

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
8:00 o'clock, Thursday, February 14, 1974

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER PRESENTED THE MOTION and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member from Logan in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call the Honourable Member for Logan I would like to indicate that we have the First Assiniboia Cub Pack of 45 members up in the gallery. They are under the direction of Mr. Bob Moore. They are from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. On behalf of all the Honourable Members I welcome you here today.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would refer honourable members to Page 36 of their Estimates, Resolution No. 97 (a) The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. RON McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs)(The Pas): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It's a real pleasure for me to bring before members of the House the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs for the members' consideration. Mr. Chairman, it's not an accident that I happen to be first on the list - I complained to my colleagues that last year I didn't get a chance to talk about the Department of Northern Affairs, so they said that I should have the opportunity to make sure that I didn't get missed out this year. Of course, Mr. Speaker, the reason I wanted to make sure I had a chance to talk fully about the Department of Northern Affairs is because in my mind, this is one of the newer, one of the more exciting and dynamic departments of the Provincial Government, and one which I take some pride in being the Minister responsible for at this time.

The members will note from their look at the Estimate Book that the estimates of spending for the Department of Northern Affairs have gone from \$9,458,500 to \$11,962,800.00.

Mr. Chairman, the figures that appear in the Estimates Book are pretty comparable for members. There is only one section that was not in the department last year, was the No. 7 in the list, the Home Visitors Services and that portion, that program was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Northern Affairs.

The administrative structure, Mr. Chairman, of the Department is - there are a number of sections that Northern Affairs operate with. I might mention first, Mr. Speaker, that members are probably aware that last year at estimate time for Northern Affairs, Mr. Bob Wallace was the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs. Mr. Wallace, a long-time civil servant of the province of Manitoba was a very good and capable deputy, the kind of person who was a good administrator but had a good feel for northern Manitoba, and a good feel for the kind of situations we have to deal with in northern Manitoba. When Mr. Wallace decided to move on to a higher position with the Federal Government he asked me what kind of a person I was looking for for my new deputy and I said someone very similar to yourself, and he was of assistance in helping us to locate and hire Mr. Nick Carter the present Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Carter, of course, has been in the civil service for a considerable number of years but mostly with the Federal Government. But so that members that deal with Northern Affairs might be more familiar, those who are not, I'll just read a small bit from the press release so I can get some of the details on Mr. Carter's background. In the press release, Mr. Chairman, it said, "Mr. Schreyer said the new deputy had a broad background in the planning and technical operations in rural and northern areas, and obtained a special knowledge of Manitoba in his capacity as Special Program Co-ordinator for DREE in the Interlake and as a Federal Regional Co-ordinator for the Prairies for Urban Affairs. Mr. Carter 52 joined the public service of Canada as a technical officer with the Federal Department of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources in 1953. He was appointed Director of the Park Planning Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources in 1959, a post he held until 1966 when he joined the Federal Forestry and Rural Development Department as chief of the Rural Development Services in Regina. Mr. Carter was appointed a Special Program Co-ordinator for Manitoba Interlake Area

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . for the Regional Development Department in 1967, and he was named Director for Manitoba for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, and was later appointed as Regional Co-ordinator for the Prairies with the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs, a post he held prior to his appointment as Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs."

I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Lakeside, and certainly others in the Government of Manitoba would be familiar with Mr. Carter during his service with the Federal Government in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Carter a Bachelor of Science graduate, majoring in geography and mathematics, is a member of the Canadian Geographical Association, Community Planning Association of Canada, Federal and Provincial Parks Association and the Institute for Public Administration.

Mr. Chairman, the department attached to the deputy minister's office is the administrative section of Northern Affairs and, Mr. Chairman, in the past our department used administrative services from other departments - now we have the administrative capacity within the department ourselves, and that section is headed up by Mr. Barry Bernard. Attached also to the deputy minister's office is the planning section of the Department of Northern Affairs which deals with town planning or our everyday planning, as well as planning for the department in terms of future needs and future policies. The head of the Planning Section of Northern Affairs is Mr. George Ford, who we share with the Manpower Secretariat.

Another main section of the Department of Northern Affairs Mr. Chairman, is the Air Division, or the Air, Radio and Technical Services Division, which looks after the Manitoba Government Air Services and the Radio Services or Communications Radio Services, and that's headed by Assistant Deputy Minister John MacDonald.

Another section of Northern Affairs is the local service section of the department. This section of the department members will note as they look at their Estimate Books, that the Estimate Book is fairly well laid out in terms of the divisions or section of the Department of Northern Affairs. The Local Services Division deals with Engineering Services which includes, Mr. Chairman, the construction of airstrips, internal facilities for communities, as well as with winter roads; and also includes the Community Services section which is the co-ordinators of the more traditional aspect of the Department of Northern Affairs, that which makes the Commissioner of Northern Affairs, the municipal body responsible for remote communities, for remote non-treaty communities in northern Manitoba.

Another main section of the Department of Northern Affairs at this time, Mr. Chairman, is the Northern Manpower Corps. The Northern Manpower Corps' main duty is to attempt to get northern people into the number of northern job opportunities through training and job placement in northern Manitoba. Mr. Murray Harvey is in charge of that section of the Department of Northern Affairs.

The Extension Services of the Department of Northern Affairs functions in a manner to provide information and assistance to communities as they develop and grow and Mr. Orville Strong is in charge of the Extension Services part of the Department of Northern Affairs.

A bit of an attachment which doesn't quite fit in our organizational structure is the ARDA IIB or Special ARDA part of Northern Affairs, and Mr. Merv. McKay is looking after that section of our department.

As I mentioned earlier No. 7 in the book here, Mr. Chairman, the Home Visitor Services is a new service to be provided by the Department of Northern Affairs, and we could get into some detail later if members are interested in how that is going to function.

Mr. Chairman, I think one of the main points that in terms of administration of the Department of Northern Affairs is the decentralization of the department to make sure that the people who work in the Department of Northern Affairs are as close as possible to the people they are supposed to be serving in Northern Manitoba.

And, Mr. Speaker, in May '73 I announced the further decentralization of the Department of Northern Affairs including the transfer of the Local Services Division to Thompson, Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, this means that the Northern Affairs Department operates in a number of centres outside of the City of Winnipeg. Lac du Bonnet functions as the centre, or the main headquarters for the Manitoba Government Air Services, or the air-radio technical division of the department. The Pas is the headquarters for the Northern Manpower Corps and the Extension Services of the Department of Northern Affairs. And those, Mr. Chairman, are in place now and the majority of staff are located at those centres for those particular programs.

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd)

The change in the transfer of the Local Services Division to Thompson, Manitoba, will mean the relocation of between 30 and 40 positions or personnel from the City of Winnipeg to the City of Thompson. It will leave, Mr. Speaker, in the city here myself, the deputy's office, and the administration, and for the time being the Research and Planning Section of Northern Affairs. The move to Thompson has begun, although I think as members realize the Department of Regional Economic Expansion announced some decentralization and are having some difficulty in moving ahead at the pace they had hoped to that. In Northern Affairs we have presently relocated nine personnel to Thompson. This was done early in the fall. The present planning is, Mr. Chairman, to have the approximately 40 other positions moved to Thompson by summer, by August the 15th of this year, and the staff has been involved in fully discussing this move and deciding on when and how they are going to make that transfer from the City of Winnipeg into northern Manitoba to be closer to the communities and the people that are served by the Department of Northern Affairs. Mr. Chairman, there of course always is a bit of a problem to move and relocate people but the staff understands the importance of this move and things seem to be going pretty well so far, and it's anticipated our deadline date of August 15th will be met without much difficulty.

Mr. Chairman, I was going to follow the order set out in the Estimates Book but there seemed to be some considerable interest on the part of members opposite in the winter roads program, and so I think that I'll start straight off into that program; not that it's the only program or the most important program of the Department of Northern Affairs, but it's one that the opposition feels that they can score a few points on and I would like to encourage them in them keeping to think that, Mr. Chairman, and encourage therefore their discussion of the winter road program in northern Manitoba. Some members of the opposition, Mr. Chairman, would like us to believe - and I'm sorry that I think their northern affairs critic is here, but their northern winter roads critic doesn't seem to be here this evening . . .

A MEMBER: He's checking on the roads.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, if he's checking out the road I'm sure he will take a few days because the roads are open but it's quite a long drive to get into Island Lake or Oxford House, God's Narrows --(Interjection)-- regularly. But, Mr. Speaker, the members of the opposition would of course like us to believe that in the not too distant past when a private, or a few private haulers, had the permits on winter roads that everything was perfect, Mr. Speaker, that they had no problems, that they always got the road in, and they always got all the goods in that were supposed to be hauled in. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to acquaint them with the facts of the matter. The winter road building business, Mr. Chairman, has always been a risky operation, has always been an unpredictable operation and, Mr. Chairman, yesterday when I was up to The Pas for the Trappers' Festival I had occasion to talk with the members of a family in The Pas that were in the winter road business. Their name happens to be Johnson. I don't know if they're related to any members of this House who are in the winter road hauling business - probably one of the first families in Manitoba. So I had to ask him, Mr. Chairman, did you guys ever not get the goods in? And he said, yes, he said, we had quite a bit of problems on a number of occasions getting the goods in. Sometimes we never got any in; sometimes we got part of it in before we had breakup problems. He added that the worst kind of year was a year similar to the one presently before us with heavy snowfall early on in the year when the heavy snowfall causes slush and high water levels on the various creeks and streams that have to be gone across. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the sense of humor of members opposite when they said that once it was too warm and once it was too - I'm sorry I missed it -- once it was too cold and maybe some day it might be just right and then we won't have any problems with winter roads.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it would be quite fair to say that there could have been some criticism of the winter road program last year. Early on, Mr. Chairman, when I assumed the responsibilities for the winter road operation or the plans for winter road operation, we anticipated at that time and studies showed that the cost of transporting by heavy aircraft, by large aircraft such as the Argosy aircraft could in fact compete quite favourably with the rates that the haulers into these remote communities used to charge to get their goods into remote communities. So, Mr. Chairman, there was some thought given and some time given to building ice airstrips large enough to take the large aircraft and using that means rather than the

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . construction of winter roads. The studies have showed us that the cost to the province would certainly be lesser for the air transportation but the cost to the haulers would be larger but not that much larger than the former hauling costs under the old system. Mr. Speaker, then the truckers came in and talked to us and showed us their facts and figures of what they thought they could haul on a winter truck road for. That changed the picture quite substantially and made the winter truck roads quite a bit more economical in the sense that the goods delivered would cost less than the air haul system. So at that time, Mr. Speaker, we entered into some contracts into northern Manitoba, and some of those contracts were entered into, Mr. Chairman, quite late in the season. Last year, Mr. Chairman, the start of the winter road season was a good one. We had good cold weather without a lot of snow-fall. Had the contracts been let very early on in the season I'm sure the kind of difficulties that we experienced last year wouldn't have been experienced. Mr. Chairman, this combined with the early breakup, I think we would have just made it last year, but the early breakup caused some goods not to get into communities such as God's Narrows, Red Sucker Lake and a real problem for the truckers in terms of getting to Oxford House in that they had to drive at night only for about a two-week period, which was quite difficult for the truckers to keep moving at that pace on a night only basis. So, Mr. Chairman, there was some problems encountered last year.

Mr. Chairman, the opening dates of the various winter roads last year was the Norway House road was opened on January 15th for heavy truck traffic. I believe that the car traffic or people getting out by car for Christmas last year. For heavy truck traffic it was open by January 15th and was considered closed on March 22nd. The Island Lake Road was opened on February 17th and closed around February 25th or March 1st. The Cross Lake road was open on February 5th and remained open until March 19th. The Split Lake-York Landing road was open on February 25th and was kept open until April 2nd. The Oxford House road was not open until March 10th and was kept open until April 3rd at least for night time traffic and the South Indian Lake road was open by March 17th.

Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be not unfair to comment on one of the contracts last year. One of the contracts was held by C. I. Madill, the contract on Norway House, and that contract, Mr. Speaker, he was one of the first ones in last year with a good road with no problems. This company then decided this year to take on a bit more and took on the Oxford House Road, Split Lake Road and, Mr. Chairman, encountered considerable difficulties for the reasons I mentioned. Because when you get deep snow, when you get heavy slush then you have a great deal of equipment breakdown, and equipment breakdown in areas like Oxford House, Iford is not a quick and easy thing to deal with. It takes some considerable time to get your equipment back on the road again. So, Mr. Chairman, this shows the unpredictability when the contractor who was basically the first contractor in last year has now had in fact to have part of his contract taken over by the Department because he's been unable to meet the deadline that he had set for himself in the construction of that road.

Mr. Chairman, in relation to last year I think it would also not be fair to mention that winter freighters in the Province of Ontario, some of them from Manitoba, also had difficulty last year because of the early breakup and a lot of their goods did not get in. I also neglected to mention that in the past when the goods got in--and I think members are aware of this and would be wise to keep in mind when we compare rates of hauling goods in that in fact the contractors in the past, at least one of the contractors guaranteed delivery. So if things went well, if the weather was good, if he didn't run into any major problems he would make a good profit in terms of the cost of getting the goods in. If in fact he didn't get anything in and had to fly the goods in he might only break even or lose money on that year's operation. Mr. Speaker, that happened before and members might be aware that that particular operator invested in fact an Airline Company in order to get his goods in one year when the breakup was early or the snow was heavy during the season and he couldn't get the roads in as he had expected.

So, Mr. Chairman, the progress from the dog teams, to the tractor trains, to the bombardiers, to the trucks, I suppose eventually to all weather roads, shows the kind of changes that have taken place in northern winter road construction.

This year, Mr. Chairman, as I said, the contracts were let early in the season and contractors were for the most part ready to start at an early date. The progress thus far, Mr. Chairman, is that I believe the first road in this year was into Moose Lake and that road is now

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . . fully operational, and I had the occasion to be in there, that road is in good shape supporting not only local freight but the hauling of logs, pulpwood, to Churchill Forest Industries. The road into South Indian Lake, Mr. Speaker, was one that they broke through into the slush and because of a good freeze-up on that slush it is probably one of the best winter roads that are in existence this year. The only problem we're having with the South Indian Lake road is keeping the airplanes from landing on it, because it's so wide and so smooth that the planes prefer it to landing anywhere else. So it has caused a few anxious moments for truckers as they go along the road and see a plane approaching for the same place they are.

The road into Cross Lake is one that the Department of Northern Affairs did itself this year using local equipment from the community of Cross Lake and that road is now open to heavy traffic with no problems on it. The road into Split Lake and York Landing is open for heavy traffic. They did have some problems with one of the rivers and getting good ice on one of the rivers but that is now frozen over good and that road is fully open for heavy traffic and I believe the trucks are on there at this time.

The road into Oxford House as I mentioned, was one that the contractor fell behind his own schedule on, is one that is now complete and will be open for heavy traffic probably on Monday, light traffic is now travelling over it regularly. That the Department of Northern Affairs has taken over and hired on an hourly basis some equipment from Ilford as well as flown in equipment to Oxford House for use on that road, will be open for light traffic probably on Monday and for heavy traffic a few days thereafter.

The road into Island Lake is now open for light traffic, is open for single axle truck traffic and open for heavy traffic if they don't use excessive speeds on it. The side roads into Berens River and Bloodvein are open and work is progressing on the Red Sucker and the Little Grand Rapids road.

Mr. Speaker, last season the road was completed to Ste. Theresa - Garden Hill, there's three communities right close together there - Ste. Theresa, Garden Hill, Wasigamach, was open last year and the savings in terms of the cost of hauling was quite considerable. For example, Mr. Speaker, in '67 the estimates were that in order to get into Garden Hill the cost per ton of freight into Garden Hill was \$137.40; in 1971 - \$143.00; in 1972-73 - \$70.00, Mr. Speaker, which is half the cost of hauling the goods in under the old transportation system; half, a reduction, Mr. Chairman, of half.

Mr. Speaker, last year previous to the completion of winter roads, I held a meeting with officials of the Hudson Bay Company, they informed me that in fact with those kind of rates they would be able to reduce the cost of retail goods to people in those communities. Mr. Chairman, when the road was not completed into Red Sucker last year they had to fly goods into Red Sucker; the amount they saved the company said on the Garden Hill road they lost in terms of flying goods into Red Sucker Lake so their retail costs, I think they sort of announced that they were going to sacrifice and not charge the full cost to them, in fact, Mr. Chairman, the amount they saved in one area they picked up in another area, I don't believe they lost anything on that matter. I must say, Mr. Chairman, that in terms of discussion with them they were easy officials to deal with and quite willing to co-operate and work with us in whatever way they could.

Mr. Chairman, the reduction in all areas weren't quite as much as half although there were considerable reduction in those areas where the roads were complete. Mr. Chairman, barring some catastrophe like a thaw tomorrow the costs--it doesn't look too likely at the present time - the costs of goods into the remote communities should be reduced considerably. Using that kind of comparison on the roads that were completed last year; using the fact that the truckers are now all geared up and ready to go for winter road traffic and they weren't quite ready last year; using the fact that the roads are in good shape and not just night hauls like they were in a couple of areas last year, the saving in terms of the cost of moving the goods should be very considerable. Mr. Chairman, this year we now have under way a study of the cost of goods, initial survey was done before the roads are in, the statistics are just being compiled and we will be able to have the facts and figures. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The time allotted . . .

MR. McBRYDE: . . . for this year's roads available and be able to see if in fact the retail stores are passing on the savings to the people in remote communities.

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MR. GREEN: . . . the honourable members may be disposed to let the Minister continue with his opening remarks if he wishes to do.

A MEMBER: No.

MR. GREEN: Well all right, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for the floor then, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to be recognized.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. JORGENSEN: We on this side have no objection to the Minister completing his remarks.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a point of order. That when these rules were discussed, it was--that when a Minister is introducing his Estimates for the first time unless he is deliberately wasting time, he would be permitted to continue. If the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie does not wish him to continue I would like to be recognized.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: The reason I rise on a point of order is that the House Leader has misrepresented my stand and I think I should be able to clarify it. We have no objection to the Minister taking a reasonable length of time to conclude his remarks. We are not in this Party going to give leave for an indefinite speech that will go on and on and on. If he wants five or ten minutes, we'll give that, but we're not going to give indefinite leave for any Minister or any member on that side to give self-congratulatory statements about the department ad infinitum, and we make that stand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, of course that is not what is requested. I indicated that unless it was felt that the Minister was deliberately wasting time that that would be the case. The Minister doesn't ask for indefinite time, he merely wishes to continue, and if as a result of this continuance the House Leader of the Liberal Party feels that he has abused the leave that he was given then he could deal with that when the next Minister gets up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party says let's make it a two-way street, and I wish therefore to indicate to the Leader of the Liberal Party that the rules with regard to Estimates which he was not aware of used to be that the Minister could take as much time as he wanted. We consented to 30-minute speeches by the Ministers--(Interjection)-- Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is it didn't have to be agreed to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order!

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I feel an explanation needs to be forthcoming. We agreed that the Minister would be limited to 30 minutes, like every other member, and it was also conceded that when he was opening his Estimates that he would probably be given leave to continue. If he is not given leave to continue, then I am asking for the floor; but I gather that the House Leader of the Liberal Party is apparently a little bit more reasonable than his leader and that he is giving the Minister leave to continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The comment I made was that we expect latitude be given Ministers in introducing Estimates, and we also expect that to be a two-way street; that leave seems to be a one-way street, Mr. Chairman, from this side to the other side. And, Mr. Chairman, we're quite prepared to have the Minister continue and in reasonable length detail what he intends to spend. We expect the same courtesy when we are searching those Estimates to be given to this side, and at the same time, Mr. Chairman--oh, the House Leader . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . raised by the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order because it wasn't clear whether or not the Leader of the Liberal Party was speaking on a point of order. I did not hear you rule that he had a point of order.

Secondly, we of the Official Opposition are not quite prepared to allow a debate carried on between the House Leader and the Liberal Party, a debate that may well be carried on in some other instance when we're discussing the rules of the House. We would prefer to carry on with the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I only interpret your rules as you want them interpreted. Now does the Minister have leave to proceed?

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MR. JORGENSEN: From this side of the House, Mr. Chairman, he has leave to conclude his remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, with the caveat I expressed, and the additional caveat that Estimates belong to the Opposition to examine and the government ought not to abuse the limited time available for us to do our duty to our representatives, we give leave on that caveat.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, does the honourable member give leave or does he not give leave, because we are not going to accept conditional leave. If the Minister has leave he will continue, if he has not then we will have to proceed as if he does not have leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister have leave?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, the House Leader of the NDP insists on making it a black and white affair. The Liberal Party position is that he will have leave subject to this being a precedent and we will govern ourselves on future occasions by how this is handled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. There does not seem to be leave in the recognized sense, I then would ask the House Leader since he asked for recognition. Oh, do you have a point of order, the Honourable . . .

MR. SPIVAK: I don't have a point of order, I'm asking for . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister a question in the opening of his remarks. I wonder if he could inform the House how many members or how many people are employed in the Department of Northern Affairs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for making his comment and allowing me to proceed, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, obviously if a comment is made on the side, there's an opening, an opportunity for the Minister to reply as in any occasion and he could take that occasion no matter how long I took for whatever comment I had to be able to reply and also to be able to add any information he wanted, that's within our rules, in respect to a response to a statement. Now for the purpose of dealing with this department, and not for the purpose of allowing him the freedom, that's a decision and a discretion he has to exercise himself, but for the purpose of clarification and understanding the department, I ask a question directly to the Minister, how many people are employed in the Department of Northern Affairs?--(Interjection)--Well he can do that under any . . .

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, and I hope that the time used now will avoid time being spent later on. I thought that the Leader of the Opposition was trying to get us out of a difficult situation and I see that he was merely asking a question. The fact is that the Honourable the Minister has come to the conclusion of his remarks, there is no doubt about that and the rules now stop him from talking. We have asked for leave of the House to let him continue in accordance with the understanding that was made when the rules were made. If the honourable member has leave I'm sure he will continue and I hope he will not abuse it and I hope he will answer the Leader's question. If he doesn't have leave then we will just have to deal with the matter as if he does not have leave.

The Leader of the Liberal Party says that the leave is conditional, we cannot do anything about conditional leave, we cannot offer anything in exchange for leave. I ask the Leader of the Liberal Party to let him continue and if he feels that the Minister has abused his position then he can deal with that situation next time, but I ask him not to put it to us that it's conditional leave because it's not conditional leave that is being requested.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, that's precisely what I said five minutes ago. That we do give leave and serve notice at the same time, as the NDP House Leader has said, that we will govern our future conduct by how this is handled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition is one that I should have had in my opening remarks and I should have had a total for the staff man-years or the positions for last year and the positions for this year. I'll have to take a moment or two to calculate that so maybe while someone else is speaking on my Estimates I could go ahead and get that information, which is probably now.

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd)

Mr. Chairman, the number of staff man-years approved last year was 299; the number of staff man-years approved this year because a number of contracts have been converted to permanent positions is 356.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: I wonder if the Minister can indicate how many people are on contract this year, in this fiscal year, in addition to the 356 that will be on permanent staff?

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, there's a number of detailed questions that I'm assuming the Opposition will have and I don't have all the answers to them automatically but I can take notes while they are speaking and certainly get the answers to all those questions. So if they want to proceed with their discussion of the Estimates I'd be quite pleased to take their questions and get all the information they wish.

MR. SPIVAK: Well, Mr. Speaker, based on a statement that the Honourable Minister has made in the House and on the press statements that have been made outside of this House prior to the session, one then can assume that approximately 270 people of the department will be employed outside of Winnipeg. That would apply from the statistical data that he has given us, and I wonder at this time whether he can indicate how many of the 270 are actually out of Winnipeg. I wonder if he can indicate as well how many of the people were on term contract before and are now employed on a firm basis; how many who were boarded in the proper manner through civil service; and further, how many people who are on . . . contract at this particular time were on contract in the previous year and have found that what we are dealing with is just an extension of their contract rather than the permanency of their employment within the department?

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister needs a few moments to digest the questions posed by the Leader of the Conservative Party, but I have a brief opening statement to make and then I, too, will pose some questions to the Minister.

Now before I begin I would like to return to the general remarks of Mr. Ziprick, the Provincial Auditor, and I make a quotation out of his general remarks as found on Page 23, and I quote: "The practice of my office is that, as a general rule, irregularities discovered during the course of our audit and attended to, are not included in this report. We approach our audit work in an understanding, co-operative and objective manner with a view to bringing about remedial action as quickly as possible without exposing individuals concerned to any more penalties than are absolutely necessary. On the other hand, it is understood by the government and their officials that we would publicly expose, as a matter of duty, anyone who deliberately persists in not acting responsibly in the public interest." That's only part of the paragraph, Mr. Chairman.

So my question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs is that has he had any directives or any inquiries from the Provincial Auditor with respect to irregularities, and if so would he explain them fully in this House? Has he had any questions from the Provincial Auditor that suggests of lawbreaking or avoidance of the law with respect of carrying out public duties, and if so, will he stand up and inform this Legislature exactly what happened? Because a few days ago, or one day ago, Mr. Chairman, the Premier gave a commitment to the House that he would make the changes necessary so this information could be brought out.

Now the general remarks made by Mr. Ziprick almost suggests that the members of the Opposition either by dereliction of duty or through ignorance of the facts are not carrying out their duties. Now we only can ask a general question in this House, we can't name specific incidents or we cannot name individuals because we don't have that information. But every Cabinet Minister on that side does have this information, Mr. Chairman. He does have this information because the Provincial Auditor says he has it. The Provincial Auditor in the case of each Ministry where he felt it was justified drew it to the attention of the individual Minister. And that's mighty strong wording, Mr. Chairman, when there's a suggestion made that if the Minister responsible doesn't act to correct an irregularity or to correct a wrongdoing then the Provincial Auditor says he has the duty, the public duty to make his report public to all the people of Manitoba.



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(MR. G. JOHNSTON cont'd)

So I tell the Minister of Northern Affairs that if there's anything in his department that relates to that paragraph made by Mr. Ziprick then he is bound by the duty of the oath of his office to stand up in this House and tell the elected representatives what's going on and what steps he's taking to correct it and what people who should have been punished or discharged, were discharged or were punished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution--The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, I'm rather astonished that the Minister has not chosen at this point to rise and respond to two very reasonable and two very searching questions put to him, one by the Leader of the Official Opposition and one by the House Leader of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Speaker, I may as well put on the record right here and now that whether I'm here for three weeks or three years or thirty years, I have come to the end of my patience with the kind of financial reporting that goes on in this House and that is made to the people of Manitoba. Mr. Chairman, whether or not any useful purpose is served or whether or not any further disclosure comes as a result of what I'm about to say, I feel honour bound, I feel committed to the people who voted and elected me and the people of my party to make these comments.

We have a very interesting situation, only beginning with this department but going on to the next and the next and the next and the next. We are given 90 hours, we representatives of the people of Manitoba are given 90 hours in which to scrutinize and say yes or no to \$800 million of spending, of which we're now looking at approximately 12 million in this department. Mr. Chairman, in 90 hours it is virtually impossible for any kind of cogent, searching examination to be made with the kind of data that's been put before us. \$2.5 million increment over last year, that's an amount equivalent to the total amount we have allocated to a senior citizens' pension increment, which means in translated terms that if this increment is not justified by the actual data, the actual program increment costs that we are depriving, for example, the senior citizens of Manitoba of an income of not \$200 a month but \$220 a month.--(Interjection)--

Mr. Chairman, I hear a yahoo from the other side.--(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think it's very germane, very germane to the discussion in front of us that the hoots, the brays, greet any cry for disclosure, because, Mr. Chairman, read the Provincial Auditor's report. He says, for example, that there is a reported \$40 million loss on the MDC. Mr. Chairman, a child, a child with any financial accounting background can read his statement and see the cry for help because there is a \$100 million loss and the figures, the information, the financial data that we're expected to debate doesn't even allude to it, doesn't hint at it.

Mr. Chairman, he suggests in his report, relative to all departments, that the Minister, if you want the quote, the most staggering statement that ever appeared in a provincial auditor's report. He says, on Page 4, when he obviously disagrees with the method of accounting, "the Minister of Finance has expressed an opinion that no write-off should be made until the official inquiry presents its report and the outcome of court proceedings becomes clearer." Mr. Chairman, it is because of these kind of comments that this debate and the debate that will follow for 90 hours are a hollow mockery of any kind of a financial disclosure, of any kind of a financial debate.

Mr. Chairman, if the directors of a private sector company that this government regulates through its securities information laws, and through its companies laws, if they made this kind of a disclosure, Mr. Chairman, they would be in jail. And we the representatives, we the board of directors of Manitoba are expected to vote on and pass on this kind of information. Mr. Chairman, forgive me if in my naivety of being a new member I expected more. Because, Mr. Chairman, this is crap, Mr. Chairman, this is not what we were elected to do - in 90 hours.

Mr. Chairman, we have questions, we want to know the backup material, we want to evaluate it, we may well praise the Minister for the efficient handling of his department, because God knows this government has done more for the north than any preceding government in a hundred years. But, Mr. Chairman, but, Mr. Chairman, that compliment to this government does not in any way compromise my responsibility as a member of this House to scrutinize and not look at this utter pap put before us. Mr. Chairman, the Auditor-General says this government, in my judgment, is cooking the books, is not providing honest information, is guilty of an offence of funnelling \$15 million out of pocket A last year into pocket B for the purpose of creating a phony impression. Now, Mr. Chairman . . .

## SUPPLY - NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader have a point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, I do have a point of order. I hesitated to bring it up earlier because I anticipate the screams of anguish of stopping debate. The Department that we are on is the Department of Northern Affairs. The Leader of the Liberal Party is dealing generally with the Provincial Auditor's report. The Provincial Auditor's report indicates that if there is a repeated irregularity he would expose it, he would find it his duty to do so. He obviously didn't do so with regard to this department. For the honourable members' information the auditor's practice of bringing to the attention of departments--the point of order, Mr. Speaker, is the honourable member is not discussing the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs. The practice that the honourable member is referring to, of the auditor bringing to ministerial attention irregularities such as payments from one appropriation that should have been made from another, is one that has existed, Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware, as long as the Government has been here.

A MEMBER: What is the point of order?

MR. GREEN: The point of order, Mr. Speaker, is that the honourable member is not speaking to the item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. I think the point is well taken. I'll refer the honourable member to our own House Rules. Rule 64 Sub. 2. "Speakers in Committee of the Whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion." The honourable member.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, with great respect I submit that the point I'm making, and the examples I used to demonstrate the validity of that point, is that when debating the Department of Northern Affairs Estimates one is handicapped by two things: a) lack of information; and b) a general caution by the auditor of this province that the information we're getting leaves something to be desired. And that's the fundamental premise. We're going to be in this debate for a number of days and I want to make the point that we question the validity, the efficacy, the worthwhileness of this kind of a debate in the absence of data that is objectively audited. But, Mr. Chairman, to demonstrate what I'm talking about, in the method of presentation of estimates, and this department being no exception, the Provincial Auditor issues . . .

MR. GREEN: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I regret I must rise on a point of order. If the honourable member's point with regard to latitude is taken, there would be no limit whatsoever to his speech on the Minister of Northern Affairs Estimates. He's talking about the general nature of the Provincial Auditor's remarks with regard to the Government's expenditures of money. I submit that there are many other places for this debate to take place, as a matter of fact, and I really don't think that I should be the one to point the direction, but when we move to go into Supply that is the kind of grievance that arises. We are now discussing the Minister's salary under the Department of Northern Affairs. The Minister has been asked questions with regard to the Provincial Auditor's Report. That point has been made. I submit that the honourable member cannot go on this debate into the entire range of Government services to the extent of calling thief, which some judges would say is libelous on the basis of the Provincial Auditor's Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, and because the time is almost completed for this hour and because we are starting off a new section, a new section of Estimates, may I sort of--and because as a matter of fact the Minister in his speech on the reply to the Speech from the Throne basically said that he would answer questions in his Estimates, and he essentially said that. I wonder if we can agree that the Rules should be altered to allow the Deputy Minister and his officials to be present with the Minister right at the very beginning of the Minister's Salary. Yes. No. No. To allow that, to allow that to happen and if there's agreement to have that happen so that we can in fact deal specifically with the kinds of questions and be in a position to be able to elicit the information almost immediately and be in a position to have the answers that are requested on this side.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Chairman, with the two or three minutes I have left I can simply summarize my initial comment on the Estimates because this is the first set of Estimates but it applies equally well to this department and will be raised as each department comes forward. Mr. Chairman, the Auditor, the Provincial Auditor, says that these Estimates and the estimates of all Departments, but these estimates that we're debating now are put into a structure, analyzed, and then he says "Restructured" for presentation to the Legislature. So, Mr.

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(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . . Chairman, I say this. I ask the Minister to un-restructure these Estimates. I ask him the question: Will you put before this House the back-up, detailed data so that we can intelligently debate his spending? For example, Mr. Chairman, will he tell us what are the employees, what are the salaries of the people who make up Salaries and Wages of \$127,000.00? Will he tell us who gets it and what they do? Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order, please. Now when we . . . Order. Order, please. ORDER. We are on 97 (a) and until we get off 97 (a) I'm going to allow a certain amount of latitude but I'm not going to let you wander all over this book or any other book. You're going to speak to the item that is before the House.

MR. ASPER: That's precisely why I make these observations. We are on 97 (a) where we can make general comments, and those comments are--one question. Will the Minister put before the House so that we can debate his Estimates, the back-up data in advance so that we can intelligently debate it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member, because he has never participated in an Estimates debate, because he wasn't here when we debated Estimates last year or else he would know, that you are entitled to go into every one of those figures, and they have been gone into, and they have been broken down, and you can ask which of the 120,000, how many employees, which one gets what. That has always been answered in this House. And the fact that you don't know it doesn't mean that it's theft on the part of the members on this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Order. Order, please. The hour being 9:00 o'clock, the last hour of every day being private members' hour, is it the Committee's will to rise and report? ORDER PLEASE. Is it the Committee's will to rise and report? (Agreed) Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thompson, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

. . . . . continued on next page

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Thursday our normal routine would be Public Bills, Private Bills and Private Members' Resolutions. Since none of the first two are ready we have Private Members' Resolutions and we go to Resolution No. 2. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable House Leader, Gordon Johnston from Portage la Prairie, as follows:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Would the honourable member address himself properly. We do not call people by their first names or second names. We call them by their constituency.

MR. ASPER: Moved, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Honourable Member from Portage la Prairie --(Interjection)-- and may I say, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member make the motion first before he speaks?

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is the most important cornerstone in a free and democratic society; and

WHEREAS the best interests of society are now well served if the political process is not open, effective and responsive to the public and to the elected representatives of the public, whether those representatives are on the Government or on the Opposition side of the House; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba political process needs significant reform in order to improve the workings of this Assembly, insure public respect for the process and put the Members of this Assembly in a position where they are able to effectively carry out their responsibilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government consider the advisability of introducing at this Session of the Assembly a major political reform bill which would give effect to and implement the following principles:

1. provide for public disclosure of the holdings, investments and financial dealings of Cabinet Ministers and such members of their staff as are privy to the confidential decisions made by Government;
2. establish conflict of interests guidelines for all members of the Legislative Assembly and senior members of the Civil Service and governmental staff;
3. the establishment of an independent permanent Speaker for the Legislative Assembly;
4. the office of the Provincial Auditor to be changed to make the Auditor fully independent and being given the appropriate safeguards, security safeguards, to ensure that his function can be effectively carried out, similar to the role of the Canadian Auditor-General;
5. that the Government provide each member of the Legislative Assembly with office facilities within the constituency he represents;
6. that members of the Legislative Assembly be given year-round franking privileges in order to permit them to communicate with their constituents or on their behalf;
7. that citizens of Manitoba, regardless of where they live, be allowed to telephone governmental offices and departments and their representatives in this House without being required to pay a long distance telephone charge, toll charge, and all members of this House be allowed the same toll free telephone communication on a year-round basis from anywhere within the province;
8. that the research facilities including staff, secretarial, and financial support for research by members of the Legislative Assembly be significantly increased in order to assist members in being able to perform their responsibilities more effectively;
9. that all Crown corporations and agencies be required to have their budgets and spending operations scrutinized by the Legislature as fully as if they were actual departments of government;
10. that no bill, except in declared emergencies, be permitted to be debated on second reading until after members of this House have had it in their possession for not less than 14 days and a summary and explanation thereon has been published in the appropriate news media;
11. that the Government be required at each Session to submit an Omnibus Bill authorizing and approving all regulations passed under existing legislation during the preceding year in order to give MLAs a better opportunity to debate regulations;

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12. that the committees of this House be required to meet and consider their business not at the request of only the Government, but by the request of members constituting one-third of such Committees;

13. that the period during which an Electoral District may remain unrepresented after the death, disqualification or resignation of its Member of the Assembly be shortened from 12 months to 6 months.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we take the position with respect to this Resolution that it is anticipatory of debate by virtue of matters raised in the Throne Speech, namely, the paragraph which is reported on page 9 of Votes and Proceedings, No. 1 in the Throne Speech, the following statement is referred to: "You'll be asked to consider certain changes to the Civil Service Act; amendments to the Legislative Assembly Act including measures intended to assist elected persons and appointed public servants in identifying and avoiding possible conflict of interest will be brought forward."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the honourable member has many matters in the resolution dealing with matters other than conflict of interest legislation, but there is a specific reference in the Resolution to conflict of interest, and under the Rules of Debate the honourable member could devote his entire time to that debate. Now I'm not called upon to assist the honourable member in drafting his Resolutions; there is obviously things in it that can be drafted and presented to the House; but the Resolution as it now stands is anticipatory of debate and the honourable member will have an opportunity of debating the issue in the legislation that is referred to in the Throne Speech. On that basis, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the Resolution be ruled out of order.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order raised by the House Leader, I do appreciate the fact that out of the 14 clauses of the Resolution there is one reference that uses some of the same words that are used in the Throne Speech. And I appreciate that. But if, Mr. Speaker, you're going to make a ruling based on the narrowest confines of the use of words, for members of the Opposition to bring up any Resolution under the sun, if there has been a vague reference to the subject matter of the Throne Speech, well then there is no way a member of the opposite side can bring forward the resolution asking the Government to talk about certain propositions. So I suggest to my honourable friend opposite - and I know he has great experience in these matters; but if this resolution is ruled out of order you're ruling out of order 13 other ideas that would like to be discussed before the Assembly. In the very fact that a vague reference is made to subject matter in the Throne Speech does not mean the Government's going to do anything about it. It happened last year. The government brought in the Throne Speech reference to Denticare for children. My honourable friend the Member for Assiniboia was ruled out of order, I believe, on a resolution that mentioned Denticare for children. Nothing was brought in. But the wording was placed so craftily in the Throne Speech that it stopped debate on the subject matter. And I appeal to my honourable friends opposite, they always like to say that they are open, they like to have discussion and so on, and I'm a little bit disappointed when the House Leader takes a small minor point in a 14 point Resolution and appeals to Your Honor to rule it out of order on that basis. I really am.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, the House Leader has identified one portion of the Throne Speech which indicates that there is conflict between what is contained in the Throne Speech and what is contained in perhaps two sections, two portions of the resolution being proposed now by the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I am not going to suggest what the Leader of the Liberal Party should do, but may I suggest, Sir, that if those two first clauses were deleted from the resolution there's plenty of opportunity to debate the rest of that resolution and make it perfectly in order, and if he's prepared to delete those first two clauses and then re-number the remaining clauses 1 to 11, we have a resolution that can be debated, because there's a lot of stuff in there that I would like to comment on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I have enjoyed the comments by the honourable members. I am at the pleasure of the House. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that I want to destroy the debate.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

(MR. GREEN Cont'd) . . . I agree entirely with what the Honourable the Member from Morris said. There is a way of doing it. I just hate to be the one that has to advise my honourable friend. Now just let me continue, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to continue because the Honourable the House Leader made some remarks about me picking on something picayune to stop debate. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party did a very unusual thing at this particular session. He announced I think three days in advance what the legislative program of the Liberal Party was, and I can tell you that it was urge against urge, if you were correct when it was announced, to list all of those items where we were going in the Throne Speech debate, to show what a silly thing it was for him to do, so that everything could be written in anticipation, so that not a single resolution, Mr. Speaker, would have been in order.

--(Interjection)-- Yes, the honourable member has accused me of using . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. GREEN: . . . Mr. Speaker, I wish to continue. The honourable member - I'm on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. ORDER PLEASE. ORDER PLEASE. Would both gentlemen sit down? You cannot have a point of order on a point of order. Rule No. 1. Rule No. 2. Would the honourable member address himself to the point of order and not debate other matters that occur before or after the opening of the Session. The Honourable House Leader:

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I intend fully to do that. The Honourable --(Interjection)-- I'm on the point of order. He just told you Rule No. 1, you can't have a point of order on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

A MEMBER: On a point of privilege. --(Interjection)-- I've spoken already.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

A MEMBER: That doesn't matter.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the point of order, the Honourable the House Leader of the Liberal Party said that I was seeking ways, picayunely to stop debate. I am now indicating, on the point of order, that this point is not made to stop debate, first of all because it can be debated if the resolution is put in another form and the Leader of the Liberal Party knows it. The House Leader knows it. I couldn't say that the Leader of the Liberal Party . . . Secondly, that I have not raised it picayunely because I tell you that many of the things that the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party is bringing up, which he announced three days before, we are dealing with and we specifically did not put them in the Throne Speech in the way in which we are going to introduce them because we did not want to make the Liberal Party Leader look as silly as he obviously was.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I won't respond to the insipid comments of the House Leader where he is insulting . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member tell me what he's speaking on?

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I ask the same latitude that you simply allowed the House Leader of the NDP.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you speaking to the point of order?

MR. ASPER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

MR. ASPER: I'm not taking the opportunity to rebut as the House Leader of the NDP did. I am simply saying that three days before the Speech from the Throne was written, or was presented to this House, this resolution was put before the Clerk of this House. Mr. Speaker, we are not clairvoyant and we didn't know what would be in the Speech; but as my honourable colleague from Portage la Prairie points out, the first two points of the resolution are only a facet of it and those seem to have attracted the criticism of the House Leader of the New Democratic Party. Mr. Speaker, it would be a very dangerous precedent and I'm sure you're very aware of this and very cognizant of it, as all members must be, that if a government, any government, were to be able to rule out that legislated right of private members to bring before this House their resolutions by vague wording in the Speech from the Throne, that would be something of which we wouldn't be proud.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

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MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Let me inform the honourable member the government nor any other member does not make decisions in that regard. I only interpret the rules as they are and the honourable members back me up and that's the way we proceed in a democratic fashion. Now I have heard comments on this, we have spent 12 minutes in regards to point of order on this particular motion. I should like to suggest that if . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: We have had debates of this nature in the past for a considerable number of years. On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, and in an endeavour to bring a little sanity into the debates in this House, may I suggest, in all due respect to my honourable friend who is now chirping, that you, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Labour finish his point of order.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, unlike my honourable friend from Wolseley I've heard debates of this nature for a considerable period of time and generally speaking it has been agreed that where a resolution appears to be imperfect that the House agrees that a consultation take place between the proposer of the resolution and Mr. Speaker, in order to bring in a resolution for the consideration of the House that is properly in order. Now we've been discussing the point as to whether this resolution is in order or whether it is not and in all due respect to the Leader of the Liberal Party, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that you take the point of order under advisement and in the meantime that the Leader of the Liberal Party, the Member for Wolseley, take a look at the resolution to see whether it conforms with the usages and practices of this House. If that is done, we will be able to proceed in a rational manner to consider the resolutions that are before the House. In all due respect, on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this would be a proper course of action to be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: The resolution before the House is a very intriguing one. One that I would like to be able to debate. If the Leader of the Liberal Party would stop trying to spar with the House Leader and move a motion to delete the first two sections of his resolution we could get on with the debate right away as the rest of the resolution is in order. And if he'd only do that and stop sparring with the Leader of the House he would be able to get his motion under debate. For heaven's sake get on with it.

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

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, that was precisely what I had in mind and was about to divulge . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we can be here till ten debating it and we can do it again tomorrow afternoon, and Monday and Tuesday and if we have to bring in the Mounties or whatever we have to do to get order, that's fine. Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- No, well just make up your minds.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the honourable member address himself to the point of order so we can get on with the business of the House.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I have difficulty hearing. I'm afraid the din makes it impossible for me to continue. If I can have the leave of the House I will - I will ask for leave of the House to delete paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Resolution and renumber the remainder starting from 3 as 1, down to what was 13 being 10 - rather 11.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to accept this proposal? Agreed? Very well, the Clerk shall take notice of that and rewrite the Resolution in its proper form, but in the meantime the debate can go on and it will not include those two items. Is that understood?

MR. GREEN: I accept what has been said except that there may be some other items as well that are anticipatory; if I could just look at the resolution for a moment.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, that's why I suggest it be taken under advisement. I don't want to preclude my honourable friend on a point of order from debating it, but I want to make sure that the resolution is a proper one.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. In that case since the House does not have a consensus and since there is an irregularity I must indicate that Beauchesne's Citation 199, Section 5 indicates, or Sub-Section 4 indicates any irregularity of any portion of a motion shall render the whole motion irregular, therefore I shall have to indicate that it cannot be debated, it is out of order.

MR. GREEN: I assure the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party that I will want to accommodate except that I will want to look at it and perhaps the next time it comes up the motion will be in a position that it can be debated, and I will take that up with him personally.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. I have indicated since there is no consensus I must rule the motion out totally. We therefore proceed to Resolution No. 3. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface,

WHEREAS five day 40-hour work week is now established practice in Canada; and

WHEREAS an increasing number of collective agreements provide for five day 40-hour work week with one and one-half time for overtime;

WHEREAS the Federal Government Labor Code already authorizes time and one-half payment for any work done by an employee in excess of 40 hours in any one week; and

WHEREAS this House recognizes the importance of keeping highly skilled people in Manitoba;

WHEREAS the present Employment Standards Act of the Province of Manitoba has not been modified recently regarding the maximum number of hours allowed to be worked by any one employee before overtime compensation is applicable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government give consideration to advisability of amending the Employment Standards Act to require time and one-half payment to any employee working in excess of 40 hours per week.

MOTION presented as read.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I expected the Minister of Labour to get up and tell the House that he is bringing in legislation this session and I wouldn't have taken the time of the House to proceed with my resolution but, Mr. Speaker, I will proceed and I've had it before the House on previous occasions, so that I will not take too much time to elaborate to the House the necessity of bringing in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm doing this I may also advise the House, and particularly the new members, I have during the past several years introduced to this House on many occasions and I have just checked and I have brought in such resolutions as respecting layoffs and technological change, high minimum wage for northern Manitoba, statutory holidays, employees to be paid for statutory holidays, and I believe that these would perhaps number anywhere in at least 10 to 12 resolutions which today is on the statute books. So I would have to say sometimes we on this side, on the Opposition side, are not able to convince the Government on the first occasion that we propose something to the House, but if we repeat it long long enough and say the same thing many times perhaps it gets through to the Ministers that are responsible, and in this case I hope that the Minister of Labour will pay some attention and bring in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed, I am sure that all the members in this House are committed to the principle that a working man can best improve and protect his interest through strong democratic unions and responsible and self-regulating, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking strong because the weak cannot bargain effectively. I'm talking about democratic because if they're not democratic they are not responsible Mr. Speaker, and they have to be self-regulating, and if they're not self-regulating, Mr. Speaker, I think it's the responsibility of the government to correct abuses.

Now I think it is the responsibility of the government to improve the conditions where there are no unions and where the unions are weak. And in the area where we are talking about where we need the 40-hour work week in most of these places, in most industries, there are no unions because at the present time where there is a union the working hour is 40-hour week. Mr. Speaker, I've just taken a minute to go through one of the tables that was produced by the Department of Labour, the Annual Wage and Salary Survey that was done



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(MR. PATRICK Cont'd) . . . in 1972 respecting rates and payrolls and I'm sure if the Minister of Labour would only take a few minutes to peruse that report he would find quite quickly if you take a look in one section of the report concerning the food services where you had some 461 employees work, it's right in the survey that was done by his department, you had an overtime of 130 hours or 130.1 hours which resulted in an overtime, Mr. Speaker, of \$3,659 according to my calculations one and a half time. In my opinion this should have accrued to the employees but it didn't and I feel this is how much the employees were short-changed in that respect.

Now if we cango to Automotive Equipment and Operations we find the same thing, where out of 2,529 employees, this is I'm talking per week, we had something like 1,367 overtime hours worked in the automotive equipment operations according to this report, and the overtime for one week would amount to somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,042.00. So, Mr. Speaker, we may think that it only effects a very small portion of our working population but it doesn't. I think it effects quite a few. If we look at the automotive maintenance, the same thing applies, where we have 862 hours that have been worked overtime which amounts to \$2,696.00.

So, Mr. Speaker, it does effect many people who are not organized and I would feel that we have a special regard, or we must have a special regard in this House for human dignity, for the dignity of the individual and to make sure that we protect these people who are not able because they're not in a union to receive the proper remuneration for the hours worked. Now I'm sure that a Minister does not have to be told and repeated on many occasions that at the present time the five day 40-hour work week does exist under the federal legislation, this is the federal legislation and has been established in Canada for quite a few years. The same legislation has been established in many of the other provinces as well. So, Mr. Speaker, I feel that the Minister has been very negligent in his duty to take this proposal very seriously. I know on many occasions that I had to pry the Minister to bring in some of the other legislation that he has, because he did not act on many of the proposals that I have submitted to the House or many of the things that he has been talking about when he was on this side of the House. When he got to be the Minister of Labour he did not do very much about it until the fourth year, or just last year, before the election when he brought in the Labour Code and many of the major changes. I feel that the Minister is aware that many of the agreements, collective agreements at the present time, do provide for a 40-hour work week and one and one-half time for overtime.

I feel that we should also recognize another important factor, Mr. Speaker, and that is keeping very capable and skilled people in this province, because if we don't do this we will not be able to keep these people in the province, Mr. Speaker. I know that the present Standard Employment Act does not provide for time and a half for anyone working over the 40-hour work week, so I feel that the Minister must give some consideration in this area. I know that the Manitoba Federation of Labour has called not only this year but has called on many occasions on the Minister to bring in the 40-hour work week. They've also asked that the same 8-hour day be retained. I know that the Minister's quite well aware that many companies have now gone to four, four day work week. We have thousands of companies now in the United States who have gone to a four day work week, not a 40-hour but a 32-hour work week. But that's not what I'm recommending here, Mr. Speaker. I'm recommending to the Minister which I believe is most reasonable and which would be very acceptable to all members of this House. I know even last year I listened and had discussions with the former Member for Emerson and he had no objection to this point so I cannot see where the delay and why the delay of the Minister of Labour in this connection. I know that with a 40-hour work week it will give people more time for recreation which they need. I know that companies that have adopted it in the States and the information that I was able to avail myself, that the ones that have worked a four-day week they had less turnover of skilled workers and their productivity has been much greater and there's been very little absenteeism in the shops. So, Mr. Speaker, I see very few reasons that the Minister can present to this House why he should not be able to move in respect to the 40-hour work week and time and a half for over those hours.

I would like to hear from some of the members, from the government backbenchers and particularly the Member for Thompson, what his opinion is in this respect. I know that

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(MR. PATRICK Cont'd) . . . information that I have received from the States where some thousands of companies have gone into the four-day work week that the management has benefitted in many respects because of more diligent work force, they had lower retraining costs and better productivity. So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Minister would give this serious consideration and bring the legislation this session. As I said, I will not take much time of the House because I have talked on this resolution on several occasions and I have talked on the same topic on probably every Estimates that have been before the House, not only of the present Minister but I have brought these same points to the administration that was on this side before. So I cannot see why the delay. I would like to hear from the Minister of Labour why he has been procrastinating, taking his time, and has not moved in this area. I know that the latest report from the Manitoba Federation of Labour have made that same request and there was no opposition from this side of the House, at least there wasn't last year. So I would hope that the Minister would proceed during this session to bring this legislation but I certainly would appreciate some comments from some of the other members in this area, Mr. Speaker.

. . . . . continued on next page

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I really haven't a great deal to say about this resolution. I realize this is a resolution that is dear to the heart of the Member for St. Assiniboia - not St. Assiniboia, St. James-Assiniboia, yeah. And I know that other honourable members on our side will be having some comments to make about it. I just wish to very early register some reservations that I and I'm sure others, particularly members from rural Manitoba, will wish to make, and that is that we often allow well-intentioned resolutions to be put forward and to be considered in this Chamber, and indeed may eventually even find their way into actual law. But while they may have a pretty sound basis for a segment of our population, they can work extreme difficulties and hardships in other areas. And I'm referring specifically to this kind statutory, mandatory regulations of work hours and the manner and way in which business can or cannot be conducted that would affect in so many instances the smaller family-owned, family-run businesses throughout Manitoba, and I really ask myself the question, Mr. Speaker, whether or not a good deal of this kind of legislation shouldn't fall into the realm of the legitimate responsibility of those with the direct responsibility of looking after the welfare of the working man and in the sense that they have the direct responsibility in negotiating contracts, work agreements, working conditions, fringe benefits, and I must say I think are doing a reasonably good job in this sense and, of course, always looking forward to doing a better job. And I'm referring specifically to organized labour and their efforts and the leadership shown by organized labour in this particular field. I think any responsible government, I think this particular Minister of Labour that we have presently certainly has indicated in the past his willingness to listen, to accede to legitimate requests and positions put forward by organized labour in this particular field, having to do with the working conditions of people working in Manitoba.

I was glad to see the Minister of Labour resume his seat because now I've just paid him a little compliment, and the Member for Morris is not in his seat and I was somewhat relieved, loosened from my previous admonition that I received from my House Leader, that of never being complimentary to anybody on the other side of the House. I was suggesting, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour that I raise simply the question without necessarily taking a position on this resolution, that by and large in an enlightened age and with a reasonably friendly and co-operative Minister of Labour, that is friendly and co-operative to the legitimate requests and desires of organized labour and in putting forward their positions on behalf of the working man, but I just simply make the point whether or not much of this kind of potential, you know, legislation is not properly left in the hands of those directly involved, namely the labour movement in negotiating in good faith with management, and thereby doing something that avoids what we sometimes do when we do it in the House in a statutory way in a general law because, as I referred earlier, all too often the situation, particularly in the smaller rural communities where we're talking about the involvement of small, indeed very small family-run, entirely family-run businesses, that all of a sudden find themselves with the full brunt of some general law facing them that was enacted in good faith but really leaves a great deal to be desired as far as its application to the individual is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether or not this is an issue that I feel that strongly about. I make simply the kind of plea that there be some elbow room in it, and I know very well from previous experience, the Minister of Labour undoubtedly in his remarks would indicate that this is indeed so, that all too often, if for instance this resolution was accepted and put into law tomorrow, that the next task facing the Minister of Labour is to provide the necessary exceptions to it, to provide the necessary exceptions to it as it applied to perhaps, say, my insistence that my wife work longer than eight hours a day on any given day and that I may not be, despite the efforts of the women's liberation movement, wanting to pay her time and a half. So right away the Minister of Labour would have to make an exception in that particular case. He may have to make exceptions in particular cases of seasonal employment, particularly the kind of farm employment that we have. He may have to make exceptions to certain sizes or types or kinds of businesses wholly owned or family-run or wholly family-operated businesses, and I can only see a general adaptation of this kind of legislation being fraught with difficulties for people that it did not intend to cover in the first instance.

Mr. Speaker, these are some reservations that I have about this kind of resolution. I think there are other matters that other members may well wish to debate in greater detail. There is, of course, a very hard-nosed economic consideration to be made in this resolution.

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(MR. ENNS cont'd). . . . I think the same kind of legitimate debates that precede the same kind of serious consideration I am sure that the Minister of Labour or the government gives to such things as the raising or the possibility of raising the minimum wage, etc. Surely the Minister, the responsible Minister and the government has to take into consideration just what that means in economic terms to specific industries; what that means to our position vis-a-vis other provinces, other jurisdictions; what it means in terms of our business industry, particularly again our most vulnerable business industry, the small to medium business industry, in their capacity to maintain the very needed employment and yet be able to remain in a reasonable competitive position.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that while the resolution surely deserves merit, deserves our attention, that, you know, it be looked at in its broader implications not simply looked at as a bit of good politicking on the part of a party or the part of an individual member in terms of seeking support from a particular segment of our society. We have a greater responsibility in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, and that is to pass those kind of resolutions, pass those kind of laws that can be absorbed into our economic situation without unnecessarily creating hardships, particularly in those areas where they have perhaps the least capability, the least ability to meet them.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few comments that I make on the bill. Mr. Speaker, as is so often the case in positions put forward, my mind is always very open to new ideas and new suggestions. I'm prepared to listen to honourable members both on this side of the House and on the other side of the House, particularly from the Minister of Labour, to be further instructed, you might say, Mr. Speaker, as to what my final disposition and what my final position will be on this particular resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. HARVEY PATTERSON (Crescentwood): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm certainly interested in this resolution and I'm very happy to hear the Member from Lakeside say that he is open to new ideas and new suggestions, and I certainly appreciate that and I look toward him to be one of the guiding lights on that side of the House and I certainly hope to benefit from his great experience here.

Now the resolution as it stands, I have some concern about the resolution. I like the general direction of the resolution but there are a number of points in it. I think it is an all-encompassing resolution that is heading in the general direction of improving some of the things that workers have been asking for over the years. The main point that I like in this resolution is the Resolved, where it says that the government "give consideration" and I think that is the general trend that the mover of the resolution was trying to get at and I'm sure that the Honourable Minister of Labour will be more than co-operative in giving a general view of overall consideration to this particular problem.

The collective agreements that we have in vogue in the province, I would say the majority, if not all, have some provision for the 40-hour week, and that has been a general trend in collective agreements up to this time in history and they are starting to move beyond the 40-hour week in many instances at the present time. Now the resolution is concerning itself with the overtime pay, the particular aspect of the overtime pay. The present situation in Manitoba is a 44-hour week and thereafter overtime is applicable. The resolution is looking at overtime after the 40-hour span.

But let's talk about the concept of the 40-hour week just for a minute. Now if we're going to get down to the 40-hour week, then we also have to look at the other element that comes into the picture when you do that and that is the pay packet that you take home. Is the mover of the resolution cognizant of the fact that if we go to the 40-hour week you're going to lessen the amount of pay in the pay packet, and I get some insinuation from the resolution in that direction. It's fine to have an overtime clause after the 40-hour week, but you've got to look at what you're going to have if you don't work the 44 hours as set out in the present legislation. So I would request the mover of the resolution to be aware of that situation, and I hope that he is and I'm sure that he is, because the Honourable Member from Assiniboia has been around for some time and I'm sure that he's well aware of what working 40 hours and 44 hours can do to the pay packet.

Talking about work week, overtime, etc., there also is some mention amongst the workers of the province in Manitoba, possibly across the country, but we've been aware of some

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(MR. PATTERSON cont'd) . . . . of the situations here in the province of people compressing their number of hours into, whether it be 40 hours or 44 hours, into a smaller number of days. We've heard of three 12's, four 10's, that type of thing. Now if we're going to go to the type of legislation that is indicated in the resolution what do we do to that type of situation? Where does the overtime clauses start to become effective then? There are all kinds of problems that you can run into when you're getting into these type of situations and I'm just a little bit concerned about making those type of changes without a great deal of study and the impact it would have on a given situation.

I was rather pleased to hear the Honourable Member from Lakeside talk about the rural area because in the rural area today there are lots of situations where they are telling us that they are short of workers, they're short of labour. Now if that is the case then we have to look at some alternative methods to make labour available in the rural area; and if we're going to entice workers to go into the rural area then we have to provide some means of enticement for the workers to go into the rural area. And if we have to make it more economical for the worker on a 40-hour basis, or time and a half after 40 hours or whatever the case might be, then I think that we're moving in the right direction with this resolution in that area.

I would suggest that in this day and age of technology on the farm where the farmer has a rather large investment in equipment, supplies and things to operate the very technical farming that we have, in the majority of cases in this time in history, that the farmer has a responsibility to raise his sights somewhat in paying the worker that is going to toil on the farm. And if the mover of the resolution had that in mind at all then I would certainly be in agreement with his thinking on those points, because when the farmer has a huge investment and he's going to make a rather handsome income out of it and he's going to retire with a reasonably well-funded bank account at age 65 thereabouts, the worker if he's not going to be compensated for working the long hours, and I mean extra compensation, then what happens to the worker when he comes to retire on the farm, when he hasn't made the extra money over the long haul? So I would suggest that the resolution and those ever going to be studying this thing in the Department of Labour that the Honourable Minister make some note of that in order that the people in the rural areas can be given some very serious consideration in that regard.

I would just like to point out that in the general run-of-the-mill work force that sometimes the workers have a responsibility themselves to help improve their own conditions; and by that I mean that there are unions around or organizations whatever you want to call them and if they want to improve their conditions quickly and rather vastly then I would be one that would say, well band yourselves together, put your shoulder to the wheel and try to gain your common ends in a more organized fashion rather than expecting the government to legislate everything. And I'm sure that the members opposite don't want the government to legislate everything. So in that sense I would think that they would be rather sympathetic on that note. You know, we could legislate everything for the work force of the province and there would be no need to have organizations such as unions and that would sort of weaken the whole collective bargaining structure. So I would request the Honourable Minister of Labour to give some consideration to that point and make it equitable but let's not go overboard on that type of situation.

I see, Mr. Chairman, our clock is coming up to the hour. We wasted a lot of time, they wasted our time on this resolution this evening and we would have liked to have had more time on it because it's such an important thing in the work force today. The mover of the resolution certainly worded his resolution fairly well for the type of point that he was trying to get at in order to get a message across to the Minister of Labour, and if I heard him right he said that he has been trying this for a number of years. Well I'm going to wish him a little luck this time and possibly the Minister is a little more receptive. You know they say the older you get, the mellow you get and the Minister of Labour's not getting any younger so maybe he's getting more mellow and hopefully the resolution can come along. He has been nodding his head in that regard tonight so I take it that he's fully cognizant of what we're talking about here.

The mover of the resolution mentioned keeping highly skilled people in the province of Manitoba and I don't think that anybody can disagree with him on that point because the brain drain in specific segments of our work force has been to some extent just that. I think that if we can keep our minimum wage fairly high in Manitoba, if we can keep the overtime payment rather lucrative, if we can keep the hours of work within modern means, I think that we can curtail the brain drain from Manitoba and keep our skilled people in Manitoba, and I'm hopeful

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(MR. PATTERSON cont'd) . . . . . that that can be brought about. I work in the federal jurisdiction and it's true that we do have that in the federal labour code at the present time and we were certainly grateful to get that type of legislation when the new labour code came into effect on the federal scene.

I just want to impress on the Minister of Labour that he take every measure that he can and give consideration to the intent of this resolution, have his advisers and staff go over the whole problem of the 40-hour week, time and a half after 40 hours, the compressed work week, what effect it has on the labour force, and also the most important thing that the Minister of Labour I hope keeps in mind is the fact that the take home pay must be protected at all cost, regardless of whether it be 40 hours or 44 hours and time and a half and all the rest of it, we must protect the take home pay.

Now just aside from the 40-hour business, personally what I'm looking for and I hope the Honourable Member from Lakeside would be looking also, is a shorter work week - 4 days and 32 hours, that's what I like. I like the sound of that, it sounds real good, you know. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member from Lakeside, you know, if I haven't got that thingumajig in my ear I just don't hear too good so I didn't pick up his nice little comment but the Speaker has promised to get me one of those things then I'll be able to wear it all the time even while I'm speaking to you and I'll pick you up then better. But when we get around to talking about the 32-hour week then I'm going to be looking right at that seat over there where the honourable member sits in hopes that he will stand up and support that proposition for the 32-hour week, and also the same take home pay by the way as we would get for a 40-hour week. Because if the fruits of technology have to flow from the labour of the people, and I could care what category you work in, then I say that the worker is entitled to the fruits of that technology equally as well as the manager or the boss or the owner whoever he might be. So we just want a share of the pie, but we want an equal share and we want it on a 32-hour week, and in that regard to the Honourable Member from Assiniboia I would say that his resolution doesn't go far enough in order to satisfy my way of thinking. But anyway you can't accomplish everything in one session and if we get the 40-hour week now in Manitoba legislation with time and a half thereafter, with the same take home pay, then I will be satisfied and I'm sure that the Minister of Labour is thinking along the same wave length as what we are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member will have an opportunity to finish his five minutes next time we get to this resolution.

The hour being 10:00 o'clock, the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a. m. tomorrow (Friday) morning.