

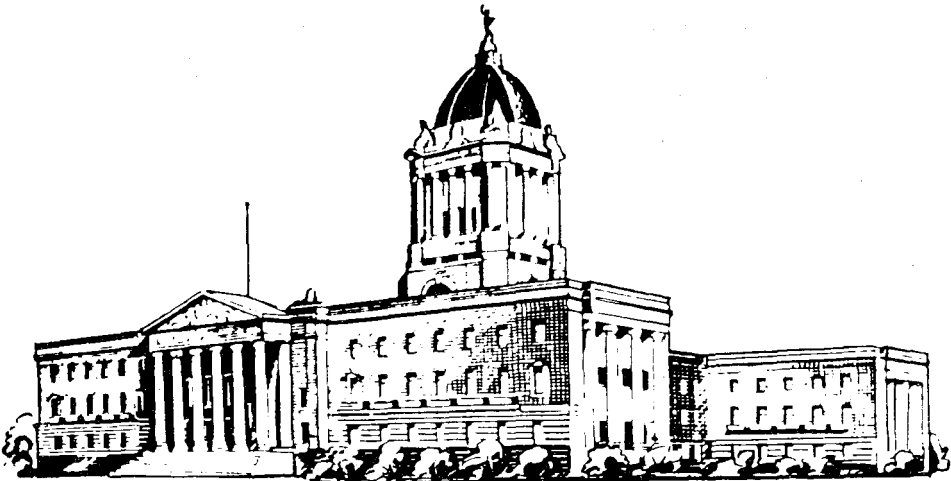


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXII No. 120 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 10th, 1975. Second Session, 30th Legislature.

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ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	ROM 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Roblin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	ROJ 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGill	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	P.C.	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg	R3R 1L5
CHURCHILL	Les Osland	NDP	66 Radisson Blvd., Churchill	ROB 0E0
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EMERSON	Steve Derewianchuk	NDP	Vita, Manitoba	ROA 2K0
FLIN FLON	Thomas Barrow	NDP	Cranberry Portage, Man.	ROB 0H0
FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Lloyd Axworthy	Lib.	132 Osborne St. S., Winnipeg	R3L 1Y5
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	ROC 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	ROJ 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	P.C.	Woodlands, Man.	ROC 3H0
LA VERENDRYE	Bob Banman	P.C.	Steinbach, Man.	ROA 2A0
LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
MINNEDOSA	David Blake	P.C.	Minnedosa, Man.	ROJ 1E0
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	P.C.	Morris, Man.	ROG 1K0
OSBORNE	Hon. Ian Turnbull	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	ROG 1G0
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	NDP	23 Coralberry Ave., Winnipeg	R2V 2P2
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Lib.	26-120 - 6th St., S.E., Portage la Prairie, Man.	R1N 1E8
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	NDP	4 Maplehurst Rd., Winnipeg	R2J 1W8
RHINELAND	Arnold Brown	P.C.	Winkler, Man.	ROG 2X0
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	P.C.	3 River Lane, Winnipeg	R2M 3Y8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	P.C.	Inglis, Man.	ROJ 0X0
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	P.C.	Glenboro, Man.	ROK 0X0
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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ST. GEORGE	Hon. Bill Uruski	NDP	10th flr., 330 Portage Ave., Wpg.	R3C 0C4
ST. JAMES	George Minaker	P.C.	318 Ronald St., Winnipeg	R3J 3J8
ST. JOHNS	Saul Cherniack, Q.C.	NDP	333 St. Johns Ave., Winnipeg	R2W 1H2
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johannson	NDP	418 Home St., Winnipeg	R3G 1X4
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SEVEN OAKS	Hon. Saul A. Miller	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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STURGEON CREEK	J. Frank Johnston	P.C.	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg	R3J 2G3
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	P.C.	Swan River, Man.	ROL 1Z0
THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Ken Dillen	NDP	84 Pintail Cres., Thompson	R8N 1A6
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	ROM 0Z0
WELLINGTON	Phillip M. Petursson	NDP	681 Banning St., Winnipeg	R3G 2G3
WINNIPEG CENTRE	Hon. J.R. (Bud) Boyce	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
WOLSELEY	Vacant			

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, June 10, 1975

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 20 students Grades 5, 6 and 7 standing of the Dufferin Christian School under the direction of Mr. Meliefste. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Pembina.

And we have 40 students Grade 5 standing of the Precious Blood School under the direction of Mrs. Druewe and Mrs. Desorcy. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, the Minister of Health.

On behalf of all the honourable members I welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable First Minister.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I have here, appropriately festooned, a Return to Order of the House No. 17, the motion of the Member for Swan River.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make regarding unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba's position regarding unemployment in Canada remains relatively the same as it was last month. If you recall, I reported that Manitoba was the third lowest insofar as rates of unemployment are concerned in the Dominion. Manitoba's actual unemployment rate was 4.4 percent, the third lowest after Saskatchewan and Alberta in May of 1975, a slight decrease from the 4.5 percent of April, but an increase over the 3.7 of May a year ago. Manitoba's seasonally adjusted rate was 4.9, a slight increase over the 4.7 of last month and higher than the 4.3 of a year ago. In terms of the total numbers of unemployed from April to May, Manitoba remained the same at 19,000; a year previous the figure was 16,000. It's interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that what to me are very significant figures, is the indication that Manitoba's labour force in May of 1975, which was 435,000, was 17,000 greater than it was for the previous month of this year and 6,000 higher than it was a year ago. Total employment in Manitoba also increased by 17,000 to 416,000 in May of this year, and this total employment is 2,000 higher than it was a year ago.

I think it only fair for me, Mr. Speaker, in giving the indicators of our relative position, that members also have the comparable figures for other provinces as well. And I would suggest, sir, that Manitoba is on record as recognizing the need for new federal job creating initiatives, with particular emphasis on measures to help regions, such as the Maritimes, which are experiencing the worst problems. The prairie region at the present is in a relatively favourable position. However, should this change, Manitoba would be looking to the federal authority to take the necessary steps in the job creating area, in co-operation with the province. The provinces feel that they cannot by themselves be expected to take full responsibility for job creation, but I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that the provinces will do their part. In making this statement, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to infer that we're looking with gloom at the future, but from predictions that are being made in many quarters, we may be facing difficulties in the days ahead and I suggest that the federal authorities should prepare and have on shelf job creating programs if the need does arise.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Labour presents monthly the statement of unemployment, we have statistical data that is presented to us which, in many respects, is confusing in its presentation. It's very difficult, Mr. Speaker, to compare one month to the next in the way in which the presentation is made, although I must admit that the document that's filed contains the information, if one can search for it - not all the information, but most of the

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . information. But there are a couple of observations that have to be made at this time - and it's sort of interesting, because I noted the remarks of the Minister of Labour just towards the end, when he made a particular reference to the Federal Government responsibility for assistance in job creation. I think it's the first time that the optimism of the Minister of Labour has been tempered with a realization that there is a problem, or likely to be a problem, and there is need for consideration and some further action. And I suggest to you that that statement has far greater meaning than the Minister wanted to be conveyed at this particular time.

The figures that are presented are of concern, for several reasons. While the seasonally adjusted rate for Canada was reduced, the rate of unemployment in Manitoba increased. And that is one important factor - and I don't think that there have been occasions in the past where this has occurred. The Minister has given us some figures of increases in employment, but when one looks at the seasonally adjusted figures one realizes that from April of 1975 we really had only a rise of 3,000 in the seasonally adjusted figures on employment, not 17,000 as suggested before. We're dealing in sort of a complex situation, in which we deal with the rates of employment, the rates of unemployment, with the seasonally adjusted factors and the percentages, the comparisons with the regions, the comparisons with Canada - and there's often a tendency to compare apples with oranges and then basically say that, in the mixed fruit salad that we've presented, everything is all right.

Mr. Speaker, it has been our concern from the time the Budget was presented, that the economic indicators forecast for Manitoba a growing situation of unemployment; that measures were necessary, particularly measures to encourage the private sector; that in effect in the months to come, that would be indicated by the growth of unemployment in the problem areas; that public involvement was only one part of the total picture of the employment requirements of this province and the necessity of priming the economic pump, it had to be done as well in the private sector; and I suggest to you that both in the statistical data and in the suggestion now by the Minister of Labour that further effort by the Federal Government is needed, is indicative of the trend that the government has probably correctly forecast but is not prepared to give to this legislature, which is fairly ominous in terms of the employment pictures of this province and the problem areas we face in our economy in the next six-month period.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements or Tabling of Reports? The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I indicated that the Committee on Economic Development would be meeting tomorrow night to consider the Report of the Economic Development Advisory Board. I have discussed with the Honourable the Opposition House Leader the possibility, and it seems to be agreeable that we do double duty tomorrow night and have the House in session as well. The committee could reduce itself in numbers, with representatives of both parties to deal with this report, but it doesn't seem that we should not utilize the time available to also try to deal with some of the House activities. So, my intention is, and I believe I have clearance, that the committee will meet but the House will also be in session for such work as is available to be done in the House.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has one bill which would normally be referred to Agricultural Committee if the committee was to be considering a great deal of activity. There is only one bill, and the Minister suggests that it go to Law Amendments Committee with the other bills, provided that anybody who is interested in it be notified to appear in time so that it wouldn't be - it's the Agricultural Societies Act. It needn't come up in tonight's meeting, perhaps at the next meeting that Law Amendments meets, so that the Clerk can notify anybody who is interested in it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): I wonder if the House Leader would confirm that in the discussions we had this morning, it was agreed - and maybe I misunderstood - that we would go into estimates at tomorrow night's sitting rather than deal with any of the bills. I think we would prefer if that could be arranged - rather than dealing with the Order Paper, that we go straight into estimates - it would be a lot more suitable for us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I had intended to have a normal House sitting. There is a possibility, for instance, that we could be in the Committee of the Whole House to consider the Mining Royalty Tax Act; or, if a member wished or was able - I wouldn't force a debate on a bill - but if a member was able to debate on a bill and therefore get it to committee, I hope that wouldn't be precluded. We wouldn't ask or propose an adjournment, but if somebody was ready to proceed with a bill, we would want to do that, get it to committee and then proceed to estimates. If that's agreeable.

MR. JORGENSON: The reason I suggested that, sir, was because of the possibility that someone who may be sitting in the other committee may want to speak on a bill here, and that would make it somewhat difficult.

MR. GREEN: Well, we wouldn't avoid that, Mr. Speaker; but on the other hand, if there is a bill that could proceed, I would want to call them just before we get to estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Member for Riel.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the First Minister as the Minister of Finance. Can he indicate to the House the details of the loan from the Swiss bank that was announced this morning through other sources?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I prefer not to do that just extemporaneously; I will attempt to get the details in written form. I'll do that now.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY - GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would you please call the adjourned Debates on Second Readings in the order - well I will facilitate the Leader of the Opposition - if he wants to, we will proceed with 37 first.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 37. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

BILL NO. 37 - DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is really the second bill that members of the Legislature have considered. The first was a draft bill brought forward at committee by the First Minister. And one must say, in examining this bill, that it is an improvement over the draft bill and that a number of the concerns and considerations that were expressed at that time have been incorporated in the bill that is brought forward. To a certain extent, one basic improvement can be considered to be the attempt to define, at least partially at this time, what conflict of interest really is. I think one of the concerns that we had at the time the first bill was brought forward in its draft form was that, although it dealt with the issue of disclosure, conflict in itself was not defined. Now we accept that conflict is going to be a very difficult thing to define and there are going to be problem areas, and that in the approach to the bill one would have to consider the options that are open from a legislative point of view, and from a legal drafting point of view, as to whether matters are to be included or matters are to be excluded, and other matters are to be considered. Those techniques are techniques that have to be discussed and should be discussed further. I should say that there appears to be from the people who we on this side have spoken to, and I think there'll be a number of people from this side speaking on this bill, people we've spoken to, to try and understand their positions, particularly in the municipal level and those other levels in which people have been elected to public office, there is mixed opinion about certain aspects of the bill, certain parts of the bill. The more that one hears the arguments on certain aspects the more one becomes persuaded that the alteration and amendment of certain matters, and the addition of others of particular sections, should be seriously considered.

Mr. Speaker, we accept the fact that the public has a right to know that their interests will be protected against the abuse of authority and power. Either where there might be, well there might be the involvement of a use of privileged information by either an elected or appointed official, or in the case where appointed or elected officials could make decisions that would beneficially affect them in respect of their own private interests. I think that point

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . has to be emphasized, Mr. Speaker, because surely much of the longstanding public suspicion of politicians and bureaucrats rests on perception in whether it's valid or not, a perception that people in high places have or have had the power to benefit themselves. Whether we want to accept this or not, it is my belief that this is the perception of many people who look to politicians and those in authority as being people who have that power, and who in fact have exercised that power. I dare say, Mr. Speaker, there have been cases in which abuses have occurred. There will always be cases where abuses will occur. We are therefore confronted with a situation where justice must be done and must seem to be done.

And the question of meeting the need of the public interest and the protection of the public, and protecting the legitimate and private interests of public officials, is one which has to be balanced carefully by this Legislature as we deal with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the First Minister suggested that this matter could be referred, if it was the disposition of this Assembly, to an inter-sessional committee to be able to deal with the bill and to be able to deal with its sections, and to add, alter, amend the sections that have been introduced as part of this overall Conflict of Interest Bill. We believe this to be a valid suggestion because we believe it's necessary to hear opinion, to obtain advice and, Mr. Speaker, to make the comparative study of other jurisdictions. The First Minister indicated that a comparative study had been undertaken by his officials and that it could be made available, and I gather it's extensive, and that I think would serve purpose because in dealing with particular aspects of the bill, whether it be the question of definition of conflict, the manner of disclosure, what should be contained in disclosure, the public officials to be included, and I can go on, in all of these aspects what is happening in comparative jurisdictions I think is important. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, one must suggest that if we talk in terms of conflict of interest in the Canadian context, the time has probably come for some uniformity to exist with respect to public officials in all jurisdictions. While that kind of consensus may not occur, in the past, over the years, the Uniformity Law Commissioners have been able to introduce legislation in the uniform way that has been adopted by other jurisdictions, and it may very well be that a combination of initiatives here and in other jurisdictions will come up with that kind of legislation which will in fact protect the public interest and balance the interests of those who are elected as public officials, or appointed in various positions of authority in which concern could be felt, or in which the public interest would require protection.

Now we believe that the committee if it was to meet in-between sessions, and that would be a recommendation, would consider the following problems: First, is it appropriate that the powers of the bill, which are mandatory for members of the Legislature and provincial officials, should only be optional for municipal officials? That's one point that has to be considered. And further, how does one reconcile elected officials to school boards, who in fact in the exercise of their power have the possibility of conflict arising?--(Interjection)--Well very very seldom, but on the other hand justice must be done and deemed to be done.

Mr. Speaker, the other question that the committee would consider is whether the public interest is secured by the method of disclosure that is proposed. In this connection, you know, I want to sort of discuss some matters. Is it appropriate or significant that the private residence, which in many cases would be the principal asset of most public officials concerned, is not required to be disclosed yet in many cases resulting concerns with respect to land use could affect very directly the private residence and could very directly affect the question of conflict?

And, Mr. Speaker, another question is whether the assets should be filed in the method that is proposed, or possibly with the Chief Justice of the Province as an alternative, or possibly with the Ombudsman. And then on the other hand what is the protection, Mr. Speaker, for the frivolous publication of the information that has been filed?--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to put these as questions that the committee has to discuss because I think the question of the public's legitimate interest in the information, and the question of the publication and the public access must be discussed in the context of the intent and the desire and the necessity of both disclosure, and at the same time the balancing of the public and private interest of the officials that I've talked about.

Another matter that I believe the committee has to consider, and one which I think is a very serious one, is the independence of the wife. You know, Mr. Speaker, we live in a time

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . when those who would attack the status of women in this society will find a very serious consequences. But independent of the political reality, one has to suggest that there are many occasions in which the assets of a wife are owned in her own name, are not known to her husband, in which either she has acquired assets in her own name - it is a second marriage, she has received a bequest - and even those of a dependent may not very well be known by the husband. The question again - legitimate protection of the public and the invasion of the privacy of the individuals, because the wife may very well be an innocent bystander in the action taken by her husband, has to be considered, and I think these are matters that, you know, are the kind of things that have to be discussed by the committee.

The other kind of question that would concern me is the non-arm's length family transactions which in fact for the public official could mean that a debt is owing to him. And in the case of a family, particularly a large family, those transactions may not be known to other members of the family, and under this particular Act there would be a requirement for disclosure, and there could be publication. And the question again, is the public interest really protected to that extent, and whether there are other ways in which the matter could be handled?

The question again, Mr. Speaker, is whether it's appropriate that a legislative committee on which a government has a majority should have the power to effectively expel a member. You know, without the right of appeal and--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker, you know I think that there are matters that have to be considered, and I think that some opinions which have been dealt with over a period of time have to be tested against more recent arguments with respect to the authoritarianism of administrations - and I'm not in any way talking necessarily of this jurisdiction although I think there are occasions when some of our members may talk about this jurisdiction - I'm now talking about the dangers that are inherent when there is no right of appeal, and when in effect the expulsion could cause the ability for a by-election and the ability for the electorate to be able to decide, but the consequences in the political context for the individual and for a party involved can be very serious.--(Interjection)--Well, Mr. Speaker, again you know I listened to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, and I'm sure he'll enter the debate, I'm just simply saying that there is an argument that has to be advanced to define, if I can put it this way, more precisely the things that are contained in the bill, the things that have happened in the last period of time, and the necessity of refining what we are doing in such a way that the public interest itself can be protected, and again balancing the interest that I've suggested.

Mr. Speaker, you know, there's another problem area, and that is the question that one cannot vote on those matters in which a person has an interest, and that's more or less expressed in an explicit way in the Act, but one can speak, and that would then suggest that there is no ability on the part of anyone here through their oratory to influence the decision-making within this body, or with any official body in which public officials have been elected. I think, Mr. Speaker, it would be fair to say that all of us are vain enough to believe that somehow or other our oratorical ability and our logic could influence, and has influenced, the course of conduct of legislation and of policy in this Legislature, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think we would believe that it's quite possible to influence significantly by oratory even though the individual himself may not be able to vote on the bill because of the conflict that is recognized and known as a result of disclosure that has taken place.

You know, Mr. Speaker, there's another question that has to be put as to whether in a Legislature in which the government brings the legislation in, deals with the treasury matters in which the treasury branch officials are the ones who can only essentially initiate and see to it that those matters affecting people in Manitoba are carried through effectively in this House, whether they are the only ones who should be filing away . . . their requirements should be more stringent than other members. And I'm not suggesting that that is the case. I'm suggesting that there are arguments to be advanced on both sides.

So what I'm suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that there are a number of questions - I've tried to place some, I have not placed all of them, I think that there's a significant list that could be brought forward, my intention was not to do that. I believe that these questions and others should be brought forward to the committee and they should be discussed. I believe that the jurisdictions in which other elected officials have responsibility, and other appointed officials have responsibility, dealing in public affairs, and who have the same caveats put on them that

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(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) . . . . must be put on this body, must be considered to be included, and their problems must be discussed because their problems are not identical with that of the provincial Legislature. It would appear to us that the referral to the committee would be the appropriate way, and as a result of the debate that would take place and the hearings that would take place, the bill would develop in a way that it can be a bill in which there would be a consensus in agreement, and in which then, Mr. Speaker, the interests of the public, and the interest or the development of both the knowledge of the responsibility, the requirement for disclosure, the knowledge of what conflict there would be, would be known by the public, and would cause, I would hope, a greater acceptance by the public of the officials who have the responsibility and are in fact carrying their responsibility on in the best manner.

Now in saying that, Mr. Speaker - and I want to say this before I close. That's not to suggest that it's been done in the manner in which that opinion by the public is warranted. I do not believe that's been the case with respect to the officials, and I am now talking in the main in the case of the officials within this government or within this Legislature.

But, Mr. Speaker, the problem we face, and the kind of society we live in now, and the trauma that other jurisdictions have gone through, is that it's very necessary for us to put ourselves in the position that the degree of competence that the public must have in elected officials is strengthened by the knowledge that the mechanism is working effectively and that the public interest itself is being protected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I feel that it's appropriate for me to get into this debate at this time because I believe that the Leader of the Opposition has introduced some interesting observations with respect to the bill, and also in my absence, Mr. Speaker, I was advised by my wife, who will advise me what appears in the newspapers although she might not advise what appears in her bank account, that there was considerable stories about my particular situation with regard to this bill, suggesting that I was opposing the bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, for many years I have expressed opinions on this type of legislation, including conflict of interest legislation, including legislation which sets limits on election expenditures and things of that nature, and I have indicated, Mr. Speaker, that in my view that type of legislation is not positive legislation, that it does not do any good. I've never indicated, Mr. Speaker, that I have the full answer on this question, and that I regard it a matter of great principle, and that I would oppose the bill. I recognize that there appeared to be on the part, in my quarters, a desire for this type of legislation on the supposition that it would somehow make political life, or give the public more confidence in their political officials. Despite, Mr. Speaker, my misgivings and lack of confidence in that suggestion, I am not prepared to suggest that I would not go along with the attempt to see whether it would work.

But I can't, Mr. Speaker, change myself overnight. I can't say that I believe that this legislation will result in greater political morality. I'm willing to give it a try. The Leader of the Opposition appears to have picked up the First Minister's suggestion that it should be more fully studied, that it should go before committee. I'm willing to do that. Or I'm willing to be without it. But I have never indicated that I would oppose the legislation. I did indicate certain problems, Mr. Speaker, and those things will never disappear from my mind. I am not satisfied, as the Leader of the Opposition says, that the public has a disrespect for politics. I believe that what is expected of a politician is much more than is expected of any other person, that usually the person or the people who speak most loudly about politicians being corrupt, or what have you, are trying to get into politics. Many of them are suggesting that this fellow is corrupt, therefore put me in and I will be less corrupt.

I have never had any difficulty whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, in disclosing my assets. My difficulty is I don't have more assets to disclose. I would be much happier if this legislation is passed. The only difficulty, the only problem that I will have is that the list will not be five times as long as it is and five times as large as it is. I do not believe that that list being long will be a discredit to me, to the people that I am attempting to represent. Regretfully, Mr. Speaker, the opposite is possibly the case; that if a man disclosed that he had not a great list of assets but a great list of debts, that that might be a problem for his electorate in terms of deciding whether they want him in public office, and I'm not saying that that is a good thing. I'm saying that if there was on balance a problem, that that would be his problem. You see I don't think that James Richardson suffered before his electorate because he happened to be the



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(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . . richest man in Manitoba. I don't think that that did him a great deal of harm. I think rather that perhaps there are some people who voted for him on the basis that if Mr. Richardson is so successful, maybe he can successfully operate in terms of serving the public interests. That may be a consideration. I have not really noticed that there is a great deal of a problem for a person who happens to have accumulated assets in terms of serving the public.

So we come to conflict of interest. And it's no problem for me to disclose my assets. It's no problem for me to be open about my assets whether there is conflict of interest legislation or it's not conflict of interest legislation. But whether I do or not, Mr. Speaker, it has always been my view that the legislation will not make the people who are elected to office more honest. That if you have legislation those people who are intent on being dishonest will circumvent the legislation. Those people who are not intent on being dishonest will comply with the legislation, but they would do so if it wasn't there.

How many times have honourable members in their political life heard of a person getting up and saying, "I wish to advise the Assembly, I wish to advise the public, that in this issue I am a landlord, and I am going to speak about landlord and tenant, and I want you to know beforehand that if my being a landlord makes you think that it is affecting my arguments, you should know that. And now I will proceed to argue from that position."

When I became Minister of Mines, Mr. Speaker, I disposed of shares which I had in the International Nickel Company and the Sherritt-Gordon Mining Company. I've said this in the House before, and I say it again. The fact is that I considered it inappropriate for me to be holding shares in a mining company and being the Minister of Mines. If there was legislation, Mr. Speaker, and let us say that it is not myself, let us say it is somebody else, who wishes to be the Minister of Mines, and wishes to have interests in a mining company, are you going to find that out by having his wife's assets disclosed, or his children's assets disclosed? What about his mistress' assets? They might be more than his wife's assets. What about disclosing the mistresses in the legislation? That might have more effect on how we vote than the assets that he had.

A MEMBER: Diefenbaker did with . . .

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't Mr. Diefenbaker who disclosed it. It was the Pearson administration who disclosed it.

But nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, I say this, I say this not in speaking as in opposition to the bill but in trying to bring some sanity to what the bill can achieve. I don't believe that the bill will achieve integrity. I am not unprepared to speak in the negative; I'm not unprepared to give it a try. But I do not have a great deal of confidence that the nature of man - which we know about for only 5,000 years and which has existed for many many more years than that, depending on how you interpret the Bible - is going to be changed in Manitoba by this piece of legislation. I do not believe that the legislation in the United States with regard to corporate donations to election campaigns made people more honest. Immediately, Mr. Speaker, there were schemes as to how the contribution can be made without it being a corporate donation, what could be done in this respect, and what could be done in the other respect.

I have had the feeling and, you know, I took the same position and it's not that I'm speaking against the legislation, I have had feelings with regard to labour legislation, the freer the legislation, the better; the more restrictive, the worse. And although it's the Minister of Labour's bills, I've indicated that they are not what I would consider ideal legislation, they were better legislation and I would vote for them, even though there were restrictive measures in them. I would vote for this piece of legislation not with the notion that it was going to accomplish a great deal, but even with the notion that it be a further demonstration that it doesn't accomplish that much. Because, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the public will recognize integrity. I believe that they will be disappointed from time to time. I do not believe that a perfect political animal will be produced in the one way or the other way. But on balance, on balance, and this is just a belief, it's not something that I believe in principle, or I would vote against the government on, or be protesting about, in balance I say that when in doubt, freedom is always better than restriction. (Hear, hear) Always. And I have said that. Either the honourable member believes in that, he believes in it except for censorship laws, you know. When it comes to censoring, he'll censor anything, because he doesn't believe in freedom when it comes to what people can read and what they can see and what they can hear . . .

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A MEMBER: Bring out the pitchfork.

MR. GREEN: . . . but he says that he believes in freedom. Now I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that man left to govern himself in these matters of morality, in these matters of thought, in these matters of belief, in these matters of integrity, will do a better job than if some government says that they are going to govern, govern him. I am not suggesting that the eyes of the Legislature should be closed to what constitutes a conflict of interest. I think that if a man in public life, as has happened, uses that position to fatten himself, or to fatten his pocketbook, that the chances are it will come out, the chances are it will be punished. That the chances are not greater that it will come out if you have the legislation. Because now there are rules as to what is a conflict and what is not a conflict, what you have to do and what you do not have to do, and if you can bring yourself out of the legislation which, Lord knows, people have been doing with the Income Tax Act, with the Estate Tax, and I'm not criticizing this. I'm saying that if there is an Income Tax Act and a person can within the law decide that he can pay less taxes or more taxes, he will likely pay less taxes. I have never asked my accountants to figure out how I will pay the most taxes and fill my return out that way. Maybe the rest of you do that, but I don't do that. I say I would like to pay what the law requires me to pay, no more, and if there's a way in which I pay less, I would like you to fill my return out that way. That is the way I file my income tax return. I expect that the rest of you say to your accountants . . .

A MEMBER: We're all different.

MR. GREEN: We're all different. I suggest that every time you try to improve the situation with these types of restrictions, you create artificial situations where you could be dealing with real situations. I believe that the integrity of the politician will in the long haul come out; dishonesty will, in the long haul, be exposed. I'm not suggesting that it is impossible, that there will ever be a Minister of the Crown who will not be disloyal to the people who have put him in office, and show that they have misplaced their confidence by using his office to enrich himself rather than to do good for the public. I say that that can happen either way. This legislation will not do away with the problem. But as an effort to deal with the problem, and in the minute possibility that I may be wrong, which is possible, I would proceed with the legislation. It wouldn't bother me. I tell you that if in accordance with this legislation I ask my wife what assets she had so that I could list them, I am fairly certain that she will tell me that it is none of my concern. I'm fairly certain - and that is the way I will have to file my return, and then I will have to go back to my electorate to see whether they will accept that.

The Leader of the Opposition has said that there should be an appeal to a court - and this is one issue, and he's welcome to some discussion on it. I would not want to place my electoral political future in the hands of a court. And I would not want the Opposition to do that under circumstances which they might not find to their liking if there was an entire change in the administrative system of this country. I'd say that ultimately I want the judgment of the people - and even if I'm exposed by the Opposition, even if I'm exposed by a court, I want to go back to them and say they are wrong, I want to tell you my story and I want you to vindicate me. And therefore I have disapproved - and there are other features of our legislation which say - you know, we had the Premier faced with this, which I found incredible, that there was a suggestion that because he - and it's not he - the Cabinet appointed a Mennonite lay churchman as a Returning Officer, so that involves all of us in some crime; it involves, I guess, the Lieutenant-Governor in some crime, because he signs it too - that not only is his election set aside, but then he cannot run for office in the Province of Manitoba for two years. That was a suggestion put forward by advocates - no, not by the Conservatives - let's say advocates, by the petitioner, who knew that this was the case all along while he was running in the election. I plead with members of the Assembly that if we are looking at reform, that we should eliminate such a suggestion, and that anybody who is found for reasons that are referred to in the Legislature to be disqualified has the right to go back to the people.

And I'm not going to go into the entire Morgentaler case. But, you know, one is the same as the other - Mr. Morgentaler has been acquitted yesterday, that all that leaves to be done is to say what will his sentence be, because his acquittal apparently means nothing. He will now be sentenced, if that kind of situation prevails. So I would not want to leave it in

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . . the hands of a court. I'm willing to go through the steps of committee. I'm even willing to have a Legislature condemn a man if they wish to, which is a drastic thing - provided that he has a right to go back to his constituents and say that they are wrong and I am right, and you will judge whether I will represent you or not. And I think that that is one of the good features of this piece of legislation, the legislation that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. That's one of the best features of it. That no matter what is said about that conflict - and it can be discussed and completely open - that the man has a right to go back to his constituents to find out. So I don't intend to belabour the legislature any more. I did feel that because my position was being represented as being opposed to the legislation and protesting to the government - that has never been my position. I'm prepared to give the experiment a try, if that's what is decided. I don't have a great deal of confidence in it, but I certainly don't protest against the legislation - and if it's to go to committee, I will vote for that. If it's to be pursued, I will vote for that; and if it's not pursued, I won't lose any sleep over it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I intend to be brief on this. And one of the reasons I am rising also, is because of the reports that were in the news - and I might say the reports in the news were accurate. Mr. Speaker, I made the statement to the news that I would be quite willing to comply with everything in this bill, providing the information is placed with the Chief Justice of this Province - and I would say that I could be in discussion with anybody as to whether it be a trustee or somebody of that nature.

I take exception to the fact that the Leader of the Opposition can walk down the hall and get that information, or a designated person by him. Now how many people can he designate within the year? Or the leader of an official party, or his designate, So, Mr. Speaker, I am just a little unlike the Minister who spoke. He says that - mind, he would be perfectly willing to go along with the legislation. I don't like the legislation, and I'm not perfectly willing to go along with the legislation when it has to be that open to everybody - mainly because I, unlike the Minister, believe in a certain amount of privacy for all of us members here. I think that if you have an accusation made against you, it can be judged upon and the decision be made if it is put in the hands of the proper person.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, I would say quite bluntly, though, I think the legislation does nothing - the Premier would really be happy to accept nothing by putting this legislation through. I didn't go out to any of you in your constituencies and say that I'm running to represent you on the basis of what I own or what I don't own. I think we all ran on our personal reputations, and I don't think that now in this House we're ever going to be able to legislate dishonesty or honesty.

But, Mr. Speaker, the reason for not liking this type of thing and the Minister accepting nothing, I could very easily tomorrow - which I haven't done - or anybody in this room could become a corporation, and just say that I own shares in that corporation and you don't have to list with the corporation. Really, you know, am I now supposed to do that? I didn't do that before, just to have a certain amount of privacy that I've had in my life, and my family's had. I would venture to say, I would venture to say that a good lawyer could probably arrange it so you put nothing down on most of these things, and by the time he was finished you wouldn't know anything at all. And I don't particularly--(Interjection)--Yes. I don't particularly now want to do that. I didn't ever represent myself that way to my constituents. So, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, the area of where the information is placed, I think, is one of the most serious things in this legislation. And I have no qualms at all if that is up for discussion; if it goes to committee, I would like to discuss that. But, again, I don't really think this legislation will accomplish all that much as far as finding out whether any of us in this room are going against conflict of interest because of what we may or may not own. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that it would go to committee for more discussion.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the loge to my left where we have a previous Member of this Legislation, Mr. Stan Roberts. We welcome him this afternoon.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, just a few words on this bill before it goes off to committee. I have sympathies with the last two speakers on the bill, and I don't disagree with the Leader of the Opposition either in this regard. My point is, that I think there's a lot of points being made here that are pretty valid points. But I just briefly want to kind of look at why this bill is here, and I think in part it's due to the - in part, not in entirety - but in part, it's due to a conflict that happened on the City Council of the City of Winnipeg with regards to a particular member of Council owning a piece of property in an area that was going to benefit substantially with it being rezoned and made available to the services that were, for another reason, in that area. And this blew up into somewhat of a storm on the City Council over this particular issue. And as a result, it has carried itself forward, and now there's substantial evidence that there was good grounds for a case of establishing some sort of a conflict of interest because the land in question was in the constituency of the member of the Council and he had probably more knowledge of what was happening with regards to decisions than someone outside.

However, the interesting fact here is, that I think, generally, people regarded that there was - knowing all the facts or not knowing them all - they had decided there was a clear-cut conflict of interest, and I think members of the Legislature that were familiar with the case said, "Yes, there is a clear conflict of interest there." Now, this in part has snowballed itself into the legislation that we have here. Well, it's the case of the 'in on the red' on the Perimeter Highway, and this was one of the particular cases that brought this to a head. And this spiralled the issue at the Winnipeg Council level. So it ended up in here and, in part, this bill is due to that fact. But one of the interesting things to know is that that got publicity - it got publicity in the paper, it got publicity on the radio, it got publicity all across the board about this conflict of interest. However, the elections were held after that, and I think the person was re-elected by a larger majority than he had the time before. So I don't know what it proves, Mr. Speaker. All of this can go down - and I don't think we should assume, that by everybody disclosing something and then disclosing everything, and then finding at some point in time a conflict of interest, that the interests of the public are necessarily going to be completely rectified - this doesn't appear to be the case.

Now the problem is here, Mr. Speaker, that this bill, although I have the reservations expressed by those people that spoke in the house today about it - it's one of those coloured margarine type of bills. The coloured margarine bill came into this House 10 years ago or so and kicked up a storm, and it went for days, then it ended up that everybody voted for a differentiation in the colour of margarine. The same bill went through the House last year without a murmur, and butter and margarine are now the same colour. But we're now at the stage that the coloured margarine was back 10 years ago. And personally, if that bill comes back in the House, I think I'll probably support it, because my constituents are probably convinced - and I'm not sure of this - but I expect that on the average, because of the publicity for a particular case, they think that there is pretty substantial cause to think that there may be conflicts of interest by any great numbers. I don't believe that's the case. The people who are most vulnerable and most likely to get into a conflict of interest position, are the people who are on the Treasury Benches, the Cabinet Ministers, because they administer the funds. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we can't even move the spending of money on this side without an advisability standard clause.

Now, following that statement, I want to say that I wouldn't even have suggested this bill myself, because I had concern that the people that are voting and spending the province's money are going to have a conflict of interest. I think if this bill was going to come up at a provincial level for MLAs, it would have been a logical bill for some suspicious member of the Opposition to bring up because he wanted to nail a Cabinet Minister.

A MEMBER: That's right.

MR. CRAIK: But that's not the case. The thing's coming back the other way, and it's embracing the whole Legislature, most of whom don't have any authority on the Treasury

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) . . . . Bench. So it's not completely--(Interjection)--it's not completely a--(Interjection)--that's where the problem is, if there is one. And I don't even take all the 17 Cabinet Ministers and single out one that I think I would want to in any way accuse of having a conflict of interest. And I know that it's paramountly impossible for a member of the Opposition to influence any vote in this House that could in any way affect the spending of government money, in any material way. However, come back to the fact. If the committee decides that this bill's gotta go - I say it's a coloured margarine type of bill - you'll likely find me voting for it, because I think I'd find that if I took a poll of my constituents, yes, they want it, fine. I have nothing to hide. My list isn't going to be any longer than the Minister of Mines and Resources, it'll probably be a lot shorter. So it'll be easy for me to fill out - and if that's what they want, I'll fill it out. I don't really think it makes a lot of sense, but we'll go along with it if that seems to be the code of the hills. Maybe somebody 10 years from now will say that's a ridiculous bill and throw it back out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, the discussion on this bill seems to have engendered a very careful caution on the part of members of this Legislative Assembly. It would seem that their caution comes perhaps because the bill cuts kind of close to the bone.--(Interjections)--Maybe it comes too close to home for them to take a position that is clear and principled on an issue such as this. Mr. Speaker, it is clear from comparison between Canadian politics and politics practically in any other democratic country of this world, that Canadian politics are just too secret. There is not enough openness, there is not enough disclosure. And that can be a position that can be documented by people who have studied the Canadian political scene and compared it with politics in other countries - too much secrecy on the part of the politicians who are elected, too much secrecy in the provincial Legislatures, too much secrecy in municipal councils, too much secrecy amongst the high placed civil servants in all levels of government. And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I think that we need a bill that puts forth various principles, and that will require members of the Legislature to put--(Interjection)--

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. TURNBULL: . . . to put their principles where their mouths are and vote for a bill that will require them to make open to the people of this province just what their various interests might be.

Mr. Speaker, I don't regard this bill as a great thing. As a matter of fact, I regard it as a very small token towards openness in Canadian politics. Yet members opposite seem to be very perturbed by it, and even more perturbed at the claims that I am making about too much secrecy in politics.--(Interjection)--I'm particularly concerned about the Member for Swan River, who seems to think that the support of a bill, which I believe puts forward a clear, moral position, the support of such a bill is something that should not be substantiated or supported.

A MEMBER: It's up to you to assume.

MR. TURNBULL: I can say to members opposite, as well as members on this side, that the argument put forth by some that this bill will not make politicians more honest, is a truism. It is so patently the case, that I hardly consider it to be worthy of consideration as an argument. No law, whether it's this law or any other law, can make people more honest. And I think that to suggest that if this law doesn't make politicians more honest, therefore it should not be passed, is just too ridiculous to consider by members who I assume consider themselves to be leaders in the public arena.

This bill was never intended to make politicians more honest. And originally, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. BILTON: How do you know? How do you know?

MR. TURNBULL: Well, the Member for Swan River wants to know how I know the bill was not intended to make people more honest. I will tell him why. I will tell him how I know.

MR. BILTON: You'd better.

MR. TURNBULL: I know, because in 1973 I had on the Order Paper a bill just such as this. It didn't go quite as far as this bill went, but it was a bill calling upon members of the Legislature only, to disclose their interests - and I think that a bill which requires disclosure

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . . of interest is certainly one that I could easily support. I am not particularly interested in requiring members to state whether they have a conflict of interest or anything else. That to me is not the relative consideration here. I want merely to have disclosure. I think it should be required by legislation for all people who are elected to public life. Disclosure of all assets, whether they own them, or hold them in their own name, whether their wives or immediate family hold them, whether those assets are in shares or real property or in any other form. And I think it is a principle that is clear, and it's based on this, Mr. Speaker: That public life, which we are all here in, requires people in this Legislature to be public in their affairs. And it's as simple as that.

MR. BILTON: Why?

MR. TURNBULL: If you want to be in public life, then be public about your assets and disclose them. And if it requires an Act of the Legislature to make members disclose, then I support the Act. I would hope that perhaps it would not require such a statute, but clearly no member is going to disclose his assets if all the other members aren't going to do the same.

So we need an Act. We need an Act to coerce members, to make members do what they say is not important to do. They claim it's not important, they claim it is irrelevant, they claim it will make no difference - but nonetheless they're reluctant to support the bill. Now, Mr. Speaker, I regard that as being not an acceptable position on their part. If they want to be in public life, make your assets public. If you want to slop up at the public trough, make your assets public. --(Interjections)--It's as simple as that.--(Interjections)--Do you want to draw your MLA's indemnity? You make your assets known to the people of the province. I think Mr. Speaker, that the people of the province have a right - a simple right to expect disclosure from the members that they are going to elect, let alone those that they do elect. Therefore, I support the bill. I support it to remove secrecy, what I regard as excessive secrecy from public life - and I support it, too, because I want to remove from myself - and hopefully from all those who are associated with me in this Assembly - the suspicion which many members of the public hold people who are elected to public office. I do not like that attitude of suspicion that is held by some members of the public - many members of the public - of people here who claim they have nothing to hide, who claim that they are not really in a position either to have a conflict of interest, or to have assets that are of such size and magnitude that they should be disclosed.

So, to remove public life from secrecy and suspicion, I support this bill. And I would hope, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that if the bill is passed, that we will not have members of the Legislature defying the law. Because, to defy the law, in my opinion, sir, is a very serious matter. And to have members who see themselves as leaders of their communities, to advocate defiance of the law, is to me reprehensible. I do not support that concept of expressing your disagreement with the law, that I think is morally right and that would remove members from suspicion. And if members of this House or municipal council, if the bill is passed - or civil servants - wish to defy the law, I would hope that in the case of the civil servants, that they would be removed from office. It's as simple as that. With the politicians, I think that, certainly, they should have to go back to their electorate. Their electorate will have to make a decision as to whether or not they want these people re-elected or not. And that is their choice. I want them to have that choice. But I also want that electorate to know what assets the members that they are voting for do have.

Mr. Speaker, in the very short time past, we saw the incredible situation in the United States where an American President was caught in a situation that was regarded by many to be not a desirable situation. And I think that this kind of legislation, on disclosure at least, might have avoided that particular president from getting into the situation that he did.

So that, regardless of what the law might achieve, what this bill might achieve, I think it is worth supporting because of the principle involved and because the people of Manitoba, I believe, have the right to know.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, parliamentary language forbids me from describing and characterizing the honourable member's speech. But it can be described as being somewhat akin to equine excrement. (laughter) I've never heard such rubbish in all my life.

A MEMBER: He's no more "Mr. Nice Guy."

MR. JORGENSEN: His comparisons with the parliamentary system in this country with

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) . . . . the congressional system in the United States, is an example of his catastrophic ignorance of the system of government that's being used in this country as opposed to what is used in the United States. I can understand, sir, that if such a piece of legislation had been in effect in the United States, there's a possibility that the situation that he described might not have taken place. But that's only possible. But in this country, he knows, or he should know, that the government makes the decisions here. And by the government, let's make it very clear, mean the members of the Cabinet - those who have been appointed to the Cabinet, and collectively are responsible for the decisions that are taken. They make the decisions as to what legislation is brought into this House, more particularly as it affects money matters, and this is what we're discussing. They make the decisions as to where the money will go, how it will be spent, and how the taxes will be raised. So in effect, there is a very select group of people in this country, and in this province, and in this Chamber, that actually make the decisions, and make the decisions as to where the money is going to be spent. And for the honourable member to suggest, because they can't trust themselves, or that the Premier can't trust any of his Cabinet, that all members of this Legislature have to come under the umbrella of this kind of legislation, is sheer nonsense.--(Interjection)--He knows full well that we on this side of the House haven't even the opportunity of getting information - for two years I've tried to find out how many parliamentary secretaries were in the government and who they were, and couldn't get that information. How is it possible that a member on this side of the House--(Interjection)--That's just my point - what we're talking about, a conflict of interest. Where can the conflict of interest arise when you don't have the responsibility of making decisions? The honourable member knows.--(Interjection)--Well the honourable member says you vote. We all vote. But it's the government with their majority that decide what that vote will be. And when we vote, we vote on items dealing with the broad or general application of expenditures in a given area. We do not make the decisions as to who will get that money in the way of contracts; who will get that money, or what land will be purchased, or anything of that nature. There are the incidences where a conflict of interest can arise - there and there only. The broad approval of a set of estimates in no way constitutes a conflict of interest. And my honourable friend should know that.

But he gave us an indication of exactly what is in the mind of the government when he made his first few remarks. He said, we are opposed to it or we are afraid to oppose it because it cuts close to home. Cuts close to home in what? What and how? He never explained. No way can this bill affect any decision of this House insofar as the Opposition is concerned. No way does it constitute a conflict of interest. Because in my opinion, there's a matter of principle involved. It's a matter of principle. The Cabinet - and I pointed that out before, but for the benefit of my honourable friend - who obviously recently had a haircut and I'm afraid that the barber came a little too close to his brain - what he should recognize is that it is not the members of the Opposition who could anywhere come near a conflict of interests. No way at all. He has demonstrated by his remarks that they're not concerned about conflict of interests. All they want is disclosure. For what?

What's going to happen if a member does refuse to comply with the regulations set out in this bill, and he runs and is expelled out of this House. Not by the people who elected him, which is the democratic way, I always thought. A member that is elected in this Chamber is elected by the people in his constituency not by honourable gentlemen opposite . . . And yet by this bill they are going to have the authority to expel him out of this House. Suppose he chooses to run again and is re-elected back in this Chamber, and is thrown out again. Is this process going to continue on?--(Interjection)--No. He doesn't like it.--(Interjection)--Well then who is going to make the ultimate decision as to who represents people in this Chamber? Is it going to be honourable gentlemen opposite, as the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs seems to think; or is it going to be the people in the constituencies that are going to determine who's going to represent them. It seems to me that this bill contains nothing more than the extension of that kind of authority on the part of the government as to who is going to sit in this Chamber.

We've had an example of their thinking, sir, in the Hog Marketing Board. They talk about how important it was to have producer elected representatives on the board but when a certain producer elected representative on that board dared to disagree with the Minister, he got a letter from him telling him to get out. The wishes of the producers in this instance didn't mean anything. What was important was the will of the Minister. Are we now to have that sort

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) . . . . of thing in this legislation? Are we now going to have members of this Chamber being told that they must leave, notwithstanding the wishes of the constituents?

Well, you know, the bill contains provisions that in my view are an invasion of privacy; needless, nonsensical, an attempt to extend the authority of the government benches over who is going to face them in the Opposition, rather than allowing the people of this province to make that determination. Well, sir, I'm not afraid to say that I oppose this bill. I have no objection to the Premier suggesting to his Cabinet, because they make the decisions, that they must comply, they must reveal their assets. As far as I'm concerned, they don't have to reveal them to the Clerk of the House. They can reveal them to the Premier himself, who in the final analysis is the man that's responsible for all his Cabinet. If the Premier wants to bring in that kind of legislation, he's perfectly at liberty to do so without this thing.

I think also the Premier has an obligation to insure that the civil servants, the senior, and particularly those levels of the Civil Service that deal in contracts, land purchases, and things like that, are free from a conflict of interest. I think also that the Premier is the one that should know that, not everybody in this Legislature. If he's satisfied, and I've got enough confidence in the Premier's integrity, whoever he may be, and when I don't have that confidence then he probably will no longer be there, but I've got enough confidence in the Premier's integrity that he would want to insure that no conflict of interests of that nature should arise.

The bill is absolutely unnecessary, sir, insofar as members of this side of the House are concerned, or even the backbenchers on the government side, who don't apparently have a great deal of influence with the front bench in the first instance. Conflict of interest - yes. We'll accept that, but I think the Premier is the one who should determine who may be liable to a conflict of interest, and to insure that conflict is removed, and he and he only should make that decision. I think the bill is excessive when it applies to people who are not in a position to even exercise a conflict of interest. It strives only to make members reveal their personal assets.

One can see what's going to happen come the next election campaign. They're going to be campaigning in constituencies on the grounds that the member has got too much money so therefore he shouldn't be a member. Elect a poor one. Elect a welfare recipient, or somebody like that. If anybody thinks for one minute that the provisions contained in this bill are going to remain in the hands of the Clerk, or remain in the hands of a few people, better think again, because the Member for St. Matthews one day when we were debating the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation revealed that somebody had communicated to him some arrangements that I had with the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation. Where did he get that information? We know where he got it from, and we know it's going to happen insofar as honourable gentlemen are concerned. Because, sir, we know how they operate. We know how they operate, and we know what we can expect. I know that there are going to be abuses of this piece of legislation on the part of honourable gentlemen opposite. I resent very much being told that I must be in this Legislature at the pleasure and the sufferance of a government, rather than at the pleasure and sufferance of the people who voted for me and elected me to this Legislature. They, sir, are the ones in the final analysis that I must answer to, and I am prepared to do that. I am prepared --(Interjection)-- They do know. They do know. I am prepared to answer to them, and to them only. Once they have sent me to this place and I am a member of this Chamber, then I feel I have the right to be here at their pleasure and not at the government's pleasure. And all this does is to try to take that decision-making process out of the hands of the electorate and place it in the hands of a select few in the front benches opposite.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally find it very difficult to accept this bill, not for the reason that I have a lot of assets that I don't particularly want to disclose to the people of the Legislature of Manitoba. But my main concern, Mr. Speaker, why I find it difficult to accept is that like everybody else in this room I swore an Oath of Office when I accepted the responsibility of representing St. James, and I think I'll read it again to the members of the Legislature, the actual Oath of Office.

And it reads: "I, George Minaker, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."



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(MR. MINAKER cont'd)

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the bill before us is a document that will be presented to assure that we are telling the truth when we swear that oath on the Bible. Because if you look up the meaning of "true" and you look up the meaning of "allegiance" it says: "steadfast, loyal, honest, just, truthful." And, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that the treasury bench, if they should lie in this House, it's expected of them to resign their posts. So, Mr. Speaker, if this is a democratic House that we abide in here and follow the rules of the House, I cannot understand the reason for the bill because really all it is saying is that here's the document to show that I am truthful when I swear that oath. And, Mr. Speaker, I start to wonder, what value will the Oath of Office be if we pass this bill? That we can be sitting in this House after we swore the Oath of Office, we've disclosed our assets, that it's going to guarantee that everybody in this room is going to be honest. I think the Honourable Minister of Mines indicated that it won't guarantee that everybody's going to be honest or truthful or loyal. But the untruth will come out, and the unloyal will come out, it will eventually make its way to the surface.

But, Mr. Speaker, the other concern I have is that it also says that I, when I swear that Oath of Office, am admitting that I might not necessarily be telling the truth if I accept this bill. For some reason the members on the other side, at least the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, thinks that, you know, by showing my assets - I own a house, big deal; I own a piece of property on Ronald Street - that that guarantees that my swearing loyal allegiance to the Queen is truthful. Mr. Speaker, there is some reason to believe that if there's a gain of assets from being in conflict with your true interests, that that would be your only conflict of interest, and I suggest that there are other conflicts of interest besides gaining assets. You also have allegiance to other things. The Honourable Minister of Mines has allegiance to his lawyer profession, his legal profession. I have allegiance to my profession as an engineer. I'm sure the farmers have their allegiance to the different industries and memberships that they have.

So, Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to accept that by passing this bill that we will assure that everything is fine. We have proven, each member that comes into this House that he's telling the truth when he swears his Oath of Office, and that there will not be any conflict of interests if it doesn't relate to an asset gain.

So, Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult not, as I indicated before, that I have a lot of assets that I can disclose, because I've already gone through this when I was on City Council. I filed with the clerk, the city clerk, the properties that I own in the City of Winnipeg. If I remember correctly there I think it was made available to everybody because the papers at that time announced what people were owners of, and so on.

But this bill goes one step further. It implies that I, the representative of St. James, will not be true, will not be loyal to the Queen or to the people of Manitoba if my son happens to own something, or my wife happened to own something. But it's okay if my wife doesn't live with me. She has no influence any more over me. I guess that means that if my wife and I were separated, that I didn't like her or something, that I might take the opposite point of view. So we have to disclose that too, that if any of us happen to be separated, and I want to make it very clear to the honourable speaker that my wife and I are very compatible and we are not separated. I won't elaborate on the compatibility, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to be that the people of our province today, in Canada, want this information, and I would suggest that they want it because of the fact that there were some dishonest politicians in our time, and I think there will always be some dishonest politicians. Even when those dishonest politicians sign this form, fill out their data that they want to disclose, it won't change their character or their beliefs, and for this reason, Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to support. I would prefer, as my honourable colleague from Sturgeon Creek indicated earlier, that it be filed with some person like the Chief Justice, for his information, so that it's kept in confidence. I could see where if it became public information that there were people in this House with a fair degree of assets and it became public knowledge, that it could result in kidnappings, and so forth. I would not want to see this additional pressure put on members whether they be at the municipal level or the provincial level. So I think information like this is to my opinion best kept in a closet somewhere, where the proper authorities have it for when the time comes that if it had to be brought forward, that it was brought forward. I do not favour the idea of a Kangaroo Court deciding whether or not I can sit in this Legislature,

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) . . . . based on the accusation of an individual. I frown on that particular principle that based on a debate in this House that a decision will be decided on whether in fact what I have said is truthful or not, and that I am forced to resign, etc. I don't particularly favour that principle, and as my honourable colleague from Morris indicated, I was elected by the people of St. James based on my past experience, my word, and the day that I do not live up to my word or I break their confidence, then obviously I will not be re-elected. But let them decide that not the Kangaroo Court here that I understand would take place when this bill is passed.

So that I hope that better scrutiny, or more thorough scrutiny is taken when dealing with this bill, and that the government give consideration to a more thorough review of what is being proposed because as I put forward in the earlier remarks, to me this means that the Oath of Allegiance will have little meaning any more, that it will be just a performance that takes place because it's a requirement in order to sit in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I just have a few further comments to add to the bill at this particular time, and I should put the Opposition's point of view very clear. You know if the people want integrity we'll give them integrity. There's just no question about that, and we can do it. And if they want our government we'll give them our government too in due time. So let that be on the record.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I really wanted to remark on was the thought that crossed my mind, a surprising one, that there is of course one area that hasn't been touched on as far as I can understand in the debates today, and certainly there were no accompanying remarks made about it by the First Minister when he introduced the bill. There is of course one specific action that we take upon ourselves every once in awhile that the public readily recognizes as a very blatant conflict of interest, and sometimes they judge it to be an abusive act. And I refer of course, Mr. Speaker, to the time that by simply saying "Aye" a little louder we vote ourselves a pay rise every once in awhile. And I suppose in that case we, you know, I think one of those few instances where generally there is some form of a general agreement arrived at by all members of the Chamber, a committee is usually struck consisting of individual members of all parties, and we decide to do something which very few other people in our society can do, that we deserve more money and we vote ourselves a pay rise. Now, Mr. Speaker, particularly in the past two years any of us would have to be blind and deaf not to be aware of the fact that the public recognizes this as a very specific case of conflict of interest.

I would have thought that perhaps if we're dealing with the matter from the position that the opposition obviously wants the government to deal with, namely, to get more at the problem of conflict of interest rather than a simple disclosure bill, which we essentially now have, that it might have been appropriate, or it might have indeed been the time for the government to not embody it in this legislation but along with it suggested a way of means that has been suggested from time to time of removing that specific conflict of interest that we face every three or four years that involves all members, both opposition and government, on the question of our own salaries and salaries increases. The First Minister might have expressed some thoughts, or indeed introduced a tandem bill that talked about taking that conflict of interest out of this Chamber and putting it into the hands of some independent commission of some kind, or what have you.

But I rise really only on that particular point, Mr. Speaker, to say that there is of course that one specific occasion, which arises every few years, where all members do have a specific input into a piece of legislation that affects them most vitally and most individually. To that extent I must deviate from the remarks of the Member for Morris. Certainly his remarks in most instances, in all instances are correct. The Cabinet, the Treasury Bench, makes the decisions, directs the flow of money, instigates the programs and the policies that cost the money, and how the money is spent. But every once in awhile we collectively decide that we want to give ourselves a bit more money, and in that case a direct conflict of interest arises. If we're dealing with a conflict of interest why not start with the very blatant one, the one that's before us, and the one that quite frankly we are all too often, at least I am, you know, not happy with having to deal with in the present manner and the present way that I have to deal with it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

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MR. GREEN: Yes. I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question. Would he not recall that the very first attempt at salary increases that was made and agreed to by the entire House, was to put it into the hands of an independent committee, and then the Legislature came back and felt that we were less disposed to deal that way with our salaries than were the committee that apparently didn't have the conflict, and we went below their suggestion, and that last year we put it on automatic indicator to try to deal with the question. But we did have an independent committee the very first pay raise after 1969.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I just have one line here or there. I didn't intend to get into this debate so early. I intended to get into it at some time but the remarks of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs just got a little bit under my skin.

He talked about Canadian politics, Mr. Speaker, being secretive, and he took it right down to the municipal level, and he created an atmosphere of doubt in men down through the years who have served, and served faithfully, the people. I think it was entirely unbecoming of him as a Minister of the Crown to talk in that manner. He's going to eat those words before this debate's over. There's no question about it.

He went on to say, Mr. Speaker, that he felt that the electorate should know the assets of a member, not only of this House but also of municipal councils, schoolboards, and so on, that this particular bill calls for. Such idiocy.

The Member for St. James, Mr. Speaker, emphasized his feelings toward the oath of office that he took when he entered this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs dragged that Oath of Office, that each and every one of us take, down into the gutter and made it worthless in his remarks toward this bill. I listened with a great deal of interest to the Honourable Member for Morris, my colleague, who gave a word picture of what this is all about and why we are here, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to say at this particular point that I am against the laying down of my assets for all the world to see, but I would try to insist at this particular juncture that the bill be put back into committee and refined to some extent that it won't put that onus on those of us, or a smear if you like.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this Watergate business has got we as politicians on the run. Well what have we got to run from? Our Canadian politics have gone down the wrong road from time to time, Mr. Speaker, but as I feel that when people have digressed and done things that are wrong, our parliamentary system has taken care of them, and taken care of the particular incident, and has come through well.

We don't need this bill, Mr. Speaker, in my humble opinion, not to the extent that it's set up. I was a member of the committee and we, along with several colleagues, and we discussed this thing, and the First Minister was very co-operative in every respect. I remember at our last sitting, we didn't make a recommendation to this House, Mr. Speaker, that that bill be adopted as a committee. It never came that far. The next time we saw it, at least as far as I'm concerned as a member of the committee, the next time we saw it was when the Minister tabled it, the First Minister tabled it. We didn't have the opportunity of going through the several suggestions that we made. The Minister to some degree incorporated them, but there were others that were not incorporated. I don't fault him for that. But at the same time I feel that the committee that was appointed to do this job and set up this bill did not go to the nth degree and set it up, that may have been compatible and acceptable to this House.

So I'm asking that in all sincerity that this bill be held and refined. This matter of what my wife owns is something that's not the business of this House, Mr. Speaker, it's her business, and she has a right to say to me, "No way am I going to submit to this declaration." As I pointed out when we were in committee, Mr. Speaker, that if I am in partnership with an individual and we have certain obligations around the community and around the nation insofar as that business is concerned, the way this bill is set up I have to declare my association with that gentleman, and anything he may owe me or I may owe him, or what have you, and he may not wish that that be done. And he's got a right to say to me, "To hell with you." So what happens? It places a man that runs for public office in a very precarious position.

And another thing that occurs to me, you know, Mr. Speaker, is that I think it's reasonable to say that in the past men have made a success in various fields of endeavour, legal, industrial, a business, and there comes a time that they can step aside from that business,

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(MR. BILTON cont'd) . . . . Mr. Speaker, and offer themselves for public life. In doing so they have a certain amount to offer to public life, their finesse, their business ability, their legal ability, take it in any sphere of endeavour you please. In future under this legislation you must say to that man in running for office, these are the obligations you have to meet under this bill of Conflict of Interest and he chooses not to do it. Why should I? I'm prepared to offer myself as knowledgeable as I may be for public life for five or ten years, and give of his best in the law making of this province. He chooses not, sir, and which might be his rights, or is his rights, to refrain from complying with this bill. And who knows the men we may be denying public office because of this bill, who could be of great service to this great province of ours.

These are the things that go through my mind from time to time. Don't misunderstand me, Mr. Speaker, I am quite willing, as I am sure most of us are, to put on paper what I have, and it's precious little in this world. But every bit I've got I've earned, and I've earned it the hard way, in my own way, and it's my business as to how I spend it, and I don't want some individual looking at that at election time and saying . . . or, more important, getting up in this House because he has heard from somebody who somebody told somebody that I didn't commit such and such to paper, and get up in this House and commit me to something that may in the end, Mr. Speaker, be proved wrong, but in the meantime my character and all I have stood for throughout my life is damaged. I may be proved right in the end, but this bill opens up that situation. Mr. Speaker, in my 37 years in public life when I have made an Oath, that Oath meant something to me and I have stood by it, and I hope every member that comes into this House will stand by those few words. (applause)

And with those few words, Mr. Speaker, whether I have done anything to help this bill being passed or giving the government the thought that they may have a second look at this thing and take it before the committee and refine it to some degree, that those things that I tried to endeavour to point out may be eliminated for all times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to say a very few words on this important Bill 37. I must say this has been an excellent debate this afternoon on a very important issue, one I suppose that the government of the day thinks is a lot more important than we do. But I think the members who have spoken this afternoon have expressed their own personal thinking, and especially the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. I must say that I enjoyed your speech very much on this subject because you are a member of the Treasury Bench, and one who is more affected than we are, and as mentioned by members of our side.

I did spend 11 years on that side of the House, and I spent six years over here, and at no time was I responsible for the spending of one dollar. At no time was I responsible for the spending of one dollar. --(Interjection)-- Well, I haven't been in that fortunate position for some reason. I haven't been in that fortunate position, the seventeen of you are there in the front benches. The Member for Morris stated in no uncertain terms, that you as the Cabinet of this particular province are responsible for the spending of all moneys in this province. No member of the backbenches on the government side, no member of the Opposition can bring in, and by bill, for the spending of moneys. No member of the backbenches of the government side and no member of the opposition can amend a bill that deals with finances of the Province of Manitoba. We can only vote for or against, for or against, that's the matter. We cannot initiate, we cannot initiate the spending of money in the Province of Manitoba. Who brings in the estimates? The Cabinet bring in the estimates. Who brings in the budget? The Minister of Finance, he's the man responsible for the raising of moneys. Who spends the money? Each individual Cabinet Minister. You're all expended. And you have to account for that, and this is one of the reasons why we have a debate on the estimates in the Province of Manitoba, that you're accounting for every dollar that you spend as individual Cabinet Ministers, to the people of the Province of Manitoba. And we try to do our best to get that particular information.

Now there's two particular bills here, and for the life of me . . . we're confusing the issue here. Conflict of interests and disclosure of assets, which one do you want to deal with? Why didn't you bring in one or the other? Why did you involve this with the municipal men in the Province of Manitoba? Why did you involve this with the senior civil servants, who had no spending powers in the Province of Manitoba? Why did you involve them? I say that you've

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . . got six bills mixed up here, six bills all in one. Mince-meat - that's about what it is, in this particular bill, mince-meat. You're trying to say to us, vote against it and we'll tell the public of the Province of Manitoba what kind of a bunch of guys you in the opposition are.

I've been in this business 17 years. At no time did anybody ask me what wealth I had. I tell you they went back in the first election and searched me back three generations to see whether anybody had been in jail, but nobody asked me how much money I had in my pocket, or how much I was worth. They weren't interested. They're interested in your character only and it doesn't matter about the amount of money. And all it . . . disclosure of assets. Who's the richest man in the Province of Ontario, in the Legislature of Ontario? An NDP, Dr. Shulman. Dr. Shulman. Why does he get elected? Because he's doing what the people think he should do for them. He's divulging a lot of things that no other man in the Ontario Legislature would divulge, but Dr. Shulman is the richest man in the Legislature of Ontario. Don't forget that. Don't forget that. Dr. Shulman, a man of your cloth over there. He's the man that you should look up to because he's a man of your faith over there.

But this is not the point. We're talking about two things. The conflict of interest. Then you might say when the 1st of July, when the government, the Minister of Autopac gets into the general insurance business because I, along with the Member for Riel, are directors in a private insurance company who are competing with the Autopac, that we have no right to talk from that day on. And it's likely true. We've got a conflict of interest maybe in that regard. We have a conflict, but that's one thing. But you've got six bills in one mixed up here in Bill 37 - six bills in one. No need for it at all. If you want disclosure of assets, that's one thing; if you want a conflict of interest, that's a different thing. Which do you want? How do you want it? When do you want it? About the only thing I could do to assist you members is, I'm a Commissioner of Oaths, I can help you fill out your papers when you have to go to that trouble on the back page of the bill here. It takes a Commissioner of Oaths. If you want that service, I'll provide it free, I'll provide it free to you.

But is it necessary, is it necessary? Is all this fuss necessary? Somebody said it's the same as margarine. I say it's the same as margarine and daylight saving time. That's the kind of bills we're dealing with right here. Daylight saving time. We talked about daylight saving time, how it was going to destroy the farmers, and how it was going to destroy somebody else, but it was going to help the golfers, and it was going to help somebody else, but we got daylight saving time, and are we any of the worse because of it? Are we any better because of daylight saving time? I don't think so. Are we any better because margarine now - and I remember so well that margarine debate. We couldn't have it the same colour as butter. The Member for Riel says we've got it the same colour as butter. Are we any better off as a nation or as a province because margarine is the same colour as butter? I don't suppose we've got any more butter or less butter, or any more margarine or less margarine, and we're not a bit better off.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't be a bit better politicians after the bill is passed, I can assure you of that, not one little bit. We'll never be a bit better politician. People are human and if you're not yourself when you come in here, you won't be yourself when you leave here. Some of us will be here for a short time; others, like the Minister of Labour, will be here for a long time in this House, spending a third or half of his lifetime in this Legislature. He didn't come here because he was wealthy or his occupation was such. He came for his human values, the same as a lot more people in this Legislature, human values. He could be trusted and he could do what's right for the people of the province.

I would say that if anybody thinks - and this really bothered me today when the Minister of Consumer Affairs, of all people to lecture us, lecture us on the opposition who are not responsible for the spending of moneys, and telling us and accusing us of things that are not right, not right. I wish I had the Hansard here right now. I just didn't write the words down. Maybe the Member for Swan River wrote them down as they were spoken, but I wish I had the exact words. Because it really bothered me, really bothered me in no uncertain terms. Not one member in this House has to be here. We can all quit tomorrow, every one of us, and we'd likely be better off if we did quit. I want to say that I never saw a man gain any wealth by being a member of the Legislature, and this is an actual fact. I've seen a lot of members go out here, when they retired, they're defeated. Pretty destitute, pretty destitute because

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . . they've spent the best years of their life in here working for the public. And it's a full-time job now, don't ever think.

When I first came in in 1958, it was a part-time job, spending eight to nine weeks in this Chamber, and the constituencies were small, and the government wasn't involved with the people's business to the extent they are now. We weren't getting the phone calls, we weren't getting the letters; it was just about a third of the work it actually is now. But I want to come back. No member ever made a dollar by being a member of the Legislature. No member ever made a dollar. The sacrifice that he . . . and I want to say the rural members, the rural members of which I am one who spend four to five months living in hotels and suites in Winnipeg, away from their families, and away from their farms, and away from their occupations, their sacrifice is a great one, a great one on which nobody can put a dollar and cent value. I don't think we should put a dollar and cent value on the position that we hold here today. That's not what we came for. We came to represent people, to do what's right for people, and make laws for people, and make the best laws that we know how to make. We can only make the best laws if we have an open mind and can see both sides of the story, and hope that in the long run 57 members will make the right decision for the people. Sure you can amend it the next session, but that isn't good legislation.

Now the Member for Swan River and others have spoken, and they say, study it again. I suppose studying would help. I wasn't on that committee. I don't know what they talked about when they were in that committee. I never saw a report; we never got a statement from that committee to say what they recommended, and this disturbs me too because I never saw a committee that hasn't reported to the Legislature. I don't know why they haven't reported, and I don't know whether the Clerk ever received anything or whether he didn't, but the chairman of that committee, I'd like to know who he is. I don't know who he is, but if I could find out who he is, he's got an obligation right to us sitting right here that he hasn't fulfilled, and I tell you he better get that report in pretty soon or I tell you I'll find out from the Clerk who he is, and he'll file it in a pretty short time and it will be in the Votes and Proceedings. Now I want to know, is it the Member for Radisson? Is it the Member for St. Vital? Which one of that back-bench is the chairman of that committee? He better speak up and he better file, be better file. The committee that dealt with this conflict of interest, disclosure of assets. I want to know who that chairman was. He better come out loud and clear, and speak up right now and tell us. I tell you if he doesn't speak up, I tell you he's going to learn the facts of life in the next few days. --(Interjection)-- Well I don't know, maybe it's the Speaker, and if it is . . .

A MEMBER: No, no, no.

MR. McKELLAR: Somebody's got to be responsible. There is somebody in the 57 men in this Chamber that's going to produce this report, and I don't know who it is. I don't know who it is; somebody's responsible. Everybody there was paid \$50.00 a day to sit there and represent --(Interjection)-- Well that's all right but we're dealing with something here that isn't real. It isn't real. The First Minister comes in and brings a bill in. Did you see the report? The Member for Radisson, do you see the report that was handed into this Legislature recommending that a bill be brought forward? Did you see that report from that committee? I never saw the report. I don't know who's responsible, but I tell you this is a lesson we've got to learn here. This is a democracy, democracy yet, and it better continue to be a democracy. How can I vote to tell my municipal men that they've got to disclose their assets? How can I do that as an individual MLA sitting here? I'm not responsible for the municipal men in the Province of Manitoba. You're not going to tell Steve Juba that he's got to disclose his assets. I don't care if it's permissive. I'm not going to tell Steve Juba he's got to disclose his assets. He can own the City of Winnipeg and the . . . I'm not going to tell the Mayor of Winnipeg he's got to disclose his assets. I'm not going to tell him he's got a conflict of interest in certain bills, because who am I to tell Steve Juba - are any one of you fellows going to tell Steve Juba? Not in your lifetime. Not in your lifetime. I wouldn't even tell my own brother-in-law who is Mayor of Brandon. I wouldn't tell my own brother-in-law who is Mayor of Brandon - I wouldn't go that far. I wouldn't tell my own reeve who is my own neighbour.

A MEMBER: You know your relatives better than we do.

MR. McKELLAR: I sure do. He's a Liberal, he happens to be a Liberal.

A MEMBER: What?

MR. McKELLAR: But that's how ridiculous this whole exercise is, it's ridiculous. How

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . . am I to tell the Deputy Ministers of the Province of Manitoba they've got to disclose their assets. How crazy can I be. They've spent a lifetime in this building, in this government, representing Liberal governments, Conservative governments and New Democratic Party governments. I'm not going to tell those Deputy Ministers. I'm not going to tell Rae Tallin, who is the Legislative Counsel and sits here when there's . . . I'm not going to tell him he's got to disclose his assets. Who am I to tell him. I'm only the MLA for Souris-Killarney. Yet you're asking me, as the Government of the Day, that I've got to do all these things. Well these things get a little bad. They really disturb me.

You know common sense is the only thing - and I admire the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. He said, "Don't legislate it, don't legislate it" and he was telling the Minister of Labour, "Don't legislate everything, don't dot all the 'i's' and cross the 't's' because eventually it will get you in trouble." Eventually it gets you in trouble, you're tied and locked right in, and what are you going to do here? You're going to lock every MLA in. You're going to lock every mayor, and every councillor in, and you're going to lock every senior civil servant. Now how are you going to get top civil servants? How are you going to get them if you're going to lock them in? You're going to lock them in. You've got to replace them; some are going to die, some are going to retire. How are you going to get good ones? Who is a senior civil servant? That's another question that's not answered. Who is a senior civil servant? I'd like to know that. I know some of them personally, but I'd like to know, where does it start and where does it end? There's a lot of questions here that we're dealing with, and I hope that the members, all the members, and I'm replying to everybody. How can you honestly vote on a bill where you don't know the answers to all the questions that are involved in this bill? I don't know. It really bothers me.

I often wonder why this bill was brought in. Some mention was made of Watergate. Well Watergate's one thing, but I must say in my 17 years here - and the Minister of Labour has got me beat by five - I can't say in the 17 years I've been here, that I've ever seen any dishonesty. Or I never heard of any dishonesty. And I don't expect I ever will hear of any dishonesty in the future. Because we under the British system of government which we operate, is entirely different from the American system. Entirely different from the American system, and we'll not - there's protection. Did you ever go across to North Dakota? Do you ever go to Minnesota? Do you ever see the government in the house like he is right there, got to answer the people like the Premier of our province has got to answer, and any one of you Cabinet Ministers? They don't do it. You have the administration sitting out in one building; you have the legislators come in 60 days every two years, and they legislate. The greatest protection the citizens of Canada have, and the citizens of Manitoba have, is the system of the government which we operate, and God help if anybody ever changes that. God help the people if anybody ever changes. Because we have a protection built in, built in that nobody else can ever duplicate. No other country has ever duplicated the British system of government, and no other country ever will. So for those reasons, I'm bewildered, I'm bewildered, really bewildered. I could easily vote for it and I could say - but I wouldn't tell my wife what she had to do. I've never told my wife what she had to do yet because it doesn't pay. It doesn't pay. I'll divulge all my assets, anybody can do anything with them that he likes, I don't care. If they can use it, they can put it in every newspaper, I couldn't care less.

I came in here without any debts, all I said I hoped after I retired that I could go out of here without any debts. That's all I ever hoped for. Not to be a rich man. But I tell you. I don't know what kind of man makes the best legislator. Do you want one with 50 thousand dollar debts, a hundred thousand, or a quarter million dollar debts, or do you want a millionaire? What do you want? You have to have a combination of . . . The best legislature is a combination of everybody. This is what we've got. We got a newspaper man, we've got an engineer; we've got a rancher, we've got a farmer, we've got - I don't know what . . . He used to run a store in Portage la Prairie. He operated a good store in Portage la Prairie till he decided that wasn't . . . I only wish that he had my farm and I had his job because I think we could both be a lot better off. But getting away from the humour - we've got to get down to serious business here.

I've always found when you get too many of any one group of people - if you had all welfare running it, you would have the worst government you ever had. If you had all millionaires running it, you would have the worst government you ever had. The mere fact that we've got

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(MR. McKELLAR cont'd) . . . . a blend of every part of society representing the people of Manitoba makes the province stronger, gives the province better government, and I tell you we will survive a long while.

MR. ENNS: There's a few too many NDPers right now. That's the only thing wrong right now.

MR. McKELLAR: I'm getting some help here from my seat mate here. But anyway for the life of me I can't see why the government brought the bill in. Six bills in one. Mincemeat, mincemeat. That's what it is, mincemeat. I just can't see the government - I can vote for it; I can vote against it. I don't know which way I'm voting yet. I guess we'll decide that later on.

So anyway, Mr. Speaker, I think this is one case, one case where the government should have slept on this bill or put it into hiding for about 12 months, brought it out, looked at it, and then I think they'd have had a better idea of whether they should bring it forth. Maybe put it back into another 12 months hiding, and so on. It wouldn't make one little bit of difference whether we have it. It will be the same as daylight saving time and margarine. We'll survive with it, we'll survive without it.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Member for Minnedosa wish to speak on this bill?

MR. DAVID BLAKE (Minnedosa): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: The adjournment can stand in the honourable member's name, I may have to be absent tomorrow so I . . .

It's a difficult act to follow at this particular time but all that I have to say won't take me very long, Mr. Speaker, but I did want to say a few words because I have had, in my business I have had some occasion to look into the statements of assets of many many people and it didn't seem to create any problems. I found in the statements of assets and liabilities that I had to take in the process of my business for many many years, people were by and large completely honest and open in disclosing their assets, and their statements were filed away and did not become public knowledge. But in this particular arena of politics I find that the same situation is just not likely to exist, whereas in the financial world there was a secrecy involvement between the client and the bank that was breached only on occasion where there happened to be a court order.

I don't want to reiterate the arguments that have been put forward by so many of my colleagues. I think they expressed their own individual feelings, and the feelings of this side on many occasions very well, although there will be differences of opinion. The particular bill I don't see the need for, and I have no particular reason not to wish to file the statement, a copy of which was with the bill, although I don't see any useful purpose being served by it. I don't agree with the disclosure of wife's assets or those of your family. I have been elected twice, and I was elected on the contribution that I might make to the Legislature and to the people of the constituency who I represent. I think the other people that ran in those elections ran under the same ticket. The people weren't really interested whether I had more money than they did, or whether I might have more influence in the Legislature than they had. The business that I was involved in, we were very conscious of conflicts of interest - and I know people in our employ have been dismissed from time to time for just such a conflict of interest, being involved in some business venture whereby financial assistance had to be obtained and it was a little easier to get if you happened to be on the inside.

I feel the disclosure of interest bill is to a degree an invasion of privacy, although if the bill passes, I certainly will have no qualms about completing a statement. But I don't think it's really necessary, this has been pointed out by many of the speakers on this side. It's not going to change the feelings of anyone here. I just can't feel that there would be a secrecy, or the danger of the figures being bandied about would give me some concern. It's been stated by one of my colleagues, I believe, from Sturgeon Creek, who said the statement should be filed with the Chief Justice upon leaving the Legislature; or being defeated, they could get their statement back and destroy it as they would see fit. The only time it might become knowledge is if a charge was made by someone that there was a conflict of interest.

So outside of that, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to belabour the debate, because it will go



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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) . . . . on for some time yet, and I know that we're all anxious to move the bills on and wind up the session.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion remain in the name of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie? (Agreed)

Bill No. 28, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. (Stand)

Bill No. 44. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

BILL NO. 44 - THE PLANNING ACT

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity of making a few comments on Bill 44, namely The Planning Act. I can't help but think, Mr. Speaker, having listened to the comments on the bill that has been debated this afternoon, namely Bill 37, and so many other bills that are brought before this House pertaining to the various departments of this government - and I make those comments to incorporate them - and feel that we now have something in Bill 44 that could possibly be that grandiose plan that's going to encompass something that this province has never seen in its history, namely to plan for the lives of the people of this province. And I'm talking, Mr. Speaker, now, of the kind of socialism I believe that people will, and are really going to see, see what it really means to have a socialistic government in a province.

And one other comment I want to make, Mr. Speaker, and register, it's been common practice with this government since it came to power - and I don't know why it is that all the legislation of the bills that come before us come at the dying moments of the session, it's to the chosen bills that have the controversy aspect to them, and the kind of controversy that is so important, I think that should be given a much better opportunity for our people who are concerned about the kind of legislation that comes before us in this Legislature. And invariably it happens every session, that we don't have the opportunity to give the proper scrutiny to . . . and I'm thinking of Bill 44 - is a real classic example. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I read the Planning Act --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I want to say - and for the Minister of Mines and Resources, he doesn't understand what goes on in our rural communities, and this bill refers to our rural municipalities.

MR. GREEN: You don't understand.

MR. EINARSON: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker. He's trying to tell me I don't understand. I want to tell the Minister of Mines and Resources . . .

MR. GREEN: That's what you don't understand.

MR. EINARSON: . . . that that Planning Bill, we couldn't get it for a few days after it was brought into this House - to get the number of bills. I wish the Minister of Municipal Affairs were here. He indicated to us in this House when it was introduced, that that bill was going to be sent out to every municipal council in the Province of Manitoba. And it was a number of days before they received it. And the thing is, Mr. Speaker, that many of the councils in the Province of Manitoba are composed of farmers, farmers who are busy putting in, planting their crops, and don't have the time to leave their private business to deal with such important matters as what is contained in Bill 44.

MR. WALDING: They should resign.

MR. EINARSON: All the Member for St. Vital says, that they should resign. What a ludicrous comment to make, Mr. Speaker. You know, those are people who volunteer their services for next to nothing. And the Member for St. Vital says that they should resign, if they're not prepared to drop their - what is their bread and butter - to deal with problems like this at the convenience of this government. I say, Mr. Speaker, that is proof positive of what I am saying, and I'm now bringing out the kind of attitude that we're getting from that side of the House.

A MEMBER: Professional bureaucracy.

MR. EINARSON: You know, Mr. Speaker, when that bill was introduced, the Minister of Municipal Affairs - and, here again, I wish he were here - indicated to us that the council men of the province in rural Manitoba were pretty well informed as to what this was all about. I want to say to the government, Mr. Speaker, that I represent a constituency that composes five municipalities. And while they have some idea of what the government has in mind, they certainly didn't have the idea of all the clauses and all they pertain to, and where the authority and the powers lie - and what could happen if this bill were passed in its entirety as it now stands.

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . .

You know, Mr. Speaker, we've had this Planning bill, and it's been said since 1916 - and of course probably it has its areas where it's a bit ambiguous, and probably not the kind of bill that we now have - and those who drafted that bill probably had good intentions. They could have had good intentions, and I'm not going to criticize those who drafted that bill. But I am concerned, because I've had sufficient experience in this House, dealing with this government for the past six years, to know that I have become suspicious of what the real intent of this government. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, I fully agree, and I'm aware that our City of Winnipeg and all the cities in the province, they have problems. And the principle of the bill, you know, I think is one thing - and we can probably agree with the principle of the bill. Now, Mr. Speaker, there are many - there is much more, I should say, to what we're dealing with than just a principle because you know you have to know exactly how you are going to apply the principle, how the thing is going to be operated. And we have to know, because these farmers that I'm talking about that were putting in their crops haven't had an opportunity - and the 10th of June was the next Council Meeting, and we're just about around that time - so what opportunity have they had to peruse this Planning Act, so that we as members on this side could get the feedback from our Council people as to how they feel about this kind of legislation.

And Mr. Speaker, I don't necessarily rise to speak against, say, Bill 44 as such, but Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that when I rise to speak on the bill, that I have a pretty good idea that those people who I represent - and I think it would be fair to say that all members on this side of the House feel the same way, that they have some idea as to how the people they represent feel about this kind of legislation. Because I would like them to have an opportunity to peruse, and probably to offer some amendments if they feel there are some areas of the bill that they cannot accept and they cannot live with. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, that more simplified a bill becomes, the more dictatorial it could become. There is that possibility I'm not saying it isn't, but I say there's that possibility.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about a planning scheme or a planning act, I think of some of the areas that we've been involved in in our rural communities. And I think of the Department of Agriculture, and the committee that went around the country talking about what was supposed to be they were concerned first, was about land ownership, then they turned it into talking to the farmers about - and others - about a land use policy. You know, Mr. Speaker I think this is an area that involves this Act, that it could do. We listened to the Minister of Urban Affairs on District Health and Social Services Act, amendments there - the Minister of Health wasn't here to deal with it, but his colleague the Minister of Urban Affairs did, and he's trying to indicate here - and there's another example of the kind of democracy we could be faced with - that just how much authority do our local boards have in the way of our hospitals. The Minister of Health indicated in his estimates certain hospitals, that in his view they should be closed, he'll have no compunction about closing them. These are all things, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to be concerned about when we talk about this planning scheme that we're confronted with.

You know Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has talked about the choice that farmers have, of whether they want to sell their land to the government, or whether they want to maintain it or sell it to someone else. He says they have a choice. But they've always had the opportunity, a choice to either sell or lease their land to other farmers. I mean, the government didn't have to get involved in this thing.

But, you know, we have another situation, Mr. Speaker, where we have in the last issues of our local papers, where the Federal and the Provincial Government have made a joint advertisement about the purchasing of farm land. And I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about our whole planning scheme of things in the municipalities, in the rural parts of the province, is the Liberal Party in Ottawa going more socialistic, or the NDP going in with the Liberals? And my comments were - yesterday I made a comment about the Liberal NDP collective system that they've adopted down there, and I thought that had ended in the last election. But I see by this kind of an advertisement, that it's been carrying on, and I'm wondering, you know, we have the signatures of both the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa and the Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba prescribing to a form of getting into the land business, buying land.

You know Mr. Speaker, it has been said, and I must repeat - and I think this is a fair

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . . comment - that because of the complexity of Bill 44, and because of the fact that honourable gentlemen don't seem to understand the situation in the country - and I fully realize that my colleagues in the city, they have problems, and they would like probably to see this legislation passed, it would assist them to some extent - but I don't think they were aware of the problems that could exist and would be created by the passing of the legislation as it now stands. And I want to make one appeal, Mr. Speaker, to this government - that I believe that giving further opportunity - we've had this legislation since 1916 - I don't know why they feel that it's so urgent to pass it in this session. I would suggest to the government that they probably table it, and have a discussion with our municipal councils throughout the province in months ahead, after we've prorogued this session, to get the views of our people in the country as to how they feel about this Planning Act. And having done that - and then come back to the next session, we'll be much more prepared and better equipped to deal with this legislation at that time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make one or two remarks in connection with the bill. I share the views expressed by many of my colleagues on this side, and also the apprehension that they have expressed on the bill being sort of hurriedly passed this particular session when I don't feel the municipal people are completely aware of all the sections of the bill. While we know that there have been discussions conducted around the province from time to time, I think these discussions centred more on the concept of planning, rather than on the actual clauses that have been put in the bill. And there is a considerable difference.

My main reason, Mr. Speaker, in wanting to comment on the bill - and I think it brings home the point that has been illustrated by so many of my colleagues, that it's been so many years, and there's no question about it on this side, we agree that there have to be changes, and we agree with many concepts of the bill. But it has taken so many years, that there's a strong feeling throughout the rural areas that they want a little more time to look over the various clauses and find out just exactly what they're getting into. And I took the liberty of sending a copy of the bill to a Reeve in my constituency, who has been in municipal politics for many many years and is a highly respected gentleman throughout the area and throughout municipal circles in the province. And he wrote to me on May 26, Mr. Speaker, and I want to comment one or two sections of his letter. On May 26th, he wrote and he said: "Re the new Planning Bill. We certainly need one, as the old one, so far as rural Manitoba is concerned particularly, was not too adequate. It was certainly what it was originally called, Town Planning, and rather obsolete at that." He said: "Most of the new Act as I see it, should be easier to work with, and better for our rural municipality in particular. But I have some distinct reservations about some of the things in some of the sections." And he went on with some other comments on the bill.

We all know how busy the rural people are, and how busy those involved in municipal politics in the rural areas are, Mr. Speaker. They have a spring crop to get in, as well as looking after their municipal wards. But on June 1st I received another letter from him, and he said: "Further to my letter re Planning Bill 44. I still like many sections of the bill. But the more I get to read it, the more concerned I am becoming on some sections. We have known, or rather have learned by experience over the past 20 years, that there is a considerable body of opinion in both the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Planning Branch who want much larger municipalities, and also much more control of the same vested in the respective government departments." I'm quoting again: "I admit that possibly a lot of us in rural government may be somewhat conservative in our outlook on some things, and may be slow to adopt some of our so-called planners' ideas. But I believe we know our own local conditions rather better than anyone else. In this day, it may not be considered a good thing in many circles, but at least our rural municipalities are still the only level of government in Canada who are able to balance their budgets and operate year after year in the black, which in my opinion is no mean accomplishment. I am afraid again that this bill plans via the method to particularly accomplish what more direct means have failed for a good many years." I think that points up rather well, Mr. Speaker, the strong concerns that many people in the rural areas have. People like this will co-operate and work fully with the government department in amending or streamlining this bill to bring in a bill that's workable. We on this side agree that it has to be done, but once this bill is passed it becomes law, and it's an awful lot harder to change it once it's passed

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(MR. BLAKE cont'd) . . . . and becomes the law of the land than it is to tailor it down and get something that the municipalities want. In spite of the meetings that have been held by the people from the department where they think they've had feedback and they think they've had proper dialogue with the people, I don't really feel the municipal people understood what the bill was going to be when it was brought in. Now they've had a chance to look at it, and they're extremely busy and many of them I'm sure haven't read it yet. I think they should be given this opportunity to have some time to get through the bill and appear at committee, or various meetings throughout the province, to make their views known and tailor the bill down where it's workable and something that we can all agree on that's needed, but it's got to be a workable bill and something we can all pass and feel that we've made a step forward in planning, and a move to assist the municipal governments throughout the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words with respect to certain remarks that have been made by honourable members this afternoon.

When I was in the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, I remember bringing in a motion which suggested that the provincial Ministers of Mines and Resources get together to determine what policies they should adopt in the various provinces, acting in concert in order to see to it that they were not competing with one another to give away the resources of their provinces to the mining companies.

At that time the Member for Rock Lake - and I spoke on this and I said that there is a problem, one province will give one amount of taxes, the other province will say, well in order to get the mine we have to give them a better break, and what have you, and that was the substance of my remarks, Mr. Speaker. I think it was as innocuous as that. And the Member for Rock Lake got up and said that the Minister of Mines - at that time I wasn't the Minister of Mines, the Member for Inkster - in introducing this motion wants to nationalize all the mines in Canada. I remember saying, Mr. Speaker, when I closed the debate, and at that time we used to get to close debates on Private Members Resolutions which is something which we've changed with the rule changes, which I think are an improvement. I'm not criticizing that. But I said that if I were to move that the Legislature now rise and go for a picnic in City Park, the Member for Rock Lake would say he's planning an insurrection. That is what is on his mind. He says I have great suspicions of anything that is brought in by this government, that it has nothing to do with the sections of the Act, or what the Act says, but they have a plot, and the plot is that they will bring in legislation at the end of the session, it will be controversial legislation, and that legislation will be pushed through before anything can be done about it, and before you know it, socialism.

Mr. Speaker, I have looked at this bill, because you know I have a little bit of interest in political ideology, and I admit that I haven't looked at it extensively, but I haven't found anything in this bill which is a particular reflection of the kinds of policies that are advocated by the New Democratic Party as a philosophical party. That the things in this bill are the kinds of things that have been advocated by planning people in all parts of the country, and with all governments, and for the honourable member to say that this is some type of sinister socialist plot to take over the Province of Manitoba, is an indication of his unwillingness to be pragmatic about things that are done. Because when he talks about this being an extension to regional government, where did the question of regional government come up? Was it in the cellars of some Bolshevik establishment? It came up when the former Conservative administration appointed a Boundaries Commission, stacked and loaded with Conservative appointees, for which I make no objection to, no objection to whatsoever, because I think that it is quite likely that any government in power will appoint capable people to their boards and commissions, but they are much more likely to find those capable people amongst their friends than amongst their enemies. I accept that as not only a fact of life, but as a desirable fact of life.

They were headed by Chaim Kushner who was the Mayor of West Kildonan, or he was the secretary of the Boundaries Commission if he was not the Chairman. The ultimate chairman was Bob Smellie, not a Bolshevik. He wasn't meeting in a cellar with a group of people figuring out a way to overthrow the government by force. And what did the Boundaries Commission come out with? The Boundaries Commission came out with a peculiar suggestion. It came out with nine cities in Greater Winnipeg, regional government in the rural areas. Now you may not agree with regional governments, and I'm not suggesting that you should agree with regional

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . governments. I may not agree with regional government. But it is wild, it is absolutely wild to talk about regional government as being some socialist plot to overthrow the rural communities in the Province of Manitoba. And when you make that kind of argument you do discredit to the position that you are pursuing.

I tell the Member for Rock Lake that if he continues to argue in that way, and if other members continue to argue in that way, then I say that they will lose credibility with the people of the Province of Manitoba. There are much better arguments with which they should endear themselves to the people than to suggest that regional government is a socialist plot. Because how do we get Bob Smellie and Chaim Kushner, who has never to my knowledge associated with the New Democratic Party and all of those appointees to the Boundaries Commission. Now you may say, "Well, we don't agree with those appointees." As a matter of fact I respect that, you shouldn't agree with them. But you don't call them socialists. You don't say that they are engaged in a plot to undermine the freedom of the municipalities in the Province of Manitoba. If you want to argue about what the Planning Bill does, and about how it deals with these questions and what will be wrong if you had regional government, and I'm not suggesting that this Act necessarily leads to regional government, but if you want to say what is wrong with it, say what is wrong with it. But if you merely say that it is socialist, then I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you are not going to win even your most loyal die-hard Conservative friends to your position. And you need those, you know, you need others too. But you need those.

The Member for Rock Lake says that, you know, it was all a plot. They brought it in at the end of the session. They want it to go without debate. That bill was brought in on May 20th, Second Reading on May 20th. Today is June 10th, that means there are 20 days in between those two dates. Will the honourable member tell me that in any legislation session that he had knowledge of, and has been here I gather longer than I have, because I was only here since 1966 unless we came together. --(Interjection)-- We came together. The fact is the Legislative Session opened on March 4th and on May 10th, which was I suppose just after the Budget Debate, that piece of legislation was brought in. That is quite normal. Nobody's pushing you. Twenty days and it has not yet got Second Reading. Nobody has suggested that there would be no adjournments or anything of that nature. The bill has been adequately debated. But there is an attempt being made here - and I rather enjoy the politics of it - there's an attempt being made here like with the land-use bill, here's something that maybe we can rally . . . An attempt to show a strength of Opposition in the countryside against what the government is doing. Now we can take these municipal councillors, tell them that the government is going to usurp their positions, and maybe we can rally the municipal councillors against the government and show that there is wide municipal disapproval of this bill. And the school trustees, let's get all the local politicians to come out en masse against this bill. Now that's an organized political activity. I repeat, I rather admire it. I'm not worried about it. It's interesting. We will have that involvement. We will fight on the issues. I believe that we will win. And the fact is that it will be an exercise in democracy. But to suggest that the bill is brought in late, or they haven't had the time, they've been discussing this kind of thing with municipalities continuously, probably dating back to the Conservative administration. Probably dating back to the Conservative administration. And there may be lots of things wrong with it, but let's find out what those things are, and let's deal with this. Do not deal with this as some type of suggestion that the government is seeking to encircle authority and take it away from the local municipalities.

You know, when the argument becomes that way along those lines, it becomes very interesting, because it undoes all of the other arguments that have been made to us. What have we heard from the rural members? We've heard complaints that the municipal taxpayer in the rural areas has had to pay too much money, and it's because the government hasn't dealt well with this problem. But now there is a question of what to do in municipalities. So the Member for Minnedosa now brings out an interesting fact. The rural municipalities have no trouble with municipal taxation. They're the only governments that have been able to balance their budgets. They have no financial problems. And I suppose it is now, since we have been blamed for what they said was the plight of those rural municipalities, it is nice now to know that they are in fine good shape, no problems; who gets the credit? Well obviously we have done such wonderful things in the Province of Manitoba that all of the rural municipalities are in wonderful financial shape. That is what is now being argued.

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(MR. GREEN cont'd)

Now how do you argue one thing at the beginning of the session and another thing at the end of the session? Because there is here a contrived, Mr. Speaker, a contrived, and the word "contrived" is rather harsh because why shouldn't there be an attempt to drum up support and to try to make a government measure appear to be inept, and contrary to what the people in the rural areas want. I mean that's legitimate. But what is not legitimate is the arguments that are being presented. The argument that is brought in right in the session, that it stems from a socialist plot.

Well the Member for Minnedosa, to his credit, Mr. Speaker, he has never done that. He is one member on that side who, when he came into the House made his maiden speech, and I will tell you what he said in his maiden speech. He said, "Let's not talk about isms. Let's discuss each issue as they come by. Deal with them pragmatically, and decide on the basis of what is best, not on the basis of one ideology against another ideology." That's what the Member for Minnedosa said in his maiden speech, and he has held to that. He has not even criticized this bill on the basis of the fact that it is a socialist plot. He has taken the weaker of the positions, because if it was a socialist plot it would be a terrible thing. It would be a terrible thing at least in the eyes of the members of the opposition. You know, I don't think that the bill is as good as what you people are saying it is. But the fact is, that in the eyes of the members of the Opposition it would be a terrible thing. The Member for Minnedosa takes the cautious approach. This may be a good thing. We need a little more time to look at it, a little more time for municipal input. I expect that the Minister of Municipal Affairs will be dealing with that question when he closes debate. Because I am of the opinion that there has been long dialogue between the municipalities and their organizations and the government for many years, I repeat, pre-dating this administration on this bill.

But what is happening now is that here is an opportunity for the Opposition to organize and militate the school boards, and that I consider to be rather interesting because someone will have to explain to me what the school boards' role in planning has been to this date. What role has the school board in planning? So they say, "We should have a role." I have not heard in my years in politics, and perhaps it's because I haven't heard everything that's been said, I have never heard from the school boards a tremendous push that they want to be involved in the planning authority. They are interested in where the school is going, but planning has generally been done by the municipal council, and has been done by the provincial planning authorities and the municipal board for many years. Where has the school board fitted in? But here's the chance. Let's get all the local politicians, municipal councillors schoolboard members, and show a tremendous opposition to this bill. If you're not opposed to it you can always say, "Give us some time to look at it." That's always good. I mean you don't need any argument to give us time. That's an argument in itself that's so reasonable, how could anybody be opposed to a request that we are given more time to look at it? So it's a political activity. It's the democratic process. I welcome it. I'm sort of champing at the bit to get back at those land hearing meetings. And the Minister of Agriculture, I hope he does it quick because I'm really anxious to participate in those hearings again. I believe that we gained votes after every hearing that we had, and we'll gain more and more. --(Interjection)--

The Honourable Member for Swan River says, "no." I say, "yes." I welcome those hearings, and I'm not adverse to --(Interjection)-- Pardon me? The honourable member says they took me off the committee. Mr. Speaker, you know, you can believe that propaganda, and the Winnipeg Free Press and the Tribune can believe that propaganda. But my members of the committee they said, "You go at every meeting and you keep on doing exactly what you are doing," because they know that I was trying, was finding out from those people who were before the committee, that not only were they not opposed to this program, but that come down to it, they agreed with what we are doing. And in many cases said so. But they had been told that this program is an attempt to take public ownership of all the land in the Province of Manitoba whether you like it or . . . Now when you tell the people - and I hope you continue to do so, I hope you continue to argue this way, I hope you don't do what the Member for Minnedosa does because he's got a little more finesse than you have. But you can go to the people in Rock Lake and Pilot Mound and Crystal City and --(Interjection)-- I'll be there. --(Interjection)-- I'll be there. And you tell them, you tell them that this Planning Act is socialist legislation designed to have a socialist bureaucratic control over the people of

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(MR. GREEN cont'd) . . . Pilot Mound and Crystal City, and I say to you that after you are finished they'll say, "What on earth are you talking about?" Because you cannot substantiate it, and if you want to continue that type of argument, I welcome it. It's like the previous Member for Minnedosa. The previous Member for Minnedosa, Mr. Speaker, he argued that the hiring of certain personnel with regard to the Churchill River Diversion was a socialist plot. And I can remember very well getting up in the House, and I will have to do the same thing with regard to this bill, and I had a book with me and I said, "You know I'm holding in my hand a book - you say that the Churchill River Diversion, that the stopping of this program is a socialist plot. And I can tell you that there are some socialists who believe in power, economics, who would say that you should proceed with the diversion. There are some Conservatives who may be very very strong on aboriginal rights who disagree with the diversion. That socialism or capitalism had nothing to do with being for or against that plot, against that program." And to prove it, I took out Das Kapital by Karl Marx, went through the index and could not find a word about South Indian Lake. It just wasn't there, or the Churchill River Diversion. And I tell you that you can go through Karl Marx, page by page, the entire index and you will not find a word about this type of legislation. Mr. Speaker, Not a word. So if that is going to be the fight, if that is going to be the basis upon which you are going to proceed, such as you do with the Land Use bill, which we copied from the socialist government of Ontario, who had it before we did, then I say to you you want to make yourself credible on that approach, be my guest.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have some comments to make on Bill 44 at this time. I also note that I've not been too astute in timing my speech, not that I ever worry too much about that, but it would appear that it will be broken up into two segments again and, of course, lose some of its impact. Unless of course there was any disposition on the part of the House Leader to call it 5:30, but . . .

MR. GREEN: 5:30.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a. m. tomorrow morning. (Wednesday)