

Name	Electoral Division	Address
ALEXANDER, Keith	Roblin	Roblin, Man.
BAIZLEY, Obie	Osborne	185 Maplewood Ave., Winnipeg 13
BJORNSON, Oscar F.	Lac du Bonnet	Lac du Bonnet, Man.
CAMPBELL, D. L.	Lakeside	326 Kelvin Blvd., Winnipeg 29
CARROLL, Hon. J.B.	The Pas	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
CHRISTIANSON, John Aaron	Portage la Prairie	86-9th St., N.W., Ptge. la Prairie, Man.
CORBETT, A. H.	Swan River	Swan River, Man.
COWAN, James, Q.C.	Winnipeg Centre	512 Avenue Bldg., Winnipeg 2
DESJARDINS, Laurent	St. Boniface	138 Dollard Blvd., St. Boniface 6, Man.
DOW, E. I.	Turtle Mountain	Boissevain, Man.
EVANS, Hon. Gurney	Fort Rouge	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
FORBES, Mrs. Thelma	Cypress	Rathwell, Man.
FROESE, J. M.	Rhineland	Winkler, Man.
GRAY, Morris A.	Inkster	141 Cathedral Ave., Winnipeg 4
GROVES, Fred	St. Vital	3 Kingston Row, St. Vital, Winnipeg 8
GUTTORMSON, Elman	St. George	Lundar, Man.
HAMILTON, William Homer	Dufferin	Sperling, Man.
HARRIS, Lemuel	Logan	1109 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
HARRISON, Hon. Abram W.	Rock Lake	Holmfild, Man.
HAWRYLUK, J. M.	Burrows	84 Furby St., Winnipeg 1
HILLHOUSE, T.P., Q.C.	Selkirk	Dominion Bank Bldg., Selkirk, Man.
HRZHORCZUK, M.N., Q.C.	Ethelbert Plains	Ethelbert, Man.
HUTTON, Hon. George	Rockwood-Iberville	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
INGEBRIGTSON, J. E.	Churchill	Churchill, Man.
JEANNOTTE, J. E.	Rupertsland	Meadow Portage, Man.
JOHNSON, Hon. George	Gimli	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg
JOHNSON, Geo. Wm.	Assiniboia	212 Oakdean Blvd., St. James, Wpg. 12
KLYM, Fred T.	Springfield	Beausejour, Man.
LISSAMAN, R. O.	Brandon	832 Eleventh St., Brandon, Man.
LYON, Hon. Sterling R., Q.C.	Fort Garry	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MARTIN, W. G.	St. Matthews	924 Palmerston Ave., Winnipeg 10
McKELLAR, M. E.	Souris-Lansdowne	Nesbitt, Man.
McLEAN, Hon. Stewart E., Q.C.	Dauphin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MOLGAT, Gildas	Ste. Rose	Ste. Rose du Lac, Man.
MORRISON, Mrs. Carolyne	Pembina	Manitou, Man.
ORLIKOW, David	St. John's	179 Montrose St., Winnipeg 9
PAULLEY, Russell	Radisson	435 Yale Ave. W., Transcona 25, Man.
PETERS, S.	Elmwood	225 Melrose Ave., Winnipeg 15
PREFONTAINE, Edmond	Carillon	St. Pierre, Man.
REID, A. J.	Kildonan	561 Trent Ave., E. Kild., Winnipeg 15
ROBERTS, Stan	La Verendrye	Niverville, Man.
ROBLIN, Hon. Duff	Wolseley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
SCARTH, W.B., Q.C.	River Heights	407 Queenston St., Winnipeg 9
SCHREYER, E. R.	Brokenhead	Beausejour, Man.
SEABORN, Richard	Wellington	594 Arlington St., Winnipeg 10
SHEWMAN, Harry P.	Morris	Morris, Man.
SHOEMAKER, Nelson	Gladstone	Neepawa, Man.
SPELLIE, Robert Gordon	Birtle-Russell	Russell, Man.
STANES, D. M.	St. James	381 Guildford St., St. James, Wpg. 12
STRICKLAND, B. P.	Hamiota	Hamiota, Man.
TANCHAK, John P.	Emerson	Ridgeville, Man.
THOMPSON, Hon. John, Q.C.	Viriden	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WAGNER, Peter	Fisher	Fisher Branch, Man.
WATT, J. D.	Arthur	Reston, Man.
WEIR, Walter	Minnedosa	Minnedosa, Man.
WITNEY, Hon. Charles H.	Flin Flon	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
WRIGHT, Arthur E.	Seven Oaks	4 Lord Glenn Apts. 1944 Main St., Wpg. 17

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 27th, 1961

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions.

Reading and Receiving Petitions.

Presenting Reports by Standing and Select Committees.

MR. W. B. SCARTH (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, Standing Orders, Printing and Library.

MR. CLERK: Your Select Standing Committee on Private Bills, Standing Orders, Printing and Library beg leave to present the following as their first report. Your Committee met for organization and appointed Mr. Scarth as Chairman. Your Committee recommends that for the remainder of the session the quorum of this Committee does consist of six members. Your Committee has considered Bills No. 8, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate the University of Manitoba Foundation; No. 11, An Act to incorporate the Manitoba Automobile Museum Foundation; No. 14, An Act respecting the Royal Trust Company Mortgage Corporation; No. 25, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate Brandon College Incorporated; No. 34, An Act to incorporate the Association of Assessing Officers of Manitoba; No. 38, An Act to incorporate The Association for Retarded Children in Manitoba; and has agreed to report the same without amendment. Your Committee has also considered Bills No. 30, An Act to incorporate Les Soeurs de la Charite de L'Hopital General Saint-Antoine de Le Pas; No. 31, And Act to incorporate Les Soeurs de la Charite de L'Hopital General de Flin Flon; and has agreed to report the same with certain amendments. Your Committee recommends that the fees paid in connection with the following bills be refunded, less cost of printing: No. 25, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate Brandon College Incorporated; No. 38, An Act to incorporate The Association for Retarded Children in Manitoba. All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. SCARTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SCARTH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon, that the fees paid in connection with the following Bills be refunded, less the cost of printing: No. 25, An Act to amend an Act to incorporate Brandon College Incorporated; No. 38, An Act to incorporate Association for Retarded Children in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Notice of Motion.

Introduction of Bills.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Minnedosa) introduced Bill No. 78, An Act to amend the Pharmaceutical Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Committee of the Whole House.

HON. GEO. JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Public Welfare)(Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Education, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the proposed resolution standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, having been informed of the subject matter of the proposed resolution, recommends it to the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that it is expedient to bring in a measure respecting the Winnipeg General Hospital providing for the release of all claim, right, title, and interest of the Government of Manitoba in certain lands owned by the Hospital and in other assets of the Hospital, now held as security for certain indebtedness and repayment of which has been guaranteed by the Government.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli): Mr. Chairman, the principle of this bill that will be before the House is to make it possible for the Winnipeg General Hospital to lease property to the Cancer Foundation for a 99-year lease to allow that body to proceed with the new cancer treatment

(Mr. Johnson, Gimli, cont'd.).....centre. For using the legal qualifications where the land on which the Foundation were to build where they had thought this was owned by the General Hospital, it was found that this was not so. This legislation is really necessary because part of the property in question was held by the province as security for old outstanding debentures, which are now being paid at an agreed rate, and for which the province has ample security in the buildings of the General Hospital. This legislation reverts the title back to the Board of the Winnipeg General Hospital who, in turn, will lease it to the Cancer Foundation. The amount of debentures outstanding, against which the province held this lien on this property, is \$250,000; and the Board points out that the assets in the General Hospital there, which is security for the government at this time, amount to a value of approximately \$10 million. This was largely a legal matter and this is the principle behind it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole House has adopted a certain resolution and directed me to report the same, and ask leave to sit again.

MR. W. G. MARTIN (St. Matthews): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cypress, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. JOHNSON (Gimli) introduced Bill No. 79, An Act respecting the Winnipeg General Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. D. L. CAMPBELL (Leader of the Opposition)(Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like the opportunity of mentioning to the House something that I am sure practically all members are already aware of but which should, at the same time I think receive official notice. That is the fact that if reports that I have heard are true, the Honourable the First Minister of the Province is the proud father today of a baby girl. I know that being a modest chap that the Honourable the First Minister is, that he wouldn't want to stand up and boast about this accomplishment himself. As another very modest man who is in the position to boast if he felt inclined to do so, I think perhaps it's appropriate that I should be one of the ones who conveys our congratulations to the Honourable the First Minister, our good wishes to the Mother, and our best regards to the present baby and the boy already in the family. I recall, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of years ago a gentleman in the Constituency of Lakeside, who claimed the same party affiliation as my honourable friend the First Minister, exclaimed at the time that our third or fourth child was born, "If we don't get this guy Campbell out of there pretty soon, we never will." I've been sorry a lot of the times since that I wasn't living in my own constituency now, and when I reflect on those matters and notice the progress that is being made by my honourable friend in some similar ways, I'm glad that he doesn't live in Wolseley. Perhaps if we continue to have these occasions to congratulate him very, very often that we'll be watching with great anxiety as to whether he makes a move back into that constituency or not. Seriously I would say though, Mr. Speaker, that this is a great occasion in the family of a young couple and I'm sure that all the members of the House, and the people of Manitoba too, join very cordially in congratulations to the First Minister and best wishes to his wife and family.

MR. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Leader of the CCF)(Radisson): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be only appropriate if I on behalf of this group extended, particularly to Mrs. Roblin, our sincere congratulations on this great, great event. Now I didn't exclude deliberately the First Minister but, after all, I think it is a fact of life, or at least I've been so informed, that the major job in production is not with we males but with the opposite-sex. I think it's all to the well, too, because from what I have heard that transpired on Thursday and Friday evenings here in the Legislature, it's just as well that the female sex have the major job because I'm sure, particularly the members of the Assembly, would have been too tired to be able to do very much in this natural event. Sort of tricky, isn't it? However, Mr. Speaker, I do sincerely say to the Honourable the First Minister that he, I'm sure, is a very proud father of a boy and a girl. I had the opportunity and the pleasure, on the birth of the first Dufferin C. Roblin's son, to be happy in that our Premier had chosen at least one of my Christian names for that of his son. Now I can't do that, of course, in respect of this one. But I do want him, if he will, to convey to Mrs. Roblin my personal, and also that of my group, best wishes for her good health and that of the daughter.

HON. DUFF ROBLIN (Premier)(Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Leader of the CCF Party seems somewhat fatigued from the labours of Thursday and Friday, I want to say that he's got nothing on me. Everyone knows perfectly well that an expectant father is the one on whom sympathy should be lavished in a case like this, particularly when it is an expectant father who was some 400 miles away from the scene of action, so to speak, at Thompson, Manitoba, with some considerable doubts at the last moment on Saturday as to whether it would be possible to return to Winnipeg in time for the impending event. I don't mind saying, Mr. Speaker, that it was with some considerable relief that I risked the hazards of the weather which, what with icing and fog and rain were somewhat unpleasant, in order to be here for Sunday.

I appreciate, too, what has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I remember very well that when I was a bachelor on the other side of the House, he used to advise matrimony for me, and I must say that he was right. I've much improved since I became married, in fact, I don't think that I'd be able to occupy this present position if it hadn't been for that happy event. Needless to say, I'm all the more grateful for the other happy events which have followed on that occasion. I know very well, too, being a father for the second time, that it is not for me to boast on an occasion such as this. My wife made it clear some time ago who is responsible for these satisfactory events, and I must say I agree with the Honourable Leader of the Opposition in that respect. I think, Sir, that I am going to be just as successful in maintaining my satisfactory position with the electorate as he has been in the many years that he has been elected to this House and I am going to try and follow, in that one respect at least, in his steps as well as I can. But all levity aside, Mr. Speaker, I'm deeply grateful to the members of the House for their very kind thoughts today, and I know that my wife would wish me to express her gratitude as well for the kind words that have been spoken. As for the little girl, well I think she's going to be able to take care of herself from all accounts. So I wish to thank the House very kindly for this expression of goodwill and to say how much it is appreciated by my wife, my daughter and myself.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. O. BAIZLEY (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery on your left. In the gallery, there is a group of 31 students from Riverview School. Riverview School is an exceptionally fine educational institution in the progressive and conservative constituency of Osborne. I say that I can speak of the quality of the teachers there because I have three rascals at home who were guided quite successfully through this public school by these fine teachers. I am sure, Sir, that you and the other members of this House would wish with me that these students would have an informative and pleasant afternoon with us and would return again soon. They are accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Pollock and the principal of the school, Miss Cox.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day

Committee of the Whole House.

HON. S. R. LYON, Q.C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Public Works that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into Committee to consider of Bills 6, 7, 17, 37, 48, 51, 64, and 65.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

Bills No. 6, 7 and 17 were read section by section and passed.

Bill No. 37 -- Sections 1 to 8 were read and passed.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, on Section 9, I had asked that the Bill be held over in Committee to consider an amendment to Section 9. Honourable members will realize that Section 9 relates to a clarification of the subrogation section of The Hospitalization Act. I can mention for the benefit of the House that this matter has been discussed at some length with the All Canada Insurance Federation. We were initially considering making this totally and completely retroactive but we decided to put in Clauses (a), (b) and (c), so that the retroactive aspects of the Bill would not affect judgment that was delivered; settlement that was made; or litigation that was pending. On rechecking with the All Canada Insurance Federation, they

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.)....advised that they would have no objection to Clause (c) being struck out so that litigation pending would be affected by this amendment. I therefore propose, with the concurrence of the committee, Mr. Chairman, to move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health, that the word "or" at the end of Clause (b) of Subsection (2) of Section 9 of the Bill be deleted; and secondly, that Clause (c) of Subsection (2) of Section 9 of the Bill be deleted and that a new subsection (3) be added to the present Section 9 of the Bill as follows: (3) Section 7 of this Act affects litigation pending at the time that Section is deemed to have come in force or subsequently commenced.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, did the Honourable the Attorney-General say that the representatives of the people who might be affected by this have no objections?

MR. LYON: I did say, Mr. Chairman, that the All Canada Insurance Federation have advised us that they would have no objection at all to this section being deleted. They represent all of the insurance companies in Manitoba affected except one, which is the Wawanesa Insurance Company which is not a member of All Canada. They, in fact, All Canada, have retained and set aside in a trust fund sufficient monies to cover this pending the clarification of the legislation. I double-checked again with their counsel, Mr. Richardson, after I had asked the Bill to be laid over because he had been out of town and he assured me that they had no objection to "litigation pending" being struck out of the Bill as it presently stands. To the best of my knowledge, this will not prejudicially affect any litigants or any settlements that are now underway.

Bill No. 37 -- Section 9, as amended, Preamble and Title were read and passed.

Bills No. 48, 51, 64 and 65 were read section by section and passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered certain Bills and report Bills No. 6, 7, 17, 48, 51, 64, and 65, without amendments, and Bill No. 37 with amendment; and has directed me to report the same and ask leave to sit again.

MR. MARTIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, that the report of the Committee be received.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

Bills No. 6, 7, 17, 37, 48, 51, 64, 65 were each read a third time and passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 50. The Honourable the Minister of Labour.

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Labour)(The Pas) presented Bill No. 50, An Act to amend The Fire Prevention Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, in the resolution which introduced this Bill, one of the principles of this bill was outlined and that is the change in the statute which will enable the Provincial Treasurer to advance monies temporarily to the Fire Prevention Fund until such times as collections are received from insurance premiums to replenish the fund. Now there are two other principles involved in this particular bill. One is a change in the statute to enable the Fire Commissioner to padlock a building which is particularly fire hazardous. At the present time, the only measures which can be taken with respect to a building that presents a particularly hazardous condition is to order demolition of that building. Now there was an occasion here about two months ago when the Chief, I believe, of the Winnipeg Fire Department, came to the Fire Commissioner and requested him to order the demolition of a building down near the Canadian Pacific Railways. Now we examined that building and it was certainly a fire hazard. It was a duplex, I believe, at one time, with two separate heating systems, one of which was condemned; the other which was really in pretty run-down condition. The wiring was old and certainly could have been a hazard. The wallpaper was torn from almost all the rooms in the building and the wood lath was exposed in a good many places. Now this particular building was used as a rooming house with dormitory-style accommodation and, I presume, held possibly up to 50 people overnight. Now one of the problems which faced the Fire Commissioner was that we certainly were not sure whether this man had the financial resources to go ahead and tear down that building to eliminate the fire hazard. I think we were all convinced, at that time, that if we removed the people from the building we would have effectively removed the fire hazard, because it was the fact that it was being occupied that provided the hazard. Here

(Mr. Carroll, cont'd.).... was a case where there was no alternative to ordering demolition and causing fairly substantial expenditures to an individual citizen. Now I think he had some hope at that time that this property might be required for redevelopment for the City Hall or for some other purpose. He was extremely reluctant and, indeed, we had no way of knowing whether he could afford the demolition which appeared to be warranted. So this is the kind of discretion that we would like to be able to give to the Commissioner. Where a hazard can be eliminated by ordering the people out, ordering the building to be sealed, we feel that this is somewhat less onerous upon the owner of the building and that there will be some need for this particular change in legislation.

Now the other important principle involves the approval of fire prevention or fire-fighting equipment. At the present time there are agencies in the province selling equipment that, in the opinion of the Fire Chiefs' Association and The Fire Marshalls' Association across Canada, are almost ineffective for fighting fires. We have certain types of extinguishers which indeed are more hazardous to the lives of people than the actual fire itself, because of the toxic nature of the fluids which are used in the equipment. We have some others, too, that may be effective at the time of sale but which deteriorate very quickly. We feel that this gives people a false sense of security and that people should be protected to the point of having some kind of an approval on that equipment, and we're asking that the equipment be approved before it be sold within the province. These are the principles, Mr. Speaker, involved in this bill.

MR. M. A. GRAY (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I certainly support this bill and I want to remind this Minister, or the Ministers in charge, years ago that almost every year I have questioned what protection is being given by the Department of Labour in connection with the fire hazard buildings. I was always told that this is the business of the chief building inspector of the City of Winnipeg, so I'm very happy. There's another item which was suggested and turned down and it's here now, and I want to congratulate you. My question is, why give the full authority to the Fire Commissioner when, in the case in Winnipeg, they have the Chief Building Inspector and the Fire Chief who are closer to the scene. In other words, you haven't done it for years and all of a sudden you take everything away. It doesn't seem right. They are there every day. They know where it is. And my third question is -- the second one -- what are you doing with many other buildings which, in my opinion, are fire hazards?

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of speaking on the financial aspect of this bill to which the Minister has already referred, and I can certainly understand the point of view that he raises with regard to buildings that are considered to be a fire hazard, because I'm sure that all of us would agree that we certainly wish to protect, against loss of life especially, and even damage to property. The point where I disagree with the bill, and that the Honourable Member for Inkster who has just spoken, is that I think that it is not good legislation to allow an individual who is, after all, an official, on his own responsibility, to make such an important decision as what amounts to condemning a building. You'll notice that in Section 1, Clause (2) (a) it says: "Where the Fire Commissioner or any other officer mentioned in subsection (1) finds a building or other structure in such condition as mentioned in Clause (a), Subsection (2), or finds in a building or structure any material or any condition such as mentioned in Clause (b) of Subsection (2), he may" -- and it's true that it's subject to Subsection (2)(b) -- but "he may, subject to that subsection, order any person occupying any part of the building to terminate his occupancy forthwith and cause the building to be closed by means of padlock, sealed, etcetera." Now my point is that while the object is entirely worthy, and I appreciate the circumstances that can arise, and I certainly agree with the intention, but I think that that is too much power, too much authority and too much responsibility to give to an official of the department. My submission is that if this is the City of Winnipeg or any other city or town that has a Fire Commissioner that we're dealing with, that he should have to go before the elected authority to get that authorization. If it's a provincial Fire Commissioner, then I think he should have to get an Order-in-Council to do the same thing, because the present act, where we have the removal of the material, etcetera, that constitutes the fire hazard, that one, I think, is quite okay for the official to take action on; but where it comes to the padlocking of a building, then I think only the elected official should have that responsibility and authority.

Then on the next page, Subsection (2) of Section 2, I agree with the principle also of these

(Mr. Campbell, cont'd.)....various fire extinguishers being checked. I think that's quite worthwhile. But I would suggest that when the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council makes such regulations, that they should be published in the usual manner. Now it may be that there is provision in another part of the Act for that, but I looked through the Act and I must confess I didn't find it. If that is not provided for, I think it would be well to see that they are so that the people who are dealing in this type of merchandise know exactly what regulations and restrictions they have to meet. I agree with the principle completely, but I think these matters are worthy of further consideration.

MR. E. R. SCHREYER (Brokenhead): Mr. Speaker, I agree in principle with the Bill but I have one question with regard to the Bill, and I perhaps might be ruled out of order. It really deals with a specific, but I would like the Minister to explain the terminology in Section 1, Subsection (2) (c), the definition of the word "enter". Perhaps the draughters had in mind the matter of habitation -- habitating in the building -- but surely the word "enter" here seems to me almost completely restrictive. I'm wondering if the proper term has been used.

MR. CARROLL: If no one else wishes to speak on this, I would like to close the debate on it. With respect to the authority which the Fire Commissioner has here and is being given here, I don't think there's any contemplation at all of taking away any of the present authority that vests in the Fire Chief or any other municipal authorities under The Fire Prevention's Act, so we're certainly not taking away anything from the City Fire Department at all. They have the same authority which they had in the past. This merely allows the Fire Commissioner to take some action which will be less onerous upon the owner of a building than what the present act allows. Now with respect to having too much authority for the Fire Commissioner, I think this actually gives him -- it doesn't give him less authority. It gives him more authority all right -- but actually he has at the present time, as I understand it, the authority to order demolition. And this certainly is not as stringent as that. This provides some intermediate course here where the hazard can be eliminated by closing the building and sealing it and keeping people from using it, occupying it or, for that matter, entering it. I think the word "enter" is used advisedly here. Now if the person, I suppose, has some reason for going into that building, I suspect they would be able to go to the right people and get authority to go in there for some purpose; but I think the intent of the Act is that they shall not enter, they shall not use the building at all because it's been closed for certain specific reasons because the occupancy and the use of that building does provide a hazard, not only to that building itself but probably to the other buildings in close proximity to it. With respect to the regulations and the publications of them, I'd certainly be pleased to have a look at that and we can discuss it further in the committee stage.

Mr. Speaker put the question and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 23. The Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

HON. G. HUTTON (Minister of Agriculture)(Rockwood-Iberville): presented Bill No. 23, An Act to amend The Watershed Districts Conservation Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. HUTTON: Mr. Speaker, I think if the honourable members would look at the explanatory note at the end of the Bill, that they would see an explanation that is better than any that I can give. These amendments do two things. First of all they, in compliance with the requests from the officials of the proposed Whitemud River conservation district, it reduces the maximum levy that the proposed watershed officials could impose in a single year from 10 mills to 5 mills. This is done because a lot of the potential member municipalities were afraid of the prospect of a rather heavy levy, and they felt that they would feel more assured with respect to costs of the project if the maximum levy were cut in half. This is provided for in the Bill. The other amendment is in respect of the apportionment of costs to the area municipalities and it changes it from the basis of rateable property to rateable lands. It also provides that the area municipalities can levy the costs apportioned to them on whatever basis they like. They can levy them on the basis of rateable lands or they can levy them on the basis of lands as defined in The Municipal Act.

Mr. Speaker put the question and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 68. The Honourable the Provincial Treasurer.
MR. ROBLIN presented Bill No. 68, an Act to amend The Treasury Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I made a pretty full explanation of this Bill at the committee stage and trust that that has covered all the points that might occur to members. But if there are other questions that would be raised now, I'd do my best to answer them.

MR. CAMPBELL: I haven't any further questions to ask, Mr. Speaker, but I am quite convinced that there is a mistake in Section 2 of the Bill. I think in the last line to date 1950, should be 1960. Is that correct?

MR. ROBLIN: You may well be right.

MR. CAMPBELL: I think it is and I think the Minister would agree that with the several amendments that have been put into this particular Act that it's rather hard to follow them through in any case but I take it that the main purpose of the Act is to remove the limitation on the use that can be made of those reserves. Is that correct?

MR. ROBLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. I can't positively answer my friend about this date but we can certainly have it checked in committee to make sure we have it right.

Mr. Speaker put the question and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bill No. 70. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. LYON presented Bill No. 70, And Act to amend The Department of Municipal Affairs Act, for second reading.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, this is the Bill that I dealt with at some length at the Resolution stage the other day. If there are any further questions -- I think the principle of the Bill is clear -- if there are any further questions on particulars of it, we might well take them up in committee and I'll attempt to answer any points that might arise now.

Mr. Speaker put the question and following a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Committee of Supply.

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Acting Minister of Municipal Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. Speaker presented the motion and following a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for St. Matthews in the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department of Municipal Affairs. Item 2 (a).

MR. E. PREFONTAINE (Carillon): Has Item 1 been passed?

MR. LYON: The Municipal Board, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Item 2 - Municipal Board.

MR. LYON: The Honourable Member from Carillon requested information concerning some appeals that were mentioned near the end of the Annual Report of the Municipal Board. I now have the following information in connection with those appeals. Provisions were made, on the recommendation of the Provincial Municipal Assessor, in the equalized assessments of the RM of Brokenhead, Daly, East St. Paul, Lac du Bonnet, St. Vital, Springfield, West St. Paul, West Kildonan, the Village of Brooklands, the City of East Kildonan and the City of Winnipeg. These appeals, I may say, were lodged by the different municipalities at the request of the Provincial Municipal Assessor. Apparently in reporting the grants received by these different municipal corporations, they reported grants received on personal property in various corporations as grants received for real property. This, of course, was an error and was brought to the attention of the Provincial Municipal Assessor subsequent to his releasing the equalized assessments. As the Provincial Assessor has no authority to appeal against the equalized assessments, he recalculated the figures in respect of the grants and advised the municipalities to appeal to the Board and have the corrections made. In each case the error resulted from inappropriate reporting of the facts to the Provincial Municipal Assessor by the

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.)....municipality concerned. I think it was a valid point that the honourable member raised and this is the reply that I have received from the department.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, it is a very good answer that I received from the Minister and I wish to thank him. With respect to Lac du Bonnet, it seems to me that there should be something else also because the apparent discrepancy is so large there. Isn't there anything in particular in respect to Lac du Bonnet?

MR. LYON: That refers to personal property of the Hydro Electric Board, a huge amount which they inadvertently calculated into the real property and had to have it cleared up.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if the Minister would tell me who is on the Municipal Board at the present time?

MR. LYON: The Chairman of the Municipal Board is W. J. Johnston, former Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; Mr. R. L. Bailey is a full-time member, formerly of the Bank of Montreal; Mr. C. N. Argue, the president of the Union of Municipalities in Manitoba; Mr. Frank Newman, O.C., a barrister from Selkirk; and Mr. R. L. MacDonald, who is the Chairman of the Utility Board and former Chairman of the Municipal Board. Have I got them all? Five -- that's it.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think that I can say what I want to say on this. I didn't have the opportunity of saying anything on the Minister's salary due to my absence the other evening when these estimates had commenced -- of speaking on the Minister's salary. Because of the fact that the Municipal Board, of course, is charged with the responsibility of checking in, periodically at least, into the affairs of the Municipal Corporations, I think that it would be in order for me to say a word or two at this particular time.

I might say, just as an aside, Mr. Chairman, it appeared to me that when I arrived back home and started reading our daily papers as to a report of the conduct of the committee in the House, that it was a different situation during my absence in Ottawa than that that transpired when the Leader of the House went to Ottawa. At that particular time, if you recall, Mr. Chairman, the government was defeated on a technicality in that the committee had to rise and report and it does seem to as though the -- not because of my absence -- but on the very first opportunity, the majority forces in this House have attempted to make the Opposition pay for that little incident. I note that there were two sittings -- (Interjection) -- yes, I know that my honourable friend says that I'm talking about municipal affairs and I'm sure that my last remarks do not find very much favour with my honourable friend and, indeed, Mr. Chairman, I would agree that they should not find favour with him or anyone on the other side of the House. I think it's most regrettable. I might say, incidentally, that as far as I'm personally concerned I realize the power, shall I say, of those opposite and bow to that power, but question the advisability of the use of it.

However, I just would like to say a word or two now in connection with the Municipal Affairs. It seems to me, and again unfortunately in respect of municipalities and their financial situation as is the case with other departments or practically all other departments, that we're always dealing with the situation almost a year later than the facts that we have before us. I just had a brief opportunity of reading the report, the comparative summarized statistics of the municipalities in Manitoba, since my return to the House here this afternoon, and I find that the situation is not very good, in my opinion, insofar as our municipal corporations are concerned. As I say, we're dealing with the report which is a year old, namely, the 1959 report. I wonder what the situation is going to be in respect of the just past year of 1960? We note that from press reports, which we have to go on insofar as our municipal situation for 1960 in the absence of any detailed statistical reports, that many of them have had to absorb increased costs for welfare and other purposes in 1960 due to the general economic situation. I note just again, superficially glancing over the report, that there was a decrease of some 41 municipalities in 1959 over 1958 who were operating on a cash basis. I note that, down in the far corner of the report, that the immediate cash surplus or deficits as of December 31st in 1959 as against 1958 again shows a trend that is adverse to our municipalities. It indicates to me that all is not well. I know that the Acting Municipal Affairs Minister can show figures of a few years back, going back as far as 1951 in respect of municipalities operating on a cash basis, that in that particular year there was 110 operating on that basis and then there were other years when there were less. But it does seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that when

(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.)....there is the decrease of 41 between the year 1958 and '59 that we have to view with some great concern as to whether or not this is a trend, particularly, as I say, I'm sure that when the figures for 1960 become available to us that the trend of less municipalities operating on a cash basis will be revealed. Also, Sir, I look at the picture with the reports that we are having at the present time, again just news reports, but I think that they are reports that can give us room for many fears as to the cash position in our municipalities; because we note that on the report of practically every municipal corporation who has established their tax rate for the current year, 1961, that in all of those that have been revealed, through the medium of the press, are showing a very very substantial increase in the mill rate and the requirements for municipal and school board purposes which is levied against property holders. The Minister may say to me that that situation is under the consideration of the government; may say to me that there is an Enquiry Commission looking into the relationship between municipal corporations and the possible adjustments in methods of levy and possibly into such things as whether or not municipal boundaries should be altered to make for more economic units. These things are all well, and I trust and hope that the Municipal Enquiry Commission will not delay too long before they make specific representations to the government as to how best the government can assist them in a readjustment or a realignment of municipal responsibilities and also for a decrease in the levy which is made on the lands of property holders.

Now then, it also appears to me though, that even from the figures we have before us, it is more and more essential that the government itself take the initiative in having a realignment of municipal and provincial responsibilities. This government, and this has been hashed over in this Assembly on numerous occasions and I do not intend to start the old debate again, but this government has pledged itself, I think, very very affirmatively that it was going to relieve municipalities and municipal ratepayers of the cost share at the municipal level. I don't think that there is any question of doubt that the reverse has been true and that the government has not fulfilled its obligations.

Now then, there are many fields in which the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and I appreciate the fact that he's only acting in that capacity, but there are many fields in which he could show his initiative and vigour in solving some of the problems that are facing our municipalities today. I don't like harping about the fact, and it is a fact, of the unfavourable economic situation, but I'm sure that there will be a considerable increase in the total figure of tax arrears as a result of last year; and the situation looks even worse for the year 1961 when we view with alarm the municipal tax rate increases already prophesied or brought down by our municipal corporations. I say to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, that he should be viewing this with great alarm; that he should be devising ways and means himself, and through his own department, to relieving the load that is ever increasing on our municipal taxpayers.

Now I would like to know -- I don't know, Mr. Chairman, and I must apologize and I can read it in Hansard if he already has done so. I must apologize for asking if he has, but I wonder whether or not the Minister under this heading could give us a report on the activities of the Municipal Advisory Board? How often do they meet? Have they solved any of the problems that have been referred to them from this Assembly? Now I appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that this may not be entirely relevant to the question of the Municipal Board, but I'm sure that the committee will understand why I raise these points at this time and this is my only opportunity of doing so. Again I say -- again I say and I repeat, that if the trend continues, if the trend continues of ever-increasing tax imposition at our municipal levels, our municipalities are going to be into great and dire trouble. We appreciate the fact that it can be established that the area of assessment has increased; that the general assessment figures have increased but, notwithstanding the expansion of our municipalities, the individuals concerned with the payment of the bill at the municipal levy are being pressed harder and harder for their tax dollar and it's not going to be good if this trend continues.

MR. PREFONTAINE: A few minutes ago I asked the Chairman whether Item 1 had been passed and he said Item 1 had been passed. I don't want to be a stickler but I have checked with my Hansard and I see that the item has not been passed, or at least has not been reported in Hansard at all. The last speaker on the debate was the Member for Selkirk, and after he had asked different questions of the Minister, the Minister did not have time to answer because

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.).....the Leader of the House at that time arose and said: "Mr. Chairman, we have made good progress tonight and this seems to me a convenient stopping point." Now there's no record in the Hansard of the item having been passed at all. I'm sure that I was wide awake at that time. I had another question myself I wanted to ask on the Minister's salary and we've been told by you, Mr. Chairman, that the item was passed. It's not reported at all in Hansard if it was passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The item was passed. Perhaps it was overlooked in Hansard but it was because we passed Resolution 71, Item 1, that the Leader of the House arose and said, as I called Item No. 2, that the Leader of the House arose and said I think we've made excellent progress, so the item was passed.

MR. LYON:my honourable friend ask his question in any case, Mr. Chairman. I'll endeavour to give him an answer if I can.

MR. PREFONTAINE: I would like to ask the Leader of the House, if my recollection is correct, that he moved that we go to something else before the item was passed. Or was it after the item was passed?

HON. G. EVANS (Minister of Industry & Commerce)(Fort Rouge): It was certainly my impression that the item had been passed. I had been waiting until the first item was passed, and then to return to the other piece of business which was to come before the House. In any event, my honourable colleague has invited the honourable gentleman to ask his question.

MR. PREFONTAINE: I would like to ask the question as to whether or not some progress had been made on the statement made by the previous Minister with respect to the fact that the department wanted to appoint a full-time man to prepare a handbook for municipal officers, a manual; and also that this man would be sent to the municipalities in the field, in the country, to discuss with them and advise them. It was a new policy and I approved of it, and I wonder whether any progress has been made and, if not, whether this idea is still in existence or whether it will be carried forward.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, that of course is the work that is going on day to day, week to week in the department. We have no person actually filling that category at the present time. As a new addition to staff, certainly I can report that. I'll have to double-check and just see about the status of the manual. I have no present information in front of me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 2 (a).

MR. PAULLEY: I just want to ask the Minister whether he did or whether he did not give a report on the Municipal Advisory Board when he was discussing his salary.

MR. LYON: No, I didn't, Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Advisory Board meets regularly on call. Now I couldn't tell you how many times it actually met in 1960, although I can get that information. I know I was present myself at probably two or three of its meetings and I had to miss some other meetings that they held. They have a fixed agenda and they make a report through the Deputy Minister, following their meetings, to the Minister, whoever he may be, as to what they have been discussing.

MR. PAULLEY: What is the nature of the report?

MR. LYON: Just a progress report as to items — I'll give my honourable friend an example. I raised the question with the Municipal Advisory Board a number of months ago concerning whether or not there should be an exemption on fallout shelters in The Municipal Act to apply to all municipalities across the province. I raised that orally at one of their meetings. They gave me a report, I think it was at the meeting following, that they concurred in the idea and subsequently we have gone ahead to prepare legislation to this effect, as was announced by the First Minister the other evening. There are many varied problems that come before the Municipal Advisory Board. The last meeting I attended, Mr. Byars, P.F.C. Byars from East Kildonan, was taking his leave, tendered his resignation because of his imminent departure for Nova Scotia, and while I wasn't present at the whole meeting, I did get in on part of their discussion concerning different items they had on the agenda for that day.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell me, and I can appreciate his position because of the fact of the unfortunate loss of our friend the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs, but I'm wondering whether or not the Acting Minister could inform us to whether or not the Municipal Advisory Board took under consideration, as instructed by this Assembly, the point raised by my colleague the Honourable Member for Brokenhead,

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.)..... in respect to the tax on contiguous land?

MR. LYON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that matter was referred to the Advisory Board at one stage and the latest reference on that was by my predecessor, the late Minister, to the Municipal Enquiry Commission. I have here his letter of transmission of that whole problem which I would be quite happy to read onto the record, if I can find it, respecting tax exemptions under 1011 of The Municipal Act and related problems to it. If I can put my hand on it here in a moment, I'll read it into the record just to show you.

MR. PAULLEY: I can appreciate the fact of it being handed over to the ---- if I understood my friend correctly it was turned over to the Municipal Enquiry Committee, but it was my understanding with the resolution, Mr. Chairman, that was passed here last year that this was, at that time, to be turned over to both of them in any case. My question is, did the Municipal Advisory Board itself consider this or have they just simply turned it over to the Enquiry Commission which actually, as we're well aware of in this Assembly, has no legislative status.

MR. LYON: Not at the moment, but will have we hope in about a week's time, because there's a bill been introduced to give it that status. As I recall, and I'm going only from memory and I'll have to double-check as to my facts, I think this matter was referred to the Municipal Advisory Board. I stress again I will have to double-check. I think they reported negatively on any change in the section. That is my recollection of it.

In any case, on the 18th of April, 1960, my predecessor wrote Dr. Fisher, the Chairman of the Municipal Enquiry Commission, a letter in the following terms: "Dear Dr. Fisher: The question of tax exemption and fixed assessments is one which has caused considerable concern over the past few years and, coupled with our changing economy, there appears to be some necessity for up-dating our legislation to meet these changing conditions. It would be most helpful to me if the Municipal Enquiry Commission of Manitoba would enquire into and report upon these facets as a part of its whole enquiry into Municipal Government and administration. So-called contract farming is becoming an established type of enterprise in many parts of the province. There has been some criticism as to the desirability of granting exemption from taxation to buildings used in conjunction with this type of pursuit. Furthermore, requests have been received by municipalities suggesting that buildings situated on land used for grain growing and market gardening be no longer exempted from taxation. On the other hand, requests have been received to have the exemption extended to include other types of property. Specific requests have been received from fur farmers and dairy farmers for their buildings to be made exempt from taxation. It has been suggested that Section 1011 of The Municipal Act is in need of amendment to bring it more in line with present day conditions."

"The pattern of school administration in the province has changed in the past two years. Previously the local school district was the administering body, whereas now the school division has taken over many of the duties of the local school district. School divisions now are purchasing homes for teachers in villages and town and are claiming exemption from taxation of these teacher residences. It would seem desirable that your commission should investigate and report upon the desirability of granting exemptions from taxation to school teacherages."

"Community building present yet another problem. There are numerous instances in which people of a local community, through community effort, have erected a community hall, skating rink or curling rink for the benefit and use of the people of the local community. These may have been built many years ago and the revenue arising from their use is seldom more than sufficient to meet upkeep, insurance and maintenance. While these structures now may be exempted from municipal taxation under Section 984 (1) (i), they remain liable for school taxes and become subject to tax sale from time to time. Since these community structures serve a real need, particularly in the small isolated communities, it has been suggested that they might be granted exemption from all forms of taxation."

"There has been some criticism of Section 984 (1) (b) which allows the municipality to grant exemption from municipal taxation to Veterans' Associations by by-law, since such associations are paternal in nature and similar exemptions are not granted in respect of other paternal groups. There appears to be a minimum of criticism of the exemption where the Veterans' Association remains strictly paternal, but considerable criticism does arise when the Veterans' Association holds a club license and operates in direct competition to other

(Mr. Lyon, cont'd.)....licensed premises."

"Requests are being received from time to time from individual municipalities asking that they be given special powers to grant fixed assessments or assessment exemption to industry in order to encourage industry to locate in their corporation. Many of these municipalities are not content with the aids to industry provided in Section 445 of the Act. Many wish to offer industry a fixed rate on water over time. They claim that industry objects to the vote of rate-payers required in 445 subsection (2), since this places industry in a compromised position. Does the present legislation serve a useful purpose insofar as attracting industry to a municipality is concerned? Might the powers of municipalities be extended to provide greater aids to industry, or should the legislation be amended so that industries could not receive fixed assessments and taxation concessions?"

"While I have drawn attention herein only to certain phases of this problem, I would be pleased if the Commission would enquire into and report upon these aspects and any other matters which may be brought to its attention respecting the whole question of assessment and taxation to municipalities. Your recommendations and suggestions, I'm sure, will assist me materially in the formulation of progressive and sound policies directed toward more progressive and effective municipal government and administration. Yours truly, Maurice E. Ridley."

Now just on the point raised by my honourable friend the Leader of the CCF Party with respect to the position of municipalities today, I would suggest that when he has the opportunity to reflect upon the statistical data which has been circulated in the House, particularly with respect to the question of tax arrears and the imposition of taxation and so on and so forth, he will see, as I mentioned in the House the other night, he will see from the reading of Hansard that the tax collections in 1959 represented the second highest collection in the 10-year period from 1950 to 1959. He will also see that the arrears of taxes for 1959 amounted to some eleven million six hundred and ninety-odd thousand. This was approximately \$700,000 higher than 1958, but it's approximately \$200,000 lower than it was in 1957; and it represents this year, or 1959, 19.27 percent of the levy, which is the smallest proportion of the levy that it has represented since 1956, according to the figures that I have. So I think he will see that as municipal taxation imposed and the municipal taxation collected, if he will look at those two figures he will find that things aren't quite, as I was saying to my honourable friend from Carillon the other night, not quite as gloomy as one might wish to slant them. The figures are all here to be seen by everybody. The percentage of taxes collected, as I mentioned in 1959 was 100.95 percent, the second highest figure in the 10-year period from '50 to '59. While we're not trying to gloss over the increase in arrears, we still point to this fact and say that the rate of collection is very good and that the rate of arrears, expressed as a percentage of total levy, is somewhat less in 1959 than it was in the four previous years. So these are all hopeful signs. I don't think it's just a question of my honourable friends picking out the dark signs and I pick out the hopeful signs. I think it's a question of looking up the two together. While certainly we can be concerned about a rise in arrears, I don't think that we should look at this as the sole problem in itself. We must consider that the imposition of taxation in 1950 was only \$31 million; the imposition of taxation in 1959 was \$60 million; so we are dealing with a 100 percent greater figure than we were just ten years ago. I think that we can take some solace out of the fact that the ratio of arrears to taxes collected is remaining at a fairly static figure, even somewhat below what it has been over the past immediate four years.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the Minister and I most assuredly will read Hansard of Friday to get down to what he said at that particular time.

Now I will just say this, and I appreciate the fact that he has taken some figures and that I have taken some others. I think that is inevitable. He can possibly point with some satisfaction to the fact of the percentage of taxes collected in arrears in '59 to declare the current levy as over the 100 percent. But the picture isn't quite that good-looking when one analyzes the situation in respect of the various sections in the breakdown that I have here before me, as we all do, because one notes that the percentage of collections to current levy in respect of the rural municipalities is the lowest that it has been for three years. There's no indication that the wealth of our rural municipalities will be increasing. I also note that the same situation prevails in respect of our towns, that there the relationship is now at 95.78 percent, which is the lowest since 1950, as I glance over these figures. Now I think that there is cause

(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.)....for alarm. I also note that in respect of the total unmatured municipal debentures and deferred liabilities, that there was an increase in respect of these items of \$9 million in 1959 over 1958. I appreciate the fact that the Minister can point out that the total municipal tax imposed in 1959 is almost twice that of 1950. Assessments, of course, have increased on the overall picture, which somewhat accounts for this as well, but I do know, if we only compare the municipal tax imposition of 1959 as against 1958, it was up \$4 million.

Now then, in addition to the unmatured municipal debentures and deferred liabilities, a picture that we haven't got before us, and I think it is a picture that we should always have before us because after all while they are two different groups, two different levels of administration, the money still has to come out of the same pocket, generally speaking, that of the taxpayer. We haven't the picture before us in respect of the situation of our school districts and our school boards. We don't know from this and I don't know as I recall it, we don't get the information insofar as school districts to the same degree as we do the municipalities insofar as unmatured municipal debentures or school board debentures and the likes of that, so I would hazard a guess -- I would hazard a guess, as one looks over the Department of Education report of approval for schools, that that is an additional burden on the taxpayer of the province that is rapidly increasing; and we have to take the two in conjunction insofar as the net debt of our municipalities. I know our friends in Alberta point with pride to the fact that they haven't any provincial debt of any consequence and they have reduced it and wiped it off of the map pretty well as far as Alberta is concerned, but when we look at their picture insofar as municipal corporations and school boards, that the reverse has happened and that there is the real debt picture of the province. I suggest to the Minister again, that while we're looking at the figures comparatively up to the year 1959, the indicators are that the position will be worse when we get the estimates for 1960; and if the present trend continues, it's even going to be worse in this current year. That's why I say, just these figures alone, and taking these figures and viewing the situation as we see it today and as our news reports continuously come before us with increase after increase in municipal taxation, this government is not facing up to its responsibilities in respect of municipalities. While they are able to point out one or two little bits of that they may have given to the municipalities, it is not enough and I don't think that they are facing up to their responsibilities insofar as the municipal corporations or indeed, Mr. Chairman, although that department's estimates have already been approved, I don't think they're doing it either in respect to school costs.

MR. PREFONTAINE: I'm somewhat gratified to see that the Leader of the CCF Party, after analyzing these same sheets, has come to the same conclusion as I have come to myself previously. I don't think that -- (Interjection)-- you certainly have, you certainly have -- that we are prophets of gloom or doom. There was no understanding between us although I agree to a certain extent with the old saying, and I don't want to apply these words to any one in particular, but the old saying goes like this: "Figures can lie and liars can figure." I don't want to apply that to anyone in particular but, generally speaking, I think that this side has made a thorough analysis of these figures and we feel that the situation is not just as rosy as the Minister would like us to believe, especially this figure of deficit for 1959, a cash deficit for all municipalities of \$2.5 million which, to me, is quite a deficit. So I don't think I would go on further with these questions of finance. I would like to ask a few questions later on -- maybe I should now. It's with respect to the townsite of Churchill, whether the administration that the paper has talked about and was reported last year, I believe, whether there is a change of administration in the townsite of Churchill.

MR. LYON:re-location of the townsite, Mr. Chairman?

MR. PREFONTAINE: No, no. A change in the administration. They used to administer from The Pas by the Local Government District.

MR. LYON: Oh, yes. Yes, there has been a Local Government District established at Churchill some 18 months to two years ago as I recall. There's been an Administrator up there since, oh, I would say, 1959. I can get the exact date of its formation but it has been operating under Local Government District set-up for 18 months to two years, I would say, approximately.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Does he have an Advisory Committee in Churchill?

MR. LYON: Yes, he has.

MR. E. I. DOW (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could take out of the reading of the letter by the Honourable the Attorney-General that again, if certain recommendations come in, there will be still more revisions to The Municipal Act. Is there any ray of hope that The Municipal Act is going to be revised and kind of brought down into something that the ordinary council member can adjudicate and appraise and administrate his job on? At the present time, as I said last year, that's quite a dream for an ordinary member of council to sit down and try and peruse. I'm just wondering if again -- I took that if certain things come up there would be more revisions.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I can only say that I, as a lawyer who has had to deal with the facts from time to time, would certainly share in full the hope of the Honourable Member from Turtle Mountain that this Act can some day be revised to the point where even a simple lawyer or a layman can understand it. I have tried to wade my way through certain sections of it from time to time, even with the best advice from people such as Dr. Fisher and the present Deputy Minister and so on, and it's quite a quandary in places. It's quite a conundrum to get your -- if you ever get tied up, for instance, in the Local Improvement Section, that's a very lovely group of sections to get tied up in sometime. I may be talking off the top of my head, but I would hope that when this Municipal Enquiry Commission does report and particularly, as the Member from Turtle Mountain knows, the very fundamental nature of its report may help us along this line and may help us come to the point where we can devise a Municipal Act which is easier of reading and more easily interpreted than the present Act is. I think an essential development, in due course, is going to be something along the line of Saskatchewan and some of the other provinces of a Cities Act, to get away from our city Charters. I know the Honourable Member from Selkirk has mentioned this from time to time and I know in the department we feel this to be an excellent idea. I would hope, and this is only a hope which I express, that when we do get the recommendations of the Municipal Enquiry Commission, fundamental as we anticipate they will be, that this will perhaps be the time when we can undertake a revision of The Municipal Act and put it in language which is more easily understood and to break it down into parts which are perhaps clearer than they are at the present time. We have a revision of statutes starting this year and I know, insofar as I am concerned, I would like to give this matter some priority with the Legislative Counsel because certainly it's something that needs done.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, there's one more question I'd like to ask the Minister seeing as he has mentioned the fact of a revision of statutes. We have debated and suggested in this committee, in the Assembly on past occasions, the advisability or otherwise of having a uniform city charter for the province, and I'm wondering whether any headway or further consideration has been given by the administration in respect of that?

MR. LYON: I had just finished saying, Mr. Chairman, that, I think, would be one ideal toward which we would work. This year, as an example, we have two city charters coming in from Transcona and from West Kildonan, which we must re-enact as new legislation. They're based largely on other charters that we have given by special Act, so I would say that the natural development would be toward a Cities Act of the sort contemplated by my honourable friend because I think we are going to be forced into this position, sooner or later, with more and more suburban municipalities desiring city status and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2 (a)

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, I think that we're loading this new Enquiry Commission with too much to do. After all, this man, Mr. Fisher, is working with the Urban Association and the Union of Manitoba Municipalities. The money for that Enquiry will be paid, according to the Bill that we passed today on second reading, by the municipalities themselves; and I don't think it's the proper body to look into city charters, or look into the possibility of a new Municipal Act. I think that body will have so much to do with respect to reorganization of municipal units, and maybe with respect to taxation, that it won't have time to deal with the city charters. I think that the government should appoint maybe a committee or a body of men to look into the possibility of uniform city charters. In fact before I left the department, I had two meetings with the different cities to try and arrive at some suggestion or some solution of the problem. They left my office on the second time willing to meet between themselves and to make recommendations, but of course an election took place at that

(Mr. Prefontaine, cont'd.)....time and there have been other Ministers, in fact there have been three since, in charge of the department. But this is a terrific job, Mr. Chairman, and I suggest to the Minister that it shouldn't be left in the hands of the Municipal Enquiry Committee and that maybe another body of men should be asked to look after this.

MR. LYON: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, if I left the impression that we're leaving this up to the Enquiry Commission. We aren't, of course, and I think we're on common ground when I say this, that we would want to see the recommendations of the Enquiry Commission concerning some of the fundamental changes that it may wish to recommend vis a vis The Municipal Act and The Cities Act before we would embark ourselves; and we're the only ones who can be responsible for a new Municipal Act; so I think we're on common ground together. I think what we would like to do though is see what some of these fundamental changes are that are going to be recommended, if any, and having appraised ourselves of that, then we can turn our minds to the question of revising the whole act which is, of course, a governmental responsibility.

MR. T. P. HILLHOUSE, Q. C. (Selkirk): Mr. Chairman, I have on several occasions suggested the enactment of a city act which would be binding on all cities but, at the same time, I realize the importance of the work that's being done by this Municipal Enquiry Commission. If that Municipal Enquiry Commission should bring down a recommendation or a finding as to what they consider is the responsibility of a municipality and what is the responsibility of the province, it might be just as well to wait on that recommendation coming in. I believe that their thinking is along the lines that the municipalities should only be responsible for such matters as affects property, and that matters affecting the individual should be left to the province. If that is going to be their finding, and none of us can prophesy what their findings will be, it would have considerable influence upon the type of a city charter that would be enacted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 72 -- passed; Item 3 (a).

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the Minister with respect to the townsite of Thompson up north, whether the Administrator has now to help him an Advisory Committee, and whether an organized municipal corporation will be organized in 1962. The second last Minister of Municipal Affairs or Acting Minister, Mr. Thompson, told this House two years ago that by 1962 there would be incorporated a municipal corporation to take care of the administration of public affairs in Thompson.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, there is no Advisory Committee at Thompson as yet because, as we all know, they just got officially under way and into production on Saturday. I think it was the desire up there to get their permanent population in--complete their massive construction job and get their permanent population in before they considered going for an Advisory Committee. Now I can give no accurate dates as to when they will be considering an Advisory Committee. I have no present information on that, but I would hope that now that the International Nickel Company is in operation at the mine; now that they've moved their own personnel in and that there is a growing townsite there; that this problem can receive their attention within the near future, I would hope.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister one question and that is this. During the past two years, have any Orders-in-Council been passed, taking out of school districts any resort areas in Manitoba?

MR. LYON: I can't answer off-hand, Mr. Chairman. I'll seek that information and give it to my honourable friend.

MR. P. WAGNER (Fisher): Mr. Chairman, I notice that Item 3 is lower than last year. Would the Minister explain the reason? It's a very small amount -- anyhow it is lower.

MR. LYON: Yes, it's lower -- Item (b)? It's lower by \$50,00. It was \$19,340 and it is \$19,290; it was \$10,860 and this year it's \$10,600. Just a moment, I can perhaps get that. No, I haven't the exact item for that. All I have is the breakdown of the figures. Printing and stationery for one item is down, based on previous estimates, it's down approximately \$200 from the year before.

MR. J. M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Chairman, the Municipal Board report of December 31st, 1960, there's a large number of assessment appeals listed from the areas of Dauphin, Ochre River and Ste. Rose. What would be the cause for so many from that particular area?

MR. LYON: I presume that the land owners affected by the assessment thought the assessment was too high, and therefore appealed against it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 73 - passed. Item 4(a).

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, may I ask whether the assessment program has been completed or if not, when it will be completed?

MR. LYON: It hasn't been completed. I gave a general statement at the opening of the estimates with the exact figures as to how many were under way this year. I think there are -- and I'm going now by memory from what I said then -- I think there is some 10 municipalities, approximately, left. (Interjection) The last ten, yes.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Minister this -- he may have answered it Friday, it may not have come up -- are municipal assessors under this department, provincial assessors, taking out of municipal assessment the properties which are under expropriation for public works?

MR. LYON: I'll have to find the answer for that, I'm not sure.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, might I ask the Minister while he's finding that out -- part of the answer may be yes because, of course, it would be Crown property. Keeping in mind of course, and I think it's obvious to my friend, the property which is being expropriated for the floodway at the present time -- and let's not get into that hassle -- but it is vested in the name of the Crown, I would suggest, now because it has been expropriated. There would be a loss of course to the municipalities if, normally, proceedings are the Crown taking over property; it may be that they are taking it out of the municipal assessment, which they should do because of the fact of balanced assessments, this that and the other. Also, I think that they may be, which I think they should be, paying the full equivalent on municipal assessment taxation basis, at least until the floodway has disturbed the property. So I would appreciate the Minister if he would take both of those points.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, on that point I know that the general practice followed is that when land is expropriated, when the plan is filed, the landowner then ceases to pay any taxation for the land, that's the general practice that is followed, and I know of landowners who make very, very sure that their municipalities are apprised of the exact date on which the land ownership was transferred from themselves to the Crown. Now with respect to the other question I'll have to get further information.

MR. PAULLEY: the fact as the Minister says of these individuals informing their municipal councils of the fact that they no longer have to pay the taxes on it, but what I want to make sure is, and amply sure, that the municipalities receive at least the equivalent for those properties to the municipality.

MR. LYON: on some property, of course, not on improvements; grants in lieu are paid with respect to land assessment only.

MR. PREFONTAINE: Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask, in the sheet supplied to us by the Provincial Secretary with respect to staff, last year a staff of 40 was shown for Municipal Assessments and this year a staff of 31. It seems to me a very big reduction in these two figures, a reduction from 40 to 31. May I ask the Minister how is that possible, whether there's no work for some of the men or what has happened?

MR. LYON: Exactly what has happened there, Mr. Chairman, with the Assessment Branch, my honourable friend will realize the difficulty sometimes of getting good assessors depending on the crop of graduates turned out by the Department of Agriculture from year to year. We have had a number of vacancies, unfilled positions for the past two to three years; some of these that have not been able to be filled have been struck out -- just as soon as we can get a crop of people ready, willing and able to take over we'll fill these positions -- but for the time being they've been struck out as unfilled for two or three years.

MR. PREFONTAINE: The 40 last year included positions not filled?

MR. LYON: That would include assessors, plus clerks, stenographers and all of the staff relating to assessment of course.

MR. HILLHOUSE: Mr. Chairman, as supplementary to the Honourable the Leader of the CCF's question about these expropriated lands. Assuming that the municipality has been notified that some of these lands have been expropriated, have any enquiries been made by the municipalities to the government to determine what the position of the present occupant of the land is, whether that person is holding under a leasehold interest or the conditions under which he is occupying, because as far as I'm concerned I don't think it makes a particle of difference

(Mr. Hillhouse, cont'd.) to the owner in respect of taxes, because if the government notifies a municipality that there has been a lease given to that person, the leasehold interest is going to be assessed just the same as he states the fee simple is.

MR. LYON: That is a problem I know that the Minister of Agriculture has before him because in determining the form of the lease the question has arisen as to how the taxes will be paid, should the taxes be paid through the Crown to the municipality or you know so that the municipalities will not lose in the over-all picture. The detail of it I don't have, of course, that's with the Minister of Agriculture, but I know the problem is certainly a current one.

MR. N. SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Rhineland has raised the matter of the great number of appeals from the R. M. of Dauphin. I have counted them and I think there are something like 44 appeals from the R. M. of Dauphin, but the interesting point is that about 33 of them were granted a reduction, or about 75 percent of those that appealed were granted a reduction in their assessment. Now I personally have had quite a bit to do with the Assessment Branch and I have a great deal of respect for their men, and it would seem to me that this would encourage further appeals next year. I wonder if there's any comment on that.

MR. LYON: I can't presume to comment for individual landowners, Mr. Chairman. If they feel they have a cause which should be taken by way of appeal to the Municipal Board neither myself, either as an Acting Minister or as a full-time Minister can stop them. It's up to the Municipal Board to determine what the merits of the appeal are, if in fact there are merits and the appeal is granted in toto or in part, we must presume that the Municipal Board saw it that way. Of course, Municipal Boards or any Appeal Board can change its mind from year to year and can re-establish land assessments. I don't know what the situation is at the present time, vis a vis these 44-odd appeals that the honourable member mentioned were taken. I imagine some of them were granted in part, whether or not they were re-established again in the assessment that took place I don't know, and probably if the Provincial Municipal Assessor was of the same point of view as he was when he made the assessment he would re-establish them to the former level at which they had been.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, there is just one further thing in connection with this property which has been expropriated for the floodway I'd like to raise. I appreciate the point raised by the Honourable Member for Selkirk insofar as the municipality is concerned, the Crown, and the occupier, and the occupier of the land remaining there; but I'd also like to know what the situation would be in respect of municipal taxation if the occupier did not agree under the letter that was sent out to them to enter into a lease agreement as a tenant, or if that portion of the land under expropriation is -- and it's quite conceivable that it could be -- land that the former owner may feel that he doesn't need to bother about to continue his operations; it's understandable in some of the larger tracts that a corner may be taken off for the floodway. Now what is the position there? If he doesn't enter into an agreement or a lease as a tenant, what is the municipal position if he does not sign that lease, if no other person comes along to do it, because estimates have been made that upwards to ten years, Mr. Chairman, of the length of time of the building of the floodway, and I'm sure the municipal corporations concerned should not be deprived of revenue from that land during those years, so I'd like also when the Minister is considering the other points, along with the point of my honourable friend the Member for Selkirk, that he get the answer for this one as well.

MR. LYON: I'll have to ask the Minister of Agriculture because that's an item that comes under his department rather than this one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4. (a) - passed. (b) - passed. (c) - passed. (e) - passed. Resolution 74 - passed. Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. LYON: Now that these estimates are through, I'll undertake to bring back those replies to the queries unanswered just as soon as I can in committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department IX - Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. C. H. WITNEY (Minister of Mines & Natural Resources) (Flin Flon): Mr. Chairman, you'll note in the estimates for the Department of Mines and Natural Resources before the committee that they are set up differently this year to last year. We have the Renewable Resources and Services, and under that the Forestry Branch Administration, the Game Branch, the Fisheries Branch and Field Operations; and then on the other side we have the Non-Renewable

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) Resources and Services.

Changes have been made during the past year in the Department of Mines and Natural Resources in its organization and these changes will start to become effective by April 1st of 1961. The Non-Renewable Resources such as Surveys, Mines, the Air Service and the Lands Branch will not have much change to them but the Renewable Resources will. Now these changes have not been made without a fair amount of soul searching and study of various administrations in other parts of Canada and have been under consideration for a good number of years. We feel that they are needed now for more intensive management of our renewable resources in view of the increasing pressures that these resources are undergoing through more leisure time of our people and through our people being able to obtain such things as boats and guns and motors etcetera on the down-payment system; and also the number of people who are able through good roads to get to the renewable resources and make better use of them than before. And chiefly the change is with the conservation officers in the field, where instead of being responsible for all the renewable resources, game, fisheries, forestry and now recreation. In the non-renewable field we have made some changes, small changes, for instance we at one time had four separate drafting branches, we now have the drafting branches all under Surveys.

The organization is, briefly: we come down from the Minister to the Deputy Minister, to the Assistant Deputy Minister to a new position the Chief of Field Operations, and the department will be divided into seven separate divisions in the northwest, in the northeast for the area north of The Pas; western, southwestern, central, southeastern, eastern and Whiteshell. Each one of those areas will have a regional supervisor who will have under him two senior conservation officers, a works foreman and the various engineering aids that are going to be necessary. It will provide for roughly two conservation officers in each conservation district when these districts will in turn be grouped under the seven regional districts which I have just mentioned. In order to show you why we feel that these changes are necessary I might mention that the number of big game hunters rose from 27,000 in 1958 to 38,000 in 1959 in round figures. These were resident hunters only, and in 1956, going back further, there were 26,000 resident hunters only. And in fishing, in the summer resident licenses in 1956 they numbered 55,000, and now for the license year of 1959 for summer resident fishing it has risen to 84,000; and during the same period resident angling licenses rose from 1,000 to 2,000, and this past month or two in February and January we had a heavy increase of winter resident angling licenses. In recreation under Forestry during the year 1959 we had 8,000 camping permits in relation to 11,000 that were given out in 1960; and the number of campers rose in the same period from 31,000 in 1959 to 43,000 in 1960. Recreational activities in the department have now, generally speaking, risen to close to a million dollar a year responsibility, and for these reasons we have felt that it has been necessary to make the various changes. We also wish to make the various changes for the desired effect of our staff. With these changes we will now be able to facilitate the five-day week which our men have not been able to enjoy, whereas most of the other civil service branches of the government have been able to enjoy the five-day week. It will give them more opportunity for promotion which they have not been able to have before, and at the same time we hope that it will facilitate men being able to have holidays with their families, whereas it is now many of our men, all of whom are very conscientious men, have had to have their holidays at times when their children are at school, and it's one of the side affects we trust that we will be able to meet, such things as five-day week and better holidays.

I'd like to just briefly refer to the various branches under the Department of Mines and Natural Resources and not be too long. In the Forestry Branch, the downward trend in the timber production which was experienced in '58-'59 was arrested and we had a decided recovery during the year 1959-60 --although at the end of this year there was a falling off near the end in spruce lumber, railway ties and jackpine pulpwood. The volume of production during '59-'60 amounted to 30 million cubic feet as against 23 million cubic feet in the previous year. In Forestry we have had two significant forest industries develop; we have had the Chipboard Mill at Sprague which will use when it is under full steam some 20 to 25,000 cords of poplar pulpwood, which will mean that we are utilizing a species down there which is quite prevalent and which in the past has been considered more or less as a nuisance species. We have, up in the north country, up by The Pas, a second framing mill which will provide mining timbers for the northern mining industry, particularly Thompson, and at the same time to be able to aid

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) the forester in utilization of immature jackpine. This past year saw pretty well the completion of the Forest Inventory Surveys when we issued the inventory survey number 10 which has been a summary of the forests of Manitoba. It has been printed and distributed and I am pleased to say that the comments that have come in from industry and by letters have been very encouraging indeed. The maintenance of forest inventory surveys is being continued and they have provided for 25,000 square miles of more accessible forest areas to be re-photographed, to provide for more intensive management policies as a result of the information that has been found in such matters as volume estimates, species appraisal, size classes and possible silviculture and reforestation treatment. Along with this maintenance of forest inventory surveys we will be able to issue a series of forest cover maps on a scale of one inch to one mile which I hope will be published pretty soon. As a result incidentally of these more intensive surveys we have had to cutback in five management areas in the province; two in the Duck Mountains and three in the southeastern section of Manitoba. These cutbacks incidentally have not been easy on the people nor easy on those who have had to make the decisions, but the facts are there after intensive management, that we had to make them if we expected to have timber in those areas, not only for a few years to come but for many years to come and for these peoples' families as they grow up in those areas.

The forest fire situation in 1960 was extremely serious, especially in the north, and as an example during July we had 136 lightning fires in 13 days; in the south part of the province we did not have that type of hazard although during the fall we had to call back our forest fire rangers into a longer period than we have had to for some time, and as a result of that even today we are still finding hunter's camp fires that have been set in the muskeg, have been smoldering all winter and are having to be dug out. Lightning set 234 forest fires during the past year and for some unknown reason Manitoba seemed to be particularly susceptible to lightning strikes particularly in northern Manitoba, which you might say is a rather shocking situation. I would at this time like to thank and to extend the thanks to the radio, the TV and the press and other interested organizations, from our fire rangers, from our forestry officials, from the department and from the government for the help that they gave during the past year in advising the public of the extreme danger and giving them advice as to what to do to prevent forest fires. It's hard to say just what the value of it is except it is invaluable, for while we cannot say that so many announcements resulted in so many fires not starting, we do know that as a result of them during extreme fire hazards we have been able to reduce the number of fire outbreaks in the province and we are grateful to them indeed.

There have been no new outbreaks of insects in the Province of Manitoba; we did have early decadence of black spruce in the southeast corner due to butt-rot -- and I mention that only because I felt that a similar situation might develop here in this Legislature if we carry on too long. In 1960 in reforestation we had 1,150,000 trees planted; 1,169 acres of land reforested comparing with 1 million trees planted in 1959; and under the present plans of expansion it is planned to plant about one and a half million trees in 1961; 2 million in 1962; 3 million in 1963, with the ultimate goal of planting 10 million trees a year in 1970. Scarification and direct seeding has been carried out on an experimental scale for a number of years and certain new techniques such as improved scarification and better timing of the seeding and pelleting of seed are providing better assurance that scarification will be a success, and this method of reforestation is now being expanded. In 1960 we had 350 acres of forest land scarified and seeded and with the new equipment, which we were able to purchase in the past year we should be able to expand scarification substantially. The program will be expanded to 1,000 acres by 1963, and to 3,000 acres by 1970 -- and I trust that I am here at that time to see these activities carried out. You may be interested to know Mr. Chairman, that direct seedings consumes great quantities of seed and approximately 625 pounds of tree seed are required for each 1,000 acres of seeding.

In the matter of farm forestry I'd like to mention again, as we mentioned last year, that farmers in Manitoba may obtain coniferous nursery stock for planting farm shelter belts. Under the present regulations a farmer can obtain some 500 trees at \$1.00 per hundred and also receive technical advice from them as to the type of tree he should be growing for the particular soil on his farm. We've also made provision for planting material for tree farm and woodlot plantings and applicants may obtain the nursery planting stock at \$20.00 per

(Mr. Whitney, cont'd.) thousand which represents the approximate cost of production of the material. The people are beginning to take us up on this offer for during the past year approximately a quarter of a million trees went out for planting on Manitoba farms.

In recreation we can report progress. Our camp and picnic grounds along the Trans-Canada Highway are just about complete. Falcon Beach camp and picnic ground with 110 camping sites and 12 acre picnic area is now complete; Whitemouth River Park picnic area is 95 percent complete; Norquay Beach of 75 camping units and a picnic area and a beach is 85 percent complete; Camp Hughs picnic area is 95 percent complete, and Kemnay Park with 75 camping units, picnic and recreation area is 95 percent complete, with a final one along the Trans-Canada Highway, the Hargrave Picnic area being 85 percent complete. We have in the Province of Manitoba now some 86 recreational areas spread out across the province. This past year we had another 11 new roadside parks and waysides in use, or undergoing construction, and negotiations are currently under way for six additional sites and investigations are being conducted on ten others. We try to place these roadside developments in relation to the vehicle traffic patterns which we receive through the various maps that are kept by the Department of Public Works.

In the matter of Game, I think perhaps the most significant thing we were able to accomplish there was the attainment or bringing back into the province some 6,500 acres of land for wildlife management and we have set up two wildlife management areas in the province; one in the Lauder Sandhills and another in the Langruth bombing range; each one of them to be supervised by a biologist. The Langruth bombing range is for the upland game bird and the Lauder Sandhills are for upland game birds and big game. We plan to do some seeding in the Lauder Sandhills this year, but it is felt that the Langruth bombing range will be able to maintain the population that it has at the present time and we must now survey the area to see how we can increase them. We were able also during the past year to buy up some valuable property in the Delta-Netley Marshes, the fine marshes that Manitoba has, the finest in the whole of North America, and bring that land back into public use, particularly for preservation of the waterfowl species.

The Game Branch report that big game is in good shape and during December 2,800 miles of flying was completed on moose surveys with large blocks being surveyed in the Summerberry Marsh, Cranberry Portage, Lynn Lake, the North Interlake and Mantago River area. During the spring of last year 4,000 miles of big game surveys were conducted in southern Manitoba and the same will be conducted during the spring of this year and it is possibly under way at the present time. The Game Branch report that the upland game bird populations are in good shape although the possibility of zoning is being studied for some areas of the southwest portion of the province. We again tagged caribou, some 226 barren land caribou were tagged again this year, and it's interesting to note that one of the previous tags was found as far north as Rankin Inlet, some 325 miles northeast of the tagging site. The population is apparently static; for a while it was felt that it was improving because the calf ratio was good, but recently it has been found that hunting, disease, depredation and some predators have been taking off the barren land caribou what natural reproduction has put on, so the situation still has to be watched very closely. They report to me that elk in the Duck Mountain are not too good, and it may be that we will have to declare a closed season in the Duck Mountain if we run into the difficult habitat conditions that we are having at the present time. I'm sorry to report to you that the duck population is still not good. The United States flyway biologist who recently made a survey states the following based on the midwinter waterfowl on the wintering grounds; the mallard status in the three western flyways, there were 8,500,000 in 1957, they were down 39 percent in the next three years; there was a slight drop in 1961 to the lowest in ten years. In the canvasback status in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways there was a peak of 580,000 in 1954 with a low of 140,000 last year but an increase of some 60,000 an encouraging increase during 1961, to 200,000. The redhead status in three flyways had a peak of one million plus in 1954; it dropped to 277,000 in 1960; they report that there has been a substantial increase in 1961, but still far below the peak level. With our duck population much depends now on the weather conditions that we have; if the pothole country is dry then we can expect to have more difficulties.

We had restrictive measures on our canvasbacks and redheads last year. When we were at the Federal-Provincial Wildlife Conference we told them there that Manitoba was prepared

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) to make as serve restrictions as the other three provinces and the United States. At that conference it was agreed that they would allow the one mistake bird, and after that I understand that in the United States in some areas they went further and banned entirely the canvasback and redhead shooting. Along with the decision that was made at Regina, we decided to embark on an education campaign to try to give our hunters and to appeal to their sportsmanship as much information as we possibly could as to what the canvasback and redhead look like in flight and the conservation officers and the biologists spoke to sportsmans groups and other groups where we had more than 800 persons attending. We had slides and film strips on television, radio was active, the newspapers were active, and with the licenses that were bought by the hunters we had illustrated folders distributed to each hunter in order to warn him of the danger of shooting canvasbacks and redheads. I suppose there could be some criticism of it because I did hear of piles of redheads and of canvasbacks where they had been shot down and in order not to be caught by conservation officers that they had been dug under or pushed under the bush; but at the same time we did hear of many men who as a result of the appeal which was made to them in 1960, when they knew the canvasbacks and redheads were in the area that they moved away. I must once more, thank the publicity mediums and the hunters themselves for having responded to the appeal which we are going to have to make to them again this year. We have new material available and the education campaign will once more take place prior to the duck hunting season.

In commercial fishing, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis have been reported as being good with the northern lakes having the highest production on record during 1959-60. The black spot has been Lake Winnipeg where the white fish season of this summer and this winter were very poor indeed. White fish production on Lake Winnipeg has been the second lowest we have ever experienced. The trap net experiment on Lake Winnipeg is continuing and it promises to make quite some changes on the north end of Lake Winnipeg particularly, where this year we have once more closed off the pockets to the four and one quarter inch mesh and are allowing nothing smaller than five inch mesh in the north end. But we have allowed the trap net to be fished on any area along the coast of the north end of Lake Winnipeg and have expanded the fishing grounds substantially. The trap net is still in some quarters a matter of controversy but the nets that were fished by the Department of Mines and Natural Resources did catch fish last year and indicated that the trap net would be a good net for the use in the north end of the lake, particularly for conservation measures and also to provide a man with a fairly good livelihood from fishing. The nets that were used on the east side of the lake that were put in by industry and Indian Affairs did not have much success at all, and I think that was primarily due to the fact that the nets arrived late after the run of the pickerel had passed, and also to the fact that the net that they used was not the suitable type of net for that area. We have the experiment continuing again this year; modifications have been made on these nets, more nets have been placed in the pockets and along the east and west shores of Lake Winnipeg and we are anticipating that they will prove successful. One of the difficult features of the trap net is that they do cost a lot of money; but at the same time they can ride out a storm whereas a gill net will become badly twisted. The trap net will be able to ride out some of the most severe stormson Lake Winnipeg, and the trap net if it is kept in good condition will last at least for a period of ten years. Once we are able to prove up the type of trap net that is necessary for the north end of Lake Winnipeg, we must then begin to find measures so that the Indians and the Metis people in those areas will be able to purchase these nets, preferably through the government if possible, so that we can aid the situation that they face through the cost of the net involved.

In the sport fishing, in the Duck Mountains, we have had several streams surveyed on the east slope in the expectation of the development of a firm trout stocking policy and the fishing up there has been good during this past year. We've had a biological survey of the Winnipeg River continued during this past year, doing the portion from Seven Sisters to MacArthur Falls, and that means that during the past two year period we have inventoried 50 continuous miles of Lake Winnipeg. This inventory will provide basic material so that when the Atomic Energy Plant begins operation we will be able to compare through subsequent inventory, the figures that we obtain after the Atomic Energy Plant is in operation in relation to the figure that we have now, and thus we should be able to determine any damage. Eleven

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) small lakes in the Whiteshell and north to Bissett were investigated for trout management possibilities. In the north country, several small lakes were studied as potential trout producers and Newman Lake near Limestone Narrows appeared suitable as did several borrow pits along No. 10 Highway. Some experimentation was done with anaesthetics for the transportation of sports fish from our hatcheries to the various lakes in the province, and we continue it in the sports fishing category, rough fish removal in the north country and at Falcon Lake.

Just referring briefly to the Surveys Department, the northwest territories boundary was completed last year. Some rechecking has to be done up on the coast by Hudson's Bay and the Surveys Branch have now started on Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary which will be completed in about three years time. The boundary north from the 56 parallel of latitude still has to be done and this is tripartite agreement between Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Federal Government.

In the Mines Branch, mineral exploration and development in Manitoba during 1960 continued at a high level and followed a pattern similar to that of recent years. Development operations at the Chisel Lake zinc mine of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited culminated in September in the official commencement of production and completion of the railroad from Optic Lake to Chisel Lake; and development also continued at the company's Stall Lake Mine. During the same month the smelter of the Thompson Nickel Mine at the International Nickel Company of Canada Limited came into production and I had the very distinct privilege of representing the Department of Mines and Natural Resources and the government at the opening of the mine in Thompson where the nickel is being refined, and we had given to us the first pound of nickel that had been produced at the mine at Thompson. It is a very significant development for the Province of Manitoba. It not only means that there are more jobs provided, that it has opened up the country, that the Precambrian Shield has been conquered in another section, and that the north country people have been vindicated once more in their constant statement that the north country is going to grow and produce towns and mines, but it has also spurred on considerable exploration activity in the general area. I was very sorry that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition found himself unable to attend because he had a great deal to do at the early stages of the Thompson mine. I think I can assure you Sir, that you were missed and many commented that they wished you had been there. San Antonio Gold Mines Limited

MR. CAMPBELL: If I might interrupt for just a moment. Could I ask my honourable friend if he made a personal inspection of the spike that I drove on the railway to see if it's still in good working order?

MR. WITNEY: Yes, I did, Sir, and I found that it was about that far out of the ground but they tell me that was frost heave.

MR. CAMPBELL: I didn't drive it into the ground, I just drove it into the tie.

MR. WITNEY: San Antonio Gold Mines Limited completed sinking an internal shaft to explore and develop a new deep ore zone in the joint San Antonio and Forty-four Properties at Rice Lake; and a few miles south at Bernic Lake, the Chemally Minerals Limited continued underground exploration of their lithium-thesum deposit. Minerals explorations involving geological surveys, geophysical surveys and diamond drilling was directed mainly towards research for nickel, copper and for zinc. The areas undergoing exploration included the Thompson-Moak Lake Nickel belt and its extension, the Herb Lake-Elbow Lake region, the area around Sherridon, the Lynn Lake district and area east of there and the regions around Gods, Island, Knee and Oxford Lakes. The major companies engaged in mineral explorations in Manitoba included the International Nickel Company, Falconbridge Nickel Mines, Hudson Bay Exploration and Development, Kennco Explorations, Selco Explorations, Conwest Explorations, Newmont Mining Corporation of Canada Limited, Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited, Rio Tinto Canadian Explorations Limited, Prospectors Airways Company Limited and quite a number of the smaller companies.

Besides the customary prospecting of claim groups, geophysical work was carried out on seven larger areas for which geophysical reservations were granted during 1960, and these are issued for areas where conventional exploration is usually difficult and expensive and the results likely to be uncertain. In addition six permits to conduct airborne geophysical surveys

(Mr. Witney, cont'd.) were issued during the year. The Mines Branch geological crews had seven crews out in the field this summer in the following areas: Island Lake, Gods Lake, Cross Lake, Southern Indian Lake, Thompson and the area west of Sherridon. The Dominion Government also had two crews operating in the province this year and geological mapping in the Province of Manitoba during the past year possibly reached a peak.

The total value of Manitoba's mineral production is estimated at \$56 million as compared with \$55 million in 1959. We also, with the opening of the Chisel Lake Mine in northern Manitoba, began to produce lead for the first time and the lead is being sent over to West Germany. The value of metallic production was estimated at \$28 million compared to \$27 million in the previous year; crude oil production was estimated at \$10 million as compared to \$11 million last year; industrial minerals production continued to make an important contribution and the value of minerals in this classification is estimated at \$17 million as compared with \$16 million in 1959. The number of oil wells drilled in the province showed a moderate increase. The total wells drilled in 1960 was 66 as compared with 47 during the previous year, and this increase was due chiefly to extension of existing fields, in particular the North Virden Scallion field; 45 wells were drilled in declared fields as compared to 24 wells in 1959. Other activities, the Air Service -- I am very pleased to report that we had no accidents during the past year. The Lands Branch - while I have nothing specific to mention about them, have been operating as efficiently as usual.

Mr. Chairman, I think that those will complete the introductory remarks that I have.

MR. WITNEY spoke in French, will appear in later Hansard.

MR. J. M. HAWRYLUK (Burrows): Is that Eskimo French or French Eskimo?

MR. WITNEY: That is northern French!

MR. PREFONTAINE spoke in French, will appear in later Hansard.

MR. E. GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Chairman, I would first like to congratulate the Minister on the report he has just given the committee. It's most interesting and it's very obvious to everyone that he has a great deal of interest in the department that he's in charge of.

I don't propose to speak at any length at this time because I prefer to speak on the items as they come up. However, there is one item that I do wish to bring up at this time because it's causing considerable concern and I think that it should be mentioned at this time, on the item under Administration. Last year on April 2nd, 1960, a story appeared in the Free Press under the head: "Big Shakeup Ahead for Resources Department". The story went on to say that the government was going to sack the Deputy Minister and place him in a chairmanship of a board. I'm convinced in my own mind that the Minister was not responsible for the leaking of this story, but some member of the cabinet was, and where I can find fault with the Minister on this particular item is the fact that he didn't make any comment one way or the other after the story appeared in the paper. This story has caused a great deal of concern in the civil service, and when the Minister didn't make a reply, members of the civil service had every reason to believe that there was something to this report. I think it's most unfair to any member of the civil service to have his name bandied about in this manner, and it's certainly very damaging to the morale of the civil service, not only his own department but all government departments. Later on in the same month on April 27th, there was another story which read that the shakeup had been delayed because the man that the government was seeking to replace the Deputy Minister hadn't been located. Again this story wasn't either denied nor confirmed, leading people to believe, rightly or wrongly, that the story was true. Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister should have acted immediately after this report appeared in the paper and denied it or confirmed it, and taken action if it was true because I think the people of Manitoba have very reason to be concerned when a report like this appears and there's no reply from the government itself. I know the civil service was very concerned over this and I think has a damaging effect on their morale. On January 30th this year there was another story which said, "Resources Overhaul Expected". That's another speculative story. It doesn't quote anyone. We haven't heard anything from any official source to say whether this story is true or not. There again the people in the department are going to be concerned wondering whether this is true or not. I think the Minister should, once and for all, let us know what is going on so that the air can be cleared and the civil service can be more at ease at what is going on. The stories are conflicting but they all tend to say the same thing that there is going to be a shakeup and that the personnel are

(Mr. Guttormson, cont'd.) going to be changed around. So I would urge the Minister to immediately make a statement; let us know what is going on, so that the civil service will also know what is going on so they don't have to be wondering whether they are going to have a job the next morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1 (a) - passed.

MR. WITNEY: I think I should possibly answer the honourable member now. I recall the story. I don't recall the second one on the Deputy Minister. That one I'm sorry I didn't see. I did certainly see the first one, and it was a very disturbing story indeed for I had no intention at any time of making any change with my Deputy Minister. When I came into this department as a greenhorn and particularly during those first few months when I fired all kinds of questions at him, when I was full of vim and vigor and was seeking information and his desk was piled high with information from me, questions from me, which he had to find the answers for, I found in this man a very firm ally. The story disturbed me just as deeply as it did the honourable member. I think possibly his criticism of me for not taking any action on the story at that time is well founded. However, I did call the directors together following that story and we had a meeting, and at that time I advised them of the position that I had with the Deputy Minister. And since that time, in the past year, I have never had cause to regret in the fact that I never did entertain at any time any changes with my Deputy Minister. He has been a very true friend to me. He has been a staunch ally and I have found him exceedingly helpful in the many decisions that have had to be made, and some of them I consider to have been difficult during the year. I will accept the criticism of me for not taking any action at that time, but I must say to the honourable member that I was just as deeply disturbed as he was.

With respect to reorganization or the changes that were made in the department, I felt that it wasn't wise to say anything at that time because we hadn't made all of our necessary decisions with respect to reorganization, but we have now, and the changes have been told to you here today. We started up our school with our staff members and when the school started they then knew, those who came into the school, that the changes were to be made. That school, incidentally, is to be continued and our conservation officers will be attending a refresher school every year in the province. So I feel that with the latter one at any rate, that the reason we couldn't make any reply to the statement was simply that we had not come to our decision as to just which way we were going. We had been making studies and had many committee meetings and many consultations on the matter of the changes we had made, but we had not made the changes. I'd like to say here to my Deputy Minister, who is up there at the present time, that I have every complete confidence and faith in him and I thank him for the work that he has done for me and the many frustrations that I know I have caused during the past year particularly as a "green" man. And I am, indeed, sorry that the incident occurred.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like too to thank the Minister for his introductory remarks of his department. It shows that he has done his homework in respect of his department and has given us an outline of the activities of his department and I'm sure that every member of the committee appreciate the fact that he did so.

Now I want to say a word briefly on a subject that has been drawn to my attention that is of possible concern to the people of the north. I frankly confess, Mr. Chairman, that I didn't know exactly which department to deal with this question because it dealt with a number of departments. I want to assure my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources of that I didn't pick on him for any reason at all, but I thought because of the fact that this might have been a greater concern of his department, if what I am going to say can be substantiated, than maybe some of the other departments of government. Actually, Mr. Chairman, it deals with the question of the development at the Grand Rapids power site. And while I might have taken the opportunity of discussing this under the Department of Public Utilities, as I say it's of great concern to the Department of Mines and Natural Resources and the people of the north, if the information that I have received is correct.

There seems to be a fear, Mr. Chairman, that the development of the Grand Rapids power project has been taken with some haste without a proper assessment being made as to the possible effects of the development on the natural resources in the general area and that many of our fine areas of fishing and trapping and forestry will be adversely affected by this development, and also that there is some possibility of flooding very very valuable land and

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) overlaying as a result of the flooding many other potential sources of mineral wealth in this general area. It seems to me as I read the information that was transmitted to me that there is an apprehension that as a result of the dam at Grand Rapids that there will be large scale flooding of the area. I am informed by this communication -- and I would be glad to allow the Minister to have it at the conclusion of my remarks -- that they seem to feel that there would be an enormous waste of natural resources in the huge acreage that would be necessary to flood in order to have sufficient water storage for an electrical power site such as the Grand Rapids one. The flooded area would stretch northwest from the Grand Rapids to about six miles from the Town of The Pas, or at least 70 air miles. A distance north and south for 84 miles. The flooded area or reservoir would parallel the No. 10 Highway and the Canadian National Railway for a distance of about 18 miles. It could, if this information can be substantiated, seriously affect the Canadian National Railway to Churchill. I might interject Mr. Chairman, I'm not speaking on behalf of the railroad at the present time, but the fears that are in the minds of some people in this particular area. It says that it would interfere with the proper drainage of the huge Saskatchewan River. According to a Hydro map, the Saskatchewan River where it passes The Pas goes in an easterly direction for about five miles, then south for a few more miles before emptying into the reservoir to be. However it parallels the reservoir for about six miles. The only obstacle that keeps the river from entering the reservoir to be is the old river bank. This could soon wear away with the changes that are being made. The damming back of this river would greatly aggravate the serious flood condition that the Town of The Pas has had to face nearly every year when spring floods occur. One can imagine what could happen when the Saskatchewan River is slowed down and enters a lake that is already backed into the flat lands about eight miles down stream from the Town of The Pas. With the shortening of the Saskatchewan River, a new delta would be formed. With the heavy sediment that is carried by this river, this would settle when there is no current to carry it further. In a few years the sediment would build up a few miles from The Pas and would increase the danger of flooding around The Pas and west on the Saskatchewan River. Suggestion is made that before too much development is continued that a fact finding commission of the Department of Mines and Natural Resources should look further into this question. I'm not aware, or familiar with all of the lakes in this general area but my informant points out that Cedar Lake, Moose Lake and the Bignell Indian Reservations will disappear under the water. Others such as the Indian and the Metis from The Pas, Grand Rapids reservations and to some extent the settlement at Cormorant Lake will have very serious losses, particularly their fishing and their trapping. There are more than 800 actual residents on the Moose Lake and Cedar Lake reservations who would lose everything. There are also over 1,000 Indian and Metis from The Pas and Grand Rapids reservations that would lose a big part of their livelihood as well as other two or three hundred from the settlement at Cormorant who would also suffer the loss of a big part of their livelihood.

The question is asked, if this is so, just what compensation will be paid out to these people. First, those losing everything; second, those losing a large part of their livelihood for years to come; and what will the independent trappers, bushers and traders get for their loss? What agreements have been arrived at between the Federal Government, The Department of Indian Affairs and the Manitoba Hydro-Electric Board? Who would represent the Provincial Government in such a deal as this? If any agreement has been arrived at, just what are the commitments of the government in these agreements? Will the Indians and Metis have any choice? Were these people asked if they would be willing to move off of their reservation? If they have been promised new reservations, just where would they be? Would they be as abundant in fishing, hunting and trapping as their old reservations? If such places exist just where are they? And so my information goes on. It says that we certainly hope that the Federal Government will back these people to the limit when the flood waters are being backed on to these peoples' traditional homes.

The next question posed is what will this project mean to the natural resources of this area? What damage will be done? Just what surveys have the Government of the Province of Manitoba made in the affected area regarding mineral surveys? What are the geological formations in other parts of the reservoir to be? If any type of prospecting has been done to determine if commercial ore bodies of nickel, copper, zinc or uranium exist? Just what are

(Mr. Pauley, cont'd.) the timber resources in this area that will be destroyed is another very pertinent question that is posed. Just what research has the Department of Mines and Natural Resources done to determine what will happen to commercial fishing when flooding starts? My informant goes on to say, Mr. Chairman, that one of the largest and finest trapping grounds in Western Canada will be destroyed as a result of the reservoir that will be created at this particular location. These are the grounds that are generally referred to as the Summerberry trapping preserve. The development of the Summerberry project has been a terrific boon to hundreds of trappers, Indian, Metis and Whites. These people have earned their livelihood for many years in and around these trapping grounds. Millions of dollars worth of fine fur have been sold from this area. Some years there have been over 1,200 trappers at one time catching their limit of fur. The Provincial Government supervised this and marketed the fur paying of these trappers back over a 12-month period. This assured these people food and clothing throughout the slack time. Over a million dollars worth of furs have been marketed in different years depending upon the prices. This project if left alone or improved on would supply a livelihood for many generations of trappers.

Then the article I have here goes on to say, and I'm posing this as a question to my honorable friend: "With the completion of the Grand Rapids Power Development there will be an end to any agricultural development in this area. The reason for this is that most of the land suitable for agriculture would be covered with water and the rest of the suitable soil areas would be in so much danger of flooding that no one would take the risk of suffering heavy financial losses." It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, these people in this area, and I have not been able to ascertain the degree, if any, of a survey that has been made in respect of this particular development based on the consideration that I raised in my remarks here this afternoon. I'd like to hear from the Minister whether any of these points are valid, because if they are valid, I would like to know to what degree the department have entered in co-operation with the Department of Public Utilities for the preservation of this general area insofar as natural resources are concerned and in particular to the net effects that it may have on the trappers and the reservations in the area.

The suggestion is made in this communication to me that many of the preserves for our wild fowl could be conceivably seriously affected by the flooding which appears imminent in this general area. I'm sure that the Minister in his particular department as the Minister responsible for the development of our wildlife and our wild fowl life, would be very much concerned if these suggestions are in fact true; because this afternoon, Mr. Chairman, he was kind enough to give us a brief outline of the concern of the department for the preservation of our wildlife -- and there is this fear, the fear of the loss of wild game animals and other fur bearing animals. The suggestion is made that there should be a complete investigation into this whole project. It is appreciated that this is a huge undertaking and the question is raised however, whether for future generations that the losses which might be accumulated in respect of the resources of wildlife, mineral resources and timber resources in this general area, may offset the gain that we're anticipating as the result of increased power. The suggestion is made that there were, and are, other localities in northern Manitoba not too far from this general area where it may have been possible to have a Hydro-Electric development without such a large displacement of land and the covering of this land with water as may result with the plant being located at the site which it is being built on at the present time.

I'm sure, the members of the committee, Mr. Chairman, and in particular those people who know of the situation or who appear to know of the situation in the general area would appreciate very, very much hearing from the Minister and having their fear allayed. If this information that I have here is true, if there is going to be the displacement of many of our Indians on their reserve as a result of the flood waters, I'm sure they too, if they have not already been informed, would like to know from the Minister how they stand, because as we well know, if these remarks that I make and the information I lay before the committee is correct, that there is great fear and apprehension on behalf of these people in this general area. And not only that, as far as they are concerned it could conceivably, if my information is correct, have a very adverse effect on the Town of The Pas, which I'm sure that the Minister of Public Utilities, as indeed all of us in this Legislature, are anxious to see developed further. Now, Mr. Chairman, it's just about two minutes to 5:30. I know that the Minister

(Mr. Paulley, cont'd.) might want an opportunity of checking with some of his department. It may not be necessary for such a capable individual, but I would suggest that there is a possibility of him touching on this question after the supper recess.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1 (a).

MR. ROBLIN: Mr. Chairman, the committee has further comments to make on this point so perhaps it would be just as well if we didn't try to deal with it further at the moment. I'd just like to offer the observation that this is the night in which the management of the St. Regis Hotel where a number of the out-of-town members stay, offer their annual dinner to certain members of the House who are staying with them, Party Leaders, etc., and I think it has been the custom to postpone our return until 8:30, and it might well be that this would be agreeable to members again this evening. So if there's no violent wave of protest from any corner of the House, I would suggest that we should meet again, Mr. Chairman, at 8:30. May I also say that the latest figure on Manitoba Savings Bond sales as at the close of today is \$29,246,000.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call it 5:30 and leave the Chair till 8:30.