

Thursday, December 11, 1997



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

### VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 11

FOURTH SESSION, THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

PRAYERS

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.

Mr. FAURSCHOU moved:

Resolution No. 6: Potato Research

WHEREAS 1997 was a record year for Manitoba farmers, marked by an increase in cash receipts of 13%, a continuing increase in exports and manufacturing and a thriving agri-business that demonstrates the importance that value-added jobs can have for the Manitoba economy; and

WHEREAS Manitoba is the second largest potato producing province in Canada and the area of Portage La Prairie produces a significant amount of the province's potatoes; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has helped strengthen the agriculture and agri-business sector through initiatives such as the creation of a \$3.4 million fund for Agri-Food research and development and the establishment of the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Program; and

WHEREAS Manitoba farmers need to continue to find innovative ways of doing business because of the rapid changes confronting the agriculture sector.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba support the efforts of the Provincial Government to strengthen the development of value-added opportunities for the province's agricultural sector.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. FAURSCHOU, Ms. WOWCHUK, Messrs. PENNER and STRUTHERS having spoken,

And Ms. FRIESEN speaking at 11:09 a.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

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Mr. MACKINTOSH moved:

Resolution No. 4: Responses to Domestic Violence

WHEREAS domestic violence continues to be a serious problem in Manitoba that results in the injury and death of women across this province; and

WHEREAS certain initiatives such as the Family Violence Court, the Women's Advocacy Program and mandatory charging have been taken by the Provincial Government; and

WHEREAS survivors of abuse, their families, service providers and the community at large recognize serious shortcomings in the response to domestic violence which continues to threaten the lives of Manitoba women and children; and

WHEREAS a blueprint for an effective response to domestic violence has been offered by several reports including the Lavoie Inquiry recommendations, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Pedlar Report.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Provincial Government to consider preparing an action plan and timelines for implementation of province wide changes as outlined in the Lavoie Inquiry, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the Pedlar Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Provincial Government to consider undertaking this process in consultation with the community, and remain accountable to the community for program implementation and results.

And a debate arising,

And Mr. MACKINTOSH, Hon. Mr. TOEWS and Ms. McGIFFORD having spoken,

And Hon. Mrs. VODREY speaking at 12:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in her name.

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**1:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**

Hon. Mrs. VODREY presented:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 118)

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Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK presented:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Health Research Council for the fiscal year ended March

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(Sessional Paper No. 119)

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Hon. Mr. PITURA presented:

Annual Report of the Department of Government Services and Emergency Expenditures for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 120)

Also:

Annual Report of the Fleet Vehicles Agency for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 121)

Also:

Annual Report of the Materials Distribution Agency for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 122)

Also:

Annual Report of the Land Management Services Agency for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 123)

Also:

Annual Report of the Mail Management Agency for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 124)

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Hon. Mr. CUMMINGS presented:

Five Year Report on the Status of Wildlife for the period ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 125)

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By leave, Mr. LATHLIN having introduced Bill (No. 200) - The Interpretation Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi d'interprétation, and outlined the purpose thereof, it was read a First Time.

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During Oral Questions, Mr. ASHTON rose on a point of order citing the content of Beauchesne citation 417 which indicates that "Answers should be as brief as possible, deal with the matter raised and not provoke debate,"

And Hon. Messrs. TOEWS and McCRAE having spoken to the point of order,

WHEREUPON Madam Speaker informed the House she would take the matter under advisement.

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Subsequently, during Oral Questions, Mr. ASHTON rose on a further point of order indicating that at no time on December 2, 3 and 4 did the Honourable Member for Rupertsland mention the RCMP or victims' services as mentioned by the Honourable Minister of Justice,

And Hon. Mr. McCRAE having spoken to the point of order,

WHEREUPON Madam Speaker informed the House she would take the matter under advisement to review the context of advice received.

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By leave, the House reverted to "Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports" and Hon. Mr. ENNS presented:

Annual Report of the Manitoba Farm Mediation Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997.

(Sessional Paper No. 126)

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Pursuant to Rule 20(1), Messrs. TWEED, STRUTHERS, DYCK and REID and Ms. BARRETT made Members' Statements.

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Prior to Orders of the Day, Ms. McGIFFORD rose on a matter of urgent public importance and moved:

THAT under Rule 31 the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance namely the need for a compensation strategy for primary and secondary victims of tainted blood, especially those suffering with Hepatitis C.

And Ms. McGIFFORD, Hon. Mr. McCRAE and Mr. CHOMIAK having spoken to the urgency of the motion,

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WHEREUPON Madam Speaker ruled as follows:

The Honourable Member for Osborne has indeed met the notice requirement for this matter.

According to Manitoba practice and Beauchesne, a Speaker's role when a matter of urgent public importance is put forward is to determine whether the matter is so pressing that the public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention and to judge whether the ordinary opportunities provided by the rules of the House do not permit the subject to be brought on early enough and the public interest demands that discussion take place immediately.

While the Honourable Member for Osborne certainly brings forward an important matter, in my judgement, the public interest will not be harmed if the debate of this matter does not take place today. The Member's Private Member's Resolution No. 67 will provide an opportunity for the House to debate a compensation strategy for victims of tainted blood. The Member may also discuss the issue during the budget debate when this House reconvenes.

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By leave, it was agreed that the quorum requirement in the House be waived for the period in which the Legislative Assembly Management Commission meets today, December 11, 1997 only.

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Hon. Mr. McCRAE moved:

THAT, in the case of all bills referred to committees of this House during the present session and proceeding to enactment, Legislative Counsel be given the authority to take the following steps at any point before publication of the Acts:

- (a) change all section numbers and internal references necessary to give effect to amendments to bills adopted by this House and its committees; and
- (b) without in any way altering the intended legal meaning, make minor changes to bills to correct obvious errors, like spelling, numbering, cross-referencing and capitalization errors, and to correct punctuation and formatting that is not consistent with Manitoba style.

THAT the Legislative Counsel be required to mark all changes made pursuant to this authority in red ink in the affected blue bills as soon as possible after the end of the Session.

And the Question being put,

It was agreed to.

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Hon. Mr. McCRAE moved:

THAT Mr. GERRY McALPINE, Member for the Electoral Division of Sturgeon Creek be appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Committees of the Whole House.

And the Question being put,

It was agreed to.

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Hon. Mr. McCRAE moved:

THAT when the House adjourns today it shall stand adjourned until a time fixed by Madam Speaker, upon the request of the government.

And the Question being put,

It was agreed to.

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By leave, it was agreed that Private Members' Business would take place at 4:00 p.m. today, December 11, 1997.

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The House resumed the Adjourned Debate on the Proposed Motion of Hon. Mr. PRAZNIK:

THAT Bill (No. 13) - The Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'aide à l'achat de médicaments sur ordonnance, be now read a Second Time and be referred to a Committee of this House.

And the debate continuing,

And Messrs. SALE and REID having spoken,

And Ms. FRIESEN speaking at 4:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in her name and, by leave, in the name of Mr. DEWAR.

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By unanimous consent, it was agreed that the House would not sit during the period March 30, 1998 to April 3, 1998.

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By unanimous consent, it was agreed that the consideration and passage of the Interim Supply Bill would take place prior to the adjournment of the House on Thursday, March 26, 1998.

Mr. MALOWAY moved:

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Resolution No. 3: Senate

WHEREAS the Canadian Senate is both anti-democratic and of no real benefit to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the Senate defends the interests of the parties that appoint the senators not the regions that it was supposed to represent; and

WHEREAS the Senate costs over \$55 million annually much of it for clearly partisan activities of the appointed members; and

WHEREAS for decades Canadians have called for changes or the abolishment of the Senate; and

WHEREAS appointments to the Senate by both the Conservative and Liberal party have long been made on the basis of a record of being either loyal party fundraisers or past party provincial leaders; and

WHEREAS senators do not even have to show up in Ottawa to be paid and one Ontario Liberal Senator a past leader of the Ontario Liberals has shown up twice in the last two years and did not show up between October 1990 and January 1994 but collected his full salary; and

WHEREAS even Liberal Cabinet Ministers such as Lloyd Axworthy have noted that in a democracy having an appointed body to legislate is not appropriate and the Senate should be abolished.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba go on record as recommending that the Senate be abolished.

And a debate arising,

And Messrs. MALOWAY and TWEED, Hon. Mr. TOEWS and Mr. ROCAN having spoken,

And Mr. PENNER speaking at 5:00 p.m.,

The debate was allowed to remain in his name.

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The House then adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Hon. Louise Dacquay,  
Speaker.