

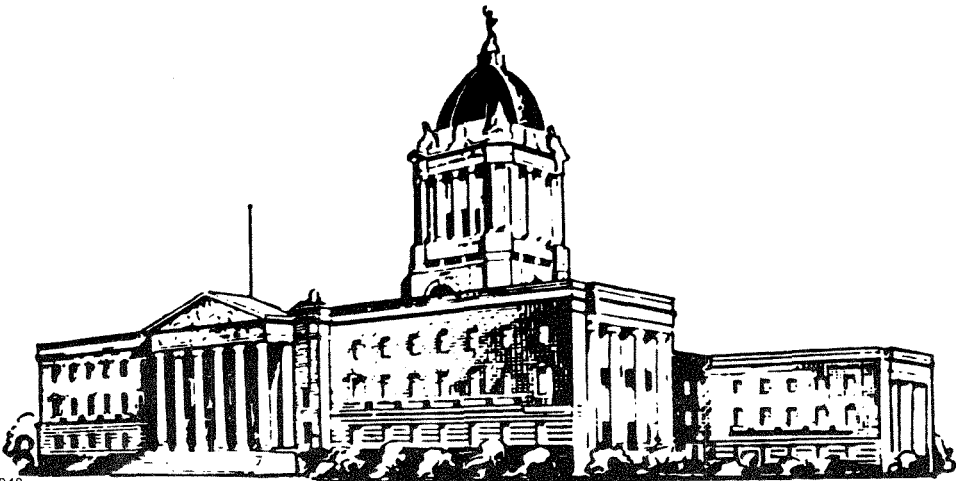


Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31-32 Elizabeth II

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authority of
The Honourable D. James Walding
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWŃ, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, Hon. John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 5 July, 1983.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions
. . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments.

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: Your Committee met on Tuesday, July 5, 1983, and heard representations with respect to Bill (No. 89) - An Act to amend The Landlord and Tenant Act as follows:

Mr. R.G. Smethurst, Manitoba Landlords Association Inc.

Mr. S. Silverman, President of the Manitoba Landlords Association Inc.

Mr. L. Rosenberg, Vice-Chairman of the Professional Property Managers Association

Mr. A.A. DeLeeuw, President of the Winnipeg Real Estate Board

Members of the Winnipeg Tenants Union:

Barbara Westcott (Summerland Tenants' Association)

Larry Tallman

Aileen Urquhart (Wolseley Tenants' Union)

Linda Chochinov

Your Committee has considered:

Bill (No. 57) - An Act to amend The Co-operatives Act

Bill (No. 73) - An Act to repeal The School Capital Financing Authority Act; Loi abrogeant la loi connue sous le nom de School Capital Financing Authority Act

Bill (No. 76) - An Act to amend The Crown Lands Act

And has agreed to report the same without amendment.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Radisson, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1982, for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I'd like to direct to the Minister of Resources. He was here a moment ago, I think he's just out taking a phone call, so I'll maybe defer my question until he comes back.

Federal frigate contract

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. It was announced last week by the Federal Government that the St. Johns Shipyards would be receiving the frigate contract from the Federal Government and it was also stated in that announcement that there would be a lot of work go to electrical companies in Quebec. Can the Minister inform the House if any of that work will be coming to Manitoba, of the \$3 billion contracts that will be put forward by the Federal Government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have the opportunity to say how pleased we were that the contract did go to that particular shipyard because although our aerospace industry would have stood to get offsets from either one of the major contractors, we stand to get more than double the offsets from this particular one. I think it's in the neighbourhood of \$70 million. We've had staff down there actively lobbying and have been working directly with the aerospace industry to ensure that they are doing all within their power to be in the lineup for the offset contracts and it looks very positive at the moment.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased to hear that announcement, that statement, and \$70 million to the economy of the Province of Manitoba. I would ask the Minister though with reference when we had the F18 contracts being let by the Federal

Government, we had reason to believe there would be large contracts come to Manitoba contractors and some of them did not happen. They went to other areas of Canada. Can the Minister assure us that there are companies in Winnipeg that have firm contracts with St. Johns shipbuilding and the electrical companies in Quebec that will guarantee us \$70 million worth of work?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the way the system works we cannot receive guarantees. What we do have direct from the Minister of Supply and Services, Jean Jacques Blais, and from Minister Lumley whom we've been discussing the matter with and his deputies, is that the procedure is for the companies who wish to subcontract to make sure they are in close communication with the major contractor and that they are making as competitive bids as they can. All that preparatory work is in place and it really remains for the major contractor to be determined. The other firms do seem to be in - I can't say 100 percent position because that is in negotiation between them and the major contractor, but from every bit of information I have and knowledge of how the system works the picture is bright.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has outlined the procedures and mentions the Federal Minister has said that there will be work coming here. That \$70 million sounds to me to be about 2 percent of that contract. Is the Minister's department working with Manitoba manufacturers or electrical companies to try and gain more of that contract than 2 percent?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is right in the sense that we look for 4 percent to 8 percent of these contracts as an appropriate proportion, given our share of those industries. We do not have that percent of probable subcontracting, but we do feel we have a minimum of \$70 million in the aerospace area and we are working with the other firms to see that they - plus some emerging opportunities that are not yet finalized, and we will continue to do that work.

F18 overhaul and maintenance

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, is the Department of Economic Development still working with the aerospace industry - this is another question, Sir, regarding the F18 contract - to have the overhaul and maintenance of the F18 remain or be in Manitoba as the 104 is done at the present time?

HON. M. SMITH: We've been working with the federal people on the whole range of issues relating to that sector, but I can't at this moment, give assurance on that particular item. I will undertake to report when there is something specific to report.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: This is a final question, Mr. Speaker. Standard Aero Engine was at one time, considering quoting on the overhaul and maintenance of the 404 GE engine that is in the F18. Is the government still working with Standard Aero Engine, as we were, to help them quote on the overhaul and maintenance of the F18 engine?

HON. M. SMITH: The short answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. I did indicate that we work closely with aerospace industry and identify in what way we can help them to make direct application, and in what way they feel we can be helpful in making a representation on another level and we are actively involved in that, as I said earlier. We had the Deputy Minister in Ottawa last week for several days, and we keep in regular communication with the industry itself.

Wayside parks - seasonal staffing

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: I have a question to the Minister of Natural Resources. On Friday, May 27th, I directed a question to the Minister and I asked him, I wonder if the Minister can confirm that his department is cutting back on seasonal staffing for the maintenance and servicing of roadside campgrounds throughout the province. I make special reference to the one at Overflowing River. The Minister took that question as notice, and on June 7th, he replied to it and part of his answer I'll read to you: "I thought we had been required to trim our budget very effectively, but I must admit that I'm advised that there was, in fact, a cutback in services at Overflowing River Provincial Recreation Park. I confirm that the honourable member was right in respect to that." Then he goes on further to say, "There are alternative camping facilities along Highway No. 10 at Birch River." In addition he says, Mr. Speaker, "There are waysides at Mafeking where overnight camping capability for travellers is available." I wonder if the Minister can confirm, now, that the wayside park at Mafeking is closed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: No, I cannot, Mr. Speaker.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Well, I wonder if the Minister could check that out and see if that is, in fact, the case. Also, I wonder if the Minister could take as notice and confirm that the Committee of the UVD of Mafeking offered to maintain this wayside park with assistance from the Royal Canadian Legion, and the park staff at Swan River have refused that offer.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to take the particulars of the question as notice. By way of general comment, as I indicated I think during the course of my Estimates, and as I indicated in response to the earlier question, we do have a history of the use of waysides, particularly those where we have had camping, and where it is just not economic to maintain staff for camping — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable members want answers, but they are not prepared to listen while we try to provide answers. From a point of view of economics, it is just not reasonable to maintain staff at these facilities where the demand just does not indicate it is warranted. Therefore, there has been a tightening of spending to reflect sound management in respect to those areas.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Well, Mr. Speaker, the community obviously has recognized that fact and they appreciate that the government is tight for money, but they have gone out and sought assistance from the Legion to provide them funding, and they are prepared to operate this park. The question I would direct to the Minister, and ask him if he can confirm that the group from Mafeking contacted his staff to see if they would cut the tall grass that is currently there, and this past weekend there were a number of tourists using that facility, if he can confirm that the committee from the Unincorporated Village District of Mafeking contacted his staff and they said, no, we don't want that park maintained; and yesterday staff from the Parks Branch arrived and removed the picnic tables, the toilets, and they smashed with a hammer the permanent concrete barbecues that were there . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MR. D. GOURLAY: . . . so that they could no longer be used. I would appreciate if the Minister could confirm those statements that I brought to the House today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to take the particulars of the question as notice and I will look into them. I share the concerns of anyone if there has been any removal or destruction. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pembina doesn't have the good grace or courtesy to allow any other member of this House to speak without his pronouncing inanities from his chair. Mr. Speaker, I was addressing my remarks to those members of the official opposition who have some courtesy, including the Honourable Member for Swan River, whose questions are entitled to answers that he can hear.

I've indicated that I am concerned if there has been destruction of facilities that were there and certainly that is in accordance with my request to my department. I will look into those matters and I will provide specifics to the questions the Honourable Member for Swan River has raised.

MR. D. GOURLAY: While the Minister of Natural Resources is taking those questions as notice, I wonder if he would also check to see how many other roadside campgrounds are being closed at this time. I would direct a further question to the Minister of Tourism and ask her if she is in agreement with the closing down of these campground facilities in the Swan River constituency and, indeed, perhaps other constituencies of Northern Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think, as the member opposite knows, it is a measure for the Minister to look into, but I will be conferring with my colleague because of course we're concerned about the facilities available to tourists as they move through that part of the country.

French school for Ile des Chenes

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister of Education, I direct my question to the Premier. In view of the fact that tenders closed about 10 days ago for the proposed Franais School at Ile des Chenes and the low tender was \$2.1 million as opposed to the \$1.4 million authorized by the Public Schools Finance Board, will the government be authorizing additional expenditures - almost 50 percent - to see that project go through to completion?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, following upon that, I wonder if I could ask the Premier, in view of the fact that we're already experiencing a record deficit projected at \$578 million, does the government still consider this facility a priority?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education has dealt with that question previously. It was a matter that was concurred in and so far as this government is concerned it's a matter that is concurred in so far as the school division is concerned at Seine River.

I will take the question pertaining to the cost estimates and respond to the House.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the Minister of Education did deal with it but we're now talking about a facility that's 50 percent more costly than was originally planned. Is it a priority at any cost, is what I'm asking, because, Mr. Speaker, it appears as though if you add in the two parcels of land that had to be purchased at \$40,000 and \$45,000, over \$200,000 for architects' fees, this project is now \$2.5 million to service 165 students in its early stages, and up to 230 students projected. Can the Premier still justify this expenditure at that level?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again, I indicated that the question would be taken as notice.

Manitoba School for Retardates

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

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister and government confirmed whether the North Grove wing of the Manitoba School for Retardates at Portage la Prairie will be closed due to improper fire safety standards?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. L. EVANS: As we have indicated previously, Mr. Speaker, that particular building does require a

considerable amount of money for upgrading for fire safety standards and the engineers tell us the amount of money required is not justified, in terms of the condition of the building. So it's far better to look for other options for residential accommodation for those people rather than to spend money on an inadequate structure.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Speaker, the next question to the same Minister. How does the Minister plan to accommodate the 220 residents who are currently housed in this wing?

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is asking me a policy question which still has to be determined.

MR. L. HYDE: Mr. Speaker, my final question to the same Minister, how does the Minister plan to deal with the numbers of employees who will be affected with the change?

HON. L. EVANS: As I indicated, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is asking me a matter of policy. When a policy is finally arrived at, it will be announced in due course, but regardless, therefore, his last question is really hypothetical.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I've a question for the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. There has been for sometime a program in effect, Bail Recognizance Program, whereby accused persons have been remanded to the custody of community organizations, and the department has paid a per diem of \$16 to \$23 per diem to these community organizations and, as of June 30th, the organizations have been advised that the program has been cancelled. Could the Minister confirm that the only recourse will be that these persons will be remanded in custody at a cost four to five times the \$16 to \$23 per diem that has been paid to the community organizations?

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear a part of the original portion of the question. I would appreciate if the honourable member would give me the name of the organization he was referring to?

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of community organizations involved, which include the Native Clan or Grosvenor Place, United Church Halfway House and X-Kalay. They've all received these prisoners from the court under this remand program, and they have been advised, as of June 30th, that effective July 1st the per diem payment of \$16 to \$23 will be cancelled. The only alternative is that these persons will be remanded into custody at a cost of four to five times higher than that.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take that question as notice and get back to the honourable member.

Workers Compensation Board - personnel changes

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister responsible for the Workers

Compensation Board. Almost one month ago he undertook in this House to file in the House a list of changes of staff at the Workers Compensation Board. Is he now prepared to table that document with that information in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. J. COWAN: As I indicated to the Member for St. Norbert at that time it was a detail list which he was requesting and I would have the list prepared. The list is not prepared at this time in the type of depth which I would like to be able to forward to him, but I can address senior level management, by way of the question period, if he would be interested in that information at this time?

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, it's now been, as I've indicated, almost one month since that list of changes has been required, and I think we're entitled to have that information supplied to us within that time period. I would ask him to undertake to file that within the next few days because the information should be available. And does it include changes, one effective at the end of June, with respect to a doctor who has left the Workers Compensation Board, and another one who is going to leave this fall?

HON. J. COWAN: There are people coming on stream and leaving the Workers Compensation Board, or in fact any organization, on a regular basis and they are doing so by way of their own choice, or by way of early retirement if they choose, or by way of normal retirement if they choose that, and that is, indeed, happening I can confirm that. I will present to the Member for St. Norbert the detailed list which he has requested as soon as it is available to me; it is not yet available to me at this time in the detail which, I believe, is necessary to address his question properly. If he's asking if people are being added and deleted by way of personnel changes in regard to Workers Compensation meanwhile, yes, that is happening.

Bill 47 - distribution

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs. With the introduction of Bill 47, the Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act, I asked the Minister at that time if copies of the bill had been forwarded to municipal reeves and councillors throughout the province and he assured me they had. Some weeks later, in his absence, I directed a question to the Attorney-General who took it as notice and said if it hadn't been done it would be looked after. I now ask the Minister if he can confirm the copies of act have gone to all municipal councillors and reeves and mayors of the villages and municipalities throughout Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. ADAM: The answer is, yes, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge all municipalities have received a copy of Bill 47, in addition to Bill 18 which had been forwarded prior to that.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, a supplementary to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. I gathered that copies were going to be forwarded to all members of the town councils, and the Minister is confirming now that a copy has been forwarded to each municipality council?

HON. A. ADAM: Yes, I believe that is correct, that a copy would be mailed out to council, and not to each individual member. I would expect they would be sent to each council, and available to each council as required.

MR. D. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of the subject matter of this particular bill I think it's important that each member of council get a copy of the bill so that they can understand it. I realize that municipal elections will be coming up this fall, and is it the Minister's intention to keep them in the dark so that they don't realize what they'll be getting into if they run for office? I can assure the Minister there are members that won't be running for office when they find that they have to disclose their assets under this bill, that's coming to light already. Would the Minister undertake to mail copies to all rural municipal councillors and councillors of the towns and villages throughout Manitoba?

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I've just completed seven hearings, seven district meetings put on by the Union of Manitoba Municipalities at which time there was probably 1,000 to 1,500 people, councillors, that were at those meetings, and an explanation was given to them at that time on the general principles of the bill, and the bill had already been forwarded to the councils. I want to say that I deliberately had comments on Bill 47 in my remarks in order to get a feedback from them. It was a deliberate attempt on my part to get some communication going with the councillors, and I want to say that I'm very satisfied that we have a substantial support of Bill 47.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. A. ADAM: Members opposite have not read the feelings out there of their people - they laugh, Mr. Speaker; they can laugh because that's what they do best, that's all they can do is laugh. They're helpless, all they can do is laugh and the Leader of the Opposition is the best at it.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Minister. I know the Minister attended all of the regional meetings and stayed for an hour or two hours, but those of us who live out with the councillors and see them on a more regular basis maybe have a little better feel on some of the reaction to his bill that he has. Could the Minister undertake to provide me with enough copies of Bill 47, in order that I may mail them out to all of the councillors in the Province of Manitoba?

HON. A. ADAM: If the member wants to send out bills on his own he can do so at his own expense.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I have met with the advisory committee and we discussed the conflict of interest bill. I've met at their district meetings; we have deliberately attempted to have questions raised at these meetings. I am surprised, Mr. Speaker, that there hasn't been more reaction against this bill. They haven't read the bill . . .

A MEMBER: Support the bill? We haven't seen the bill.

HON. A. ADAM: . . . and members opposite haven't got a feeling of the councils out there. They all want to have the support of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, as well as the Manitoba Association of Municipalities. Both associations support the principle of this bill. They are misreading the public out there, they are.

Translation of Statutes

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Cultural Affairs and ask him if he could indicate to the Assembly what it costs to translate one page of a typical statute?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also ask the Minister whether he could confirm that to date, approximately \$2 million has been spent on the translation of statutes into French?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot confirm that \$2 million has been spent to date on the translation of statutes into French. The amount is considerably less than that . . .

A MEMBER: Did you give him notice of that Russ?

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to ask the Minister whether he could confirm that approximately 25 copies of Manitoba statutes in the French language have been sold to date, and that if the original figure of \$2 million is correct, that means that the average cost per statute is \$80,000 for one document of this size.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I guess the member was not present in the House when that question was previously answered with respect to the question that was originally asked by the Member for St. Norbert. It certainly is

true that I did report to the House just over a month ago that there were, to that point in time, approximately 25 copies of statutes that were purchased in French.

It should be noted however that very few of the popular statutes of the Province of Manitoba are translated into the French language, so that would be in part the reason for the small amount of copies that have been purchased. As I indicated to the previous question that was asked, the cost of translation is not \$2 million, it's considerably less, so the calculation that was done by the member is incorrect.

Brandon Library - funding

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question, I guess it's for the Minister of Cultural Affairs who is responsible for the Library Arts Council funding and the establishment of the newly proposed library in Brandon. Can the Minister of Cultural Affairs confirm that the Minister of Community Services and Member for Brandon East blocked the wishes of the Brandon Kinsmen Club from putting on the Board of Library Arts Council, a member of the Kinsmen Club or a designate of theirs to sit on that Board and that, in fact, has caused the withdrawal of \$150,000 of volunteer funds that were to be put into that facility?

A MEMBER: Unbelievable. There's one under every stone, isn't there?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

Order please.

A MEMBER: There's one under every stone, isn't there?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, they're speaking of stones and rocks. I know the kind of things that crawl under rocks, and it seems to me that there are some across the way.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member should understand and should appreciate that there is a private bill presently before the House and I believe it's been referred to the Municipal Affairs Committee of the House, and I think will be dealt with in due course at the time that committee next meets. They will deal with that bill and any amendments that may be made to that bill.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the lack of answer, one can only take for granted that that is in fact the case, that the Minister of Community Services and Member for Brandon East did block the appointment of a Kinsmen to the Library Arts Council, and that did in fact take place. Will the Minister of Cultural Affairs replace the \$150,000 that has been withdrawn - that volunteer fund that wouldn't have had to come from the taxpayers - will he now put the \$150,000 into that facility?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, again I believe the member has some difficulty in hearing or I would have thought would have understood the procedures of this

Assembly, that there is a private bill dealing with that subject matter presently before the Municipal Affairs Committee of this House. I'm sure that committee will be meeting shortly and dealing with that.

With respect to the allegation made by the member, I would point out that this government did grant as a special grant to the City of Brandon last year \$800,000 to assist them with the purchase and renovation of the combined Arts Council Library complex in the City of Brandon. I'm certainly pleased that we have been able to assist in that way. I regret that the Kinsmen Club has apparently taken the stand they have as reported by the papers with respect to their funding, because I believe that the suggestion that is being made is that the bill that is going to be dealt with be amended to provide for the appointment of citizen representatives by the Council of the City of Brandon, so that the City Council of Brandon could appoint a representative of the Kinsmen if the city council decided that it was worthwhile to do so.

The suggestion by the Kinsmen, in fact, I take offence to being held up for ransom, so to speak, by the Kinsmen with respect to appointment to a board of directors, because that has not been the practice with respect to boards of libraries, boards of arts councils in this province, even though many boards, as I'm sure members across the way can appreciate, have been built, have been operated with considerable funds from the private sector, from community organizations. Not once has a community organization ever said that we will only give funds if you give us a place on the board. That's never been done before, Mr. Speaker.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the First Minister of this province if he would ask the Member for Brandon East, the Minister of Community Services, to stop meddling around in volunteer funds to help the betterment of community projects in Manitoba. The Kinsmen Club, Mr. Speaker, are all volunteer people who have done many worthy projects are being interrupted and interfered with by an incompetent government. Will the First Minister ask the Member for Brandon East not to get involved where people are putting their good efforts forward to help the betterment of Manitoba communities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, having heard the speech by the Member for Arthur rather than a question, all I need do by way of response is to point out to the Honourable Member for Arthur that the Honourable Member for Brandon East, the Minister responsible for Community Services, is not meddling. It's a matter for the city council to determine, and the city council can very well determine in their wisdom, as they may very well do, that a Kinsmen ought to be appointed to the board, but it will be a decision that would be made at the Brandon City Council level.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I take offence and I totally object to the inference and the statement of the

Member for Arthur that I'm blocking any amount of money to be donated by the Kinsmen Club. Obviously he does not understand the process; he didn't even know we had a bill before the House, in this respect, and I totally reject that and I would ask him to even withdraw that statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister did not have a point of privilege.

The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

Layoffs

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Yesterday, my colleague from La Verendrye brought to the attention of the House the fact that 18 people who had been promised 26 weeks of work in the Forestry Branch in southeastern Manitoba were given notices of layoff after only seven weeks of work. It is apparent today that application had been made to the Jobs Fund for money, in order that those people could continue to be employed according to the contracts which the government had signed with them. Can the First Minister advise the House what criteria that he used, as Chairman of the Jobs Fund, to reject that application for funds?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, there were, indeed, many applications that had been made to the Jobs Fund and many application have been accepted; and, at the same time, many applications to the Jobs Fund were refused. There certainly was not adequate monies in order to deal with every single application that was submitted to the Jobs Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I dealt with the various criteria that are utilized in determining projects in regard to the Jobs Fund. First and foremost, of course, is a consideration pertaining to the labour intensity of the particular task that is at hand, that is the content of the application to the Jobs Fund; secondly, a question pertaining to lasting asset, whether or not the asset will be of a lasting nature or not; and thirdly, Mr. Speaker, the importance of leveraging sums of monies, insofar as other levels of government, whether it be of the municipal, or the federal, or of the business community or, in fact, of labour groups; and fourthly, Mr. Speaker, is a question of weighing the various projects, determining whether or not any particular project, as weighed against another particular project, is more valuable than one or the other.

The project in question was a good proposal that was made by the department, but Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated last week, \$137-some-million of projects have already been announced pertaining to the Jobs Fund; a number of other projects have yet to be announced, arising from the Jobs Fund. In addition, some \$80-some-million were levered from municipal, from federal, and from business levels of government. So the answer to the honourable member is those various criteria were utilized insofar as each and every application that was considered by the Jobs Fund.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, it seems that the work these people were doing qualifies under a number of

the items which the First Minister has put forward. Certainly labour-intensive effort in the reforestation area has, in fact, been put forward by the government as an example of the type of project that they would fund under the Jobs Fund. Does the First Minister consider it important that the government entered into contracts with these 18 people to supply 26 weeks of work?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question was taken yesterday in respect to this, one, by notice by the Minister, and I understand the Minister will be in a position to respond tomorrow pertaining to the question.

I think we ought not to, on the basis of the information that I have, Mr. Speaker, leave an impression in the Chamber, or in the minds of Manitobans, that any contract was entered into insofar as the providing of jobs to any given individuals pertaining to a 26-week contract. If a contract was entered into that was legal, as suggested by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, I would be the first, Mr. Speaker, to say that contract ought to be honoured, but my information that I have does not suggest that there was a legal, binding contract that was entered into, insofar as the employees were concerned.

Mr. Speaker, we are examining this matter, the Minister is examining this matter, and we are anxious to do what is right, given all the circumstances, but weighing - and I must emphasize this, Mr. Speaker, - the fact that there are applications pertaining to various job creation projects of every kind, every nature, of every region, of every substance, and we must ensure that the decisions that are made are fair, considering the nature of the application. We will be doing that, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be doing that in a manner that reflects reasonable and considered opinion on the part of the Jobs Fund Board which is responsible, in turn, to the Treasury Board.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the government has made much of their job creation effort. These 18 people were led to believe that they would have continuing employment for at least 26 weeks of work.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister is, will he consider taking funds from the Jobs Fund, in order that these people may be able to continue to be employed as they were told by the government that they would be employed? Will he take some funds from his \$200 million Jobs Fund, carry out the commitment that was made to these people, restore a little faith that these people have lost now, in government, and create a few jobs, rather than simply moving money from one pocket to another and leaving people unemployed?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a determination will be made in regard to the particular issue that's involved, and I must, again, emphasize that it is important insofar as any decision that is arrived at, that decision be fair to other projects that have been refused, projects that were refused . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. H. PAWLEY: . . . Mr. Speaker, I'm attempting to provide an answer to the question that's provided

and I hope I'm given that kind of opportunity to do so. That it's important, as I indicated before, in weighing whether or not this particular project, involving some 18 employees, is indeed continued; that it be continued on the basis of its fairness, on the basis of its rationality, and not on the basis that it may very well be that representation was made that ought not to have been made in the first instance.

A MEMBER: You don't know what fairness is.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, surely there is fairness to be had by restoring the jobs to these 18 people who were promised employment with the government.

My question to the First Minister is, as Chairman of the Jobs Fund, as First Minister of the Province, can he not simply provide some leadership here, take the bull by the horns and say, yes, there was an injustice done to these 18 people and I, as First Minister of this Province, am going to restore it. Will the First Minister simply take that action?

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated some three or four times, the matter is under review. I want to say, insofar as leadership is concerned, it was this New Democratic Party Government that proceeded with the Jobs Fund; it was this New Democratic Party Government that has proceeded with announcements . . . I know honourable Conservative members across the way, who have sometimes a paralysis of thinking, Mr. Speaker, don't like to hear about leadership in this province and about other parts of this country.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it was this New Democratic Party Government that created a \$200 million Jobs Fund; it was this New Democratic Party Government that's already announced some \$131 million by way of Jobs Fund in the Province of Manitoba, including a number of projects that were dealt with at great length in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker; projects that pertained to Northern Manitoba, that pertained to sewer and waterworks in various parts of southern Manitoba, that pertained to reforestation projects in The Pas area, that pertained, Mr. Speaker, to important efforts to revitalize the Core Area of the City of Winnipeg. It was this government, by way of its Jobs Fund Program, that was responsible for leveraging some \$81 million insofar as other levels of government, from business and other areas of the economy. Mr. Speaker, this New Democratic Party Government, by way of example, need not accept any lecturing from the Conservative group that for four years were responsible for thousands of young Manitobans leaving this province to obtain jobs elsewhere, mainly in B.C. and Alberta and Saskatchewan, because this Conservative group across the way had no ideas, they had no imagination, they had no guts.

Mr. Speaker, I will acknowledge to you that at times I, indeed, do feel somewhat emotional when I hear lecturing from honourable members, when they had an opportunity stood paralyzed, insofar as providing leadership to the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye on a point of order.

MR. R. BANMAN: On a point of order. Representing my constituents who this First Minister will not reinstate in jobs, Mr. Speaker, it's my point of order that I really don't have to sit here and listen to this kind of diatribe from the First Minister when he's laying people off in my constituency and trying to gloss it over with a bunch of flimflam.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member did not have a point of order.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

MR. H. ENNS: I'll change that request from a question to a matter of privilege then, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member state his point of privilege?

MR. H. ENNS: Would the Speaker now consider giving me a little bit of time, having in mind all the time the First Minister took in answering that straightforward question?

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the honourable member knows he did not have a point of privilege.

ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, may I announce a meeting of the Standing Committee on Law Amendments for Thursday of this week July 7 at 10:00 a.m. and, if necessary, to continue in the evening at 8:00 p.m. If the committee should find it necessary to meet at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evening there would no regular sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, would you please call the . . . Yes, let it be, by leave, I certainly acknowledge that I've consulted with the Opposition House Leader who I find, in most instances, unlike some others, to be a gentleman in these things.

Mr. Speaker, would you please call the adjourned debates on Bills 84, 92, 47, 48, 69, 72, 78 and 90.

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING

BILL NO. 84 - THE RESIDENTIAL RENT REGULATION ACT

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Housing, Bill No. 84.

The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, having reviewed the contents of the bill, and consulting various sources, we are prepared to pass it along to committee. It is primarily housekeeping and minor in nature and we are prepared to pass it along to committee.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

BILL NO. 92 - THE CITY OF WINNIPEG ACT

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs, Bill No. 92 standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing the contents of the amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act, and having had an opportunity to review some notes from my own service on city council, and having spent a couple of terms on Winnipeg City Council, I know that many of the amendments that have been brought forward by the Minister are ones that have been requested by the city and ones that, I think, there is fairly general agreement on by members of city council.

I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, the Minister was calling something across to me and I couldn't make it out. In any case, I know that a number of the amendments are ones that have been put forward by the city in the past, and they are therefore in agreement with many of the things that the Minister is attempting to do. For instance, the tightening up of various zoning matters and inspection processes, streamlining of procedures with respect to street closure, and so on, are relatively straightforward and, I believe, that they are matters that will allow the city to be able to do its job more effectively and more efficiently, in terms of following through on these various requirements.

As well, the reduced advertising requirements on zoning matters, again, I think, will be welcomed and I know it was a recommendation put forward by city council to the Minister. I'm sure that city council will appreciate the opportunity that they have for pension and insurance schemes and benefit plans for Members of City Council and, of course, it will be of interest to all taxpayers as to what ultimately transpires as a result of the opportunity for additional benefits, whether this becomes an increased burden on the taxpayers, or how it works out, will obviously be a decision of city council and one that they will have to face the ratepayers about after they bring in their plans.

Mr. Speaker, the matter of the opportunity for referenda to be held by city council is a different one. I wonder if this government believes in the process of surveying public opinion through a referendum why it doesn't do that with respect to, for instance, the resolution that is currently before the House on the bilingualism alternative for the Province of Manitoba? The extension of French language services is a matter that is evoking a great deal of public concern. I'm aware that over 100 rural municipalities have brought forward resolutions to the attention of the Minister of Municipal

Affairs and I wonder why the government doesn't practice what it preaches, and on such a major matter, not hold a referendum province-wide, for instance, to survey opinion. They believe that it's an effective vehicle obviously; they're giving the opportunity both to municipalities and, through this act, to the City of Winnipeg to do this sort of thing and yet they're not giving that kind of broad opportunity for people to cast a vote and to express an opinion on a very, very major item such as this.

I know that it's their intention to facilitate referenda on things that are outside the normal purview and responsibility of municipal governments, by bringing in this sort of thing and having referenda on matters such as, I suppose, nuclear disarmament and other matters, but it would seem to me that if they believe that such a vehicle, such a tool is an effective way of gauging public opinion and can be utilized for the purpose of development of future public policy, that they ought to apply that principle themselves when they're facing such a major question, as I say, as they are today in the province.

However, be that as it may, there are other matters that are in the act that I think ought to evoke certain concern. The major portion of the act is devoted to the potential for politicization of the civic service by opening up the opportunity or facilitating the opportunity for civic servants to become politically involved and to run and so on, I think that this government is doing what it is doing in the provincial Civil Service. They are essentially encouraging and, in fact, politicizing the Civil Service of the province and wanting to extend that now to get political activism going in the civic service of the City of Winnipeg; and I question that and I know that's something that has been questioned by members of city council and the administration of the City of Winnipeg because civic services, even more so than provincial services, are much closer to the public.

Their delivery system is such, when you're dealing with things such as refuse collection and street maintenance and all of that sort of thing, that there is a close relationship between all of the elected people on city council and staff people at virtually all levels. It goes right down to the delivery of service of the very essential but, sometimes considered menial services that are delivered by the City of Winnipeg; and that relationship, if there were a kind of a political overtone or undertone to it, I think, could be damaged. And I think that it may lead to situations in which people do not respond to the legitimate requests of councillors, for political purposes, to make them look bad or to put them in a situation where they damage their chances of re-election by not attending to their legitimate requests on behalf of their taxpayers and voters.

I don't like to see that creep into this kind of thing and I think that it has a much greater opportunity because of the nature of services that are provided and the nature of the relationship between a councillor and the staff people at City Hall that I think is different than occurs, say, at the provincial or the federal level of Civil Service.

So I say that is an area that ought to evoke, I think, a fair degree of consideration and public response, because I'm not sure that it's in the interests of the tax-paying public to have that kind of relationship made, politically related in any way.

In any case, there are other matters that I understand the city council has been after the Minister to put into the act that have not been put into the act and I wonder why and I hope that the Minister is not attempting to control the city's legitimate desires to proceed more efficiently in some of its urban renewal.

For instance, I know that the city has been pushing for an amendment to allow them to demolish boarded-up houses. I know that they're in a situation today where millions of dollars, from all three levels of government, are being spent in upgrading and renewing blighted, urban areas and yet there is a situation that occurs where a house that's been placarded, boarded up, vacant for years, is not able to be demolished and cleaned up, so that the millions that are being spent in neighbourhood improvement programs and other things are, in essence, downgraded and wasted because of the fact that the city cannot proceed to demolish these things in any reasonable period of time.

I think that's an area that the Minister should have looked at and I'm surprised that he has declined to consider that, I think, reasonable request on the part of the city.

The amendments that are brought forward with respect to zoning matters and the additional zone, I think, make sense and I think are probably lauded by both the city government and as well the people from the municipal governments surrounding the City of Winnipeg who deal with the zoning process through the City of Winnipeg and its Environment Committee. I'm sure that all will be appreciative of that amendment and I'm sure, as well, that the city's only concern in it, Mr. Speaker, is that it has an opportunity for input and information with respect to matters that are happening in the additional zone and an opportunity to make their presentations and their views known when such things are being effected, as major rezonings and major land use considerations in the additional zone which, of course, affects Winnipeg's interests.

Having said all that, I say that I'll be interested to hear a little bit more from those who will come to committee to make presentations; I'm sure that members of the city government themselves will have some comments on some parts of it that aren't necessarily in their interests or perceived to be in their interests.

Mr. Speaker, those are my remarks on the matter, and as I say, we look forward to hearing the presentations of the City Government on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 47 - THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Member for Morris has 26 minutes remaining.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Speaker, I only have a few additional comments to put on the record along with those that I gave last night.

I'd like to begin though to reiterate some of the comments I made at that time, specifically as related to firstly the provision requiring all municipal councillors, and indeed under Bill 18, those of us who are sitting in the House, the requirement of all those people who seek those public offices, to have to on behalf of their spouses declare the total asset list within the household. I have a very strong feeling, Mr. Speaker, that a very small percentage of rural municipal councillors really today, have a total understanding of what is expected of them as they seek offices probably this fall and for years to come.

I genuinely believe that very few of them have read the proposed bill, and of course we found out by way of question period today that — (Interjection) — they were not given specifically their own personal copies unless their local council saw fit to reproduce them and give them to them directly. Of course, we question how many of them have seen Bill 47 in its entirety. — (Interjection)—

Well, it's on that basis, Mr. Speaker, that I really believe it's unfair for the Minister of Municipal Affairs to stand in this House and say that in his view he has strong support for this type of legislation from the rural municipalities. I believe that the first time that many of them had a chance to even hear about it, is as he says when he broached the subject in his remarks to various people in attendance during the meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I was able to make the point in some respect last night that in my view the only law that can make people honest is an unwritten one, and that's the one of personal integrity. That's the only law that can allow people to be honest in all positions of life. I don't think any type of legislation that is passed in this house is going to impose on people the necessity of honesty.

As I was completing my address last night, Mr. Speaker, my main concern was as to what I see happening in the rural areas. I look at school board elections throughout rural Manitoba, and I see where so very many of the ward system under school board elections are filled by acclamation. In some cases existing trustees who wanted to step down are pulled back because there's no representation from an area. I think it's happening to some degree also in municipal elections. I'm really wondering how this type of legislation is going to help that process at all.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us another bill - I forget the number, I believe it's 14 - where we have attempts by the government by way of doing away with vouching that's going to cause everybody to vote. They believe that there are some restrictions in place today that are preventing the voting percentages from rising above 65 or 70 percent. They believe with a few changes that a greater percentage of Manitobans will come out to vote at all elections. Yet, on doing that on one hand they're also, by way of this legislation, as you relate it to the realities of rural government, I believe there are going to be fewer people to vote for, so there may be more voters, but who will there be to vote for? I don't believe there'll be the number of candidates there. I sincerely believe they haven't thought this through, or has it been thought through?

I see something that's happening in rural areas that's disturbing me. I don't know if it's because in a sense local autonomy and local authority is being pulled away, but I see first of all, where people are backing away from the responsibility of acting as school trustees. I have a strong feeling and I see it and there are many municipalities where there are not contested elections for trustees. I'm wondering where it's going to end.

How far is this government going to push along this process of putting on more and more power to first of all strip away powers from rural Manitoba?

A MEMBER: Pull the bill.

MR. C. MANNESS: I tell you, Sir, I'm terribly concerned. I'm almost wondering if we don't have here an attempt to garner to the provincial powers more and more responsibility as it relates to rural matters. We have school, we have municipal regulations that are coming by way of this bill; today we even see what happens when a local group applies to this government to keep their own park. What happens? They're turned down.

Mr. Speaker, I think with these few comments I hope that the Minister takes into account some of the comments that have been made and, first of all if he can't see fit to withdraw this legislation, hopefully at least he'll see the proper course is to change and to amend some of that area dealing with spousal disclosure. To me, it'll cause a large number of municipal people, once they realize what they are required to do, it'll cause them not to run for office.

With those few comments I would hope that those changes would be forthcoming. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to add some words objecting to many of the sections of this bill. It is another disclosure of assets bill rather than a conflict of interest bill. — (Interjection) — The Minister is great to jump up and say well they asked for it. Mr. Speaker, I think maybe the municipal councillors, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities asked for some type of guidelines that would be brought down by the government, something that would guide them in conflict of interest areas, but not a full disclosure of assets bill such as the Minister has brought in.

There have only been, I think, one or two cases that have received any prominence where there has been a conflict of interest in rural councillors in the last number of years that I can remember, Mr. Speaker, and they were not really that significant. They received a fair bit of press coverage. In view of the number of councillors that serve throughout the Province of Manitoba, I don't think heavy-handed government legislation such as this is what the municipal people had in mind when they may have indicated to the Minister that they wanted some type of guidelines.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has had an assessment review commission study for two years the assessment problem in the province and bring in a fairly large booklet with 100-and-some-odd recommendations in it. The Minister has held meetings and is sitting on that report, and yet he's willing to plow ahead with legislation

such as this that's not going to be in the interest of getting the best people to run for town council or rural municipalities. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, the Minister says from his seat they will now run. I'll tell the Minister that you're going to lose an awful lot of good people that may wish to serve their communities, you're going to end up with a bunch of welfare recipients, or people that have no assets to declare, on town council.

The movers and the shakers in the towns and the villages and their municipalities are not going to be subject to laying down their assets that will be on file in the municipal office for everybody to snoop into and find out just what's what.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, the Minister will find that that's the case.

A MEMBER: What have they got to hide?

MR. D. BLAKE: They have nothing to hide, it's just a certain amount of their assets may be rather personal.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I'm having some difficulty hearing the honourable member. If other members wish to speak to the debate they may do so in their turn. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I will try and speak a little louder if you're having problems.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister can sit there and talk all he likes about attending the meetings and finding that there's no problem, but I'm telling him there is a problem out there. I have one individual in my constituency that almost was elected a reeve last time around, and he's being encouraged by many many of his neighbours now to run again, and with this bill he just says forget it, there's no way that I'm going to run. He has assets in his wife's name that he doesn't think that anybody should be privy to, and I agree with him; that's his business, it's no business of the ratepayers in that area. He is a very capable man, could serve very very well, but this type of legislation is not going to bring those people forward, Mr. Speaker. So many of these rural councillors and rural mayors put in their time and run for election to serve their community, because the remuneration is not worth the hassle they get.

I'll take an example of our own Town of Minnedosa. When the mayor was asked to seek office at the last election he automatically forfeited a \$9,000 insurance premium with the Town of Minnedosa.

A MEMBER: This bill will fix that.

MR. D. BLAKE: Sure, it'll fix it; we know it'll fix it. On top of all that, another unfavourable decision that was passed by town council caused another irate taxpayer to come in and cancel all his business. This is the penalty that a great number of those people pay to serve their community. It's a penalty they pay to serve their communities. If there's conflict guidelines the Minister could at least allow the municipalities to pass their own by-law laying down conflict-of-interest guidelines for the councillors without having a full disclosure of assets.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture is yipping away from his seat. Mr. Speaker, in little rural communities where the only blacksmith in town, or the only welding shop in town, may very well be a member of town council and the local grader breaks down. All of the councillors agree that he is capable of doing the job, the price is right, go ahead and fix the machine and let's get it back into service; that's not a conflict-of-interest. That has gone on for years and years without a bill that's going to make him disclose what he owns, what his wife owns.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. D. BLAKE: I'm getting a lot of help, Mr. Speaker, because my notes aren't that extensive. Mr. Speaker, there's elections coming up this fall, and whether the Minister is aware of it or not there are going to be a lot of capable people out there that are not going to seek re-election, or are not going to seek election, whether he knows it or not. This bill could be modified, to a large degree, that would maybe encourage people to run for office, rather than discourage them.

The disclosure of assets is going to be on file in the municipal office, and that is not a very secure spot to have information of the type that members are going to have to disclose under this bill, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned before that the penalty a lot of them pay to serve their communities, because the remuneration is not really worth the hassle that a lot of them go through to have phone calls at all hours of the day or night; some of the risk they take in losing business through decisions, unpopular at times, may have to be made by council. These men serve their communities with a dedication that has been developed over the years through a sense of trust. The people that elect them trust them to do a proper job on town council, or municipal council, or they wouldn't have voted for them. If there's conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker, it will soon be brought to light and at the next election the results of it will be pretty evident when the votes are counted.

Mr. Speaker, the bill is very much similar to the one that's being proposed for the Legislative Assembly. I think those of us in this Chamber may be in a little different position than rural councillors, although I think the disclosure of asset feature on our bill is not a necessary one either. They can bring in conflict of guidelines without a full disclosure of assets clause, such as, is in the bill for this Chamber. But, Mr. Speaker, the Minister carries on with his great speeches about the need for this particular conflict-of-interest guidelines being introduced to protect the municipalities. He has been out to the municipal meetings and claims he heard no large objection to it.

Mr. Speaker, you can't find that out when you run in and make a speech and ask for questions in the hall. He knows very well how timid many municipal councillors are in getting up in a meeting to ask questions such as that nature. If he had stayed around for the full term of those meetings, staying for the banquet and staying for the refreshment hour, he would have found that there were an awful lot of rural

councillors out there that are not really happy with disclosing the assets of their wives and children, if they happen to be under their roof.

HON. B. URUSKI: 3 percent.

MR. D. BLAKE: The Minister says there's only 3 percent objecting to it. Well, I'm afraid he'll see, when elections come up this fall, and the fact that he hasn't mailed the bill out to all of the councillors, Mr. Speaker, half of them don't know about the bill, don't know what's in it, that's why he hasn't been getting the feedback, because they don't know about it he hasn't sent the bill out to them.

He claims that the bill has gone out to all municipal offices, there might have been a copy go to each office, it hasn't gone to councillors. Each councillor should have been provided with a copy of this legislation, in view of its importance to future elections and encouraging good people to run for office, that they may be able to serve their communities and serve their towns.

A MEMBER: Keep the ones we've got.

MR. D. BLAKE: So, I say to the Minister, he's not reading it right, he tells us that we don't understand what's going on out there. Big brother knows what's good for the rural councillors; the heavy hand of government will tell them how to run their show.

HON. B. URUSKI: The union does.

MR. D. BLAKE: The union does, the Minister says. Well, Mr. Speaker, I must be reading the union wrongly. I realize the union might have asked the Minister for some type of guidelines, but not a full disclosure of assets. The Minister will find out this fall when a number of councillors refuse to seek re-election for office on account of his bill.

There may be — (Interjection) — the Minister keeps saying, talk to the union. He's trying to lay the blame on the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, Mr. Speaker. — (Interjection) — You're the Minister responsible, you brought in the bill. Don't try and lay it on the Union of Manitoba Municipalities. You have to take the responsibility for the number of people that are going to refuse to seek election or re-election this fall, Mr. Minister. It's going to be on your shoulders and rather than worrying about legislation such as this, if you'd get your act together and do something about the assessment mess that's on in the province that you've been told and told about it under the MARC Report, and you've played games with it and used every method at your disposal to shovel it under the carpet and stall it off, because you haven't got the courage to act on it.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not going to encourage good people to run for public office. As I said earlier, those people are elected to rural communities to serve their communities. It's not for the amount of remuneration they receive. It's a sincere desire to serve their communities. This is not going to advance that type of person that we want to see come forward to serve his community and seek election at the rural level.

Mr. Speaker, I would only be repeating many things that have been said by my colleagues in showing some objection to the bill. The bill could be modified in many many ways, Mr. Speaker, that would make it a little more palatable rather than have a full disclosure of assets. I encourage the Minister to bring in such type of amendments that will make it a little more palatable and a little more easy to encourage good people to seek office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Mr. Speaker, it's not my intention at this point in time to make any extensive comments on this bill. I think I discussed the general principle of conflict of interest legislation quite extensively when I discussed the bill which relates to members of the Legislative Assembly. I think that the basic principle applies in regard to this bill.

I would however like to address two specific points, Mr. Speaker. First of all there has been considerable suggestion from the opposition that municipal councillors are dead set against this bill, and they don't want to accept at face value the comments from the Minister that there is a considerable amount of support for the bill out there. I could indicate, Mr. Speaker, in talking to councillors in my area that it's not a big concern to them in terms of the general principle of the legislation. They accept it and a number of them positively support it, Mr. Speaker.

I recently, for example, attended a meeting of the urban municipalities in the Northern area, and a number of councillors, I think, indicated that they look forward to having a clear set of guidelines which would define conflict of interest. A number of them have wrestled with this problem on an individual basis in their role as councillor, Mr. Speaker, and they found it somewhat difficult to determine exactly what is and what isn't a conflict of interest, and related to that, what they should have to disclose about pecuniary interest and other interests, and what they shouldn't have to disclose. I think they particularly would like to see this bill passed as a way of clearly defining exactly what conflict of interest is taken to mean.

I should also add, Mr. Speaker, that my comments when I spoke on the other conflict of interest bill apply also to this one in regard to the fact that very little is unknown in small communities anyway. I know in the case of Thompson with our population of approximately 13,000, most people know what interests people have, whether one be a councillor or an MLA or MP, it doesn't really matter. It's a small community, Mr. Speaker, people already know a considerable amount in regard to that.

The second point I would like to address briefly, Mr. Speaker, is that there has been some concern expressed about specific sections of the legislation. Since this is second reading, I understand that we are basically talking about the principle of the bill rather than specific sections, and that these will be discussed further at committee.

I would however at this point in time like to urge the Minister to take account of some of the concerns that have been expressed over some of the specific sections.

I would note in this regard some of the concerns expressed by councillors from the City of Thompson in regard to the possible impact of this kind of legislation on councillors in single-industry towns such as Thompson where possible conflicts related to, for example, one's connections with the major employer, Inco, would create some problems under the existing legislation. I would hope that the Minister would consider making changes to the bill in committee to overcome these objections, because as I indicated previously, I believe, most councillors in my area accept this piece of legislation in principle. They have some problems with the specifics, Mr. Speaker, but I think they feel that could be overcome with a number of amendments.

So I would in brief summary say that I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, but I would hope there would be some amendments made to it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, it would seem as if from the last speaker's remarks that at least there's some people on that side of the House that see the fallacy in this bill, the problems with it, even though the Minister doesn't and are going to now be proposing amendments to it. I can assure the Minister that if the amendments proposed by the Member for Thompson are not adequate, we will be proposing our own.

Mr. Speaker, it's too bad that the Minister is leaving because I have some specific comments for him personally in his capacity as Minister of Municipal Affairs, but I'll make them even though he is unable to attend. — (Interjection) — This conflict of interest has a history, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of being referred by the former Attorney-General my colleague, the MLA for St. Norbert, to the Law Reform Commission for study and for recommendation as to how to proceed in resolving the problem.

The Law Reform Commission made a number of recommendations which in part are contained within this act. The most important recommendation that the Law Reform Commission made which was left out by this government was the fact that in smaller municipalities, they would adopt the act only by by-law, so it would be by the choice of the municipality as to whether they wish to subject their elected councillors and Reeves to the requirements of this act.

That is nowhere present in this bill, so when the Minister says, well, the municipal councillors requested that and the Union of Manitoba Municipalities requested conflict of interest, he's not really telling the truth to the people of Manitoba. He is not telling the truth as far as how he's proceeding with this bill, because it did not contain the one very important recommendation from the Law Reform Commission.

The Minister also tells another small distortion of the truth when he's speaking from his seat today, and in question period earlier on today. He said that he attended seven regional meetings and there was hardly any issue made of the conflict of interest legislation. I would suspect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there wasn't, because contrary to the impression that the Minister left with us on this side of the House some month-and-a-half ago, that each and every councillor in the Province

of Manitoba had received a copy of this bill, that did not happen. Without a copy of this bill the various municipal councillors in the towns, and the RMs of this province, and the reeves and the mayors have no idea of what is being required of them, so how in the world could they comment — (Interjection) — you know, the Attorney-General from his seat says it's a silly notion that his Minister of Municipal Affairs misled us a month-and-a-half ago about sending copies of this bill out to the councillors, and that the bill was not important to the councillors. He says that's a silly notion. Well, the Attorney-General is a silly person. He doesn't understand the process of democracy in this province. He's an abrogation in this House, and he doesn't deserve the credibility conferred on him by the government in being Attorney-General, because he doesn't understand the process in this House or in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General furthermore says that the Attorney-General status was conferred on him by the voters of this province. They didn't elect the Attorney-General; they elected an MLA. It was his government that conferred the Attorney-General status to him, temporarily, we all hope.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I might point out that had the Minister of Municipal Affairs truly wished to get feedback on this legislation from the councillors who attended the regional meetings last week and the week previous, he would have made a point of passing to everyone, by mail, a copy of this bill to each and every individual councillor, with a note and a letter from the Minister saying, if you have any concerns please bring these up at the municipal regional meetings that you'll be attending this spring, in June. But, no, he does not want to hear what the councillors have to say about it, because what more golden opportunity could he have had to inform councillors and to give them an opportunity to speak to him with concerns, pro or con, against this bill; and his inability to provide them with information affecting their elected office is a lack of competence that we've become accustomed to from this government. They are an incompetent lot over there. They bring in legislation which they will not give to the municipal councillors so they can objectively critique it at regional meetings. If that isn't a grand failing of that Minister and this government I don't know what else is.

In question period today the Minister of Municipal Affairs indicated that members on this side of the House were not in touch with the views and the thoughts of our municipal councillors. What a joke! Here's the Minister of Municipal Affairs who, as a number of my colleagues have said, attended for an hour-and-a-half at seven regional meetings, when our MLAs attended there probably for the most of the day and had private discussions over coffee, over a sandwich, over lunch with them. Where was the Minister? Well, he was on his way back to Winnipeg; he didn't talk to the councillors like we did, and they brought up these issues to us, and he has the audacity and the nerve today to say that we're not in touch with our own councillors. You know, I guess maybe the height of the ridiculousness in that statement from the Minister of Municipal Affairs stems from the fact that in his own constituency, in his own municipal council, they voted against the government's proposal to make this province bilingual,

and he is telling us that we are not in touch with our councillors.

He didn't know his councillors were opposed to the process that the Attorney-General and the Premier are taking this province towards bilingualism; and he tells us we're out of touch with our councillors. His own councillors rejected the government's proposal. What more proof do you need that he's out of touch with reality and with the will and the wishes of the municipal councillors in the Province of Manitoba? — (Interjection) —

Here we have the Attorney-General, in his wisdom, saying that they objected to our distortion of the fact. The only distortion of the bilingual issue is given to us by the Attorney-General who is trying to tell the people of Manitoba half the truth on what he intends to do in this province with the bilingual resolution; one-half the truth is what the Attorney-General is telling the people.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs, furthermore, says that this legislation is here because the municipal councillors have asked for it. Well, if the Minister of Municipal Affairs and his colleagues in government are so generous with the municipal councillors, in doing what they ask, will it then follow that this government, and the Attorney-General, will back down from the bilingual amendment to the Manitoba Constitution, as requested by the Municipal Councillors? Well, if they say they requested it, and they're doing it on one hand, why not on the other? Will the same Minister of Municipal Affairs now move, as requested by the municipal councillors, on amendments to The Assessment Act, and the assessment process in the Province of Manitoba? If they're doing it in one case, why not in another?

I don't think he will, because the Minister of Municipal Affairs and this government don't know what councillors in Manitoba wish the government to do; and when they do know, they're ignoring their opinion, and they have done it consistently, and they're doing it in two very vital issues, assessment and the bilingual amendment.

Leave it not stand on the record unchallenged, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs can stand up in this House and say that we, on this side of the House, don't know what our elected councillors are thinking about, and what they wish from this government. We know an awful lot better what the municipal councillors in our areas want and expect from this government than the Minister and the other number of his incompetent group over there that deem to call themselves government.

The Attorney-General, from his seat, in the debate earlier on today said, what do the councillors have to hide? That's not the point, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This act is not a conflict of interest act, as many of my colleagues have said, this is a disclosure of assets, and the Member for Thompson stands up and says, it doesn't really matter because everybody in my little Community of Thompson knows everybody else's business. Well, if that's the case, then why are you bringing in this act requiring disclosure of assets if everybody knows? It's unfathomable the depth of the lack of understanding that members on that side of the House have of what they are doing in these bills.

This is another piece of intrusive legislation from an incompetent government, and they are bringing it in

against the expressed wishes of many of the councillors in the smaller municipalities throughout the province; they are bringing it in against the recommendation in the Law Reform Commission and they are bringing it in with no knowledge of the harm and the damage they're going to do to the quality of people who let their names stand for election in rural Manitoba; but they don't care, they obviously do not care or else, if they do care, they plain don't understand what they're doing. Either situation is bad, only one is worse, because if they're doing things without the understanding of what they're doing, then that truly proves them to be more incompetent than what we, and many Manitobans, now suspect this government is.

Mr. Speaker, I would make a suggestion to the Minister that when this bill comes before the committee, that he should be ready to make an amendment which will parallel the Law Reform Commission recommendation of smaller municipalities adopting this Conflict of Interest Act by municipal by-law, No. 1. No. 2, I would suggest that if we are going to have disclosure of assets required by all councillors elected, and all assets of their wives and their children, etc., that those assets do not go on file for public request by anybody who walks in off the street and wishes to see them; that those list of assets, if indeed the municipalities participate, are held in secret trust by an impartial third party, and maybe it is the Municipal Board; and then anyone who has a complaint, where he believes that a municipal councillor is in conflict of interest through dealings with his elected office, and his business or his personal assets, that the person who believes a councillor has offended The Conflict of Interest Act shall, in writing, refer his complaint to this impartial third body. The impartial third body will review the complaint, as launched by the citizen-at-large, and compare and review the accused councillor's assets. If there is no correlation and the accusation is false, and all that the individual, the accuser, is wishing to do is find out what the councillor's assets are and his wife's assets are and his children's assets are, he will not have the ability to do that. At least in that way, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will not have this hanging over legitimate, sincere and honest people who wish to run for office that the moment they do so everybody in the community and outside the community will know the business of the entire family.

I think that is only an eminently fair request, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I would hope the Minister of Municipal Affairs would take it seriously, give it consideration and bring in an amendment to allow that to be part and parcel of this Conflict of Interest Act. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Member for Sturgeon Creek, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 48 - THE ELECTIONS FINANCES ACT

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bill No. 48. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, standing in the name of the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill 48 should be labelled "pick the pockets of people of Manitoba" act. That's really, basically, what it should be called because the bill is going to do just that, pick the people's pockets of the Province of Manitoba. The members on the other side must have been really, really in deep, dirty, rotten thought when they came up with this particular bill, when they decided that the people of Manitoba should now be forced to pay for the election expenses for the Honourable members in this House. In fact, it's shameful, Sir, that anybody would even think or would even bring that into this Legislature at the present time. People are unemployed in this province, the economy of the province is not good and we start talking about forcing the people of Manitoba to pay for the election expenses of the honourable members that are elected to this House. It's not only shameful, they ought to feel downright low about asking for it.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General, who is not here at the present time, of course, he is - I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, he was here, he's probably on business somewhere, but he's not here at the present time and I'm sorry he isn't because I would like him to hear it. Because you see, the Attorney-General has given them the education over there that you can't go into a fair fight. The only thing you can do is have it all one-sided on your side - that's the only way a socialist goes into a fight. When it's fair, he stays out of it and otherwise he makes it one-sided towards himself. That's really the way that they want to do it. Mr. Speaker, a socialist absolutely has no more internal fortitude about going into a battle with anybody if it's going to be a fair fight; if he goes into it in a fair fight he will find a way to make the odds to his benefit so he can get you. That's what the Attorney-General has basically taught the members on the opposite side.

You see, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the money, the Attorney-General gets up and says we put through legislation - or the Progressive Conservatives put through legislation - that was having the public pay for their elections and nobody on this side has ever given the argument or nobody on this side has ever disagreed with the fact that a person of his own free will can make - I was going to hear something from the Member for St. Johns who is now one of the bigger hypocrites in this House when we talk money - but, Mr. Speaker, who says . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources on a point of order.

HON. A. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek to reflect on the words he uses in the House.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if the member does not like that, I'll withdraw the word "hypocrites" - but a person who appears to be something he isn't more than anybody else in this House, I'll gladly put it in that way.

Mr. Speaker, we have a situation at the present time where they can voluntarily, of their own free will, say that I want to donate some money to a political party, to a person, they can say they want to donate it to that person but nobody tells them they have to. They do get a tax receipt, nobody has said — (Interjection) — that's right nobody has said they don't get a tax receipt. I've heard it a hundred times over there, who pays for the tax receipt. I've said nobody has said they don't get a tax receipt; we admit that. But they are free, Sir, to make the donation any way they please. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that system is so bad, take it out. Take out the tax receipt situation, if they're going to stand there and with their representation of something that they're not, they go ahead and they put in a new system, Sir, that says the public will now be forced to pay for the elections - but they didn't, and they criticized - they said we put in a system that the public paid for elections. Did they change it? No, they just added to it, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to force everybody in Manitoba to pay for the MLAs' elections. No choice. You have the choice and you don't have the choice. You have the choice to get a tax receipt and yet you're still forced to pay for all the rest.

Mr. Speaker, I heard from the member on the other side that we have the choice not to pay somebody's tax credit, and you know the young man is getting a little older every day but his head's not moving with him. I have said a hundred times that people get a tax credit out of our legislation and there is no choice, it has to be paid. But the person made out the donation voluntarily, and you haven't taken that away. They haven't taken that away, but they've added a new one that picks the pockets of every person in Manitoba. Do you know that there are people in Manitoba, Sir, that didn't donate to any party? Do you know that there were people in Manitoba who said, I don't want to pay out any money towards any member or any politician of any kind; I don't want any part of it.

As a matter of fact, Sir, there are religious organizations who oppose paying their tax dollars or any part of the money, their hard-earned money, towards political activities. I wonder if they were thought of. They have often come before the committees of this House, they have often made the statements that we are religious denominations, and as such, we do not contribute to political parties. Those people who didn't make any donations to political parties whatsoever are now going to be forced to do so.

So, Mr. Speaker, let's not have any falderal and the chattering that we get from the system we put in. The reason why the system was put in was because it gave the people the opportunity who wanted to choose the candidate of their choice or wanted to support the candidate of their choice the opportunity to do so, and they received a tax receipt. — (Interjection) — You see now it's all changed. Now we have a situation — (Interjection) — where the NDP Party couldn't live with that. They didn't have enough people that wanted to support them. — (Interjection) — They talk about the big companies that support the Conservatives. Do you know, Mr. Speaker, in my travels, which I travel and call on companies, I saw the letters from the NDP Party that were sent to every company and business in this province soliciting funds — (Interjection) — and they say they don't ask for funds?

As a matter of fact, the list is all public. — (Interjection) — Look at the list, it's there. The Election Act says you have to report it, it's there. I saw letters to companies from the NDP saying, would you please make a financial donation to our cause, and they on the other side who represent themselves as something that they aren't are after business every day to support their party. — (Interjection) — No, they went after the big ones, they went after the banks, they went after them all, and they took, Mr. Speaker, the money from whoever they could get it from and they said thank you very much. There's absolutely no question about that. Mr. Speaker, I'm hearing the chatter from the backbench at the other side and they will have the opportunity to get up and tell me that they did not solicit all sizes of business for funds to the NDP Party. Tell me you didn't and, Sir, I will use the word that's not supposed to be used in this House, because I've seen the letters.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. A. MACKLING: Would the honourable member permit a question?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: No, Mr. Speaker, if he's got a question I'll answer it later. Mr. Speaker, I know the answer, I saw the letters. I make calls on businesses in this province.

Mr. Speaker, now we have a situation where in this act, when it comes to elections, somebody should say that you can spend so much money on advertising, or you can spend so much money per candidate, or something of that nature. Personally, I don't see much sense in any of it. I believe that if you want to set up an amount of how much somebody can spend, how he collects that money is his own business.

I really don't think that it's part of the Legislature's job to lay down rules and regulations of who and how money is collected, whether it's by a social, whether it's by a donation, or how it is done. I don't think that's any cause for concern of the Legislature.

If you want to have a cause and concern about how much is spent on advertising, or how much is spent by each member, that's fine, go ahead, but I personally don't believe in that either. I know we had it on advertising, but we didn't have too much of a control of how much money had to be spent on elections. You see that bothered the NDP again. They went into a fair fight. We all had the same advantage. They said this legislation is not to our advantage, because those people seem to be able to have more money or collect more money or have the ability or the brains or the business sense to put together a better financial situation — (Interjection) — Sir, so they said we've got to stop that. We can't go in on a fair fight, we've got to get the odds more to our side. That's really the reason for this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can't really understand why somebody, and I've checked the bill over and I haven't looked at the other bill, but it just amazes me when it says that there's a group of people that go to a meeting and they pass the hat, and the hat is passed, and we've got to put down the names and the contributions of everybody in that hall when they pass the hat, and if

it's over \$10 - they can't be more than \$10 or it's got to be returned or something to the Solicitor-General or you've got to give it to the Minister of Finance if it's over \$10 - and passing the hat, Sir, was never a habit at our meetings to speak of, it was an NDP game. That was the game they always played, pass the hat. So now they'll pass it and everybody will walk into that room with a bunch of \$5 bills in their pockets, and then they'll all be listed and what have you.

Can you see anything so stupid as when people go to a meeting and they pass the hat at the meeting, we've got to write their names down and how much they gave. If we go to have a social, we've got to have the names for the social and how much was collected at the social. — (Interjection) — You see, Mr. Speaker, that's how really silly the person that wrote this bill is. In fact, when he decided to picket the pockets of the people of Manitoba, he decided I'd better have something else in this, because I've got to make it look as if I was thinking of something else, and really the other things that he thought of in here are really quite stupid.

There are a couple that are quite serious. This club, this group, the financing of other political parties, and every registered political party will have representation on this board. Well I can honestly say, Mr. Speaker, that I would say that within two elections or by the next election, the NDP Party and the Conservative Party will not have any say of what goes on in that Board, because the Rhinoceros Party, the Marxists, the Communists, and the Green Party that we've heard about at the present time, the Progressive Party which is there, the Progressive Conservative Party and the NDP Party will not have a say on that board, because anybody that's a registered party in the Province of Manitoba will have representation on it. I can assure you the kooky parties will have the majority on that board. — (Interjection)—

Mind you, I will say that the NDP does have an alliance with several of them, there's no question about that. But I can assure you the representation on that Board will be more from other parties than from the NDP and Conservatives put together. It can happen, the act says it can happen, and that's how stupid the act is. Anybody can form a party tomorrow and all of a sudden they're involved in The Elections Financing Act and everything else.

A MEMBER: Even the Communists, Frank.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Oh, they'll see to that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Especially the Communists, if the Attorney-General is in charge.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the full canvass that I have in my hand here that says "Another Success Story." This is put out by the Canadian Labour Federation, this little document, "Building A Better Manitoba," and how sweet it is.

Mr. Speaker, just to quote from it, it says, "A phone bank of 20 phones, over 100 phone canvassers took part. They were on the phones, afternoon and evening during the last three weeks of the campaign in Winnipeg. The last week in Brandon, 19,049 calls were made;

7,654 union households contacted. Of the 7,654 contacted, 55 percent of households were supporters; less than 10 percent were opposed; 100 election day workers were identified; 600 sign locations; thousands of definite votes passed on to riding campaigns. Said Eugene Kostyra, the new Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Co-Chairman of the Election Planning Committee, "As a candidate, I was fully aware of the impact of the MFL, the CLC campaign, the phone campaign."

Let's turn it over and we find, "The training of organizers and canvassers began. Finally, in the spring of 1981, the canvasses of 18,000 workers were canvassed. They discussed the issues which had effected them to victory." Then you have, "By the way, while we were doing all this, the United Food and Commercial Workers in Manitoba also successfully used a canvass to talk with their members about their neighbours and their collective bargaining issues. During the summer and early fall, two leaflets were designed; one for non-election period, one in case election was called. During this time, the federation and the CLC were carrying out their regular pre-election activities, raising money from unions for Manitoba NDP election effort and arranging the release of people to work during the riding campaign. And election day, November 17th, did not see an end of Manitoba's labour action program. The federation and its affiliates intended to continue to build the canvass machine, getting more and more locals involved, more people trained, and reaching more and more workers through the yearly job canvass."

Mr. Speaker, what is the ND Party going to claim or what are they going to say the benefit of that is? How much money are they going to put in for that? How much money? They go to businesses, they have this from the unions, the check-offs from the unions and everything else and they go to business as well and yet they criticize us. They put in this Election Act that nobody, anonymously - if my neighbour down the street decides that he'd like to send a pamphlet out on my behalf - I can understand the Member for St. Johns hasn't got anybody that wants to do that for him - but if I have somebody that wants to do it on my behalf, I can assure you that that can't be done.

The Minister for St. Johns maybe should have members from St. Johns; maybe he should have it done, because if nobody owned up to doing it, maybe he'd have to resign. If somebody wants to send out some literature for you and they don't sign it, send it out on your behalf, are you going to be in a court case? Are we going to have to prove something? Are we going to have to prove that you didn't know that this person was doing it and you gave him no authorization to and, in fact, if he comes along and says, I did it, you've got to report and tell everything he did. Mr. Speaker, how dumb can we be, to put things like that in a bill?

I mentioned the others, meetings, socials and somebody who truly wants to assist you and doesn't want it known; and that does happen in elections. As a matter of fact, it has happened to the point where there has been literature sent out on behalf of a candidate and the candidate didn't want that type of literature going out. — (Interjection) — Yes, it can happen. You better find out about it the next time or you'll have to resign.

Mr. Speaker, now we have all of this silly legislation; all of the things that will be almost impossible to chase,

impossible to prove if you have to prove them; you're going to have people looking at ways on how to circumvent. It's happened all through history, that the campaign people of both parties will sit down - not both parties, all parties now - and they'll read this bill and say, well, it doesn't say we can't do that. It doesn't say we can't do something else. So, you know, why do you give that type of opportunity for people to sit down and try and find ways to get around The Elections Act.

Mr. Speaker, as I told you before - you weren't here, Sir, it was the Deputy Speaker that was in the Chair - that the socialists can't go into an election when it's fair; they have to get the odds working on their side, and to prove that, Mr. Speaker, the labour legislation, the Canadian Labour that I have here in front of me, an article that they put out, they said how much they did for the NDP Government under the direction of the Minister Eugene Kostyra.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there should be an amendment to this particular legislation that says that election day did not see the end of it, of the phoning, of the canvassing. Howard Pawley's election was caused by the ward work of the federation and the people of the federation working for them and they were doing all of this - and the fact that they put in phone banks and paid for them; the fact that they put out literature and paid for it, all of those things - Mr. Speaker, I don't really care if the person wants to canvass for them and phone for them, but the cost of the phones, the costs of the literature, the costs of all of these things that these people are bragging about - if they wouldn't brag about it, I would maybe not bring it up - but they brag about it and then we don't have anything in the bill to speak of that that amount of money has to be a figure that is spent on the election that should be deducted from the amount of each candidate.

Mr. Speaker, that's the type of legislation we're used to seeing from the NDP, as my colleague from Pembina says, incompetent, absolutely incompetent. And, Mr. Speaker, when we get into the situation where there's going to be political parties, if they get a percentage of the vote, they will now get 50 percent of their election expenses paid. Candidates who get 10 percent of the vote will now get their election expenses paid or 50 percent of them. Under the federal system, Mr. Speaker, there are bank accounts of people of Canada's money sitting there idle, not doing anything, with candidates that probably will never be elected, that got 10 percent of the vote and that money is building up in those bank accounts and it's wrong. You will have candidates that get 50 percent of their expenses paid, there will be money donated to them. That money could technically be used in another constituency if it was to be released after the election, to be used any time at all. That money could be used if it's in the constituency account to help put in offices, etc. There's nothing to say what that money can be used for and it's going to build up in bank accounts in this province. — (Interjection) — Is that right, Mr. Speaker? — (Interjection) — Is it right to take the money from some person's bank account and put it in yours to gain interest? — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, that's just about what happens and we're saying that all of those . . . is it right, Mr. Speaker, that a person who doesn't want to make any type of contribution to any type of political party whatsoever

should have his money sitting in a member or candidate's bank account in this province?

That's not right, it's a damn disgrace. It's theft, it's legislating theft, that's what it is because your money, their money, is going to be sitting in bank accounts of people that will not be elected and they'll be sitting there with trust accounts gaining interest and those people don't want to donate to political parties. That, Sir, is theft. That is absolute theft of people's money.

You have said the money cannot sit in his bank account, it's got to sit in yours, or in that candidate's that wasn't elected. Or it's got to sit in a candidate's bank account that was elected. Let's use my own example, Sir, I will guarantee you that I can raise enough money in my constituency for the next election. We have, on several different elections. I have no intention of using a person's money that doesn't want to give it to me. I receive 10 percent of the vote; the NDP candidate will receive 10 percent of the vote; he might not be able to finance his election in that constituency, I doubt if he can. — (Interjection) — I heard, sure he can. I happen to know that he didn't. So, Mr. Speaker, the candidate that's running against me now will have 50 percent of his expenses so he'll spend a lot more. That doesn't bother me, I'll take on a socialist any time.

But I am going to raise the money for my election in my constituency or from people who want to donate to me and I am going to end up with 50 percent of my election expenses in a bank account and all of you are going to do the same thing. You're going to end up with - maybe you won't have 50 percent left maybe you'll only have 10 percent of the money left - but you'll have it in a bank account and that money belongs to the people of Manitoba.

Maybe this legislation should say that if you have any left over it should come to the Minister of Finance. I haven't seen that, that's a good idea why don't — (Interjection) — the Minister of Housing says that's a good idea, we'll expect the amendment. But I doubt if any of his colleagues will let it happen. You're right. They won't let it happen because they like to sit with other people's money in their bank account. People's money that the people had no choice whatsoever, they had to give it to them.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned one time that I had a good friend and everybody laughed about it but this good friend is an NDP person, who has voted NDP in my constituency for many years. A very good friend of the Minister of Resources, by the way, who said to me, Frank, I've never voted for you but I'll be damned if I'll vote for somebody that insists that I pay for their elections. I will tell the honourable member sometime, if he's walking down the hall, who it was.

Mr. Speaker, they think that out there the people don't mind this but the people do mind. They go to work, they earn money, the like to spend it on holidays, they like to enjoy themselves. In fact there's a lot of people who aren't working who don't have any money to spare and now we, in Manitoba, are going to tell them that they have to pay for the election campaigns or 50 percent of the election campaigns of the people that are sitting in this room and the Member for The Pas keeps saying, just as they've always done. Would you donate to the Conservative Party? Would you?

Mr. Speaker, I asked the question, I know, I can't - but he would not donate to the Conservative Party but

he's going to have to. He's going to have to now. He had the choice of who he supported before. Not one of them sitting over there would write a cheque or donate any money to the Conservative Party. I assure you I wouldn't donate any to the NDP but we're going to have to donate to one another and all I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, is that freedom of choice? Is that freedom of choice? Mr. Speaker, that is the greatest form of stupidity I've ever seen in my life.

So, Mr. Speaker, if they were looking at The Election Act, or the election results and they said well we've got 49 percent of the votes in this province, you know they're going to give us - they've got 49 percent of the votes, we had less, so we're going to gain. Those NDP people, those 47 percent that voted for you are all now all going to be making donations towards the Progressive Conservative Party. We don't want it . . .

A MEMBER: Do I hear 16?

MR. F. JOHNSTON: . . . and I don't intend to use it. I intend to raise the money to run in the next election in my own constituency.

So, Mr. Speaker, those members on the other side who are smiling to themselves figuring that they have got the advantage which they have to have to go into a fight - the Attorney-General is here now, he's finished the business that he had outside the House so I will say that he has trained you not to go into a fight fair, don't go in equal, always get it one-sided on your way, always have the odds to your side or else don't go into it, that's strictly the way he moves, that's the way socialists move, that's the way his philosophy moves, don't go in equal. They wouldn't know how to walk in and into a battle.

Mr. Speaker, I assure you that this is the bill that should be called Bill No. 48, "the pickpocket bill of the Province of Manitoba." The elections pickpocket finances act is what it really is. The election pickpockets finances act of picking the pockets of those that aren't working, as well. Picking the pockets of those people who have never made a donation to a political party in their life, you'll pick their pockets. — (Interjection) — Yes. And then we get the smart alec remark, pick the pockets of a pickled pickle. You know, the smart alec remark from the Attorney-General. I call him a smart alec all the time; that's what he is and that's what he is proven to be. He really doesn't know what it's all about.

It's strictly the situation, Mr. Speaker, of the pickpocket act and they are going to suffer for it. They are going to suffer for it; they are going to lose the next election. I said this on other things; they are going to lose the next election for doing things in this House that they never went to the people about.

Yesterday we heard the Attorney-General, and he talked about when this resolution got to the Federal House. You see, Mr. Speaker, it's assumed that it's there. There's no discussion with the people. It doesn't matter what happens in Law Amendments; it doesn't matter what happens in committees; it wouldn't matter what happens in hearings; it doesn't matter that 100 out of 117 municipalities are against something, as my colleague from Pembina just mentioned, none of those things matter with this government; they just don't go

ahead and communicate with the people, and these are the things that will defeat them.

You know, the Minister of Municipal Affairs talks about communicating with the people about election expenses, or the municipal bill. Well, Mr. Speaker, I just heard from the twerp across the way, and I don't really care to hear from him, but these people who won't listen, these people on the other side of the House here that won't listen, will learn, they will learn that the public of Manitoba won't put up with that any longer than they have to and they will change the government because of that. They don't like smart alec arrogance like we get from Springfield; and we don't like all the arrogance that we get from the people across the way. The Minister of Municipal Affairs said, I spoke to the municipal people. I was at the one he was at in Woodlands; he sat at the back during the first half hour of the meeting, or 45 minutes, he came in a little late, after the meeting started, and he sat in behind the main table. He spoke for half an hour; he had an assistant in his department read the thing about the resolution that's before us at the present time; he answered very few questions on it and not accurately at that. And all he said was, you know, we think this is the best thing for you, as far as municipal people are concerned; then he had dinner and then he left. He was in this House by 2:00 o'clock.

Those of us from this side who were there spent a day with them, and you know what we found out during that day, we found out exactly what I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, about this Elections Act. They didn't listen to the people, then, about this act; they haven't listened to the people about anything, and that will defeat them the next time around.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: I wonder if the Member for Sturgeon Creek would answer a question on his speech? Several times during his speech the Member for Sturgeon Creek said that this would give us an advantage, the NDP would receive an advantage from this bill, I wonder if the Member for Sturgeon Creek could explain just how it is that this bill gives an advantage to the NDP, to the detriment of the Progressive Conservative Party?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: I didn't hear the last part of the question, but I hear my colleague saying it's not a detriment of us, it's a detriment to the people. And if his question was of whether it's a detriment to political parties, it's of no advantage to the people, it's only an advantage to the people sitting in this House; that's the only people it's an advantage to.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the member.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time has expired. It would require leave of the House for a question to be asked. I'm sorry, leave his not been granted.

The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addressing this act today, I think we should look at the kind of tactics we're seeing from members of the opposition on acts such as this in this Session. There's a standard formula that they are developing in debate. The first formula is, make very little reference to the specifics of the act. I think that's been particularly evident in regard to The Elections Finances Act; that's the first formula, Mr. Speaker. The second formula involved is to suggest that this is somehow some great socialist piece of legislation which is somehow imposing on the people of Manitoba, that it's come out of the blue, that it's for some ulterior motive . . .

MR. A. ANSTETT: No, no, out of the red.

MR. S. ASHTON: The Member for Springfield says, out of the red. That's normally the sort of tone, Mr. Speaker. That it's for motives of, as the Member for Sturgeon Creek suggested, of theft; it's an act which would involve pickpocketing the public of Manitoba. Well really, Mr. Speaker, if one looks at elections finance legislation, particularly the act before us today, one will find that this is not a unique or radical piece of legislation whatsoever. If one looks at it in the different aspects of the bill; if one looks at the basic principle, if one looks at the basic content of the bill, one will find that similar legislation has been acted in many other provinces, Mr. Speaker. That's the first point that has to be made, and I will develop that point in the debate today.

There's also a second point, I think, that has to be made as well, Mr. Speaker, and that is that this piece of legislation is in keeping with the principle of the legislation enacted by members opposite. As much as they protest, Mr. Speaker, that the tax credit system was not elections financing or party financing, as much as they protest that, they cannot protest one obvious fact, and that is, that that tax credit system is financed by the taxpayers of this province. For them to suggest that it is a voluntary system, Mr. Speaker, is inaccurate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek on a point of order.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the member would not like to be quoting things that are not accurate. I don't recall ever saying that we protested the other system. I don't recall ever saying or ever hearing anybody on this side say we protested against the other system, or we were against it.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member did not have a point of order. He might have had a point of clarification.

The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Obviously the member has missed my point. They did not protest the previous legislation, they protested that it was somehow fundamentally different from the legislation before us today.

A MEMBER: Which it is.

A MEMBER: It sure is.

MR. S. ASHTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, they say, which it is. And they have said, they have argued that it is a voluntary system.

MR. C. MANNES: Which it is.

MR. S. ASHTON: Well, the Member for Morris says, "which it is." Well, voluntary for who, Mr. Speaker? It may be voluntary for those that contribute to parties, but it is not voluntary for the taxpayers of this province. I, and every other taxpayer in this province, pays for that system of financing. When I give money to the NDP, or the Member for Sturgeon Creek gives money to the Conservative Party, Mr. Speaker, that funding comes from the Province of Manitoba; that tax credit, Mr. Speaker, is paid for by the people of Manitoba. So what is so different from this legislation? What is so different, because the previous system is voluntary? Well, as I said, Mr. Speaker, the previous system is voluntary only to those that take part in receiving the money in payment for the tax credit. It is not voluntary for the taxpayers of Manitoba. I cannot go, under the Tory legislation, and say I object to paying toward the Conservative party; I don't want my taxpayers' money going toward that. I cannot do that, Mr. Speaker, and it is not voluntary from that perspective.

I think, Mr. Speaker, if one looks at it, one will see how similar the argument of members opposite on this legislation is to the arguments they use on so many other bills that are before us. They come before us, Mr. Speaker, and as I said, they try to suggest that this is some radical, socialist piece of legislation.

They, first of all, had to get around some of their own legislation which in many ways has similar aspects to it, and then, Mr. Speaker, they argue well, in regards to other provinces, if it's a bad law there we shouldn't enact it here. There's something fundamentally wrong in that kind of argument, Mr. Speaker; that's not what they say to us in debate. They don't talk about it being a bad piece of legislation only, Mr. Speaker, they say it's somehow radical or socialist legislation. That argument is clearly false, Mr. Speaker. If provinces with Conservative Governments have similar legislation, Mr. Speaker, how can we think otherwise? I don't think anybody is stupid enough to suggest that the governments in, for example, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with their Conservative Governments, Mr. Speaker, are socialists. They have a system of reimbursement for election expenses, Mr. Speaker; are they socialists?

Well, let's look at some of the other provinces, let's add it up, Mr. Speaker. Canada has it, federally; Ontario has it; New Brunswick has it; Quebec has it; Nova Scotia has it; and so does Saskatchewan. In fact, Mr. Speaker, only Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island have no election reimbursement system. So, where is this great socialist theme in this legislation, Mr. Speaker? How is it so different, Mr. Speaker?

A MEMBER: They're more socialist than we thought

MR. S. ASHTON: How is it so bad, Mr. Speaker? Because it's coming from an NDP Government. Well,

Mr. Speaker, clearly that is not the case. If one looks, Mr. Speaker, at the facts on this issue, as members opposite obviously have not, one will see that it is sound legislation that stands on its own accord, and I will address that when I continue my remarks later.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time being 4:30, when this bill is next before the House the honourable member will have 35 minutes remaining.

COMMITTEE CHANGE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could make a change on committee. On the Public Accounts Committee, the Member for Minnedosa for the Member for River Heights.

PRIVATE MEMBERS HOUR SECOND READING - PRIVATE BILLS

BILL 52 - THE SALVATION ARMY CATHERINE BOOTH BIBLE COLLEGE ACT

MR. L. SHERMAN presented Bill No. 52, An Act to incorporate The Salvation Army Catherine Booth Bible College; Loi constituant en corporation le College biblique Catherine Booth de l'Armée du Salut, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I will address the substance of this bill in English if I may.

The bill currently before the Legislature, which I have the honour to propose, is a bill designed to incorporate for purposes of educational instruction and degree granting practice a Salvation Army Bible College located here in the City of Winnipeg; said college, as indicated, named The Catherine Booth Bible College. The bill proposes the incorporation of that college, Sir.

The establishment of this college results from an ongoing initiative, purpose, and effort on the part of the Salvation Army in Canada, and particularly in Western Canada to develop educational institutions and educational opportunities for young people seeking careers in the Christian ministry, and it would no doubt help members of the Legislature if I offered at this point, Mr. Speaker, a little background on the proposal in front of us.

It's worth noting that the establishment of Salvation Army universities for training men and women in the humanities was proposed by the founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth, at the turn of this century, Sir. In conjunction with that proposal, training colleges for Salvation Army officers have been operating almost since the inception of the Salvation Army movement itself, and colleges of that type are now located throughout the Salvation Army world.

A new feature of the founder's proposal was initiated with the founding of the first Salvation Army Bible College, and that is the college that's currently situated here in Winnipeg at 340 Assiniboine Avenue, and is known as Catherine Booth Bible College. That college was founded on February 16, 1981. It's a college that is open to Christians of all denominations and is directed particularly to lay training, and as I say, has established at the present time on the site of the former Canada House Motor Lodge at 340 Assiniboine Avenue.

At the time that the Salvation Army purchased that Motor Lodge property for the site of its new college, Mr. Speaker, property was also secured in the University of Manitoba area, and the intention is to develop a Bible College campus there as a long range plan. That campus is situated near the site of the Canadian Nazarene Bible College adjacent to the University of Manitoba. So the long range plan is to establish the college adjacent to the Canadian Nazarene Bible College and in close proximity to the campus of the University of Manitoba, but at the present time it's operating out of the property described a moment ago on Assiniboine Avenue in the heart of Winnipeg.

The current building was dedicated, and in addition to that, there was a sod turning for the new property which took place in conjunction with a centenary congress of the Salvation Army which was held in Winnipeg in June of 1982, Sir. That congress celebrated the 100th anniversary of the commencement of Salvation Army work in the Canada and Bermuda territory.

At that time, 13 months ago, Major Earl Robinson was appointed as the first President of Catherine Booth Bible College. The college is named, Sir, to honour the memory of the co-founder of the Salvation Army and in September of 1982 it received its first intake of students. There was an enrolment of 28 persons. It is now preparing to embark on its second full academic year.

Through its combination of academic, practical and community pursuits, the college aspires to integrate responsible Christian faith with life in the contemporary world.

That, Sir, is a background description, in brief form, of the rationale for and the history of the Catherine Booth Bible College. The legislation in front of members of the House is designed to incorporate it, as a body, corporate and politic under the name, Salvation Army Catherine Booth Bible College and to grant it degree-granting powers and confer same on its board of trustees.

The proposed legislation identifies the initial board of trustees of the college and describes the powers of the college and the powers of the board itself. There was of course profound interest on the part of the Minister of Education, the present government, in the aspect of the legislation sought by the Salvation Army and the founders of the college having to do with the granting of honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates of standing in the subjects and courses offered by the college; but it's my understanding, Sir, that aspect of the legislation has received the endorsement and support of the Minister of Education and the current government and there have been no roadblocks placed in the way of ambition.

On the basis of close consultations that college President Major Earl Robinson and his colleagues and

the college's solicitor and other leaders of the Salvation Army community have had with the government and with the Minister of Education, in particular, Mr. Speaker, and with me in my capacity as spokesman for this legislation on behalf of my caucus, I believe that the requirements having to do with the incorporation of an educational institution of this kind have been fully explored and are fully met to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The details pertaining to them and involved in them are, of course, contained in the legislation now in front of us and I deem it an honour to be able to propose this bill to the House and to commend it to all members for speedy passage.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Inkster, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert, Bill No. 41, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Concordia. (Stand)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for River East, Bill No. 58, the Honourable Member for Rhineland. (Stand)

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for River East, Bill No. 94, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. (Stand)

RES. NO. 8 - APOLOGY TO U.S. FOR MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN DEMONSTRATION

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Resolution No. 8, and the amendment proposed thereto by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Member for Inkster has 10 minutes remaining.

MR. D. SCOTT: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I kind of hoped, in a way, because of the symbolism of this resolution, that it would have come up yesterday on Independence Day, for it was 207 years since the United States undertook a revolutionary war to gain freedom from a country of which they were a colony, from Great Britain. They fought against British rule; Britain was then taxing them. They fought against, for most of the citizens or a good many of the citizens, what was their so-called father country or mother country and they had kicked out the British in that war, to start a new and invigorating experience in government in North America.

Today, the parallel in Latin America could not, Mr. Speaker, be more ironic. They are not American colonies; the American Government has no direct control over any of those countries, through any sort of setting up colonies or whatever else. They may have economic domination through economic interest by

plantation owners in the coffee and the banana businesses like Del Monte, but they maintain and continuously maintain the oppressive governments of those areas.

The people themselves of those countries, are rising to fight massive oppression, and the 13 colonies were fighting against taxation, not massive oppression and the U.S. in much, much, much worse circumstances today, I would say, Mr. Speaker, are repeating the mistake of Great Britain in 1776. The U.S. has become ideologically blind.

A MEMBER: You're so wise.

MR. D. SCOTT: If they do not control the country, then it is Communist. Hitler used the same arguments in Spain in trying to keep the Roman Catholic Church, or to take the Roman Catholic Church on to the support of the Fascists in Spain and to shut up about them in other countries as well, to gain support in the aristocracy in Great Britain and in U.S. industry. They kept calling and they claimed, at that time, that they were the saviour against Communism.

Right now, President Reagan calls regularly about the communist subversion being pervasive in Latin America. Recently in his speech he said, "I do not believe there is a majority in Congress or the country that counsels passivity, resignation, defeatism in the face of a challenge to freedom and security in our hemisphere." Freedom in his hemisphere, Mr. Speaker, and he closed off by saying, "I say to you tonight there can be no question the natural security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America."

What countries and so-called freedom is he backing? If you look at Guatemala under the notorious government of Rios Montt, which is totally supported by the administration of the United States, a man who claims to be a religious fundamentalist; he certainly is not a christian with the murders he carries out - he may claim so, but he is anything but. The American Watch Committee which watches over U.S. actions in other countries, made up of law professors and other concerned Americans, says that the general has abandoned the rule of law and imposed a sporadic and totalitarian rule. He has repudiated the '65 Constitution, suspended individual liberties, legalized arbitrary incommunicado, detention, suspended freedom of assembly and all trade union and political activity. He destroyed the independence of the judiciary, severely censored the press and granted a blanket pardon to members of the armed forces who murder, torture, rape or otherwise abuse civilians, and this man has a full backing of a current administration in the United States.

When the Pope came to visit Central America just a year or so ago, he was pleading for them to let go of their political prisoners, not to continue the murders, and what was Rios Montt's response? Just a couple of days before the Pope was to enter Guatemala City, he took six of the people out and shot them in a cemetery. Those are the people who the United States is currently supporting.

In El Salvador they've sunk something in the vicinity of \$200 million into the aid programs into El Salvador. Just last week, I believe, there was some 90 people

murdered. They've killed tens of thousands in there, and a government that is totally sponsored and supported and propped up by the U.S. Government; a government of institutional terrorism; a government that is being fought against by people who are fighting for the freedom of their country using primarily stolen U.S. weapons - weapons that they have stolen from the army that the United States is supplying.

In Honduras it's become a military colony of the United States. John Negroponte, the Ambassador to Honduras, has basically taken over control of the country. One right-wing politician is quoted last week in the journals as saying, "We have gone out on a limb politically and have lost all credibility as an independent country and are seen just as a U.S. stooge, but we have reaped precious few benefits for our sacrifices." Another one goes on to say, "Honduras is supposed to be the democracy within the armed forces subservient to civilian rule, but increasingly the military with U.S. support is calling the shots. They are the real power behind the throne. As a result, they are stifling democratic process. They're also creating an army of some 6,000 ex-Somoza murderers in their country which terrorizes the people of Honduras as well as moving in across the border into Nicaragua."

The U.S. military aid in the second poorest country in the world reached \$154 million in the past couple of years, and I suspect it's getting much higher than that as the war effort is being stepped up. We have a prominent director of the Bank of London in South America, a fellow by the name of Michael Lubbock who

A MEMBER: He's a capitalist.

MR. D. SCOTT: Yes, he's a capitalist, who in an article a week or so ago wrote about the United States attitudes towards liberation movements in countries around the world where the rule of a very small group of people, supported by the masses, are trying to kick out the dictators. The United States consistently turns back on such movements, he claims, and that any of the uprisings are provoked and staged by the Soviets.

At the same time, the United States gives strong support and advises as well to what it calls reliable right-wing capitalist governments such as El Salvador and Guatemala in spite of evidence by American Senators, private agencies, of the systematic killing of the peasant population in those countries. He calls on Canada and other countries to stand up and oppose the policies that the United States Government is currently carrying out, and he goes through the four myths that they try to perpetuate. The first in the liberation movements are always and only provoked by the USSR. He goes on to say, "It should be obvious that if a people has lived for decades in destitution under relentless depression, it does not need the Soviets or any other outsider to stir up a rebellion. The liberation movements in Central America are basically indigenous. It is either blind ignorance or doctrinaire anti-communism which refuses to recognize this."

The other myth of the liberation movements are dangerously left-wing. He says, "It is hardly surprising that when a people have suffered so greatly under a rich elite engaged in monopolistic capitalism that it

should turn to an alternative system. It is unreasonable to expect those who have been kept underfed, illiterate and oppressed, suddenly to digest the freedoms of parliamentary democracy of the west, and it's taken centuries to evolve." Even of yesterday, the United States is 207 years old but it is less than 200 years since they have had a history of elections in that country because it took them seven or eight years before they had their first elections in the United States because of their evolving democracy.

He talks of the Sandinista Government in here. He gives it credit for having already eliminated polio, greatly reduced illiteracy, built thousands of homes and brought electricity and clean water to many small communities. Moreover, he says, there was a free market opportunity for small businesses under the Somoza dictatorship; he said that was restricted to a very small elite. He says the Amnesty International has acquitted Nicaragua of any political killings in 1982, and I might say that it's the only country in the Western Hemisphere, the southern part of it, which does not have capital punishment.

The third myth, liberation movements are inevitably under Soviet control. In most cases, he says, they would be happy and might well prefer to turn to support the United States, but the U.S. constantly rejects them and thus the Soviet Union tries to take full advantage of the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. D. SCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a travesty

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time has expired.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, there may be members of this Chamber who feel that this issue is an old issue now and a dead one, but it is not, Sir. It is on the Order Paper as an item for examination in Private Members' Hour precisely because it should be and precisely because members of this party, the Progressive Conservative Party, speaking, I believe, Sir, for the vast majority of Manitobans, have been profoundly disturbed by the particularly unfortunate and unsavoury event of last March 23rd and do not intend to allow the issue to be simply glossed over and buried without bringing to the attention of this government, insofar as that is possible, a true realization of what they have done, of the mistake that they have made, and of the injustice in terms of personal and national relationships that they have committed against a great friend and ally and bulwark of democratic freedom. Because they do not realize that, Mr. Speaker, this issue is not dead; and until they do realize it, it will remain active and current and very much alive.

Mr. Speaker, the issue is not and never has been the proposal, highly questionable I might say, that the United States has become, in the words of the Member for Inkster, "ideologically blind." In the first place, Sir, I find that an arrogantly presumptuous thing for the Member for Inkster to suggest. Who is the Member

for Inkster to say that the United States which has stood for, and demonstrably helped defend freedom through enormous and traumatic difficulties and conflicts — (Interjection) — on this planet for the past — (Interjection) — 200 years, and in particular for the past — (Interjection) — 80 years? Who is the Member for Inkster to say that the United States is ideologically blind? Ideologically blind to what? Perhaps blind to his ideology, perhaps blind to the ideology that he espouses which is, Sir, essentially an ideology that would destroy in the end the kinds of freedoms for which most of us stand, and which the United States has been prepared demonstrably to defend unto death.

So in the first place, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I find the proposal by the Member for Inkster highly presumptuous and highly arrogant, and indeed rude.

But in any event, Sir, leaving that aside, what the Member for Inkster apparently still does not understand and I submit most of his colleagues refuse to understand is that the kind of thing that the Member for Inkster is talking about is not and never has been the issue here. It's never been the issue here. For the member to charge the United States with what he views as unwarranted intervention in Central America is to gloss over, dissemble, and distort the issue. — (Interjection) — It's to dissemble and distort the point that we are debating here in this resolution and in this Legislature, Mr. Speaker.

The issue is responsibility in office. If the Member for Inkster doesn't like what the United States is doing, let him take the course of action that is open to all private citizens in our country, or let him take the course of action that is open to elected public officials, which provides for proper procedural approaches through his government, and through the Federal Government, and through diplomatic channels, but, Sir, for him to take the of action and subscribe to the kind of action that took place on the evening of March 23rd in front of the United States Consulate here in Winnipeg to the disgrace of his party, and to the dismay of the vast majority of Manitobans, for him to take that kind of action, Sir, is simply and totally unacceptable and unethical in terms of the public office to which he has been elected. That goes double for those members of his party who participated with him and who hold down positions on the Treasury Bench. — (Interjection)—

It's bad enough for the private members of the New Democratic Government caucus who participated in that unseemly demonstration to have done so, but for two ranking Cabinet Ministers, in particular, the Minister of Economic Development, and a veteran Minister, the Minister of Natural Resources to have participated actively in that event, Sir, is a travesty on the responsibility of elected public officials embodied in the basic principles of democracy as we know it and that is the issue.

It is not whether the Member for Inkster thinks he knows more about communist subversion in this world and about communist intrusion into spheres of American influence and about the undermining of the security of the Americas. It doesn't matter whether the Member for Inkster believes he knows more about that subject than the United States Intelligence, the United States Government and, indeed, the Canadian Government and other governments in the Western Alliance know about that subject.

It would not matter in the context of this debate even if he were, God forbid, fractionally right, which he is not, because what is at issue here is what he and his colleagues did in terms of repudiating the high honour to which they were elected and trampling the kind of mutual respect that exists in a proper manner between elected officials of this jurisdiction and elected officials of the jurisdiction to the south of us, whether it be a state or a number of states or the entire body of the United States of America.

What he and his colleagues have done here is said to themselves that the responsibility for representing the people of Manitoba and speaking for the people of Manitoba is of no account. We don't owe the people of Manitoba anything. We want to participate in the kinds of sophomoric activities that we participated in at college. Fine, we'll continue to do so. Well, Sir, those things were all right at college. They might even have been correct at college, but that kind of activity at that stage of one's life does not carry with it the burden of responsibility that goes with elected office to the Legislature of Manitoba today, or to the Legislature of any province in this land, and that is what is at issue, Sir.

There has been a great deal made by members opposite in trying to evade their responsibility for having damaged Manitoba-United States relations of the fact that they did not condone the burning of the United States flag. They didn't even know that a United States flag was burned at the event in question. Again, Sir, that misses the fundamental point at issue here. The point at issue is that they should not have been at the demonstration.

The point at issue is that if the Member for Inkster wants to go about parading and demonstrating in front of the United States Consulate, then he should resign from his seat, he should resign from this Legislature, revert to private life and he can go back and do all his wild dances in the streets that he cares to do. He can do all the wild dancing in the streets that he cares to do.

If he has extreme difficulty with the position that the United States is taking vis-a-vis central America or anywhere else in the world, Mr. Speaker, let him take that concern to his Member of Parliament, let him take that concern to his Premier, let him take that concern to the Federal Government, let them take that concern forward to their own councils and if the justification is there, no doubt there would be diplomatic approaches made bearing on the issue that the Member for Inkster has identified.

But for him to think that he can take on the exciting, stimulating, juvenile challenge of demonstrating against United States policy without regard for the reflection that conveys where the people of Manitoba are concerned because he is an elected member of the Legislature, is an insult, Mr. Speaker, to all member of this Legislature and to all Manitobans. And he's not the lone culprit by any means. There were some eight members of the government caucus who participated in that infamous display.

The only reason I'm directing my remarks at this juncture to him, Mr. Speaker, is because of the fatuous comments he made a few moments ago about the United States being ideologically blind and about intruding in Central America when he, Mr. Speaker, I

suggest, knows not a fraction, not a scintilla of a fraction about the issues involved when compared to the knowledge that United States and Western alliance leaders and intelligence experts and students and scholars and yes, militarists and diplomatic personnel have of the issues in question.

I would far rather rely, Mr. Speaker, I can assure him, on the kinds of intelligence coming from sources of leadership in Washington that are sometimes demonstrated to be incorrect and take the chance on whatever followed might occur from having subscribed to those positions than rely for one moment on the prejudices, biases, distortions, half-knowledge and fractional knowledge of the Member for Inkster where western diplomatic and political policy is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest aspects of this whole situation, this whole unfortunate and unseemly event, has been the conduct of the First Minister with respect to the roles played by his government, and the First Minister's unwillingness to accede to the legitimate request of this party embodied in the resolution in the name of my leader asking that an apology go forward to the government and the people of the United States from the Government of Manitoba for the action involved during the event in question.

The two Ministers who took part certainly must bear a major burden of the responsibility for having offended against the feelings and principles of Manitobans, because they bore the greatest responsibility. They represent the people of Manitoba in their office, regardless of political stripe. As members of the government, they represent the people of Manitoba and speak for the people of Manitoba. Their actions are interpreted as reflecting the views of the people of Manitoba. The majority of Manitobans were horrified, Mr. Speaker, at that performance by those two Ministers, but there has been I think some chastening and some manifestation of regret and sorrow on the part of at least one of those Ministers for the effects of the action taken. I believe that the Minister of Economic Development, the Deputy Premier, has been genuinely chastened and shaken by the realization of the consequences of her foolish action.

I'm not sure that the Minister of Natural Resources feels quite the same humility and feels quite the same regret and has undergone the same chastening experience, but I think that even the Minister of Natural Resources, who to some extent has attempted to toss off his folly in a rather diffident and offhand manner, nonetheless to some extent the Minister of Natural Resources has been chastened by this experience too. He in fact has suggested publicly that, in retrospect, given the experience, he certainly would not participate in the same kind of demonstration again.

But, Mr. Speaker, the elected official who has let Manitobans down in this regard, more so than any of his colleagues who participated, is the First Minister. The First Minister has stonewalled the legitimate request of this party, the legitimate request of the opposition for an apology to the United States Government, Mr. Speaker. That posture of his has certainly brought no redeeming credit to his office or to our province.

There could have been some redemption and some recovery from the unfortunate action that was taken had the First Minister been willing to face candidly and forthrightly the error made by his colleagues in Cabinet

and in caucus. If he had taken hold of the situation in a statesmanlike way and demonstrated some leadership and, as a leader, demonstrated some recognition of those very delicate qualities that exist between political and geographic allies, the situation could have been salvaged to a very considerable extent, I think, Mr. Speaker, but he petulantly refused to do so. He stubbornly withdrew into a shell. He denied any sort of culpability on the part of his government and his colleagues for damage to Canadian-U.S. relations and, in particular, for damage to Manitoba-U.S. relations and, as a consequence, worsened the situation, exacerbated the situation. That really is one of the most unfortunate aspects of the entire event, Mr. Speaker. That is one of the saddest dimensions of that sad and sorry episode in Manitoba history.

Mr. Speaker, the First Minister in attempting to blunt and divert the legitimate criticism that descended upon him and his government, both from this side of the House and from commentators throughout the province and editorial commentators included, appeared to be saying that it would never have escalated into a cause célèbre and would never have become an issue if the opposition had not made so much of it. Well, Sir, the interpretation of that kind of rationalization is to say that it's all right to do wrong; it's all right to do the wrong thing, provided nobody finds out about it. If you're not caught at it, it's fine to do the wrong thing. That really is the interpretation of the kind of defensive rationalization that he offered for the difficult and, I would suggest, tumultuous days in the last week in March following the March 23rd event itself when public attention with respect to the issue was high and when tensions between Manitoba and the United States Government were high.

So, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister can take no credit — (Interjection) — there, you see, again. There is the cry again, you see, Mr. Speaker. There is the same weak and crude rationalization now coming from the Member for Inkster. Who made them high? In other words, the Member for Inkster has now taken up the cry of the First Minister. If we had never raised it, if we had never criticized the government for doing it, nobody would have ever heard about it, so it would have been all right. That's what the Member for Inkster is saying.

It's all right to insult your friends and allies; it's all right to ignore and repudiate the people of Manitoba; it's all right to ignore and repudiate your responsibilities as an elected member of the Manitoba Legislature; it's all right to carry on as some sort of private agitator in the streets without any responsibilities notwithstanding your elected office as long as nobody finds out about it, as long as the opposition doesn't point some spotlight or some focus on it.

So, Mr. Speaker, that I repeat is the crucial point at issue here. It is not whether the United States is right or wrong, although we happen on this side to believe that in what they are doing in terms of buttressing fortress Americas, in plural, the Western World. We happen to believe that it is right, but that is not the question. The question is the repudiation of sense and sensibility, and propriety and responsibility on the part of those members opposite, including the Member for Inkster, who were so foolish as to participate in that kind of sad folly that has cast disrepute on this province,

that has hurt relations between us and our American friends and allies, and represents an incident for which all of us are paying in terms of friendship and in terms of continuing good will. We will do our best on this side, Sir, to repair that good will. That effort is not being aided in any way by the continuing kind of contrived rationalizations and excuses for the action that are being offered by persons like the Member for Inkster.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When I look at this resolution, Mr. Speaker, I can do so with some distancing individually from the resolution, because at the time of the demonstration, which forms the focus of the resolution and the subsequent debate, I was in Thompson where I was taking care of constituency business. It was at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, that I first heard about the great flag debate as some have referred to.

I came back shortly after the matter was first raised in the House and at that time I reviewed Hansard to determine exactly what had been said, what the debate was all about, and since that time I've had the opportunity to review the debate on this particular issue.

I think in looking at it, Mr. Speaker, it's clear that the debate has been characterized by being somewhat passionate, somewhat vitriolic in places, but overall I would suggest that there's a lack of consistent logical debate, Mr. Speaker, in regard both to the resolution, the amendment, and the overall issue itself.

In saying that, Mr. Speaker, I do not exempt any one side of the House from those comments. I believe that the debate has become somewhat muddy, by the normal give and take, I suppose, of debate in this House, to the point where we have lost perspective of exactly what the issue is. In this regard, Mr. Speaker, while I disagree with the analysis of the Member for Fort Garry, I do agree with his basic point, and that is his suggestion that there has been a loss of sight of exactly what the debate is all about. I propose today, Mr. Speaker, to review that debate and indicate exactly where, I feel, the basic issues have been lost sight of.

The debate was led off, Mr. Speaker, by the Leader of the Opposition. In his usual style he lambasted various members, he lambasted the government for various things, Mr. Speaker, and introduced of course the resolution which forms the basis of the debate today.

In looking at the resolution, Mr. Speaker, I think one can see the beginning of where the debate started to go wrong. If one reviews it and then compares it to the debate afterwards, one can see that there's a number of logical inconsistencies, logical flaws in it, Mr. Speaker. If one reads into it there is reference to what is described as an anti-American demonstration, and then there is reference to the burning of the flag of the United States.

Under the "Whereases" it makes reference to Cabinet Ministers speaking for the government and then, Mr. Speaker, to unprecedented, unfriendly, and insulting actions by member of the Executive Council and the New Democratic Party Government. It doesn't state exactly what actions those are perceived to be, Mr. Speaker, whether it's the burning of the flag, whether

it's the participation at the Assembly — (Interjection) — Well, you know, here we see the problem again. One member opposite says, "All of it." Well he says that, Mr. Speaker, but various members opposite in debate have attempted to refine exactly what they were concerned about.

Let's review what the Leader of the Opposition stated. Certainly since he moved the motion, he might have some idea about exactly what the issue is, he might have defined it. Well, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I don't think that is the case. If one looks at the debate put forward by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, he quite early on made reference to not necessarily the behavior of government members or the flag burning thing, but the first thing he made reference to was those who walked in front of the U.S. Consulate made themselves unfriendly to the United States by doing so.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that would be taken as an argument from the Leader of the Opposition as to why there was so much concern about this issue. If we take that, Mr. Speaker, one question that arises immediately is what about the flag burning? What about the flag burning? Well, he says later, Mr. Speaker, that the two Ministers in question dissociated themselves from the flag burning, but he says that leaves unanswered the question - Why were they there in the first place?

So, Mr. Speaker, if one reads the debate of the Leader of the Opposition, one can see that reference to flag burning, which is in the resolution itself, is considered by the Leader of the Opposition himself not to be the issue that we're debating, Mr. Speaker. He accepts, and that's the only way I could read it, Mr. Speaker, that the Ministers dissociated themselves from the flag burning and he says that's not the issue. He says that leaves unanswered and begs the question as to why they were there in the first place. Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I will get to that in a few minutes, but I think that one will see immediately how, instead of proceeding on a direct course, the Leader of the Opposition led into at least two different courses, one being the flag burning, and one the participation at the demonstration itself.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition did not stop there. He did not attempt to develop an argument, as did the Member for Fort Garry that it was wrong for those members to be there because of their public responsibilities. He said, Mr. Speaker, right in debate, it wasn't anybody in the Conservative Caucus who a month ago voted \$7,200 of taxpayers' money to the Marxist Symposium. He said, Mr. Speaker, that it wasn't anybody on the Conservative side that gave money to the Salvador Allende Society of Manitoba. It was the NDP of the left, and on and on one could go.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on and on he did go. What relevance that had to the resolution or to the basic issue, I really don't know, Mr. Speaker. I cannot see any reference to that in the resolution itself. But he went on, Mr. Speaker, to talk about a number of things related to bilateral relations with the United States.

But then, Mr. Speaker, he again diverged on another parallel course. He said, Mr. Speaker, it's in our interest as well as the interest of the United States to acknowledge who the real enemies are and who the real friends are. He went on to talk, Mr. Speaker, further

about them. Who are the real friends of Canada? Who are the real enemies of our country? He started talking about the USSR and Cuba, and Nicaragua, Mr. Speaker.

Initially in the debate, Mr. Speaker, I thought that he was going to develop a theme, which did relate to the resolution itself, but it's clear that the Leader of the Opposition could not restrain himself. From debate on the resolution he diverted his energies into lambasting the NDP and to the typical ideological arguments he uses, the typical red-baiting tactics that he is so famous for, Mr. Speaker. But that is the Leader of the Opposition. I know he tried hard to stay on the course, Mr. Speaker. I saw that he was reading from prepared text, which I found somewhat unusual since this was Private Members' Hour, but I suspect that those statements in debate were more a divergence caused by the Leader of the Opposition's propensity to react to discussion in this House, Mr. Speaker, and to get down to that bottom line of red-baiting whenever possible. But that, Mr. Speaker, was the Leader of the Opposition.

The debate was then joined by the Minister of Economic Development. It was joined by the Minister of Natural Resources, who I think stated quite clearly their own personal feelings on what had happened. The Minister of Natural Resources referred specifically to his regret about the flag burning and his feeling, Mr. Speaker, that it was a clearly wrong thing to do. The Minister of Economic Development basically argued that one should speak up on matters of international concern and that by attending the demonstration that was what she was doing.

Then we got to the Member for Lakeside, Mr. Speaker, and he said, and I agree with him, that the first responsibility of members of the Cabinet, members of the caucus should be to the people of Manitoba. I agree with him, Mr. Speaker, but you see once he had established a point which he could have developed in debate, he immediately launched into a diatribe about, as the Leader of the Opposition put it, you know, who the real enemies are. You know, the typical ideological right-wing analysis of what is happening in the world.

I could quote, Mr. Speaker, quite extensively from some of the statements he made, but I would point most particularly to his argument that this was not a demonstration against something, it was a demonstration for something, that it was a demonstration for a government that doesn't want elections, that it was a demonstration for a government that demands the right to censor religious freedom in that country. He then developed it further, Mr. Speaker, to suggest that it was a demonstration for the USSR surrogates in South America.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, even though the Member for Lakeside attempted early in debate to address himself to that prime concern, which we as legislators should obviously have, that being the responsibility we have to the people of Manitoba, even he could not follow that course.

Then he was further joined by the Member for Elmwood, who stated basically that he felt that Canadians should have the right to disagree with both the American and Canadian foreign policy.

Well, then we got to the Member for Turtle Mountain, Mr. Speaker. What did he have to say? Once again, he did not concentrate with a narrow focus on the

particular issues, Mr. Speaker. He went ahead and he described this as being one event, but one which has been a series of anti-American actions or statements by members of this government, Mr. Speaker. He attempted to take this as one event that had broader implications for the province.

Various other speakers have continued since then, Mr. Speaker, but much in the same vein. A member for the opposition gets up and says that the real issue is the responsibility that we, as members of the government, have to the people of Manitoba, and then they launch off into a discussion of their own views on foreign policy, Mr. Speaker. That is why this whole thing has become so emotional, because there is no tied focus, Mr. Speaker. There is no consistent argument in debate from all members of this House.

What is happening is that members are reacting to statements made by other members and they are, as if it was a poker game, raising the ante, so to speak. They are continuing to throw in their views on foreign policy and various other things, and when someone else responds another way they throw something else back in. You know, Mr. Speaker, in the result we have lost sight of what the debate is all about.

In looking at someone who was not here for the initial discussions in this House of what happened, was not at the demonstration, and in talking to my constituents I would say that there are a number of things that immediately come to mind when one mentions this to members of the general public.

The first thing, Mr. Speaker, is the reaction against the flag burning. First and foremost, if you ask me, Mr. Speaker. You know, when members of the general public see an American flag burned on TV, as I do, Mr. Speaker, they react and they think back to the days when we fought alongside the Americans for freedom in two world wars. We fought alongside them in Korea, Mr. Speaker. It brings to mind images of the great friendship we have with that country, Mr. Speaker. But it also, I think, on the negative side recounts quite strongly the recent visions of American flags being burned by Iran, Mr. Speaker. We all know what happened there. We also know, Mr. Speaker, how Canada stood by the United States and how well appreciated that is in Iran at the present time.

But, Mr. Speaker, is that the real issue as it relates to this resolution? No, Mr. Speaker. The members of this House, who were at that demonstration, have clearly disassociated themselves from that flag burning. The comments of the members opposite indicate to me, Mr. Speaker, that they feel that is not really the issue. Even they cannot establish, I think, Mr. Speaker, that there was any direct connection there between those members who were present at the demonstration and the isolated act of one individual. Clearly, that it is not really the real issue, Mr. Speaker.

I think there is a second one that comes to mind with most people, and that is in regard to demonstrations. Mr. Speaker, many people do not believe in demonstrating on any issue. — (Interjection) — Many of my constituents would rather not attend a demonstration. They just don't feel that's the appropriate way to express one's concern about an issue. They may write a letter to their MP or MLA; they may sign a petition, Mr. Speaker, but they don't like to demonstrate. Now, that's not everybody, Mr. Speaker.

Some people feel it's an important and fundamental part of freedom of speech, but some people just don't like demonstrations, Mr. Speaker. I think if it develops further from that, Mr. Speaker, the real concern here is not so much that it was a demonstration, but it was in the eyes of some people, and certainly members of the opposition, read as an anti-American demonstration. — (Interjection)—

I think that, Mr. Speaker, is the bottom line. They are suggesting that the statements on Nicaragua that people are making, the statement they have made by attending a demonstration is anti-American, and they disagree with that, and that is their right.

Members on this side do not view it that way, Mr. Speaker. But really, if that is the real difference of opinion, why this great and long debate, Mr. Speaker? What this passionate debate? — (Interjection) — If we are really debating the nature of that demonstration and the way it relates to our roles as public officials, why are we spending so much time and energy now debating foreign policy in Private Members' Hour in this Legislature? Why are we doing that, Mr. Speaker?

Clearly, if one looks at it, that is what has happened. Clearly, if one looks at it, that is certainly not the view of people of Manitoba as being the appropriate thing we should do, regardless of this incident. Even in looking at this incident, Mr. Speaker, even in looking at their

concerns about this issue, this is clearly not the response that people in society expect from us as legislators.

I think if we look at it in that perspective, Mr. Speaker, I think we can see that both members of that side and this side have to share some amount of responsibility for taking a matter that was of some legitimate concern to the general public, and distorting it into a debate on whose view of the world is correct.

I have spoken to members of the public, Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, and they hardly even recall that issue, apart from some of the sensational publicity surrounding it. They put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker. — (Interjection) — The Member for Lakeside says, we're going to remind them of it. I would suggest to him, Mr. Speaker, that by doing so, really he is doing a disservice to this Legislature as much as anybody else by prolonging an issue that is really not the top priority of the people of Manitoba that he suggests that we should be looking at.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The time being 5:30, when this resolution is next before the House, the honourable member for will have four minutes remaining.

I am leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m.

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