

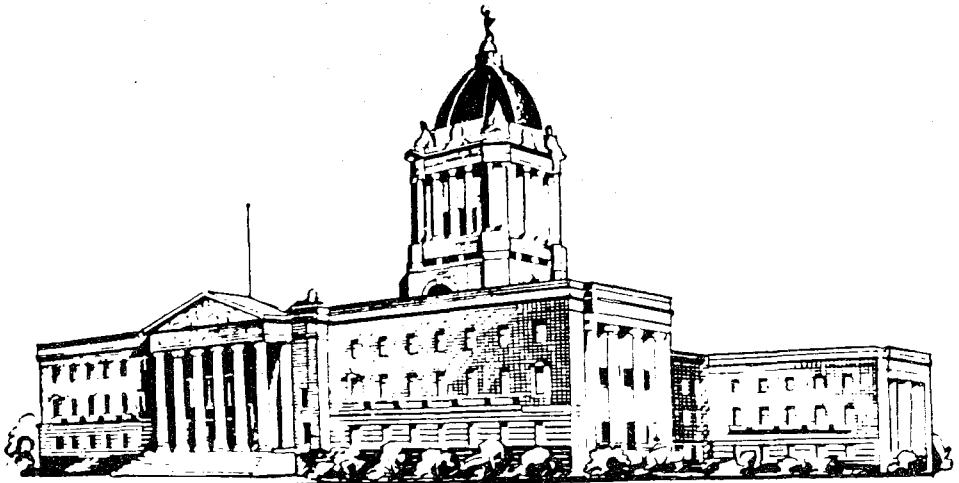


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVI No. 5 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 20th, 1969. First Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Wednesday, August 20, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills.

The Honourable the Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (Minister of Finance)(St. Johns) introduced Bill No. 8, an Act to amend The Insurance Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

HON. AL. MACKLING (Attorney-General)(St. James) introduced Bill No. 5, an Act to amend The Pipeline Act.

MR. MACKLING introduced Bill No. 6, an Act to amend The Gas Pipeline Act.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Inkster) in the absence of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs, introduced Bill No. 28, an Act to amend The Municipal Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of announcements. With leave of the House I'd like to make them now before Orders of the Day.

The first has to do with the fact that within the jurisdiction of Manitoba this Legislative Assembly is a focus of democratic institutions and because we here constitute this democratic institution I thought it would be appropriate to draw to the attention of honourable members the fact that it is just a year ago today that the armed forces of the Soviet Union and others of its satellites invaded the territory of Czechoslovakia. Many of us in this Chamber I'm sure must have been encouraged and inspired by the efforts of the Czech people and the Slovak people at that time to try to move, agonizingly but to try to move nevertheless, toward an enlargement of civil liberties for their people and to move toward some semblance of democratic procedures, and taken in that context and in that light the Soviet invasion must appear, must be all the more disturbing to us in that it was, I think one can say, a suppression of the freedoms which we know to be essential for the full development of man. And so in recalling the first anniversary of the invasion we should dedicate, and actually rededicate ourselves to preserving our own freedoms and to aiding the same cause throughout the world by all lawful men and means. In particular we should recall the degree of agony through which our Czechoslovakian brothers are passing under a cruel and alien occupation and I hope that honourable members would want to join in saluting the people of Czechoslovakia and those of them that promise to continue their struggle and not to forget their ordeal. Thank you.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate the members of our party with the words of the First Minister. During the last year it was my privilege when I was carrying the responsibility that he is carrying now to attempt to help make Manitoba a home for many people that came here from Czechoslovakia as a result of the anniversary that we are recognizing today. And I would hope that in that period of time since they've come that our new Canadians, our people from Czechoslovakia that have made their home here and have been concerned about their friends and relatives who have been left behind can be shared by all Manitobans.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON(Leader of the Liberal Party)(Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate our party with the remarks made by the First Minister and the Leader of the Official Opposition. I think it could be safely said that it is fairly easy to practice democracy as we know it here in this country where there is no threat to lives or property as we know it takes place elsewhere and I would like to join in paying tribute to those people in Czechoslovakia who gave their lives fighting for democracy and their ideals.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I briefly concur in what has already been said. I think this just goes to show the worthiness of the liberty that we enjoy in this country and I think we should all make our effort that this remain so.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the second statement is a much more happy one. It is really in the nature of a reminder - reminders don't hurt to busy members of this Assembly. A reminder that this House will not be in Session Friday for the reason that Friday the group that is leaving for the Operation Manitoba -- Northern Manitoba tour to Gillam and Churchill at 7:00 A. M. will be leaving from the Winnipeg International Airport. Accordingly the House is not in Session that day. Honourable members and others will be returning some time late Saturday -- (Interjection) -- 3:00 or 4:00 P. M. Saturday. This is merely in the nature of a

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) . . . reminder and also a request that if any honourable members do not yet know of the particulars and the itinerary that they can get the information by contacting the Department of Industry.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, while no leave has been requested in terms of setting aside the rules of the House so that we are able to close down on Friday I think the rules of the House call for us to sit Friday unless we have some means of changing it. Leave is granted from this side of the House -- leave is granted from this side of the House so that members of our group that are able to will have an opportunity to share in the visit to the north country. Some have been there before, they'll see it for a second occasion, and leave is granted from this side of the House.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour)(Transcona): I, as House Leader, thank my honourable friend and I'm sure that we will have the same co-operation from others in the House. This is not a new procedure. I've had the occasion on a number of times in the past to see northern Manitoba without leave of the House and I'm glad to receive it from my honourable friend.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there is a point of order involved. I really should apologize then to other members. I just assumed that the usual kind of negotiation had taken place between this side and leaders of the parties on the other side. I'm sorry.

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister, recognizing the mistakes that sometimes show up in the press that he corrects. I'm just wondering if the statement that I see that he's going to participate in the general election in British Columbia is a true statement?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have said before that I will try to find time to go to British Columbia to bring fraternal greetings.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Premier could give us the assurance that his visit to B.C. will be non-political.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary. That question in the paper, the impression is that he is the main speaker at a rally where they're expecting some 5,000 people. Is he going to be the main speaker in an election rally in British Columbia?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I suggest to my honourable friend that this is not a proper question to be asked on Order of the Day in that it does not deal with matters under the control of this Assembly.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, if I may reply to that point of order. May I just say that it certainly does and that I intend to attempt to find a means to discuss it if in fact the First Minister is going to take part in that election campaign.

MR. GREEN: Are you representing Mr. Bennett?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply bring to the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that even if I were to be the principal speaker at a political rally in Vancouver, that there is precedent which has been set by his predecessor. The Honourable Duff Roblin did appear as a speaker on behalf of Davey Fulton when that gentleman was Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in British Columbia, in the last election campaign in British Columbia.

A MEMBER: He didn't do him much good.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie inquired of me as to the introduction of the breathalyzer or whether or not this legislation had been proclaimed by the Federal Government. Inquiry was made and the answer is that there has still been no proclamation and it's indefinite as to when it will be proclaimed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for LaVerendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (LaVerendrye): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs but apparently he's not in, possibly to the First Minister or Minister of Finance. Apparently there are approximately between seven and eight million dollars worth of municipal debentures unsold at this time. Is the First Minister or possibly the Minister of Finance able to report any progress in the selling of these debentures?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take notice of that question in the absence of the Honourable Minister for Municipal Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. How soon can the farmers of Manitoba expect to be able to apply for cash advances on farm stored grain to the amount of \$6,000, regardless of the acreage?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I would hope that it would be soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. BUD SHERMAN(Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister. Can he say whether the government plans an early review of the grants in lieu of taxes formula in order that more equitable compensation will be available to certain municipalities?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, this is a question that has to do with a policy decision and the announcement will be made in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources what is the position of this government pertaining to the construction of the Pembina Dam as recommended by the International Joint Commission?

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a matter of policy and it will be announced in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. Has any decision been made by the government in respect to the permanent chairman of the Manitoba Liquor Control Board, and will the present chairman be

MR. MACKLING: This again will be announced shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. In view of the many complaints coming to my desk and I'm sure to the desks of all members of this Chamber, can the Minister say whether he contemplates any action aimed at speeding up the process whereby the Manitoba Health Services Insurance Corporation mails its cheques out to subscribers who have doctor bills to settle?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, without accepting the honourable member's assumption with regard to complaints other than those that he himself has received, I can assure the honourable member that we're doing our very best to see to it that these matters are expedited very quickly.

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

MR. JACK HARDY (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Finance. Would it be possible to furnish this Assembly with the dollar value of the Manitoba Savings Bonds issues 1961 - 1966 redeemed during the month of July.

MR. CHERNIACK: understand the question clearly? You wish to know the amount which was redeemed in the month of July of 1969?

MR. HARDY: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'll take that as notice, Mr. Speaker, and while I'm on my feet -- well I'll see, if I can give the answer readily I will, if not I'll advise the member to file an Order for Return. While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, the Member for River Heights has on two occasions requested information regarding bank overdrafts of the government and of the hydro and of telephones. I have the information which does reveal that the bank position and the rate paid, the interest rate paid, which is a favourable rate, is in accord with a formula set by the previous government. After considering the questions I believe that it is not appropriate or advantageous to make it a practice to discuss day-to-day financial transactions of this nature in the Legislature. However, I do say that I am prepared to give the information to any one nominee of any of the parties of the opposition parties so that the information is not kept from them but made available, yet I don't think it is a matter for the House to be discussing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Does he intend to table the total petition of the Manitoba

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.)... Association of Students or just the one sheet which was excerpted from the petition which he tabled yesterday?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Honourable Member for Riel would be best advised and probably would receive more information if he were to pursue this matter by way of debate on a resolution or by way of debate on an Order for Return rather than persisting in asking questions here in the style of a courtroom cross-examination.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, this would not have been necessary if in the initial instance you had simply done what the

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order.

MR. CRAIK: Honourable Minister said yesterday that he would do.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. May I hear the honourable member's question please.

MR. CRAIK: I would like to know when the petition is going to

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that question was answered.

MR. CRAIK: It certainly wasn't.

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

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the First Minister. Have any contacts been made with the federal authorities or is any effort being made in trying to secure the Royal Mint into Manitoba. I understand there's a suggestion that this may come about and if we don't act it might go to Alberta.

MR. SCHREYER: I can advise the Honourable Member for Rhineland that there has been some effort made by the Department of Industry and Commerce, some follow-up to the initial press story that there was a possibility that the Royal Canadian Mint might locate here in Winnipeg. As I say, officials of my department have followed it up and I'm not in a position to say, however, what determination has come of it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister and ask him whether the presence in the Chamber of the distinguished Member for Winnipeg North Centre means that this particular government has a back-up quarterback.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, to answer the honourable member's question, it would be very nice to have a back-up quarterback in the person of the Honourable Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North Centre, but it's really felt unnecessary by my colleagues. about to suggest Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member for Fort Garry should look around him and see that he does have some back-up quarterback behind him there in the person of the ex-MLA for St. Matthews.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege at this time. I have in my hand a news item out of today's Winnipeg Free Press and it purports to report my Throne Speech reply yesterday. I might say at the outset of my remarks, in my eight years in politics I've never found occasion to complain or speak against any member of the news media, but I feel impelled to speak at this time when my speech is reported and the words used in the opening paragraph "strange bed-fellow", and later in the speech the word "sellout" is used, and I think this is offensive and insulting reporting. For a matter like this to be discussed during the reporting of a speech I think is in very poor taste. I do not mind the criticism of fellow politicians. I expect to have to answer and I think they are responsible enough that if they make a charge, that either the charge sticks or it would be withdrawn, and at this time I strenuously object to the use of the word "sellout". At no time was this ever mentioned in my speech. Usually when the word "sellout" is used, the connotation is there that there is something to be bought and paid for, and as I said before, I've never objected before to any reporting of my remarks but I take strong objection to this article in this morning's Winnipeg Free Press.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the answer from the Honourable Member of Health and Social Services to the question that was raised by the Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. PAULLEY: my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, he can read it in Hansard.

MR. SPEAKER: Everything in this House will be recorded in Hansard. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Honourable Minister of Transportation. Does the government agree in principle with the recommendations of the

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) Mauro Report on Northern Transportation; and if it does, when can we expect an outline of the government policy respecting implementation of this report?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I didn't catch the full question.

MR. PATRICK: Does this government agree in principle with the recommendations of the Mauro Report on Northern Transportation?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the document is presently being studied and an announcement will be made as to our policy on it, soon.

MR. PATRICK: A subsequent question. Has the government been able to assess the total cost of implementing the plan?

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, the cost is in that study and if the member had read it, he'd know what it is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, and if I may risk a short preamble to the question Mr. Speaker. In view of the extensive debates we had in the House last session in regard to the tough and damp grain situation in the Province of Manitoba and the mishandling on the part of the Minister of Agriculture at that time, could he now tell members of the House how many - just in rough millions - bushels of grain did rot in the granaries of the farmers of Manitoba last spring.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I was so busy tidying up things that were left as a result of the dissolution of this Legislature that those figures don't arise to my memory.

MR. WATT: A subsequent question to the Honourable Minister. Is it then established that it is not really important what does happen to the grain on the farms of the farmers of Manitoba at the present time?

MR. USKIW: It is most important, Mr. Speaker. If we had been the administration of that day I'm sure action would have been taken much more quickly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to lay on the table of the House the annual report of the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba for the year ended December 31, 1968. Mr. Speaker, I might say that this is in accordance with the undertaking given by our House Leader that even though a resolution was passed it would not affect reports that had not previously been tabled, and this is one of them.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Second readings.

MR. PAULLEY: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, Your Honour, if you would mind calling the adjourned debate on the Throne Speech ahead of second readings. I do this in deference to members of the House. As you know, Your Honour, we're under a time limit of eight days for the Throne Speech. With 32 new members in the House the government deems it a courtesy to the members of the House to give them as full an opportunity of discussing the Speech of His Honour, and if we'd gone into second readings it could have conceivably taken up all of today with the adjournment at 5:30.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne for an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his Speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition in amendment thereto, as follows: . . . The Honourable the Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the House Leader for making it possible for me to speak at this particular time instead of dealing with second readings.

Coming to what I have to say, I first of all wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker on assuming office and performing the high duties and the honours that are conferred on you. I do hope that you will see fit when honourable members will be discussing the various philosophies or matters of a philosophical nature that you will not cramp our style but that you will give us latitude in this case. Then too, I am sure that I have every confidence in you, and that you will rise to the occasion throughout the coming session.

I also congratulate the mover and the seconder to the Speech from the Throne. It's naturally always difficult for a member first to speak in the Assembly. I think they made a very admirable job in speaking to the Assembly, and I think they acquitted themselves very well indeed.

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)

I'm sure that as time goes on they will be worthy representatives of their particular constituencies and that thus they will be well represented in the Chamber. Not only that but I think the First Minister has already recognized one of them in promoting him as assistant to the First Minister.

Then also I would like to extend a very hearty welcome to all new members and to all former members of this Chamber. I wish to congratulate each and every one on his election, and while I'm sure that most of us will probably experience some difficulty when referring to the various members as to their names or their constituencies - many of them have changed and many new faces are in this Chamber, therefore we will experience difficulty no doubt during the early part of the session.

I also want to extend a very warm welcome to one of the members who was a former member of this House and who has now returned, the Member for Churchill. Likewise we are favoured with having a former Member of Parliament at Ottawa with us as a member of this Chamber, in the Member for Fort Garry.

At the same time while I'm congratulating these various people, we are also missing many familiar faces and we are sorry to see them go. Some of these have already been mentioned by other speakers, in the Address to the Reply. A former Premier of this House and a former Member for Lakeside, the Honourable D. L. Campbell, I'm sure is one that all of us respect very highly. He acted as my advisor in the early years in this Chamber when I had no one else to go to and was more or less fending for myself. Certainly on through the years we had much in common, saw eye to eye on so many different matters and stood up for more or less the same principles, and I felt it a privilege to have sat with him for these many years. I consider him an outstanding leader that has served this province well indeed.

No doubt there are many other members that we will sorely miss and I hope not to slight anyone if I mention one or two. Among the many, I'd like to refer to the former Member for Gladstone. I always considered him as a very personal friend who assisted me on a number of occasions and gave me personal assistance.

Likewise the former member for Dauphin, the honourable member who was a Minister of the previous government, I think is another man who we will be missing. I was very critical of him during the early years in this House as many of you will remember, because at that time he was Minister of Education and certainly he had to take the brunt of the government's criticism because I could not see eye to eye and endorse the policy of the government at that particular time in matters of education.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on but I think my time is cut out for me today. However, last but not least, I wish to congratulate the First Minister on his victory, on his election personally and also as a government. I feel that we have a very capable and able administrator in our new Premier and I do wish him every success during his term of office.

Mr. Speaker, there are very many things that I could comment on in the Throne Speech. There are many new proposals and also proposals that were put forward on an earlier occasion contained in the speech, but I do not intend to dwell so much on what is in the speech. Rather I'd like to dwell on certain things which I feel are very important to the people of this province are a real concern to so many of the people that I feel are in need of being rectified. I am sure that in some cases these are not problems just common to Manitoba. They are national problems, but I feel also that this government has a duty where we have problems that they also make representations to the federal authorities in letting them know of these and seeking remedies for these situations.

One of our major problems in Canada today I think has to do with interest rates and the high cost of money. Very few people will speak on the matter in the nature that they feel they can do something about it. Most of them take the attitude that this is something beyond their immediate situation and that they just have to take in their stride. I think we as members of this House should definitely not take that attitude but that we should try and do something about it. Present day costs of money to say the least are nothing short of criminal, scandalous, and I figure outright usury on a national scale. It has been legalized and it is being condoned by the federal government and the federal Parliament. In my opinion this has been brought about by taking off the ceiling on interest rates by legislation two or three years ago. The chartered banks can now charge whatever they please and I feel that this situation has been brought about by the chartered banks. They are trying to secure a hold of the people's funds, their savings

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)... and recapture complete issuance and control of credit and the extension of credit. This, in my opinion, is hurting the near banks, such as credit unions and other financial institutions provincially chartered, who are also in the business and who are also extending credit in our province. And we have many of these organizations functioning in our province today. My concern is that once they regain greater control that they might tighten up the source of credit and then we are left with very little to cope with. Most likely this is going to be done under the guise of trying to halt inflation and in the guise of patriotism, which I feel is being exercised to a certain extent today, and in my opinion is unrealistic and unfair.

In my opinion, we as a province should have a say under the British North America Act as to banking and be able to exercise certain controls over banking and the expansion and contraction of credit. I think it is high time that we give thought to and consider the province providing its own medium of exchange for certain purposes, interest free and within its borders. This might sound rather strange to some of you people but I think it's gone to the extent where the amounts being charged by chartered banks on credit is so high that we should look for different means. Why shouldn't we enjoy the benefits of having credit at lesser cost? Why should we not enjoy the privileges of the chartered banks to create credit under the fractional reserve authorized by statute by the federal Parliament to a private banking institution? Our people are suffering today as a result of the high interest rates.

We know that Manitoba's interest on the provincial debt has increased from \$1,000 in 1960 -- this is as per the estimates of that day; this is the net amount that we are to take from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to cover the interest on the provincial debt -- this increased to \$15 million by 1968. So we had a terrific increase in interest costs over an eight-year period. The Federal Government's indebtedness is much larger and their 1970 estimates, the year ending March 31st, call for interest on public debt service charges of \$1,604,000,000. This is an increase of \$130 million over the previous year.

Just what does \$1,600,000,000 mean? This would be sufficient to pay for one hundred thousand \$16,000 homes in Canada. This would provide a large part of our population with brand new homes paid for and cost free, just by taking the money that is spent today on the federal debt and use it for some other purposes. I am sure that housing today, the construction of housing is being cut down and that this is another problem area. People no longer can afford to buy or own their new homes, or own homes. This in my opinion is a very sad story and I think we should give special thought to this problem as well. We know from the record what B. C. has done. They are providing their people with outright grants. Any newlyweds or older people who are acquiring their first home can receive an outright grant of \$1,000 to purchase a home of their own, or they now have provided an alternative which they can exercise and which would give them an option of a second mortgage, a maximum of \$5,000, the interest on which is not to exceed that of the first mortgage, and payments are not to commence until after the first mortgage has been paid and in this way is providing a large assistance to the low income people of British Columbia. This last year, and I might quote from a report from the Government News: "The provincial government has invested, since 1967, \$60 million in the Provincial Home Acquisition Grant Fund, from which over \$20 million has been paid out to almost 43,000 eligible residents. A great many applications under the new second mortgage option are now being processed."

I feel that this is a very worthy program and that this is one that this government should consider embarking on. I feel this is an area that we can do and provide assistance, because most of our population I am sure will not qualify under National Housing to get a loan from that organization because their incomes are too low. They have to have an income of roughly \$8,000 a year before you can get assistance or apply for a loan from National Housing. That excludes by far the vast number of our population here in Manitoba and I feel it is incumbent upon us to provide some assistance to the lower income earner here in this province.

I think that this government should make protest too to the Federal Government on behalf of our citizens because of the high interest rates, and that we should try and get this remedied as well. I think we should do more complaining to the federal authorities in this connection. Surely banking is not such a holy institution that we cannot touch it or can do nothing about it. Let us not sit idly by and do nothing. I propose, or intend to propose a resolution some time later on in this session that the six percent ceiling on loans be reinstated by the federal authorities. I think this is one way of drawing attention to the problem and I do hope that the other parties and the government will support me in this motion. It seems to me that the banks today still would like the people to believe that they are paying interest on all the money they

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)... lend to their customers, their borrowers, when we know that under Act they are prohibited from lending their depositors money which is a liability to them.

Then, too, in connection with the national debt that I referred to, I think this is another area where we can assist the people of this country and this province. I feel that we should request the Federal Government that the national debt be gradually transferred to the Bank of Canada to do either of two things. One: that the interest accruing would go to the Consolidated Funds and offset taxes payable by Canadian people by about a billion and a half dollars annually; or secondly, alternatively reduce the interest on the debt that's being transferred to a very nominal charge, and thus effecting immense savings. This can be done; there is no reason why it shouldn't be done, because the Bank of Canada is a public institution and I feel that we should put it to greater use.

I would also suggest that the services of the Bank of Canada be placed at the disposal of the provincial governments to finance development such as Hydro at a nominal cost and interest charges. We are paying very high rates over many years now and will be paying high rates of interest for years to come on the development that is now taking place in this province in connection with Hydro.

Then too, to avoid hurting or alleviating the hardship credit unions are now experiencing and are faced with, I think immediate action is required, and I would appeal to the government either to remove the 6 percent ceiling that is placed on the interest rate that may be paid on shared capital or increase the figure to place them in a more competitive position with the banks that have no limitations. If the government does not see fit to act, I would be glad to present a bill providing they give their support. I think this is an emergency because we know that under Act credit unions are limited to 6 percent as to the maximum amount that they can pay to their shareholders as a dividend, and yet we know that there's nothing to prevent the banks from paying much much more and they are presently paying much more, and they are now getting funds that normally were with these other institutions and therefore are causing hardship to credit unions and other smaller financial organizations and it could drive them into bankruptcy, and I feel that this has to be rectified and it should be rectified at this particular session so that the legislation would have effect by the year-end when credit unions are having their annual meeting, and so that they can take advantage of this at that particular time. I feel something must be done in order to help them to be more competitive than they are presently.

Before I leave the field of finance let me reiterate my appeal that I have made to the previous administration on numerous occasions, and that is that we as members be provided with quarterly financial statements of this government. This would mean that we would be getting a statement of revenue, receipts, disbursements, probably a budget analysis and a financial and economic review statement. I know that the British Columbia government is providing this for their members and I see no reason why we should not get similar services here. The reports we are now getting normally are a year old or sometimes better than a year old, and I feel that we should have much more current information available to us and I think this can be done. The other administrations of other provinces have shown that this can be done. This information is available to the Executive Council and I feel we as members are shareholders in the government of this province and that we are entitled to some of this information being much more current. I would appeal to the First Minister and the government that this information be made available to members of the House.

I noticed from the Throne Speech the various items and I was particularly delighted to see that this administration is desirous and will make every effort to "reduce regional economic disparities". I am all in favour, and will immediately point out to the Honourable Premier a few areas of immediate concern to me and areas of economic disparities uppermost in my mind, and no doubt are very obvious to most people in this province and are in urgent need of relief and correction. I am referring to the plight of the multi-district school divisions - four in number, two in my constituency, that are facing an unprecedented disparity in their financial operational support received from the government.

Mr. Premier, I am not sure whether you are fully aware of the plight. They have been placed in a very unfair position by the previous administration. The people in these divisions are getting the short end of the stick for exercising the right to retain a greater control in the education of their children, in my opinion a parental right. The areas affected are among the largest contributors to the Consolidated Fund and to the general growth and prosperity of the province, yet because of a discriminatory measure they are enjoying the least benefit as a

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)... result. Surely this inequity should not continue on indefinitely. As a result of rising school costs in supplies, services, salaries and transportation, the inequity is increasing year by year. In the interest of democracy and just cause I would ask that this disparity be removed by providing identical operational grants to schools in the multi-district divisions as in the unitary divisions.

Much has been said on holding the line on school costs. In my opinion, most can be achieved by letting people decide at the local level the services they desire, they want, and are prepared to pay for. In my opinion, this is the best way of controlling costs because if they have the means whereby they can control them, then I think they will take care of the situation themselves much better than if controls are to be coming from the top down as was proposed by the previous administration. I never bought that and I never went along with it. I feel education is a matter where those concerned, those in authority, should have the right to decide, and I think the parents who are the taxpayers should also be part and party of that group who has the right to decide.

Another regional disparity, and I want to mention the two. The one I am coming to now has to do with property assessment in rural municipalities, especially in recent years where you've had and are having large fluctuation of land values and prices. The rural municipalities in my riding are definitely improperly assessed as a result of the method used and the formula and criteria applied in assessing properties. As a result of using high market values of certain sales of land, assessment of certain parcels were tripled, and on the over-all for the two municipalities was practically doubled. Land prices have dropped very sharply this last year and a half and for several reasons, yet assessments remain stationary and will remain so unless a re-assessment is made in the near future, or alternatively, a percentage cut is made across the board. Prices of farm land have dropped no doubt because of the high cost of money, the availability and source of funds drying up, namely that the Manitoba Agriculture Credit Corporation is now defunct, legislation was repealed. Then, too, the inability of farmers to sell their crops and the return on investment. So you have a number of reasons why land prices are dropping, yet we find that the assessment that was made some time ago will remain, and will remain if nothing is done for the next 10-15 years, and I think this is very unfair. Some people may think by increasing the assessment you just reduce the mill rate with the end result being the same. This is far from the truth. Your general levy that the government receives remains more or less constant and by increasing or doubling the assessment, you double the amount of taxes under the general levy. This means for the two municipalities of Stanley and Rhineland in my riding, the taxpayers have to put up an additional \$100,000 in addition to the previous penalties mentioned earlier. I already mentioned the penalty that was imposed on them because they did not subscribe to the unitary division principle; it's costing them much, much money. Then on top of that they are penalized in this way at the same time that this other proposal is brought in.

Mr. Premier, I suggest a cut of between 33 and 40 percent to be made immediately across the board in the assessment and that a change in the formula for assessing farm property be brought about on the basis of productivity and land use and not on market value that may fluctuate widely. We are already in trouble because of this and the department officials are recognizing this. Recently a meeting was held in the Rhineland municipal chambers where members of the department were present and a full discussion was held in connection with this very matter, and I do hope, Mr. Premier, that something will come about that we will have a revision in this area. I feel that it is very essential.

MR. GREEN: Everybody's assessment?

MR. FROESE: No, I'm referring to the two municipalities that were assessed at a particular time when land prices were very high - I think almost close to the peak, and now they are going to remain with that high assessment unless something is done, and since then land prices have fallen and dropped very sharply. I feel that the basis on which assessment is being made has to be changed.

Another matter, Mr. Speaker, that I want to dwell on very briefly has to do with the matter of farm stored grain or providing inland storage for farmers. This is one of the planks in my election platform and this is a matter that I brought to the attention of the House on previous occasions. Honourable members who have been here before are fully aware of what I have been proposing. Both opposition parties in the previous House supported me in this measure and I do hope now that the new government is in power and subscribe to this, will now implement this measure.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. May I remind the honourable member that he has five minutes remaining.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, the matter of inland storage I feel is very essential here in Manitoba. The Federal Government has just come out with advances for farm stored grain, but I feel that this is not the answer. I think to bring about a greater degree of prosperity we will have to bring about and provide for inland storage for wheat at centre points in this province that will enable the farmer to deliver and sell his entire crop in a given crop year. Arrangement for the purchase and payment of the crop would be made through the Wheat Board of all grain stored and all it would do it would add to the inventory of the Canadian Wheat Board. The facilities that could be erected for this purpose certainly could be of a nature that could be used for recreational purposes at some later years when they would not be used for this particular purpose. I'm thinking of probably putting up buildings in the type of arenas, where you have slab floors and a roof and the weighing and so on could be done through the elevators which are presently there. The province is limited in the actions it can take and in my opinion the proposal is sound, workable and would provide the necessary cash for the farmer that he badly needs. We cannot allow the grain farming economy of Manitoba to be crippled, to stagnate and to deteriorate any further just because the Federal Government, in its inaction and its agencies not functioning properly to sell our wheat. We know that this is the case; we know that the wheat is not moving, is not being sold and certainly we cannot let the whole industry go bankrupt under this situation. I feel because Manitoba's production of wheat is the smallest of the prairie provinces, between 80 and 90 million bushels, that this can be tackled more readily here in Manitoba. The proposal would decrease storage charges, eliminate needless borrowing on the part of the farmer, avoid costly interest charges on his part and also he would not be faced with the problem of additional storage facilities this fall. I'm sure something can be done along this line and that we should make some effort to do so. This would then mean that the surplus grain would become a blessing instead of being a curse as so many put it today.

Mr. Speaker, I have a few more things; I don't know whether the members would be willing to listen to the other matters that I have to put forward.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend feels that he will wind up within a reasonably short period of time, I think on this first session of this new House he could have our permission if he could have the permission from the members opposite.

A MEMBER: Carry on.

MR. FROESE: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I would like to comment in connection with the Dominion-Provincial relations and the secretariat that is being proposed. I'm not just sure at this time just what will be proposed but I feel that this is a new thing that I feel is warranted. I think there is a need for a forum to debate Dominion-Provincial matters and up until now the only time that we could discuss these are during the Throne Speech debate or on the Budget. I feel that this is not sufficient and that we should have a proper forum to debate matters of this type; and I feel that this should be something that should be available to us members annually and not just on an off-and-on basis.

I would like to know from the Minister if he has time sometime during the session, to bring us up to date on the matter of the Constitution, the matter of domiciling the Constitution of Canada. Is any progress being made? Is the committee of Attorneys-General functioning? Is there any report? -- Nothing? I feel there are so many things that need to be discussed in connection with Dominion-Provincial relations and also with the Constitution that we should have a separate debate for that. I for one am very interested in the matter of delegation of powers if a revision of the Constitution should take place. I've already mentioned that in my opinion banking should not be the sole jurisdiction of the Federal Government. I think we as a province should have some say as to what goes on and not allow ourselves to be put into a straitjacket.

Then also in connection with the Canada Council, I know from the Federal estimates for the current year that the allocation has been increased from 20 to 23 million. What is Manitoba's portion, or is there any portion allocated to the various provinces? I note from a year or two ago where they were financing a "Town Fool" up in British Columbia, and I'm sometimes questioning the program that is being carried on by the company of Young Canadians. I don't think that the money is too well spent there, and that we as a province probably should have some say in the matter as to how these moneys are spent. Certainly in connection with the various

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) . . . cultures, I feel that we should have more cultural support here in Manitoba for the retention of languages, because it is very essential, it's a must as far as retaining your culture that you must also retain the language. We are a province here of multi-cultures. I feel that we should not just provide funds to retain the English and the French culture; I think money should be provided to retain all the different groups, all the different cultures that we have in this province. I certainly hope that something will come forward in this connection from the present administration because we have a large group of German, Ukrainian, and I'm sure there are other groups of people in this province who form a large segment of the population.

The Committee System is mentioned in the Throne Speech which is also very interesting to me. I have always been in favour of using committees versus commissions. I do not believe so much in commissions because I find too often these reports are just gathering dust and they're not put to use. I feel the members of this House are elected by the people for a purpose and that is that they should provide some of the thinking and some of the action that should be implemented by this government and that we should be using committees in this way. However, if when they are talking of committees here, if they're talking in terms of the functions of committees in Ottawa under their rules, I question the practice because there I think estimates and other matters are placed under the committee's jurisdiction and I for one feel that I would not want to go that far that the estimates of our provincial government here would be referred to a committee. I mean a smaller committee than what we are having at the present time when we are referring them to the Committee of the Whole. Every member of this House has the right to speak on the estimates and I'm afraid if they were referred to smaller committees that I could not support such a move.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known that as far as the New Democratic Party and Social Credit are sometimes at opposite ends of the stick. I know we have areas where I know we can work together but I know that there's also matters of philosophy which just do not jibe. But I feel that the new government should have no difficulty in operating under the present legislation that is on the statutes here in Manitoba. I feel the previous administration has looked after this well indeed for them when a few years ago they passed Bill 88, the famous Bill 88, the Manitoba Development Fund Bill. Part 2 of that bill gives the government wide powers to do almost anything they so desire. Even a socialist government can do anything I think they would want under that particular legislation; and it was hailed as such by the NDP leader of that day as the most socialistic measure ever passed by a government in Canada. At that time I can remember that the former Honourable Member for Burrows was quite opposed to the measure - so was I - but we were about the only ones opposing it.

I went to check with the dictionary as to the definition of socialism. I had it a minute ago, but I don't think I should quote it at this particular time. I know that measures have been brought in here in previous years that I felt were very socialistic and centralistic in nature. We know that a former Minister of Agriculture in the person of Mr. Hutton was bringing in very socialistic measures at that time; and likewise the previous Minister of Health I think was a very great one for centralization in the measures that he brought forward. I need only mention the school system as one and the more recent one was Medicare which I think is one of the greatest socialistic programs ever brought about in Canada. -- (Interjection) -- I am rather thinking that our new Premier probably is less socialist inclined than some of our previous Cabinet Ministers to whom I've already referred to. During the years that I was sitting together with him. . . .

A MEMBER: What about Alberta Medicare?

MR. FROESE: I don't think they wanted to accept that one. . . .

A MEMBER: But they did.

MR. FROESE: . . . and in fact British Columbia got it on a voluntary basis which was much better than any other provincial government was able to achieve in Canada and. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I would not wish to see the practice of extending a privilege develop into abuse by members of the House.

MR. FROESE: I have a motion to present yet.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member please conclude his remarks as rapidly as possible. The House has now extended nine minutes of its time to him beyond the limit as prescribed by the rules.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I had rather thought of commenting on the motion by the Official Opposition but I will let that go at this particular time because I'm sure the government

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)... would have been very interested in hearing what I have to say on that. -- (Interjection) -- Probably more critical of the former administration than of the present one. However I'll also forfeit enunciating some of the Social Credit principles that we are endorsing, I am endorsing, and I will now proceed to the motion that I have before me.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Churchill, further that the amendment be amended by adding: "The government has failed to convince this House that a Socialist economic policy will secure for the people the results they want from the management of their public affairs.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just say a few words in the debate on the Speech from the Throne if I could have the time of the House for a few moments. But first, Mr. Speaker, I would like to very sincerely congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this House and to commend you on the way that you have conducted the House thus far. I think that it is a difficult situation from time to time to be, or at least to try to be impartial in your position as Speaker, and I think that you have conducted yourself in a manner that is commendable by all members of the House.

I would like also to congratulate the Mover and the Seconder of the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable Members from Osborne and from St. George. I think they spoke very well and commended themselves to their people in their constituency. I know that it is a difficult situation, or task actually, speaking for the first time in this House, particularly for members who have appeared I believe for their first time in public life. I want to congratulate also the appointment, Mr. Speaker, of my honourable friend the Member for Lac du Bonnet who is now the Minister of Agriculture, and to congratulate him on his appointment and to wish him well in his future duty, and I would like to say to him, Mr. Speaker, that it will not be my intention to harass him in his duties as he has tried to do in the past ten months that I had the privilege and the honour of holding that portfolio.

I would like to congratulate all members newly elected, or elected to this House. I am sure that they are here with the intent of serving the people of their community and the people of the Province of Manitoba to the best of their ability. And I would like - and I'm sorry that the Honourable the First Minister is not in his seat - to congratulate him on his sudden rise to the Premiership of this Province of Manitoba, and to say that I recall through the years when I sat in this House with him and particularly in the years when I sat on a livestock marketing committee with him, that I did enjoy the association and respect his abilities. I couldn't help mentioning of course, Mr. Speaker, at this time, but in regard to the livestock marketing committee that I did sit with him on that time, while I do pay tribute to his contributions to the report that did come into this House known as the Shewman Report, I have always lived to regret, of course, the fact that he did vote against that report in the House and consequently the Livestock Marketing Commission that was established as a result of that commission report and has operated I believe successfully in Manitoba since that time.

I want to speak briefly, Mr. Speaker, on agriculture in the Province of Manitoba, but before I do I want to point out to members of the House that I am not in agreement with the position taken by the Leader of the Liberal Party in his speech in the House yesterday when he said that he and his party were prepared to just sit and watch what happened to the Province of Manitoba and what the present government....

MR. G. JOHNSTON: On a point of privilege, I said no such thing.

MR. WATT: If the honourable member will read his speech in Hansard I believe he will find that I am correct. If I am wrong I will apologize. But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that as far as I am concerned I am not content to sit and watch what happens to the Province of Manitoba under the jurisdiction of the present government without having some voice, or raising some voice in regard to the problems that we are confronted with in this province at the moment. But I want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that I do not intend to take the position that the opposition, that the government of the day did when they were in opposition on this side of the House, and that is to paint a picture of gloom and doom insofar as agriculture in this province is concerned, because I am not in agreement with such a picture of the farming or the agricultural community of the province. And I think that I am backed up pretty well in this party since we represent the total, or almost the total agricultural broad community across the province. From the constituency away to the north of Swan River to the United States boundary, from the Saskatchewan

(MR. WATT cont'd.)... boundary across the broad southern part of the province to the boundary of Ontario, we represent that agricultural community. And I want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, that the House will hear from the agricultural community from the Conservative caucus now representing the Official Opposition in this House.

Let us just have a look for a moment, Mr. Speaker, at what has been done in the Province of Manitoba over the past hundred years under the governments of free enterprise in this province. I believe down the hall, just opposite to the door of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture's office, a plaque hangs there which depicts the first sale for export wheat out of this province. It's a matter of a few hundred bushels. That is back in the late 1800's, Mr. Speaker, and since that time agriculture has developed in the province of Manitoba to the point where we now produce in excess of a billion dollars worth of agricultural products. In recent years the production of meat in this province has expanded and developed to the point where we now, considering back insofar as the post-war years, are producing, consuming or exporting three times as much pork as we did in that day, and there is every indication, Mr. Speaker, from the outlook conferences in Ottawa, in Manitoba and from those who have projected into the future, that this production and market will develop. I don't believe that we have any problem insofar as our pork products are concerned.

The same applies to beef, Mr. Speaker. Figures that we have available from those who we believe were knowledgeable in projecting into the future, suggest that the beef market in this province will be almost unlimited insofar as the possible increase is concerned. The same I believe applies in poultry, in fact in all meat products, and the Department of Agriculture in this province through the years, as a service to the farmers of Manitoba, have worked and worked hard, and here I want to pay tribute to the personnel of the Department of Agriculture for what they have done in this field.

But Mr. Speaker, we have one problem at the moment, and it's not new in the Province of Manitoba; it's not new in Canada; it is not new in the world. And that is our markets insofar as our grains are concerned. And if I may just read briefly from -- and I should say, Mr. Speaker, press clippings, because I'm quite aware that you cannot bring newspapers into this Legislative Assembly, so I simply say what I hold in my hand is a press clipping, but I want to go back to 1955 to the Brandon Daily Sun where they are quoting the Honourable Duff Roblin in a speech where he is urging the Federal Government, as we are today, to do something about a billion bushel wheat surplus. Honourable Duff Roblin speaking in 1955, September 29th. And again in the same paper, the then member for Virden, MLA John Thompson, now the Honourable Judge Thompson, speaking at Minnedosa urging for cash advances. That is in the Brandon Sun, 1955.

Winnipeg Tribune, 1955, discussing the problems of the insurmountable surplus of what at that time. Winnipeg Free Press, headlines "Beyond Ottawa the Dilemma", again discussing a wheat surplus that appeared to the people in 1955 to be an insurmountable surplus, and that a glut had appeared in Canada, in Western Canada, in Manitoba, that was about to put an end to the grain industry in this province.

And so, Mr. Speaker, after 15 years, after the glut of 1955 had disappeared and we'd enjoyed reasonable markets from the world for our grains, we again find ourselves in the same situation, and again we are urging the government of Ottawa to do something about it. There have been all kinds of proposals of course, one mentioned a few moments ago by the Honourable Member for Rhineland in regard to storage payments. There have been different suggestions; one proposed by myself and supported by the government of that time - direct acreage payments for farmers in order to support them until such time as our markets have been regained. Other proposals of course came in the form of different things including a two-price system, and I think the honourable member -- and he's not in his seat this afternoon -- the Honourable Minister of Health seemed to find some satisfaction in the establishment, or the apparent establishment of the Federal Government of the so-called two-price system, and here again, Mr. Speaker, I want to say and to reiterate what I have said, not only in this House but from time to time outside of the House, that there is no such thing as a two-price system insofar as our wheat sales are concerned, but it is a form of subsidy, and if we are to be subsidized in western Canada, again I must say that I do not agree that the principle of subsidy should be based, or wheat should be used as a base for subsidy. Again I have to say that it does not apply to all the farmers in the Province of Manitoba who are in trouble insofar as markets are concerned at the present. And I again refer to the farmers - and there are about 11,000 of them - who are not growing

(MR. WATT cont'd). . . . wheat but are growing oats and barley, and they find themselves in the same situation as those farmers who are growing wheat. And again I want to say to you, and it has been and is now my opinion, that the so-called two-price system based on wheat can only extend and project the problem that we have now insofar as our surplus is concerned.

But the one thing that does disturb me at the moment, Mr. Speaker, so far as the Minister of Agriculture in the Province of Manitoba is concerned, is that we have not heard from him in respect of the problem that we have now. The only indication that I have seen since he became Minister and took office on July 15th is that he proposed to the federal Minister of Agriculture that the cash advance be advanced to all farmers regardless of their acreage. At that time the press release seemed to indicate that the Minister had received favourable reaction from Mr. Olson, the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa, but some time has gone by since the question was put to him in the House today: what is happening in regard to the cash advance and to the Minister's proposal in respect of the basis of the cash advance? I think these are questions, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers out in the broad grain-growing areas of the province would like to know. Many of them have asked me what are the results of the Minister's proposal to Ottawa in respect of a direct cash advance regardless of acreage.

Mr. Speaker, we have had in Western Canada so far as the grain growers are concerned, conducted by the Federal Government, a Canadian Wheat Board since back in the late '30s, and I want to say to you that I believe that over the period of time they have operated in, that they have done a great deal for the economy of Western Canada. But we have a problem now insofar as the marketing is concerned. We not only have a problem insofar as marketing is concerned, but we have a problem so far as the quota system is concerned, and I don't believe the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba is aware of the extent of that problem insofar as the inequity of our quota system is concerned. On the broad basis across the three prairie provinces we are subject to a blanket policy of quota. In the Province of Manitoba on an acreage basis we produce approximately 20 percent more than they do in Alberta or Saskatchewan, but at the same time we are subjected to exactly the same quota system so far as our wheat and our oats and barley are concerned. This is a situation that should be corrected and I would ask the Honourable the Minister to take this up with the Federal Government and the Canadian Wheat Board at an early date.

But there is another immediate problem, Mr. Speaker, insofar as our quota system is concerned as it applies to the 1968-69, 1969-70 crops, and that is that there are some farmers in the Province of Manitoba who were privileged to deliver six bushels per acre. I'm referring to the people in the Red River Valley and I have no objection to this. In fact, I was part of that agreement, that decision that was made last spring during the threat of flood. At that time the Canadian Wheat Board assured me that they would in all probability be taking six bushels per acre across the three prairie provinces. Now I'm not criticizing the Canadian Wheat Board for misjudgment here because it's pretty difficult in the world market situation that we have, or the situation that we have at the moment, that they could misjudge to the extent of a bushel per acre. But since that amount, or the objective of the Canadian Wheat Board, was reduced to five bushels per acre, many farmers in the Province of Manitoba find themselves in the position now where they have not and will not be able to deliver up to five bushels per acre. And again I want to say to the Honourable Minister that I believe that it is his responsibility to approach the Federal Government and the Canadian Wheat Board to see that this inequity is corrected.

There are a great many other areas that I could talk on at the moment, Mr. Speaker, in agriculture and the problems that will be facing the Honourable Minister. I was a little disappointed to hear him say in the question period when I asked him a question in regard to the damp grain situation as applied last spring, that he had not had time to look at it. I want to impress on him now that he is representing as Minister of Agriculture the total area of the Province of Manitoba involved in agriculture. Again I refer to the total area across the southern and up the western side of the Province of Manitoba, and that we look to him for some approach to the authorities insofar as the grain growing situation is concerned.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was listening carefully to the Honourable Member for Arthur and I would hope that the reporters up there don't quote him as saying the Conservatives were a bunch of farmers, but . . . -- (Interjection) --

On the offset Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to congratulate you on your position. I believe that with your legal background that you were the obvious person to hold this office. In fact I think that if there was one mistake the new Premier has made was by trying to have somebody else elected and using political expediency to do it. I think that if you act with diplomacy that certainly we would all be prepared to back you as a permanent Speaker in this House. I say this because of perhaps a selfish reason in that I do feel that when this House last year decided on moving more towards representation by population they did in fact give approximately, I believe, 27 seats to Metro Winnipeg and this in itself calls for each and every member of rural Manitoba and northern Manitoba to be a spokesman for their constituency to make sure that the representation and the right of places other than the City of Winnipeg is looked after, and I believe it is best looked after by members sitting in the seats in which they are elected.

I would like to congratulate the staff again. I see most of them are back and certainly the decorum of the House and in fact the effectiveness of our legislation often comes from the responsibility of their offices. I believe the mover and seconder to the Speech from the Throne made a contribution in my experience that has never been equalled. For people who have offered themselves to this House for the first time, they did a wonderful job.

I would also congratulate the First Minister on his position, and the NDP party in fact, for the vote of confidence that they gained in this past election. I'm sure that their Ministers will do just as good a job as others have in the past and in fact I hope that we see progress.

I don't want to leave here until I offer personal congratulations to my MLA, particularly with the new constituency of Thompson being recognized by this House. He is another first for Thompson. I think he is going to do a good job and I hope he will be a first for northern Manitoba as well. I don't believe we'll agree on all things but we've agreed to disagree at times in the past and this will continue, but I would say at this time that certainly the people of northern Manitoba are happy with his appointment.

I, too, would like to pay my respects to the Conservative Party. They did well in the election. Perhaps they'll do better in the future. But I don't think it will be in the contribution that they made to the Throne Speech that I heard a couple of days ago, because really this was just once again, giving the same platform that was refused by many of the people of Manitoba in the last election.

I'd like to congratulate the new House Leader of the Liberal Party. I think also he will do a good job as time passes. I hesitate to add any criticism after what he has said a little while ago, but I did feel that it was a sterile contribution and he may in fact return the compliment after I'm finished.

Mr. Speaker, when I decided to run as an independent it was because one thing I was thinking of in the back of my mind that when I did sit with government it seemed to me that all the good fellows sat on the left hand side and all the bad fellows sat on the right hand side - on your right hand side - and I was a little confused after all the money I'd spent and the blood and sweat and tears to find that I'm still on the bad side of the House. I expected to be one of the good ones. I have come to the conclusion actually that you, Mr. Speaker, or those before you, decided that there were two fellows that couldn't get along with anybody else and they may as well be stuck with each other. If we have our fights and we can't talk to each other, then there'll be nobody else to talk to so perhaps things will work out.

I wouldn't like to leave this part without paying my compliments to Mr. Campbell. He was always Mr. Campbell to me. He was also to me the conscience of this House and I felt that there was a warmth that he extended to new members which is unfortunately lost to the many new members that this House now has, because he was the first to extend congratulations to you, regardless of what party you were from, and they were genuine. He was the father confessor that we could all go to and he certainly gave us advice whether it would be against what he felt was right or not, but he always was willing to help and I am afraid that this House has lost a member which will not be replaced for many many years to come.

So, Mr. Speaker, we arrive at the definition of what is an Independent? What can he do? And I say what can any one member do? So I'm in the same position as most members in

(MR. BEARD cont'd) opposition. I'm a member here to represent a constituency. Fortunately or unfortunately I happen to represent half of Manitoba in area and I thank the people of Churchill constituency for having faith in me to act as their representative over and above all other three political parties who had candidates in the campaign. I do not want to leave the impression that I'm patting myself on the back. Perhaps I did know the people a little better and perhaps they thought they were getting a better deal when they related it to the size.

I came back to try and impress both the politicians and the taxpayers of the relationship between the north and the rest of the Province of Manitoba. I am going to try to impress upon you, along with the other members of northern Manitoba, I'm sure, of the need for the investment of huge amounts of money in northern Manitoba. Not for the sake of northern Manitoba but for the sake of the children and the grandchildren of the people of southern Manitoba who find it more difficult as time passes to live out of each other's pockets and to depend upon the moneys that are divided up at Ottawa and returned to the Province of Manitoba. I think with the proper development of the whole of this province that we can become self-sufficient rather than dependent upon the richer provinces to contribute from time to time.

I want to give this government my assurance as I have in the past that I will support them. But this relates to good legislation, of course. I don't think that good legislation will be defeated in any House, and if this government decides at the first of the year to call their new session, which will be the New Democratic Session, and provide us with the confidence that Premier Schreyer has been able to do so far, then I think that all of Manitoba would welcome the governing body which is set up today. But I say they are going to have to earn that, day by day, week by week and month by month, and certainly I'll be one that will be watching as an Independent to see what happens to northern Manitoba and to the things that we are looking for from this government.

In respect to lowering the voting age, I'm not against this as long as the young people are ready to increase their personal responsibilities in this area, and as long as legislation allows them to do other things at the age that we are lowering their voting requirements to. -- (Interjection) -- Yes, if they're allowed to vote, I suppose they should be allowed to drink. They're allowed to get married.

I wonder about government insurance. This is one of the things that does bother me. I'm prepared even to vote for government insurance as long as there's no hidden cost to the taxpayer; as long as it isn't a subsidized insurance; as long as government, if they are going to get into it see to it that the automobile repair men in respect to auto accidents are not taking advantage of insurance to feather their own nests. But I would ask them to seriously look at another program and that would be on a tender basis throughout the province. They tender contracts for highways and such on, why can't they tender out insurance to different portions of the province so that it can be bid on, they can cover legislation so that insurance companies maybe cannot re-tender this out or sub-contract it out to other companies, but do it on a respectable basis where they have competition. We often worry about it not being competitive today. I just wonder if you set them up in competition to each other on a basis where they can't sub-contract it out, whether they can move that away from the field of monopoly, perhaps that is the area that we should be looking at.

But now, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move into northern development, because northern development begins with the government's confidence in the north, the government's readiness to participate and most of all government services. We ask no more nor no less than what is established in the southern parts of this province. And I say to this government that I'll be looking for them to bring legislation in to bring about a strong independent department of Northern Affairs. And I can say it now, Mr. Speaker, a little stronger, because I'm not in the position of asking for a Minister's office as I did feel was the case so often when I was on government side.

But I believe that this calls for serious consideration for the economy of the operation of the north, for the efficiency, for northern experts living in the north, for the northern Minister living in the north, and this government has a qualified vote in the north and they have members from the north, and if you look back in precedents they always had two members. If they had two members in the north before in the Cabinet, they can now.

If they want to start off with a Minister without portfolio, that's fine with me as long as he's established in the north and he can live in the north and come down to Cabinet sessions here, but be back there where the action is and where he can keep in touch with the feelings

(MR. BEARD cont'd) of people in the north because, Mr. Speaker, if one thing came through loud and strong in this election, it was the fact that northern Manitoba was not being properly represented. No other reason that I can see why a solid Conservative north swung the way it did. And I would say also to the First Minister and to Cabinet that if it had not been for that almost solid support of the New Democratic Party, they in fact would be sitting on the opposition side and the Conservatives would still be the governing body of this province. And they've got to keep that in mind, because the Indian people will be keeping it in mind, the miners will be keeping it in mind, the people of Churchill will be keeping it in mind. They have listened to the New Democratic Party saying to them, "Are you ready to live with what the Liberals and the Conservatives have done for so many years in the north? You've been ignored. Vote for us and we will change these things." And the New Democratic Party has to take these things into consideration when they're looking for legislation and looking to see how they can bring these things about for the northern half of your province.

I must recall too to the New Democratic Party, and particularly to the Minister of Labour when he supported the concept of an independent Department of Northern Affairs, and I don't think either of us have to go back through the Hansards to get hold of this information. We all know it is true. The Liberal Party supported this and I think the northern people, of course, in northern Manitoba support it, and I would hope that they will not waffle on this type of thinking but will in fact recognize that a great deal of the future of this province depends upon the integration of northern Manitoba along with the rest of the province. I think that they have to prove their faith is in the north, and I think they have to prove it by doing something about it. I am quite enthused of course about the Mauro Commission. It reads well, just as the Jones Report read well a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, but you know what happened to it, and I would hope that with this new philosophy that the Mauro Commission, which was brought about by the Conservative Party and has been accepted in philosophy by the New Democratic Party, that there should be no trouble in finding monies to implement the many things that it suggested.

Some things I don't like, Mr. Speaker. One thing relates to another but it's the regional desks in Ottawa that shelter the Prime Minister apparently from the feelings of people. I don't like the idea of regional action centres for this province because I think that this will do the same thing. I don't like commissions that are not made up of MLAs, and the government should consult, I believe, directly with the taxpayers and leave the desk work to the civil servants and the bureaucrats who are trained to produce the ways and means for the things that the people want in this province. And if this Cabinet is freed from the piles of desk work that historically gather and make them executives chained to an office rather than politicians out feeling the pulse of the people, then this party may just well be in a comfortable pew for many years to come.

I'd like to refer to the office of Ombudsman for some time, and I might at the offset say that voting against an ombudsman is probably like voting against motherhood, so I will support it. But I will predict that it will be a heyday for the law profession of this province. That's why they want it. It'll be a competition between the A. G. 's office and the Ombudsman's empire. Everybody will refer it to the ombudsman, and I have my doubts. But the ombudsman can do some things for us. If the ombudsman can look into his empire and see where he can gain assistance for an amputee from -- I believe it was Split Lake; in fact I'm sure it was Split Lake -- amputee for 40 years, never received any assistance, never had an ombudsman, hell of a lot of civil servants but nobody to do anything about it for him.

Is the ombudsman going to do something about unemployment? The Minister of Labour again got up the other day and left the impression in this province that we're in a pretty good position in respect to unemployment - almost no unemployment. But he neglected to say that there were pockets of unemployment in northern parts of the province which had almost 100 percent unemployment.

A MEMBER: It's not recorded.

MR. BEARD: I'm going to record it now and I've got it on tape. Oxford House, an area of 700. When we went in there a couple or three weeks ago there were approximately 15 men, one of the councillors told me, working; 15 men out of a proposed population of 700. It's almost unbelievable. Fortunately I had a couple of press reporters along with me which does help. -- (Interjection) -- Birds of a feather fly together.

Is the ombudsman going to look after the old age pensioner? Maybe. Maybe he's going

(MR. BEARD cont'd) to bring it to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that the old age pensioner in the north gets the same as in the south but his cost of living is at least double. He pays anywhere from 30 to 35 cents for a tin of milk that I suppose you buy in Winnipeg here for 15 cents; 45 cents for a loaf of bread. He pays 65 cents freight on every gallon of gasoline. Not 65 cents per gallon of gasoline for which you pay what? 53 in town here -- 55? He pays 65 cents a gallon freight.

Is the ombudsman going to be able to do something about Brochet? The Indians in Brochet are treaty. In their treaty they believe that they were given unrestricted rights to fish the lakes. They have a small portion of a large lake, Reindeer Lake, in which they can fish, but if they happen to wander across into the Saskatchewan side they're treated just the same as the Russians. The nets are taken away; the boats are taken away etc., and they are left with no course of action to take in this respect. And yet here are treaty Indians. Historically, we have said to them as wise white men, you can do this and you can do that, and then we turn around and make other rules and regulations after the treaty is signed and which stops them from earning a living. But it doesn't stop them from the Saskatchewan people bringing the fish over and having them haul it down to the fish buyer. So actually it's an unfortunate situation as far as the Chief and the Council feel in Brochet.

Medicare. Now isn't that a beautiful thing? Everybody loves it and it's much like the ombudsman - you've got to vote for it because I think that there are many merits in it. But the first thing I would like to say about it, in my mind the New Democratic Party during the election left the impression with me that Medicare and hospitalization costs would be reduced in half. Now perhaps I'm wrong, and I am probably wrong in the exact wording that they said. But I think that in many cases, the people that talked to me at least, felt that Medicare and hospital costs would be reduced in half. Now this is unfortunate if it's not going to come about. But then I look at the other side of the picture and say, well I'm also interested where they're going to pick up the rest of this money because when I look at the Honourable Minister of Finance I don't -- (Interjection) -- I feel sorry for his obligation, yes, but I just wonder what he has in the back of his mind, and certainly a lot of us will be interested. -- (Interjection) -- The welfare of the people yes, but who pays? This is one thing that we've got to keep in mind, and so I'm sure that the Honourable Member for Thompson will be thoroughly indoctrinated in it but unions all over Manitoba, or all over Canada, have made large indents into this cost by having it as a fringe benefit. The C. N. R. employees have it as a fringe benefit who are outside the control of this government, and if the costs are cut in half then who is going to benefit? Not the employee if he's going to have to return that through income tax or through sales tax. He's going to pay for it where he didn't have to pay for it before. So I think these things will have to be kept in consideration.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): What percentage?

MR. BEARD: A large percentage. Large enough that you would worry about it during election time. I think that if we're having universal Medicare, universal hospital programs, that we've got to worry about northern dental services, where a doctor comes in, perhaps a dentist, perhaps once a year, and what happens? He may look at a few of the children. The adults he hasn't got time for. And I wonder if the ombudsman is going to be able to do something about this, because I asked the people in isolated communities what happens if you have a toothache. What happens? There's one word they use and they just say "suffer," and perhaps we should suffer with a toothache from one year to another and find out whether we could do something about it. I think universal Medicare and hospitalization has to look into northern hospital services. It has to look into the nursing care. It has to look into public health. Edward Sigimat, a man who has control, a counsellor of almost 400 people, has to give the authority first. He's untrained, had no training whatsoever in St. John's Ambulance or anything else, and he has to give the okay for someone to go to see the nurse. He has to get there between 9:00 and 5:00. He has to take an interpreter along and he has to provide the boat and the motor to do it. And what does he get paid? Nothing. What does he know about medicine? Nothing. But these are the impossible situations, the ridiculous things that can happen in communities that government is out of touch with, and I think that it is too late to say to the people of Manitoba that the treaty Indian is the responsibility of the Federal Government, because this government has to be the ombudsman for all people in Manitoba if they're going to bring about the social amenities that they're talking about, and I would hope and I have faith that perhaps they may want to look into these things. I am certain that the new

(MR. BEARD cont'd) members for northern Manitoba could give this speech just as well if not better than I am . . .

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind the honourable member that he has five minutes remaining.

MR. BEARD: Time slips by, Mr. Speaker, and I will try and slip by with it. He cut me off. Yes, I have one thing that I would certainly like to bring up before we get to the end of this five minutes, and it's again the position that I take in respect to the location of Lynn Lake Highway. Lynn Lake will not be clapping their hands to me and the Honourable Minister for Transportation knows full well that he's going to get it, lock, stock and barrel. But the last government, nor this government, have taken up the map showing the four considerations in respect to the Lynn Lake highway and Mr. Speaker, this is not consultation or communication at the level in which government should be acting. In fact the highway is by-passing by 16 miles Ruttan Lake or what you heard about last year, Rusty Lake area, and the Minister of Transportation knows that this is a wealthy area in minerals. There's going to be 16 miles of road that will have to be built. They're quoting \$100,000 a mile. Let's pick up a little of that by diverting and getting around to that area, because I am told that this area will in all probability in the near future warrant a smelter, either at that area or at Lynn Lake.

And before I sit down I'd like to talk for a moment about the Prime Minister and his remarks, "we'll let the farmers deal with the wheat situation," in respect to whether he should have to be responsible or not. But he did tell the Indians at Churchill to forgive and forget if he's going to get anywhere; but he didn't tell him what he was supposed to forget. The Indian is still living in many respects the way he was in the past and if the Prime Minister is going to do something with the recent policy that he announced, then they're going to have to forget what they've forgiven and they'll start all over again. Because they're in the same position they were. He has not offered them anything but he has dangled something in front of them just the same as Hydro and government did in respect of South Indian and never came down with a tangible project that the Indian people could look at and see with their own eyes; because they have been misled so much in the past they cannot trust what government offer them without seeing it on paper or something that is more assurance than what they have received in the past.

I'm sorry to have to give up Churchill as far as this Throne Speech goes and I know I don't want to really take advantage of this House and speak longer than my 40 minutes because I know the contribution of other people is just as important in their mind. The only thing I feel that this is half of the Province of Manitoba and if you're going to give me 40 minutes to do it then you're going to have to find somebody that can speak a lot faster than I can.

But, Mr. Speaker, the Jones Report was brought into this House - was it three years ago? It was spoken to by the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, and the Minister for Municipal Affairs got up at that meeting and she warned this Legislature that there would be vast sums of money, they would be asked to pass vast sums of money in the next sitting to look after the urban renewal and modern sewer system in Churchill. And the next sitting came and went, and when the government of that day went to the people and Churchill asked then what they were going to get as a contribution towards water and sewer systems, they told them not one cent, not one cent would be given to the water and sewer system in the Town of Churchill. And you wonder why those people up there are angry; you wonder why there's apathy in that area. How long can you knock your head against a wall before you give in?

Mr. Speaker, I notice that you're ready to see me sit down and I will. We'll get at the remainder of the thing a little later on, but I would like to just say one small thing. In The Pas Herald there's an editorial and it was in fact hitting at the change in northern Manitoba, and I think it affects maybe the change in the whole of the province, but it said: "Just what was promised by northern candidates, where and how?" And I think if you took out the northern candidates and just say, "Just what was promised, where and how," then I think we'll get down to the meat of the situation in the next election. I think that I as well as the rest of the people from northern Manitoba have an interest in that half of the province and I am sure, along with those other members, would invite southern people to in return invite us to their organization meetings, to the service clubs, to the hot line. Let us bring the story of northern Manitoba to them and perhaps we'll allow the taxpayer to support government on those things that they want to do in northern Manitoba. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WALLY JOHANNSON (St. Matthews): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member from Churchill has brought us the story of the north so ably and so entertainingly that I hesitate to follow him.

As a new member, making my maiden speech in this House, it's with great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate you upon your assumption of an honoured role within this Assembly. Our First Minister, when considering the possible nominees for this position was not intent upon making a partisan choice. The whole course of events prior to your nomination proved that. In your role as Chairman of the House, as spokesman for it, as the protector of the recognized rights of all the members, we feel confident that you will perform ably and with bias towards none. Your past experience as teacher and guidance counsellor will be required to guide the new members, including myself, until we become familiar with the rules and the traditional procedures and customs of this august House. We, the new members, will require your indulgence and you no doubt will gladly grant such indulgence.

It would be remiss of me if I failed to give due recognition to Bob Steen, the previous member for St. Matthews. I noticed him in the House today and I was very happy to see him here. The members on the opposition benches know him far better than I do; I only got to know him during the election campaign; however, I found him to be a very honourable and gracious opponent. Also, Mr. Steen was extremely generous in providing me with material and reports relating to the Legislature and government departments which he had accumulated over the past three years. The members on our benches who sat in the 28th Legislature had high regard for his ability and his personality. They felt in fact that his political views were so progressive that he really belonged on their side of the House. Now this problem has been resolved.

I feel honoured to take my seat as the third member for St. Matthews since its inception as a new constituency in 1957. Number three was a mystical number for the ancients. It was a symbol to them of power and vitality, and this government I'm sure will demonstrate these qualities through its legislative programs during its mandate of the next four to five years.

Mr. Speaker, a new member in his first speech traditionally describes, often in very glowing and somewhat exaggerated terms, the merits of his constituency. There's some merit to this, particularly since there are many new members in this House, including of course myself. Also, since redistribution has changed the old boundaries, the experienced members of the House may not be aware of the exact boundaries of my riding or the boundaries of other ridings. St. Matthews lies in the old west end of Winnipeg. Its southern boundary is Portage; northern boundary, Ellice; western boundary, St. James Street; eastern boundary, Colony.

The vast majority of my constituents are working people or retired people, precisely the people who have the most to gain from a New Democratic government. Because of the exodus of the more affluent members to the suburbs and to the south end of the city, the people of the city core tend to be those of low income and frequently retired. In some polls in my riding as many as a quarter of the electors are retired people. One of the larger senior citizens homes in this city, Lions Manor, lies within my constituency. Senior citizens are the group above all, or perhaps above all other groups in society, who need the help and protection of government.

Today we live in an inflationary period. Corporations can escape the effects of inflation or increased taxes by increasing the prices of their products. Organized workers with strong unions can negotiate wage increases to cover, or more than cover the erosion of their purchasing power caused by inflation. Unfortunately, less than one-third of the wage earners of this province are protected by collective bargaining agreements. I believe the exact figure is around 27 percent, 30 percent with company unions included. Those who are unionized are often represented by unions weak in bargaining power. The pensioner, however, has no bargaining power and he has to live on a fixed income, and this fixed income is eaten away progressively by inflation. This government has already begun the first concrete move which will help the pensioner in the struggle against inflation - the drastic reduction of the Medicare premium.

My constituency not only, Mr. Speaker, has typical problems which this government must try to solve, people of the area, acting in concert, that is acting together, have attempted to provide solutions to problems that urban living produces. Two thriving community clubs, the Orioles Community Club on Burnell and the Isaac Brock Community Club on Telfer, have provided community nuclei and wide ranging athletic and social programs for both the young

(MR. JOHANNSSON cont'd) and their parents. The result is a vital community spirit in this area and a relative absence of juvenile delinquency. No gang wars such as those of New York or Chicago blight this area of Winnipeg.

During the years I've lived in the constituency I've developed a real affection for the area and its people, particularly since June 25th. Part of this affection is due to the fact that St. Matthews was, together with Wellington, the historic home of the Winnipeg Icelanders. It is historically fitting that the west end, the home of successive waves of immigrants from across the sea, should now be represented by two Icelandic Canadians: the Honourable Minister without Portfolio and myself, descendants of the first group of new Canadians who settled in this area.

Mr. Speaker, there has been much speculation in the media and in the debate on the Throne Speech regarding the nature of the new government that Manitoba has and the reasons for its election. The Throne Speech explained briefly the ideals and social objectives of the government, which government ultimately must be judged by its legislative achievements and the effects of these upon the people of Manitoba.

I'd like to make a few comments on the nature of our government. First, I would like to quote an article written by a friend of mine, Professor Donald Swainson, entitled "Ethnic Revolt - Manitoba's Election", published in the August issue of The Canadian Forum. Professor Swainson attributes NDP success on June 25th to two things: (1) Leadership - and I think that the factor there is obvious; and No. 2, Ethnic Dynamism. To quote: "Ethnic Manitobans" - and by this term he means non-English, non-French - "Ethnic Manitobans are aroused but not in any planned or bitter way. They are determined to participate in their society which is increasingly restricted to Manitoba. The provincial NDP is their logical vehicle because the provincial Liberals are allied to Mr. Trudeau and the Progressive Conservatives to both Mr. Stanfield and the traditional Manitoba elite. NDP caucus illustrates this situation, that is there are 17 ethnics in the caucus. They, the ethnics, reject the view that the political and constitutional rules were fixed before their arrival and therefore champion the fundamental necessity of any democratic polity to involve on equal terms all people and groups. The vitality of these well-established ethnic groups was thus essential to the NDP victory and is now integral to the nature of Manitoba politics. Power has left the old alliance of southwestern British farmers and urban elite groups. It has been grasped by a magnificently led coalition of workers, poor farmers, northerners and ethnics. These groups have never before been a part of Manitoba's governing establishment. Under Mr. Schreyer Manitoba will have a radical administration but it will be distinctly Manitoban."

Mr. John Porter in his sociological study of Canadian elites and class structure - no doubt many of you have read this, "The Vertical Mosaic" - points out time after time that the ethnics are far under-represented in the economic, civil service, political and cultural elites of this country. To give merely one illustration: "In the century since Canada has entered Confederation there have been precisely three ethnics who have been members in the Federal Cabinet, two Icelanders, one Ukrainian." Three ethnics in one century in the Federal Cabinet.

The results of the June 25 election represent a new phase in Canadian democracy, a real tribute to Canadian democracy. For the first time in Canadian history a government has been formed which contains a majority of ethnics and I think this is a real tribute to the Canadian democratic process. Around 1960 Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who is of course now far better known, in an article written in Social Purpose for Canada argued prophetically that the Canadian federal system was advantageous for the formation of provincial democratic socialist governments which could act as the spearhead for social progress in the rest of the country, and I bow to the prophet.

Mr. Speaker, there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding the Speech from the Throne. The Honourable Leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, who is not here today I notice, criticized the Throne Speech because it did not contain much more legislation promised by our party, which legislation can be implemented any time during our four or five year mandate and which certainly would cost the government money to implement. Then he accused us in the next breath of lacking a sound fiscal policy, to use his words, in a period of inflation. The two lines of argument are obviously contradictory.

The government has repeatedly explained that this is essentially a housekeeping session necessitated by the aborting of the last session. In the Throne Speech the government clearly states that "they consider the session necessary to deal with emergency matters left uncompleted by the abrupt termination of the previous session. In particular, my government is

(MR. JOHANNSON cont'd) required," to continue the quote, "to obtain legislative approval for the estimates of revenue and expenditure which were laid before the House at the preceding session and which were not approved before the dissolution of that Assembly." This government could not have operated indefinitely upon Lieutenant-Governor's warrants. This would have involved disrespect for the undoubted right of this House to control the purse.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss two items in the Throne Speech. The government intends to reduce substantially the Medicare premiums. This constitutes the first step of this government toward the more equitable taxation system, towards the goal set by the October, 1968, brief of the Manitoba Association of Social Workers, which they submitted to the Hellyer Task Force on Housing, and I quote. "If we are to expect improved housing, reduction of slums and so on, we must not only stop taxing excessively from the poor but also replace some of the income that their poor bargaining position leaves them prone to lose."

The second major piece of legislation that I will refer to will establish an Ombudsman in Manitoba. The Honourable Member from Churchill expressed some misgivings about the practical application of the Ombudsman in the Manitoba situation. All parties are agreed in principle upon this matter. In a society where our citizens are increasingly alienated because of huge bureaucracies in government, in business, this will give an individual protection against illegal or unjust practices of government or the servants of government.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to outline the reasons why I entered politics. Today it is a common attitude that politics is a dirty and crooked profession peopled by men seeking to enrich themselves, a profession that can do little to cure the ills and injustices of society. Many of our youth, and these are many of our brightest youth, feeling that society is basically self-seeking and rotten, take refuge in the inward-looking, hedonistic and essentially negative philosophy underlying the hippy movement. Rather than attempt to cure the ills of society, which they regard as incurable, they enter self-centred in-groups consisting largely of opt-outs from the affluent middle and upper classes of our society who have never experienced material deprivation. As a Socialist, a democratic Socialist, I am convinced that the -- (Interjection) -- Same thing as a Social Democrat. You'll find them governing Sweden. I'm convinced that the lower income groups of our society can and must be given access to the material necessities which will free them from want and allow them dignity as human beings. We as a government must provide a better quality of life for the people of Manitoba, but first we must eliminate material want. This takes priority. In Aristotle's politics, that great conservative philosopher admitted that it was necessary to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in society in order to have a stable society. Our task as a government, one of our major tasks as a government, must be to redistribute wealth in order to produce a more stable society, a good, respectable, conservative ideal, and a more equitable society. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with the debate, may I draw the attention of the honourable members to my gallery wherein we have a group of 25 voyageurs from British Columbia under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Stan Stewartson. They are travelling under the student exchange program. On behalf of the members of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, may I welcome you to the province and to this Chamber, and may you have a safe, enjoyable journey.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (Cont'd)

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me, Sir, to congratulate you on your elevation to office and also to offer my sincere compliments on the effort demonstrated on opening day. Sir, I for one comprehended your inner feelings on such an auspicious occasion. I believe, Sir, it is fitting that the short time taken by this House in pageantry and the maintenance of the connection with the past is well worthwhile. You do hear from time to time that some of these things are archaic and should disappear. I'm not one of those, Mr. Speaker. I feel that in matters such as this that we are only as great as those that have gone before and those that have done the things for the Province of Manitoba, and I say here and now, Sir, that I hope this pageantry to which I refer, simple as it may be, is worthwhile and should be preserved. Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you and extend

(MR. BILTON cont'd) every good wish for your good health and patience in the trying times ahead.

I hope too, Sir, if I may, to thank two individuals which I am glad to see in their chair. It isn't normally done but I would like to say how pleased I am to see the Clerk in his usual place, and that the House in its wisdom appointed the Sergeant-at-Arms, Frank Skinner, for another Session. Both of these gentlemen, Mr. Speaker, during my term of office I found to be comforting at times when words and problems develop that you will hear and see more of as time goes along.

My Leader spoke of the long service of Mr. D. L. Campbell. I think these words are rather fitting. Other members have spoken of the effort of that honourable gentleman down through the years, and I hope the First Minister in his wisdom will see to it that somehow or other the memory of that honourable gentleman is prominent in this House for the benefit of generations yet unborn.

Before I make my contribution, Mr. Speaker, to the debate, I extend my congratulations to the Honourable Member for Osborne and certainly the Honourable Member for St. George, the mover and seconder in reply to the Speech. I would also like to say at this time, or like to thank the contribution by the Honourable Member for Churchill. I thought it was an excellent presentation and it'll be music in the ears of the people of the northland.

Having occupied the Chair, Mr. Speaker, for a few short years I feel somewhat a newcomer. I'm probably showing that, a little bit of nervousness, and I hope the House will bear with me. For after all, this is somewhat a new surrounding for me and I am somewhat in the same vein as the honourable gentleman that moved the motion for adoption of the Speech. Consequently, Sir, I'd like to comment briefly on the people I represent in that garden of Eden, the Swan River Valley. That area, Mr. Speaker, is where the north begins, and so long as I'm in this House I will see to it that this House is constantly reminded of the needs of that particular area. In the Mauro Report the other day, mention was made to recommend improvements to air transport facilities in the north. I would remind the Minister, if I may, of the local efforts of the Swan River Flying Club and the service they have been to the community and in particular that area, and I would ask that consideration be given to support the voluntary effort of that club, so vital not only now but I am sure in the future.

Mr. Speaker, my party before leaving office promised the establishment of the office of an Ombudsman. I know the universal feelings in this regard and, to some degree, see its advantages on a national scale. What I have to say, Mr. Speaker, is not the opinion of my party but rather my own personal opinion. I'd like you to know, Mr. Speaker, that I am not entirely sold on the idea in our province of a million people. A news report tells us that 67 percent of the complaints referred to the Ombudsman in Alberta last year were referred elsewhere for action. I can see developing another hundred thousand dollar annual expense on the backs of our over-burdened taxpayers. With redistribution, Mr. Speaker, the majority of us represent some 16,000 people. It is my contention that if I cannot ably represent those people in matters that concern them I should not be here representing them. I deplore the day, Mr. Speaker, when members become nothing more than rubber stamps or simply buck passers. To me, the little people count. They know where I am. They know what I have done, as evidenced by returning me to office in spite of the fact that my opponents in the recent election called for my rejection because I could not speak or vote for them on the floor of this Assembly whilst occupying the highest office of responsibility that this Assembly can bestow. I suppose my nineteen predecessors in that high office met and overcame that challenge, which I am very proud of having done on June 25th.

My feelings, Mr. Speaker, are well-known in regard to compensation to victims of crime, and I am happy to see the government will continue the efforts commenced by this party. I hope I may have the opportunity to contribute to the debate toward a proper and fair conclusion in this important subject, of which I have considerable personal knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, I have pondered over that part of the Throne Speech, which I quote, "Strengthen the concept and practice of civil liberty." And again, and I quote: "Exercise their civil rights and their freedoms in a more meaningful way." My first impulse, Mr. Speaker, is to say: Lift the blind. Look around you. I say this, Mr. Speaker, by the fact that the good people in my constituency represent every colour and creed, supporting some 10 to 15 separate churches. We have families, in fact whole communities, Mr. Speaker, made up of people from every country in central Europe, the British Isles, France and Russia. Added to this our Chinese population has doubled in the past ten years. Wonderful folk they are too.

(MR. BILTON cont'd) Not one of them, Sir, asking for a penny in relief.

Mr. Speaker, all these people work together, live in harmony, mingle one with the other, fraternize, work hard and play hard, and help one another in time of need. Sir, over the years all these people have intermarried. Yes, we have a Chinese married to a European, Indian married to white, Russians married to Ukrainians, and English, Sir, have been known to marry the Irish, if you please. Out of it all, Mr. Speaker, this effort has produced many leaders and potential leaders in education, professional occupations, religion, farming and the trades, all across this fair land of ours. The medical profession, Sir, is manned by doctors drawn from the British Isles, from the West Indies, from India and Ireland. Again I say, Mr. Speaker, these people enjoy and appreciate civil liberties and freedoms.

I like to feel, Sir, that the pioneer spirit still prevails. I witness it every day in the country that I come from. So I say, with all the emphasis in me, why rock the boat? These people understand freedom, Mr. Speaker, and they have it. Possibly there is some reason or problems warranting the quotation in the Throne Speech to which I have referred. I must say, however, that they are unknown to me. I cannot help, Mr. Speaker, but wonder if suggestions such as this do not have a tendency to create doubt in the minds of our people and perpetuate a feeling of uncertainty which I feel is not contributed in the everyday life, particularly of rural Manitoba and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, to follow on, I must say that my mind goes out to our Indian neighbours. Recent times have brought them more and more into focus. Conditions and life as they lead it is becoming more and more evident to the rest of us. I must reiterate however, Mr. Speaker, that they have, for the most part, the rights and privileges of us all. I speak from experience, for I have worked with them and for them for many many of my adult years. I for one, Mr. Speaker, will continue, as I have always, to better their lives and do my utmost in their interests. I applaud reference being made to the inclusion of the Indian-Metis folk to school boards where applicable. This is only right and proper. I represent many Indian and Metis families. Much has yet to be done for them. At Shoal River roads have been improved. Hydro is carried in there from Mafeking. But I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, there are some 400 people there, including a school complex - they have no telephone. In the event of accident or sickness, they have to use what I suppose you call a radio telephone, which at the best of times doesn't give good reception. And the unfortunate part about it with these people is that it costs \$2.80 to get onto the trunk line before they even start talking. I'm asking for an improvement and I hope there will be an improvement.

I am also asking for an improvement in conditions in Duck Bay. Let us continue to tear the veil of uncertainty and timidity away from the minds of these people. With a continuing effort, Mr. Speaker, they'll find a way to come with us and all will be well, but we must not and should not tire in our efforts in their direction. At the same time I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the Indians have a stake in this continuing effort. They too must show an interest, or a better interest shall I say, than has been shown in the past. The leadership is there through the likes of us in this House, and other people whose life's work it is to be amongst them. I hope the day is not too far distant when their lot is decidedly improved over what it is today.

Recent days has seen the First Minister hasten to assure the business section of continued interest by his government in their problems, and he has called for an intensified effort toward the development of Manitoba and the provision of jobs. Mr. Speaker, I would look for the same kind of approach to the small businessmen in our rural areas, never forgetting the present plight of the farmers. It is fair to say that the costs of operation, higher freight rates and the like, are lowering the number of jobs for young people. I am one of those, Mr. Speaker, who still believes, old-fashioned or not, that an honest day's work is worth an honest day's pay. This I believe the majority of businessmen, be he a grocer, a plumber, a farmer, a carpenter, an implement dealer, a garage man or municipal council, are of the same mind. Fairness, Mr. Speaker, must be supreme or we perish. It is for them, Mr. Speaker, that I ask consideration be given. Taxation, Mr. Speaker, probably I don't have to tell you, at all levels, school costs, salaries, increased freight and postal rates, are taking their toll. I simply suggest that one should ask the merchants in our country towns as to the crisis they are confronted with because of the farming depression. They can't stop or close their doors. They're still carrying on but they are having their problems.

Mr. Speaker, this country owes no one a living. With education facilities rated as one of the highest in the land, everyone, yes everyone must roll up his sleeves and provide for himself wherever possible.

(MR. BILTON cont'd)

Finally, Mr. Speaker, may I inform you of our senior citizens' home which has been a godsend to some 50 old-timers. While it is meeting a tremendous need, and I say with pride that it is a showplace in the Province of Manitoba, I must say to you, Sir, in all sincerity, and to the Minister concerned, that it has reached a stage where it must be expanded upon to provide extended care accommodation. Efforts have and are being made to overcome the problem, and I trust the material presently in the hands of the department will be proceeded with with all reasonable haste.

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

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, in rising at this time, I realize there is a little less than five minutes.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . objection if you left the Chair and the Honourable Member take the adjournment until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?

MR. GRAHAM: I have the agreement of the House to . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Well move the adjournment and we'll call it 5:30, or the Speaker will.

MR. GRAHAM: I would like to move, seconded by the Member for Sturgeon Creek, that we call it 5:30 and the House -- that the debate be adjourned.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable member must move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. GRAHAM: I move the debate be adjourned, seconded by the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

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

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 5:30 and this House is adjourned and will stand adjourned until half past two o'clock, Thursday afternoon.