letter that I have in front of me which was written by Mr. Jack Davis would likely not have been written - that's a judgment, I don't know that, it's a judgment - would likely not have been written had the issue not been raised in the manner it had been raised

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) in the House.

It's appropriate that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources' Estimates come at a time when we have the Public Utility hearings. There is no doubt that there will be information supplied at the Public Utility hearings which will be of interest when we deal with the question of Lake Winnipeg and we deal with the question of the water resource and his trusteeship in this matter. I would hope that we'd have an opportunity, Mr. Chairman, tomorrow to be able to get enough information to intelligently discuss this in the Estimates and for the Minister to be in a position to answer correctly, because I suggest, Mr. Chairman, through you to the First Minister and to the Minister, that there is a lot of accounting that still must be undertaken by the government. Regardless of whether you push through the controls or regardless of whether you use your majority to spend the \$50 million, you are going to have to answer to the people of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I just ask the committee once again. The rules are for the benefit of all members. If I waive the rules for one member to holler back and forth across the floor then I have to grant this right to all members.

. . . Continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether the Clerk will bring me the letter that's been tabled in the House. Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid this is going to be the Sid's Day in the Legislature. It appears to be going that way all day. I don't mind it, I only wish to correct the honourable member who said that I was outraged by his remarks. I hope that I didn't give him the impression that I was outraged. I didn't say I was outraged. What I said was that his remarks were outrageous. I certainly was not outraged and I tried to deal with them in as calm a way as I could.

The honourable member gets up and starts the centre of his remarks with the suggestion that the first thing that a lawyer learns to do, or knows how to do and I'm going to try and use his exact words "is to manufacture evidence". I don't know which law school my honourable friend went to but I rather expect that it was the same law school that I went to. None of the professors of mine here in Manitoba nor did any practitioner who I was involved with say that one of the duties of a lawyer is to manufacture evidence - one of the things that he learns is to manufacture evidence. I know that my honourable friend left Manitoba and went to Harvard and as much as some people like to raise hate between one nation and another and say well maybe it's an American school that taught you to manufacture evidence. I'm satisfied that the professors at the Harvard Law School did not tell my honourable friend that one of the things that he has to learn to do is to manufacture evidence, but despite these two very distinguished law schools, my learned friend comes out with the conclusion that he has to know how to manufacture evidence to be a lawyer. This is what he said, that that's one of the things that he learned and then he said that one of the things that my honourable friend manufactures is a letter, a self-serving letter which is a manufacture of evidence, which I would then use in answer to his position.

I want to tell my honourable friend that he places far too much importance on himself. That this letter was not sent to the Honourable Jack Davis in order to answer the position of my honourable friend. This letter was sent to the Honourable Jack Davis in order to try to get a better deal for the fishermen of the Province of Manitoba. I ask my honourable friend to believe that and I'll quote the last sentence of the letter: "I cannot over-emphasize the urgency of our present situation. May I please be advised by you as to what steps if any you require us to take in order to have this matter resolved." So I assure you that this letter was not sent to the Minister for the purpose of giving me something to quote in the House. Furthermore, if my honourable friend will refer to the letter it is dated May 26th, and as much as I would want if I were in my honourable friend's frame of mind, which I tell the House that I am not, to try to make out a good case for myself in a letter on May 26th. It's not possible on May 26th to manufacture that something happened in April of 1970, to manufacture that something happened in August of 1970, to manufacture a program that took place in the summer of 1970; to manufacture again a plan that was put forward to the Federal Government in October of 1970. You can't manufacture these things if you didn't do them on the month stated, and the fact is that none of this is manufactured. All of this happened and the purpose of sending this letter, if my honourable friend says now - and this is an interesting position. He now says that on May 26th, I manufactured a self-serving letter. That's about what he said. Therefore he says, that the material in this letter is self-serving. Now what does that mean? He means that the material in this letter is a credit to my position because it serves me. But, Mr. Chairman, if he says that then he will agree that everything that happened between April of 1970 and April of 1971 are a credit to what this department did, because he calls it self-serving material. Well I assure the honourable member that this material was not manufactured in May of 1970. This is a result of a course of conduct by this department in dealing with the Federal Government and if my honourable friend says that it serves us, that it's a good defence to his remarks, then I tell him it didn't happen yesterday. It's been the manner in which we have dealt with the fishermen.

My honourable friend reads a letter from the Manitoba Federation of Fishermen which he says he got from the Federal Government and which he says contains a commitment. I asked the Federation of Fishermen if they had received any commitment from the Federal Government. They told me verbally that they had. I told the Honourable Jack Davis that the Federation of Fishermen said that they had a commitment from the Federal Government. I asked him about Lake Erie, and I want my honourable friend to hear Mr. Davis' answer. He says "Lake Erie and the Government of Ontario are a year behind you. We are doing for Lake Erie

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) this year what we did for Manitoba last year because last year they didn't get anything." The Minister of Municipal Affairs was in the room with me and Mr. Davis said that the Government of Ontario is a full year behind you, therefore we are catching up; that they could never get a program of this kind again, that they would have to present us with a completed plan. I know my honourable friend isn't interested in that. He quotes the letter, but I assure him that that is the case, that the Lake Erie situation represents the fact that if anything Manitoba, - not if anything - merely indicates that Manitoba is a year ahead, because the Federal Government will not compensate the fishermen on a straight cash basis this year. And if they will, they've been told on numerous occasions that we'd be prepared to accept it.

Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend says why is this motion outrageous. Well I'll refer to my honourable friend's own remarks and let him judge for himself. This afternoon he was all charged up against the attitude and the competence of this department in dealing with the question of the fishermen. He didn't get by very well with that so as he has done in the past he tried new ground. So tonight he gets up and says, and I'm going to try and use his words. He says, "Here is the most, if not the most then certainly one of the most, and I think the most" it says here, "the most competent person in that administration. Certainly the most able debater, certainly the most capable administrator, certainly the man who best understands his department head and shoulders above all . . ." I'm sorry, I would never have said the Member for Lakeside. These are the words of -- (Interjection) -- well you take it up with your leader. Take it up with him, don't take it up with me, I'm not debating it. I'm merely repeating his words. "Head and shoulders over all of his colleagues has to carry a load much beyond his responsibilities." Those are the adjectives that he used and then he says that this Minister the most capable head and shoulders above all his colleagues understands his department etc., I don't know where these unlooked for compliments have come from but because of all of these factors we have to reduce his salary to 50 cents. This is the result of his summation, that we have to reduce his salary to 50 cents. And I say, I say let the members of the House judge the situation, that the reason that my honourable friend makes such a motion - and I am not outraged, I recognize this as a normal legislative tactic which he is entitled to - that the reason that he puts it in that way is that things that he has said have been so unimpressive lately that he tries to say something very very striking, take a very, very unusual position in the hope that this will focus attention on the department. It's perfectly legitimate, I don't argue with it but I say that it is a demonstration of the extent to which my honourable friend seems to have to go in order to make a point. He's got to go a long, long way and I sympathize with him but that is the fact. So that's what I mean when I say that this position is outrageous. I don't say that I'm outraged by it but I think that it certainly is an outrageous position.

My honourable friend talks about Lake Winnipeg, mentions Dr. Kuiper. Has my honourable friend spoken to Dr. Kuiper? He says he advises me that I should speak to him. Well I advise the honourable member that I have been in fairly active discussion with Dr. Kuiper since 1968, that since then I have maintained some correspondence with him although not a great deal and I don't want to over-emphasize that. But I'll tell my honourable friend something about Dr. Kuiper. If we had to deal with the situation -- (Interjection) -- just let me continue. If we had to deal with the situation as Dr. Kuiper wanted, and I respect the man, I think that he is a source of good advice, but if he is against Lake Winnipeg, then he is not talking about any Hydro development in Manitoba, because to the extent that he is against South Winnipeg, in my view he is a thousand times more against the Churchill River Diversion. It is Dr. Kuiper who -- (Interjection) -- Pardon me? I tell you, Mr. Chairman, that I spoke to Dr. Kuiper, I talked to - I spoke to Dr. Kuiper -- (Interjection) -- Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend says that he can get up and he can give secondhand or maybe third-hand evidence as to what Dr. Kuiper is saying. I am telling you that I spoke to Dr. Kuiper, that I have been in touch with him, that -- Mr. Chairman, now I would ask you to ask him to keep quiet. Usually I don't mind, but now I would ask you to ask him to keep quiet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well in perusing the rules relevant to debate, I see it is - the last one that is noted is in 1881 where a person was named by the chairman of a committee. I hope it doesn't prove necessary in this debate. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the fact is that I spoke to Dr. Kuiper during the entire, during the controversy, not the entire controversy, I'm trying to use words which are accurate on South Indian Lake. It was he who first brought this matter to my attention, it was he who

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) . . . first indicated that a colossal mistake was probably being made, that all of the situations with respect to that particular diversion program had not been investigated, that the community was going to suffer, that the resource losses had not been taken into account, and the fact is that if one is to go to a Hydro Electric scheme rather than a thermal scheme, there will have to be some means of obtaining the water energy that is necessary for that scheme. The former Minister knows this better than anybody in the House, and what we were told, what we were told, both by the former government when they were in office and when we first took the administration, was that the decision had to be made I think sometime in the Fall of 1969; those are the reasons that were being given for us not being able to develop alternative programs. Soon after we took office we found out that that date could be postponed, but it can't be postponed indefinitely. We had been threatened in this province with brownouts, we had been threatened with all kinds of lack of necessary power to deal with industrial development in northern Manitoba, and the fact is that a power scheme had to be agreed upon, and I submit that not intuition but the reports that we received from Mr. Crippen, Crippen and Associates I think it was, the reports that we received from Underwood McLellan, the work that was done by the Task Force were the basis upon which the present decision was made, and it's no sense at all saying that the decision as to how power is going to be proceeded with in terms of Manitoba Government and Hydro is going to be a matter which is going to be put out for debate at public hearings, when we ourselves don't think that that is so; and the Honourable Member for Lakeside, despite his remarks the other day, agreed with that position entirely. The Honourable Member for Lakeside said there are two types of hearings; there's a hearing where you decide as to what kind of power scheme that you are going to have, and he admitted that he should not have called a hearing on that issue; he admitted that in the House; he said, "my mistake was in that advertisement" - I remember his words. "My mistake was in the advertisement; it was not a hearing to determine whether or not we should flood the lake" - I remember your exact words. "It was a hearing to determine what kind of compensation we should give to the people as a result of what was happening." And therefore the fact that you don't have a hearing on what kind of power projects you should have, that in determining that you rely on your best professional advice, it is still quite legitimate to have a hearing to discuss what will occur as a result of you going ahead with that power program. And we have indicated - my honourable friend says I had a duty, I tell him that I exercised that duty, I indicated to the First Minister when the license was granted that we would have to have a series of meetings, that those meetings would determine just what is the pattern of regulation, and whether the Hydro's pattern is a satisfactory one and what should be the result of the effects of the regulation as given by people who came to me here.

Now my honourable friend - and he can't have read the license, one of the things that he should do as a lawyer, to see what the evidence is - my honourable friend said that the existing license doesn't permit us to say what kind of pattern the regulation will take place. Isn't that what you said, that there is no discretion permitted to the government in the existing license. Mr. Chairman, I have to say to you -- those were his remarks, he says that there is no discretion granted with the license; that the license reserves to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources the right to say how that regulation will take place, and that is in the existing license. Well, that's what my honourable friend said, he says that we have no control. And the fact is that the license itself specifically says that the -- I have an announcement, I don't know if this is accurate or not, but it says that the New Democratic Party won the federal constituency of Brantford.

Mr. Chairman, as the First Minister has said on numerous occasions, and I agree with my honourable friend 100 percent, that these people here are accountable to the people, and we will give an accounting to the people. I am giving an accounting right now. If my honourable friend thinks that I'm giving this accounting to him again, he over-emphasizes self-importance. I'm giving this accounting because the people of the Province of Manitoba are entitled to this accounting. -- (Interjection) --

Well, Mr. Chairman, the member says we are doing what we want to do. We are doing what in our judgment is justified by all of the events that led up to our decision on this project. --(Interjection) -- I have to announce, Mr. Chairman, just to show my impartiality, that the Member for Radisson says that the Conservatives won a constituency in Nova Scotia. I don't know who won . . . -- (Interjection) -- I suppose those things . . . the Liberals won. . . ? the Liberals won . . . There's something for everybody tonight except the Member for

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) Rhineland, that's right.

I'm now going to try to deal with each one of the suggestions that my honourable friend makes. He says that our concern for the fishermen came later than it should have, and I will in this case say that there is some validity to what he says, because the first word that we had with regard to the mercury in the lakes is that it would clear up during the months of August and September. They said that this takes about 90 days to clear, or words to that effect, that was the advice of the Federal Fisheries Department, that was the advice of the experts, and therefore our concern was delayed. We first of all said that we will go through this compensation program for one year and that by the time winter comes around they'll be able to fish. And I admit that on the basis of being lulled into that state of security we did not proceed as quickly as possibly we should have; but the fact is that as soon as we did find out, which was in August of 1970, that we couldn't expect a clear-up, at that time we completely reversed our position and have during the past year been operating as if the lakes will be closed indefinitely and we've dismissed every optimistic suggestion on the basis that we don't want to be lulled into optimism. We were lulled into optimism in the Spring of 1970; we do think that the program suffered as a result of us being lulled into optimism, so we have decided at this point to adopt the most pessimistic approach possible and we don't intend to let this go by.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable member says that the letter blames the Federal Government, or blames other people. The letter is on file. We don't blame anybody for anything; we give a statement as to what has occurred. We indicate that we have a concern for income maintenance of fishermen; I have told them that we are proceeding with that program regardless as to how definite our commitments are from the Federal Government, but I don't know what could have been said to the Federal Government in a less complaining tone. I think that it's our responsibility. I realize that my honourable friend would like it if we were able to say that between April of '70 and April of '71, we did nothing, but the fact is we did list what we did in order to try to bring to bear some pressure on the urgency of our needs. My honourable friend says that his raising it in the House was the thing that spirited the letter - that's okay. If my honourable friend needs a little bit of credit for something - I mean, he's so lacking in credit for anything that I'm willing to be generous and say, Okay if you want to feel that you had something to do with it, go ahead.

My honourable friend says, talk to the fishermen. I approached the fisherman, I spoke to them at their annual convention. Mr. Chairman, I can tell you that when I advised the fishermen as to what the government was doing and as to what the government would not say that it was doing in order to win their support, I wish to advise the honourable gentleman that by the account of other disinterested people I was very, very well received by the fishermen. The honourable member refers to Mr. Ateah and brings out a press release. You know, this is nothing new, why should you dig in so late. The Honourable Member for Lakeside commented on that press release last year in the Legislature; I dealt with his comments; I indicated what had happened; I indicated what inspired the press release; I agree that Mr. Ateah was trying to do what the honourable member is doing, make as strong a statement as possible in the hope that it would have some effect on the government's position. But it's not what happened. I discussed what happened in the House this afternoon.

If my honourable friend wishes to go into this further, he will know that at the last meeting that I had with the Federation of Fishermen, I indicated to them that if they wished to make press releases about what happened at the meeting - that I considered that if there were going to be press releases as to what happened at the meeting, it would be better if we invited the press into the meeting and let them observe what is happening at the meeting, so that after the meeting it won't be what Mr. Ateah said happened, it won't be what I said happened, it would be what the press said happened. The Federation of Fishermen said no, we don't want the press at the meeting, we are willing to proceed without the press and we won't go ahead and say things happened at the meeting that didn't happen; and as a result after the last meeting that we held with the fishermen there was no press release; but the statement that Mr. Ateah made that Manitoba has done more for the fishermen than any other province, he stated in the presence of approximately 20 people of our staff. So I tell you that that is the effect of the remarks that my friend makes as to satisfy the fishermen. Does my honourable friend really believe that you can take a group of people who have been given the death blow of telling them that their means of livelihood is discontinued for an indefinite period,

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) that they are now going to have to come to the government and start talking about how to get their income maintained, that they are legitimately disgruntled, frustrated, disappointed, their hopes have been dashed - and my honourable friend says that if he were sitting over here he would be able to satisfy those people. Mr. Chairman, I deny it; I say that those people will not be satisfied, essentially because they can't be satisfied; that they have had something happen to them which is too difficult for anybody to bear; and I expect them to react in that way, and I make no pretensions that I can solve all of the problems that they have raised; and my point to him about the income over the last four years - there was never any suggestion that the dwindling resources in fishery were legitimate means for having the government come to assistance and satisfy - it was the mercury problem that did that - and the years before the mercury problem they earned a certain level of income and that's all that was being maintained. That's not satisfactory, I agree; I agree that there are many, many people in the Province of Manitoba, roughly 30 percent, who live below the poverty level and I can't satisfy them, but what I'm sure of is that I can move in different directions than the honourable member would so that eventually a greater number of the people in the Province of Manitoba would have something more to look forward to than they had in previous years.

The honourable member says that Mr. Cass-Beggs blinds us by his eloquence. Isn't it possible that sometimes it's not what a person is saying - not how he is saying something, but what he says which is convincing? I think if the Honourable Member for River Heights is complaining because the chairman of our board is able to make a convincing case, would he really think that we would be in a better position if the Chairman of the Board was someone who couldn't make a case at all? Is that what he is saying? Well, the member uses these words, "he blinds us with his eloquence". Mr. Chairman, if he blinds them with his eloquence, I don't know what he is referring to. -- (Interjection) --

He says that with regard to Damascus Steel, that we have done nothing. I never used Damascus Steel as an example that the government should or always will do something. I used it as an example of making a refutation to my honourable friend's statement, go talk to the fishermen. If I said in the Damascus Steel case, don't give us your answer, don't convince us, go convince the shareholders of Damascus Steel that they should have been done out. -- (Interjection) -- that's exactly what I was referring to. -- (Interjection) -- No, I am comparing the suggestion that the honourable friend makes that the government should go talk to the disappointed people and if they can't satisfy them then they're in trouble; and the fact is that there are impossible situations which my honourable friend knows well enough about but which apparently I have to reiterate because it is necessary to do so in order to demonstrate the complete nonsensical position that he puts.

We have a position that was raised by the Honourable Member for Brandon East about Pelican Lake. We have a group of people on Pelican Lake who want the water lower; we have a group of people on Pelican Lake who want the water higher, and I suppose that my honourable friend thinks that the duty of a politician is to go to each of these groups of disgruntled people and tell them a story that will satisfy them. I suppose that that's the way he intends or has behaved and now intends to behave in politics; and I suppose that that will determine probably the brevity of his career, because the people can't be sold that way, and there are some things that just won't wash. -- (Interjection) -- Pardon me? Mr. Chairman, it seems that we profited more by me losing the leadership than my honourable friend profited by him winning the leadership. So if you want to open -- (Interjection) -- the fact is, Mr. Chairman, that once people have been shown to be not making a position they think well we can't get this guy, we can't defeat the arguments that he's making so let's hit him personally. He lost the leadership campaign some years ago and if I raised that and attacked him with that then he'll feel -- he lost two leadership campaigns. Mr. Chairman, the fact is that I lost two leadership campaigns, I lost the vote on the leadership, but we won what we were looking for and I have absolutely no regrets, absolutely no regrets. -- (Interjection) --

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Chair is responsible for the tenure of debate when this particular individual is in the Chair. I cannot be responsible for how other people conduct the meetings of the Whole or any other meetings of the House, but I would remind honourable members if the particular remark had been made when the member had the floor, I would have had no other alternative but ask him to withdraw it. I really don't know how to handle this particular situation but I must insist for the benefit of all members that the proper

(MR. CHAIRMAN cont'd.) . . . decorum of the House in debate is maintained.

The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I only indicate that more and more the bankruptcy of the position of honourable members becomes obvious when they decide that there is a guy who has a cross to bear; let's hit him with it because we can't get anything else on him. The honourable member says I never won anything in my life. I'm willing to - sometime if I was inclined to do so I would start from the beginning and go to where I am and the fact is that I think I could come off no second best to anybody in this House. -- (Interjection) -- Well I assure the honourable member who is now leaving, because I assume that he feels ashamed of himself and he has a right to be, he has earned that, but I've conducted - I've been involved in many election campaigns, I am not -- (Interjection) -- You said I've never won anything in my life, Yeah? Anybody can win an election? I have to agree that anybody can win an election because my honourable friend won one. That's right. I suppose that you should . . . your remarks to the Member for Lakeside . . . he lost . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order, please. There is a method a member can be stopped and I wish to draw it to the attention of all honourable members. When I have called for order and a member continually persists in hollering across the floor, I will have no other alternative but to name that member. The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, The Member for Charleswood on a point of order.

MR. ARTHUR MOUG (Charleswood): Would you ask the Minister that's speaking in his Estimates to address his remarks to the Chair?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the Member for River Heights spent a lot of time on Lake Winnipeg, he also indicated that there would be full opportunity for members of the House at various times to discuss this problem. I want to assure him of only several things. One, that the licence does not give Hydro an unlimited right to regulate the lake without the discretion of the department; that the Minister is the final authority. That the licence was not granted as a result of my intuition. If he will refer to the regulations which are necessary to be followed before a licence can be granted without a hearing, he would know that, but again the honourable member will not study the evidence because he prefers to manufacture a case and he himself has acknowledged that. My honourable friend says that I manufacture a case when I tell him to refer to the regulations which are necessary before a licence is granted. Will he indicate or does he say that the privileges of the House have been offended by me manufacturing a case at this point? Well then let him keep his seat.

He said that Lake Winnipeg regulation for power interest alone would not be a satisfactory program. I believe he quoted Dr. Kuiper. I say that Lake Winnipeg regulation would probably never have been engaged in on the basis of the cost benefits if there were not a power factor involved. That nobody would have spent \$50 million on Lake Winnipeg regulation merely to relieve flooding because the cost benefit results would have been very adverse. So we have a happy situation whereby Lake Winnipeg regulation is a power benefit and any associated benefits will certainly be taken advantage of.

I want to indicate to my honourable friend that if he would refer to the regulation which we followed - and by the way I said, and I repeat, that where two government agencies are involved it is not necessary to follow those regulations but the government in its judgment used them, then he will see that not only can an interim licence not be granted on intuition alone but it also cannot be granted without giving the public the opportunity of saying something about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you will recall, Mr. Chairman, I had four or five minutes to begin a few comments that I made on the Minister's Estimates at the time he introduced them last week, and then following a relaxing weekend at the Ranch, I would now like to come back to his Estimates if I may for a little while and indeed if I may - if I recall a few remarks that I made at that time they were dealing with the thrust of the new department that the Minister took some time to elaborate. I would like to begin with at least ticking off those aspects of the thrust of the new program that the Minister is providing us with in his department, with which I am in agreement with and with which I applaud his actions, and they're relatively easy to check off.

The one that he mentioned was of course the long-awaited development of the Pleasant Valley Dam which the people in the northwest of the province are very happy for, the Whitemud

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) Watershed development area, and I want to come back to that one for a little while because in relating this particular appropriation as being a particularly new program or a new concept with respect to drainage, I have some comments to make on that. Then the program that he had some remarks on which is not recognized as one of his major programs but nevertheless he had some remarks with respect to organizing or reorganizing the air transport arm of his department, and I, of course, would simply like to put in this one word of caution at this particular time to give meaning to those remarks. I would ask him, because next year I'll be asking him this question, to do a survey within the departments of government that use air service of whatever kind and have air service moneys in their Estimates and then to come and tell us next year what amount was saved. Because I want to indicate to him that and I don't want to deflate him at this particular point but we used to try this every two or three years. I can't say that I tried it every two years but I tried it once and officials within my department at the time that I was the Minister tried it, who found it very awkward even as worthy as it is to co-ordinate the travel particularly of government personnel in these areas, and I wish the Minister every success in this particular regard.

Now, he also indicated as a new program, thrust of a new program, the putting into estimates the sum of \$169,000 for surveys to clean up the necessary neglect of the previous administration to some extent in dealing with some long outstanding expropriations of land, etc., that took place. Mr. Chairman, I would like to choose on this - and I'm sure the Minister wouldn't particularly want me to choose on this particular subject matter as really using it as a vehicle to demonstrate the difference between the thrust of that government and the past administration with respect to this particular department. Because I have to agree with him that certainly if we were neglectful in getting necessary appropriations through and seeing that these matters were cleaned up, then we stand full charge. But you see, Sir, we were so busy, we were so busy building schools, hospitals and building parks, recreational areas for future Manitobans, the Birds Hill Park Development, the Spruce Woods Forest Development, hundreds of campsites; we were so busy in controlling those ravaging floods that occurred in our province, the Red River Floodway, the Portage Diversion, the Shellmouth Project, we were so busy in providing the means - not horsing around with a dollar an acre but in providing the means of seeing that farmers produce crops, by seeing to it that yearly millions of dollars were spent on proper drainage facilities to be built throughout the width and breadth of this province, that perhaps, perhaps in our sincere desire to see that these real people's programs were done, that maybe through the sheer amount of work that was done in that relatively short span of years, in that relatively short span of years that somebody didn't get looked after as fast as they should be. So I'm quite prepared, Mr. Chairman, to accept from the Minister that while we built we carried on capital construction. Now at that time we assumed that capital investment in this province had a particular meaning. It wasn't capital investment into rental of office space, it was capital investment into the long-term benefits and improvements in this province, in the geographic nature of this province that were important. And so, Mr. Speaker, if the present Minister sees it as a priority, as a new thrust, a different direction that he sees fit to emphasize this matter of \$169,000 in surveys to clean up, which I admit should be cleaned up, then you know, I just want to make that little point with at least my own members of this side of the House, because I know we had trouble. We had trouble because we had individual and private members to deal with and we decided it was in the interests of Manitobans to create and lay aside for all time massive tracts of land for recreation purposes, for park purposes, for campsite purposes, for drainage purposes, for road purposes, for school purposes. This, of course, could not be done without the expropriation of some private land. So really, Mr. Speaker, what the Minister has told us is that the thrust of the present government's program in this direction and . . . his department is to try to mop up, try to clean up some of the little tid-bits that were left around that weren't properly looked after. And I agree with him that's important.

I'd like to put in a plea at this particular time, for instance, and use it also as an occasion because I know the Minister would take some personal initiative in this instance. I have had, for instance, a particular interest in a particular development in the field of wildlife management and wildlife sanctuaries. I'm speaking of a particular sanctuary that for some years we've attempted to establish in the Stonewall bog area which is sometimes referred to, the Oak Hammond bog I believe it's referred to. My understanding is that this program was moving along reasonably well and now for some reason or other I would hope, not for reason

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) . . . of any political interference on the part of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, that the project has to some extent been stalled because perhaps one or two local NDP supporters land may have to be expropriated. The First Minister knows just how difficult, how politically difficult and what consequence it is of expropriating land. He comes from a constituency where a lot of land by nature of geography had to be expropriated. And I'm sure if he were honest with himself and with this House he would have to indicate that to some extent his political success was built on that very fact. The fact that we had to build the Floodway through the Honourable First Minister's constituency, the fact that we had to expropriate the land to create one of the finest parks within shouting distance of a great Metropolitan area, Birds Hill Park, that didn't endear Tories in that part of the country. I know whereof I speak.

We have now a little situation where for years we've tried to develop a little wildlife sanctuary in the Oak Hammond bog, and I would like sometime during the course of the Estimates the First Minister to assure me that this otherwise very worthwhile project will not in any way be held up but will in fact be proceeded with. Because I would not like to hold that up as a measure of intent, particularly when I have to agree with the First Minister's other priority program, that of setting up a director of environment and putting some moneys into this aspect of it. I indicated very briefly when I rose to speak earlier on the Minister's Estimates that this surely has to be a very legitimate new thrust of his entire department and one that he would find nothing but support from from this side of the House.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me get to another aspect, a new thrust of the program, and that is the matter of setting up the mineral exploration company. I believe he has allocated some \$500,000 to that particular account. Mr. Chairman, I recall a few remarks that I made on this particular subject - I don't know whether it was on a resolution or not - some time ago and of course I have to laugh at the government and at this particular Minister in charge. Put \$50 million into that expropriation and I'll take it serious. But all you're doing with the \$500,000 is what my leader has already intimated.

That brings me to a very particular and important point. The Minister was very sensitive a little while ago about the rate increase in his staff. He was particularly sensitive in case the Minister of Transportation got down on him because he may have gotten something that he didn't get. Well, I want to tell you, Sir, that I've taken the trouble to add the wages and salary accounts for the last fiscal year, 1970-71, from that department and to compare these with the same figures for '71-72. Now the total for '70-71 was \$9,355,700 - that's your department - that was the year 1970-71. The figures for this year are \$10,641,300. The increase, Mr. Chairman, is \$1,285,600, more than one and a quarter million dollars. Mr. Chairman, that's for 20 employees. Isn't that what he said? -- (Interjection) -- That's for an increase of 20 employees. Now, this doesn't include cars or office space or travelling expenses or stationery or supplies. It is simply - it is simply the wage bill, it's simply the wage bill for the increase in staff in the Minister's department.

Now as I said earlier, if I heard the Minister correctly, he said that this was necessary in order to hire an additional 20 people. Now if you divide \$1,285,000 by 20, Mr. Chairman, the result is \$64,280. Do you mean to tell me that they hired 20 more Cass-Beggs in this department? This will surely make these 20 men the most highly paid civil servants in Manitoba, and maybe the Minister of Transportation has something to complain about. Each of them on the average will earn more than the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro. They will earn even more than the medical doctors in Manitoba - and that's saying something, even under Medicare.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, with an average personal income before taxes of \$64,280, they would be the highest paid group of people in the province. I think, Mr. Chairman, I'm making my point, but I would like the Minister, who showed a great deal of sensitivity with respect that they were adding only 20 -- (Interjection) -- well, even at 70, do you want to break off the arithmetic at 70? I'm not complaining, but the fact of the matter is that your wage bill in your department, Mr. Minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, has increased by some \$1 1/4 million in this past year and I think we deserve some kind of an accounting on that particular matter. -- (Interjection) -- How's that? Mr. Chairman, I do my research, I'll let the Minister do his. I'm sure he has more staff available than I have and we'll come to that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me make a general plea if I may, and interrupt these few remarks on the Estimates on behalf of the Opposition generally. You know, of the some 27 hours that we have spent on Estimates the government has used up 20 hours of them. The

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) combined Opposition hasn't used up more than seven hours on Estimates. Now I know that I can't stop you from doing it, but at least give us an even break on the remaining 50 hours - I mean give us 25 hours, you take 25 hours, in that way we will share the ink and the press. But I make that plea because we have taken the time to catalogue the hours that have been spent on Estimates so far and that's roughly what it breaks down to.

I accept that my honourable friends opposite, they know precisely what they're doing and it's deliberate on their part. They know the kind of normal courtesies that the previous government used to extend the members of the Opposition. The Ministers of that day would take the questions, the abuse, and then rise when questions had petered out in an effort to answer those questions. We don't find that happening now of course, Mr. Speaker. If any member of the Opposition rises to make a statement we get an hour long reply, and of course it's within their right to do so, but I know that the House Leader is a reasonable person and that he may take this into consideration and allow us at least an even break on the remaining hours of Estimates, because after all, Mr. Chairman, the purpose of going through this procedure is for the Opposition, for those who are critical of how the government is spending money, for those who are critical of how the government's programs are running and for those would you believe it, who have some constructive advice to offer, to have a forum to offer that advice during the course of these Estimates, to be afforded that privilege. So I make that general remark, particularly in lieu of what I gather has been happening today on the Minister's Estimates, where the ratio has been carrying forth along the lines that I have just suggested.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister I understand in my absence - and I don't particularly want to deal at any great length with respect to the Hydro problems involving Lake Winnipeg - I do want to take this occasion and I was absent, I haven't had the occasion to read Hansard to check for myself the actual statements made, but I understand that he attributed to me certain remarks, particularly remarks which indicated that I was in full agreement with respect to the flood control measures that should be taken on and about Lake Winnipeg, and I want to indicate to the Honourable Minister that I have no reason to change any of those remarks. I believe that if the previous administration saw fit to alleviating finally the flood problems of Lake Manitoba for instance by the construction of the Fairford dam; if the previous administration saw fit to alleviating the continuing problems of the flooding of the Metropolitan Winnipeg area by building a 64 million-dollar ditch around Winnipeg; if the previous administration saw fit to add to that flood measure protection and the protection of the Portage plains' area generally by building the Portage diversion; and if the previous administration saw fit to add further protection to that already impressive list of capital developments by building the Shellmouth dam and thereby creating the double benefits of creating one of the finer recreation areas in the future in that area; then I see it only natural and hopeful that this government would undertake at least to control and do something about the flood problems on Lake Winnipeg. But, Mr. Speaker, to confuse that, to confuse that with the whole issue of power is another matter entirely - is another matter entirely - is another matter entirely. I suggest to you that the two in time have a bearing, and that the two in fact can be married together to some extent. Well -- (Interjection) -- the last paragraph. I would have to -- lead me on, is this the statement that I made to a group of Petersfield farmers some time in '67 or '68?

MR. GREEN: I don't want to take my honourable friend's time, but that's the statement made when the Hydro program was announced to the public of Manitoba in September of 1970. It was in relation to the Hydro program. It dealt with the medium level diversion and Lake Winnipeg regulation. Your last paragraph deals with Lake Winnipeg regulation in relation to a Hydro program, nothing else.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't in any way retract any of the words that I mentioned. If you want, if you want a discourse on the development, the proper development of Hydro, then I most certainly am prepared to give it to you. I would think that we can probably reap more benefits from that discussion at tomorrow's committee meeting if we take at least, at least half the time in discussing this important aspect of Hydro development that we took on another issue a few years ago, and if we are prepared to take that kind of time to discuss the matter, then I think that there is no contradiction to a statement that I made here. I think that it has been a well and accepted fact that the total development of our Hydro resources in this province have always called for, and I would hope always will continue to call for the development of control structures on Lake Winnipeg.

The question that's before us, however, is the sequence, and of course I would hardly

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) think that the First Minister would question my dedication to the necessity of the sequence being the Churchill diversion being first. If this is the necessary component, fine, there's no question about it. To say that it is the correct first step now is another matter now after you have shelved the very necessary initial step and the step where Manitoba dollars, Manitoba's tax dollars can best be spent, where we can assure for us for the same \$50 million six and seven year's supply of power by going to the Churchill diversion whereas the \$50 million spent on the Lake Winnipeg control at this time only supplies us one year power, and that in essence is of course what Mr. Campbell is trying to tell us and what I have a very good understanding for.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there were a few other particular points that I wanted to make with respect to the benefits, and while the Minister has raised the question of Hydro development there's one particular expropriation that I take some issue with and that is the expropriation, the expansion of expropriation for the Manitoba Water Commission. You know, Mr. Chairman, if I thought for a moment that academic and intellectual honesty could be bought for a lousy five or six thousand dollar political appointment, then I perhaps would have saved myself a lot of trouble in that South Indian Lake debate. Of course I'm referring directly to the Chairman of your Water Commission, Mr. Cass Booy -- (Interjection) -- Well, I don't know what it is. You know, all I know, all I know is this gentleman, this gentleman who was up in arms because a decision of government was about to be made when not all aspects had been fully studied, now finds himself quite at ease at being silent and not being heard from and not meeting any delegations of the government, after a licence has been granted, and agreeing to sitting down and studying matters.

So, you know, I have a real question to ask about what the Manitoba Water Commission has been doing in the last year. They haven't held public hearings and the Minister was very vague when I asked him just precisely what they had been doing. He indicated some on-going continuing discussions and negotiations. This particular body was set up, this particular body was set up to bring about firm recommendations; an interim report was made; hearings were begun so that no firm government action would in fact take place until the very things that the Opposition was so sensitive about a few years ago wouldn't re-occur, and that before firm decisions were arrived at with respect to control and regulation of Lake Winnipeg that all manners of studies would have been undertaken and that all these recommendations from various resource sources would be available to government in the form of final recommendations before any decision was made.

The decision of course has been made and the interim licence has been granted and the intellectual community sits on their ass. I call that plain intellectual dishonesty of the rankest kind, of the kind that can be bought for a lousy five or six thousand dollar appointment. And I spit on them, I have little respect for any of them, because these same self-made hypocrites parked themselves on my doorstep, and I have their letters, and they told me all kinds of stories about how non-political their motives were, how their only interest to be served was to see that the facts were placed before government before any decision was made - before any decision was made. A change of politics, new government, and decisions can be made autocratically, arrogantly, without public hearings, and not a whisper. Not a whisper, and you expect - you know, for once I find myself in sympathy with the Minister of Transportation and in fact with the hippies in CRYPT - and you expect -- (Interjection) -- well, that just shows you the difference, and you expect me as a lay person to take off my hat and have a great deal of respect for the ivory towers that we pour millions of dollars into, and I have the unpleasant task -- all I'm expected to do is to go back on the boondocks and convince the people to keep paying more taxes. If your crop fails, pay more taxes, because if the universities want \$40 million this year they got to have it. If they can display that kind of hypocrisy within a short space of two years then I spit on the whole lot of them.

And I say to you, Mr. Minister, that you are, Mr. Minister, that you are, as a representative of the people, in a particular position where you have to judge, you have to assess the kind of professional advice that you choose to surround yourself with. Now we chose to surround ourself - you may say not chose - but we at least made available to them the widest possible avenue of forum and platform in front of the press, in front of the media of all description, to air the question of Hydro development throughout the length and breadth not only of this province but this country, and despite all the particular technical cuteness of the position that this government would like to put itself into in describing itself as open government,

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) in putting forward reports that were available to everybody - the particular report of course that wasn't available was the same report that you would not make available which was essentially an in-departmental report, in-government report, the same answers that we're getting from you, and I'm referring specifically to the resource studies that were undertaken by the Department of Mines and Natural Resources, totally internal report, unaudited -- (Interjection) -- right, that's fine, I agree.

Mr. Chairman, a little while ago we had a discourse as to what lawyers do and what lawyers don't do, and I know that lawyers write a lot of letters. Right now I'm getting a lawyer's argument about whether I quoted a report or whether I didn't quote a report. All I'm saying is that essentially the reports that were asked for were available to all members of the House, were available to the press. The press quoted from them verbally, and if we want to hang on technicalities about the openness of the government, that's fine, I choose to hang on the fact that when it came down to the crunch, the issue of making a decision, we provided a forum, we provided the facilities to have the very widest possible discussion. What are we arguing now about? Whether a former Premier of this province can make a simple statement, as a former director of Manitoba Hydro can appear before Public Utilities Board. That's what we're arguing about now. How different times are. When the auditorium in the Norquay Building wasn't big enough to accommodate the dissenters we hired the Winnipeg Auditorium. And it wasn't a question of executive chairmen of Hydro Board only appearing, no, individual members of the department appeared - directors, deputy ministers, resource people of all descriptions were available to the questioning of the public, of the Opposition and of the press.

Now we don't have that kind of situation today and we don't have it for a very good reason, because essentially the course that the present government is following with respect to Hydro development is going to cost the people of Manitoba a sum they cannot afford. The Chairman of Manitoba Hydro rightly, and with justifiable pride, indicated that as a result of the significant increase in export sales of power, the on-stream power coming from Kettle Rapids, that he managed to stave off a rate increase which was otherwise suggested by the Utilities Board, and despite the remarks of my leader I agree with the Chairman of the Manitoba Hydro because I believe this is the way the utility should be operated.

The question, Mr. Chairman, that has to be asked, is what price have we paid for dilly-dallying around with respect to this decision for the last two years, -- (Interjection) -- Well, I accept that word. I accept that word on the part of the First Minister. But the fact of the matter is that we are prepared at this particular time to give up the power resources of our total Winnipeg River if we divert from the Burntwood-Rat Diversion. Four power sites, potential power sites on that diversion alone equal the total power production of the Winnipeg River which has supplied this province for power for the first hundred years of its development.

Now that's part of the price - and we should have some dollar signs put against that - that's part of the price. -- (Interjection) -- Well, the First Minister says no. But at least I want to indicate to you, Mr. Chairman - and I know it's very likely that with this government we will not get the answers - we will not get the answers because it was established very clearly that the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro is under the purview of the government in the broadest sense of the word and that we do not have the facility and the capacity as we offered them to call on other members of Hydro, other technical people of Hydro. We cannot call other resource people into the Public Utilities hearings, we cannot call deputy ministers or directors of water resources or other such persons into these hearings and discuss and look for facts and contradictions of facts.

Now I know the answer that my lawyer friend the Honourable Member from Inkster, the House Leader will indicate. Ah-ha, but we don't have a bill before the House. Well fine, Mr. Speaker. Like the Honourable Minister of Finance caught me off guard. I was quoting from a report and that's why I had to make it open. You see, if they don't quote from their report they don't have to make it open. And that's the difference, a quibbling of words, and a quibbling of words quite frankly that goes above my head.

I think, Mr. Chairman, the whole question really resolves as to whether or not we are going to have the opportunity of hearing all the facts. I suggest that we probably will not, so our only discourse will be, and quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, it's not our intention to use or to abuse this Chamber of this House as they did when they sat on this side, and if you have some doubts, Mr. Chairman, as to the propriety of these remarks on these Estimates then I would ask you to read the Estimates of 1968 or '69 -- or Hansard of '69 on my Estimates of

(MR. ENNS cont'd.) that time. In fact I'm sure honourable members, if I can digress for a moment, will recall that famous pony express speech made by the then Leader of the Liberal Party where he was making his speech and the pages were coming in hot off the press you might say. -- (Interjection) -- That particular speech may have been on the bill. But if I recall, similar speeches and many speeches were made within the department of Estimates and I don't see any serious objection with respect to this line of approach that I'm taking on the Minister's Estimates. -- (Interjection) -- Certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: In the 60 seconds or so remaining, Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if I could ask the Honourable Member for Lakeside why it was, if public hearings have the status of sanctity according to him and according to the Leader of the Opposition, why was it then that a bill was introduced by the previous administration saying "that notwithstanding public hearings" that such and such course of action would be followed. In other words, aborting the hearings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: In the 30 seconds remaining, allow me - and the Minister knows full well and should certainly now know, particularly after the hearing of Bill 56, that simply introducing a bill into the House puts it in front of the public hearings in our unique situation where we have Law Amendments which is fullest of all public hearings, where the fullest of debate and no censure of that debate takes place. Certainly the First Minister and any members of the government who, you know, to some extent suffered through those sittings on Bill 56 could hardly argue with me that by putting a bill in the House that it in any way takes it away or out of the public forum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J. R. (BUD) BOYCE (Winnipeg Centre): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member from Flin Flon, that the report of the Committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being 10:00 o'clock, the House is now adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.