

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

10:00 o'clock, Thursday, April 3, 1969

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NELSON SHOEMAKER (Gladstone): Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Special Committee which was established to review the variations in automobile insurance rates, and which was reconstituted at this session of the Legislature on Thursday, the 20th day of March, 1969, I request and give notice that the first meeting of that committee will be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of April, at 10:00 A.M. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Minister of Finance, when that committee was reconstituted, I think it was about March 20th, attacked all members on this side of the House and said that the reason that no meeting was called in 1968 was because we had failed on this side of the House to call a meeting and he charged that we were dilatory in our duties. -- (Interjection) -- The notice of motion is that a meeting of this committee will be called in Room 254 on Tuesday, April 8th, and I request that it be turned in to the Clerk.

MR. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Well, we're finally starting to move.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Q. C. (Attorney-General)(Fort Garry): But God knows in what direction.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. DOUGLAS CAMPBELL (Lakeside) (in the absence of the Honourable Member for Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 43, An Act to amend The Child Welfare Act.

MR. SPEAKER: May I speak to the honourable member. Your constituency escapes me for the moment.

MR. CAMPBELL: Lakeside.

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

MR. CAMPBELL (in the absence of the Honourable Member for Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 44, An Act to amend The Metropolitan Winnipeg Act.

MR. R. O. LISSAMAN (Brandon) introduced Bill No. 37, An Act to vest Title to Land in The City of Brandon.

MR. JAMES COWAN, Q. C. (Winnipeg Centre) introduced Bill No. 46, An Act to validate By-law No. 2259 of The Rural Municipality of Rockwood.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

HON. WALTER WEIR (Premier)(Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wonder if I could advise the members of the House of a meeting that was held this morning with myself and members of the Air Canada Liaison Committee, The Air Canada Department of Transport and representatives of CAE and Northwest Industries, at which time the agreement between Air Canada and Northwest Industries was announced. There were formal releases made as a result of the meeting from the various parties concerned, along with resolutions which were passed last evening at a meeting of the Liaison Committee. These will be formally presented to the Ministers and Air Canada but they were read to the meeting this morning and copies of all of these things have been made in quantities that can be distributed to all of the members of the House this morning.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. GEORGE JOHNSON (Minister of Health and Social Services)(Gimli): I would like to lay on the table of the House a Return to an Order of the House No. 3 on the motion of the Honourable Member for Neepawa and also a Return on the Order of the House No. 10 on the motion of the Honourable Member for Wellington.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. Is the First Minister aware of the statement made by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources in the Province of Ontario with regard to the fact that the resources of the province

(MR. GREEN Cont'd.).... belong to the province and will in future have to be refined in Canada? Is he aware of the policy of the Ontario Government in this regard?

MR. WEIR: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would be of value to the citizens of Manitoba for the Premier of this province to get together with what is happening in Ontario because the statement makes clear that it will have to be refined in Canada and our mines should be perhaps alerted to do the same thing.

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, that seemed like a little bit of a speech to me. It's a question that might be directed to the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources who may know the details about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Transportation. In view of the death which occurred two days ago by virtue of an ambulance-pedestrian accident, is the Minister considering any changes in the Highway Traffic Act which would require ambulances to obey the traffic laws?

HON. STEWART E. McLEAN, Q. C. (Minister of Transportation)(Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that we haven't given any consideration to that matter as yet.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I was willing to sit down and let somebody else ask a question, but I have another question I'd like to ask, again to the First Minister. Is the First Minister aware of the change over from an air base to an industrial park in Centralia, Ontario, which resulted in increased jobs, increased activity in Centralia as against what was previously generated by the air base, and could be considered for the possible moving of the air base at Rivers, Manitoba?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of it, but there are some differences between the Rivers Base and the Centralia Base and certainly I would think that it would only be considered following a decision by the Government of Canada, a definite decision.

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

MR. ELMAN GUTTORMSON (St. George): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I'd like to direct to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Has he any information with respect to my questions on John Fisher now?

HON. OBIE BAIZLEY (Minister of Municipal Affairs)(Osborne): Yes, Mr. Speaker, if you would agree, I would like to read the information that I have. It's contained in exchange of correspondence between our Premier and Mr. Bell, President of Abitibi Paper Company. This is January 7, 1969: "Dear Mr. Bell: We are now planning for the Centennial of Manitoba's entry into Confederation in 1870. As the first province to enter Confederation after the original four, Manitoba has a particular place in Canada's history. John Fisher, who directed Canada's Centennial is now associated with your company and we would like to have Mr. Fisher as a consultant on centennial planning and to be able to use his experience and his knowledge of Canada. During 1967 and the years leading up to 1967, Mr. Fisher was a frequent visitor in the Province of Manitoba and he worked very closely and very well with all those connected with the running of our 1967 centennial program. The demands on his time would not be onerous. Specifically we would like him to come to Manitoba occasionally for briefings and to inspire our own people through his public appearances. A small honorarium and expenses would be available to him.

"We would also like him to assist us in convention and directors' meetings to be held in Manitoba during 1970. We invited over 500 companies to hold directors' meetings in Manitoba during 1970 and I'm sure you'll be pleased to learn that 41 have already made arrangements to hold at least one meeting in Manitoba during our centennial year. If this suggestion commends itself to your favourable consideration, then we know that our centennial year will be better and richer because of Mr. Fisher's contribution. It is our hope that the directors of Abitibi, too, will find it possible to meet at least once in Manitoba during our centennial year. Kind regards and good wishes" signed by our Premier.

This is a letter from Mr. Bell to our Premier, dated January 28, 1969. "Thank you for your interesting letter of January 7th. John Fisher is playing an important role in expanding our company's potential in the United States and in the process I hope is selling Canada as well. We would be happy to make him available, if his other commitments permit, to act as consultant on your centennial program. I am sure it would be difficult for him to spend any time in convention and directors' meetings except in a consulting capacity and I'm sure you can

(MR. BAIZLEY Cont'd.).... understand this. We are most interested in your project and I will schedule a directors' meeting in Manitoba during 1970. It will be a pleasure and it has been a long time since our directors have visited our Pine Falls Mill so it will be most appropriate. Sometime in the spring I would appreciate the opportunity to meet you and review with you Abitibi's plans and problems in Manitoba. We have been critical of the many advantages afforded Churchill and would like to discuss the advantages that may accrue to our company. Your Department of Mines and Natural Resources are being most co-operative in their endeavours to establish security of supply. However, I would like to discuss the competitive activities of the operations in this province."

This is January 31st. "Dear Mr. Bell: I'm pleased to learn from your letter of January 28 that as I had requested of you, Mr. John Fisher might be made available as consultant for Manitoba's Centennial program of 1970. Your co-operative attitude in making Mr. Fisher available is much appreciated by all of us who are concerned in ensuring the success of the Centennial of Manitoba and I shall be looking forward to seeing you when you are able to visit Manitoba and have noted your wish to talk about certain competitive aspects of your company's operation in this province." Signed by the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, this is the only details that are available on Mr. Fisher's participation as a consultant for Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the correspondence which the Honourable the Minister has just read, might I ask either the Minister or the First Minister or the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, is it indicated that the competitive aspects in the Province of Manitoba that Mr. Bell would wish to discuss would be those arising from the government having extended financial assistance to a competitor?

MR. WEIR: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no, it isn't indicated.

MR. CAMPBELL: May I ask, Mr. Speaker, what is indicated by that?

MR. WEIR: Mr. Speaker, it doesn't say. What's indicated is a desire for a meeting.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, "to discuss the competitive situation".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education. Is the Minister aware that the Public School Finance Board has apparently refused the Winnipeg School Division to build an extension to their administrative centre?

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Youth and Education)(St. Vital): The refusal wasn't by the Public School Finance Board, Mr. Speaker, it was by the Minister.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a supplementary question. Since the Winnipeg School Division is apparently upset by the Minister's decision, do they have the right to appeal to the Minister to reconsider?

MR. CRAIK: Yes, they have, Mr. Speaker. It's not in writing but it's there.

MR. DOERN: And a further supplementary question. Has the Winnipeg Division contacted the Minister and made arrangements to meet with him again on this question?

MR. CRAIK: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Services who has responsibility for the Centennial Corporation. Did anyone from the Centennial Corporation or Commission attend the World Hockey Championships in Stockholm?

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Chairman of the Centennial Corporation, while on a business trip to Israel, did take in a game or two at the World Hockey Championships in Stockholm.

MR. JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was he officially representing the Corporation and also did he attend at public expense?

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Chairman, when he is travelling is officially representing the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, but as to whether he made this particular trip at the expense of the corporation, I would have to inquire for the member.

MR. JOHNSTON: And the Minister will inform the House later?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. SHOEMAKER: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with I

(MR. SHOEMAKER Cont'd.) . . . would like to direct a question to my honourable and respected friend the Minister of Health. In consideration of the fact that we have just passed a bill and amendments to it to provide for Medicare, and that embodied in that bill are the provisions for services of chiropractors and optometrists, is it possible now, as of this date, where a patient in bed in any hospital in Manitoba can request that a chiropractor attend at his bedside and give him treatment?

MR. JOHNSON: No, Mr. Speaker. The corporation are working out the next phase of negotiations with the two groups mentioned.

MR. SHOEMAKER: A supplementary question. I take it then at the moment this is not possible, but it will be possible in the almost immediate future to extend the same courtesies to the chiropractors as is presently made available to the medical profession?—(Interjection)—

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health. Up to the passing of the Medicare bill, doctors were paid by the Workmen's Compensation Board for injuries which arose during the course of their employment. Would medical fees in these cases still be paid as part of Workmen's Compensation?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): I'm not sure who to direct the question to. Maybe it's the Attorney-General. In view of the question asked in the House last week pertaining to the fines paid by the denturists, is it a fact that the fines that were paid by the denturists are at the disposal of the dentists?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, these were private prosecutions. The disposition of fines is governed by the Act. The Act is available for my honourable friend to read and to interpret as he wishes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Health. Will the Workmen's Compensation which is paid to the doctor, will that constitute full payment for his fees for the particular service rendered?

MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I've just received for this municipal officials of Manitoba, the list. I wonder, maybe this question should be directed to the Minister of Health, is there any reason or could this book be improved by listing the Coroners in certain districts in Manitoba? I don't think it's there. Or is there a special book listing the Coroners in Manitoba with the municipal officials? Could that be done or have you -- (Interjection) -- no, no this one. Municipal officials, yes I think there's everything else but the Coroners.

MR. LYON: Coroners are hospital officials, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DESJARDINS: Oh, are they. Could I ask the Attorney-General then is there a list, is it possible for the members to get a list of the Coroners in the different districts in Manitoba?

MR. LYON: We have a list of all the Coroners in Manitoba. They're all appointed by Order-in-Council. It's all published in the Gazette; it's public information.

MR. DESJARDINS: How do you get that public information? This is what I'd like to know.

MR. LYON: Just ask for it.

MR. DESJARDINS: All right I'm asking for it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LYON: You'll get it.

MR. DESJARDINS: Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Second reading of Bills. Bill No. 11. The Honourable the Minister of Transportation.

MR. McLEAN presented Bill No. 11, An Act to amend The Garage Keepers Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, just a word. Last year we passed a provision in this bill that would - in this Act rather - that would enable a lien to be filed by a garage keeper who had performed services on an automobile. The time limit was set out at 10 days. The purpose of

(MR. McLEAN Cont'd.).... this bill is to extend that period of time to 20 days. We're presenting this because it has been indicated that the 10 day period is a little short, and we believe that the 20 days will be adequate and be more workable, and I recommend it to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX (Kildonan): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have read this bill, we find nothing wrong with this. We're ready to proceed.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. LYON presented Bill No. 12, An Act to amend The County Courts Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. LYON: The Bill is completely self-explanatory, Mr. Speaker. It removes the requirement in the County Courts Act, that the rules of court have to be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The judges of the court are empowered to make the rules of their court subject only to the requirements of the regulations regarding publication in the Gazette. This is the same procedure, or will be the same procedure as followed in the Court of Queen's Bench. It removes an anomaly that has been present for many years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. LEMUEL HARRIS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kildonan, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Minister of Transportation.

MR. McLEAN presented Bill No. 18, The Proceeds of the Contracts Disbursement Act, 1969, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. McLEAN: Mr. Speaker, some three or four years ago, I think it was 1964 or 1965, I presented a bill identical with this bill except for the contracts set forth in the schedule of that bill and of course the contracts set forth in the schedule of this bill. This is to take care of a situation where a contract has been completed and there is no question concerning the amount of money owing by the province to the contractor, he having discharged his obligations under the contract, and the money being monies held back under the provisions of the law. We are aware, and are made aware of conflicting claims in respect of the money and the procedure that was devised on the previous occasion was in accordance with the principle which is set out in this bill, that the money is paid to a trustee together with all information that we have concerning the requests that have come in in respect of the account or money, and there is then the procedure laid out whereby the trustee will proceed to pay out the money, taking into account the claims that are made, and of course this establishes the necessary procedure which must be followed in the event of there being any dispute with regard to it. This gives notice to all persons who may have an interest in the money concerned. It serves the useful purpose so far as we are concerned that it gets the money out of our books and transfers the responsibility of adjudicating what may be conflicting claims with the trustee and with the assistance of the court, as and when necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John's.

MR. SAUL M. CHERNIACK, Q.C. (St. John's): Mr. Speaker, I hoped we would get clarification and I expect we still will, how this problem that the government has would be handled if the government were a private owner and a person or a firm which had contracted under similar terms with a contractor who has not completed a contract where claims arise. I would assume that these firms folded up, they're either bankrupt or out of business in some way, and I'm wondering why the usual procedure of application through the courts does not apply to the government as it would to any private owner who has entered into a contract. There is a procedure, surely, either in bankruptcy or by way of action in the courts, and I'd like to know to what extent the government is prevented from doing it, or if it's not prevented, why should the government have any special provisions which enable it to get itself out of a dilemma in which it is, as compared with any private owner. Of course, I'm not in any way opposing the bill going into second reading but I hope that at this time, or at committee, there will be a fuller explanation as to the position of the government vis-a-vis the position of anyone else in a similar dilemma.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Wellington, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would now call the resolution on page 2, standing in the name of the Honourable the Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Proposed Resolution of the Honourable the Minister of Finance.

HON. GURNEY EVANS (Minister of Finance)(Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recommends this resolution to the House. I beg to move, seconded by the Attorney-General,

WHEREAS the Special Committee to review the variations in automobile insurance rates was reconstituted at this Session of the Legislature on Thursday the 20th day of March, 1969 with the following personnel: Honourable Messrs. Craik, Evans and McLean, and Messrs. Bjornson, Cowan, McKellar, McKenzie, Guttormson, Hillhouse, Shoemaker, Green, Paulley and Steen,

AND WHEREAS it is deemed advisable that the names of Honourable Mr. Craik and Mr. Steen be struck off this Committee and the names of Honourable Mr. Witney and Mr. Claydon be substituted therefor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the names of the Honourable Mr. Craik and Mr. Steen be struck off the Special Committee to review the variations in automobile insurance rates and the names of the Honourable Mr. Witney and Mr. Claydon be substituted therefor.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I think the purpose of the resolution is quite simple. The government desires to change its representation on the Committee, and if the House sees fit to pass the resolution they will be able to do so. It required a message from His Honour, because if the event should arise that the new members incurred any expenses by way of traveling or otherwise, that they could not be refunded to them if the message had not been given prior to the resolution. This happened in the agricultural committee some time ago. One of the members took a trip, when he came back we found we couldn't pay him back his expenses, so I had to provide it with a message.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we're quite in favour of the resolution, but we are concerned that it not hold up Tuesday's meeting. We assume this will have no effect on Tuesday's meeting.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Leader of the Opposition)(Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to say I have no objection to the change of names, it doesn't change the composition of the committee and is quite acceptable to us. I hope that the two new members who have been added will receive notice of the meeting, so they can attend.

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

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, could we now ask you to call the resolution at the top of page 2, standing in the name of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution, the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, His Honour having been informed of the subject matter of the resolution recommends this resolution to the House. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, that

WHEREAS a draft revision of The Municipal Act and Bill No. 107 - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3) introduced at the 2nd Session of the 28th Legislature was referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs appointed at the Second Session of the 28th Legislature;

AND WHEREAS the draft revision of The Municipal Act was not completed before the opening of this Session;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs appointed at the 2nd Session of the 28th Legislature reported as follows:

"As Bill (No. 107) - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3) has not been considered by the Committee and as the Committee has not completed its work with respect to the draft revision of The Municipal Act, your Committee recommends that these matters be referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs to be constituted at the Third Session of the Twenty-eighth Legislature."

(MR. BAIZLEY Cont'd.)

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the draft revision of The Municipal Act and Bill 107 - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3) introduced at the 2nd Session of the 28th Legislature be referred to the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs and to report to the House during this Session or at the next Session of the Legislature with any recommendations in respect thereto;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs appointed at this Session consider the draft revision of The Municipal Act and Bill 107 - An Act to amend The Municipal Act (3) introduced at the Second Session of the 28th Legislature and report to the House at this Session or the next Session of the Legislature with any recommendations in respect thereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

THAT the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs shall have the power to sit during recess after prorogation to consider the above matters;

AND THAT the Provincial Treasurer be authorized to pay out of the Consolidated Fund to the members of the said Committee the amount of expenses incurred by the members in attending the sittings of the Committee or expenses incurred by the members in the performance of duties ordered by the Committee in recess after prorogation.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL MILLER (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the Minister's motion this morning. I would like to urge upon him the necessity to convene this committee as quickly as possible so that we give effect to the changes in the Municipal Act at this session. The committee did complete its work on Bill 52, but because it is a companion really to Bill 107 and revisions in the Municipal Act itself, all the work is sort of at a standstill, and I would urge the Minister that he not wait till the session ends, but that meetings be convened almost immediately so the committee can go forward with its work and bring in actual recommendations to this House, so the entire Municipal Act and the local Elections Act, the various acts dealing with these, can be brought forward into this session, can be voted on and can be passed at this session. We've waited many years in Manitoba for this and I don't see at this stage why there need be any slowing down or any further delay to 1970. I think the amendments are long overdue. They've received the support of all the various municipal and urban associations and everyone is waiting for this. So I would urge the Minister to call the meeting as quickly as possible — by as quickly as possible I mean next week, today being the last day that we're meeting here for this week. If he wants me to, I'd be glad to call the meeting but I'll leave it to him at least for the next few days. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I, too, do not want to obstruct the passing of this motion establishing the committee so that they can proceed with their work in connection with bringing in a new Municipal Act. However, there is one very important point in my opinion which deserves attention and that I would like to see brought about before the changes in the Act are completed.

I am referring to the matter of assessment. I feel that we have to have a change in the government policy in connection with assessment. I am sure that members are aware that when market gardeners took the government to court on the assessing of farm properties in the surrounding area of Greater Winnipeg that the court ruled that assessment of these properties should be based on land use and not land values. I feel that this should be recognized by the government and instituted into their policy, that farm lands be assessed on their use rather than on their value, because I feel that this is bringing about an injustice to the farm people of Manitoba, that they're paying excessive taxes compared to other fields of endeavour, other businesses that acquire a much higher return on their investment than farm people do and do not pay accordingly rate of taxes. Therefore, I feel that we need a change in the assessment of farm properties. We need a change in the formula or the criteria used here. I would certainly like to see the government bring in a new policy before the revision of the Act is completed because it might need some revision or amendment in that respect. I'm not just sure what is required as far as changes are concerned; maybe the Minister could inform us if any changes are required. So this is my complaint and otherwise I welcome the work that this committee will be doing and get it underway as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. BAIZLEY: Mr. Speaker, just one word re the calling of this committee. It would be the government's hope that we would be able to call this committee for Wednesday next at 9:30.

In answer to my honourable friend the Member from Rhineland and his statement about the court directing the consideration of assessment to land use, I would like to clarify that for honourable members because I believe there was an indication in news stories that indicated that that would be the only factor. I must tell you, Mr. Speaker and honourable members, that there are the three factors and the court advised the assessors to give consideration to land use. It is location, market value and land use.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General, — (Interjection) — I beg your pardon?

MR. GUTTORMSON: Do we go in committee now?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. GUTTORMSON: I was going to make a suggestion that perhaps the House would consider moving the two private bills which stand in the name of the Member for Roblin, just clear them so they could be moved into committee. They're very brief and it might help concert their work.

MR. LYON: We'd have no objection to that, Mr. Speaker. The member is apparently prepared to go on.

MR. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin) presented Bill No. 14, an Act to provide for the making of grants by the Town of The Pas and the Local Government District of Consol to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anthony's General Hospital of The Pas, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a straightforward bill whereby the Town of The Pas has asked the permission of this House to make grants to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anthony's General Hospital of The Pas in an amount not exceeding \$225,000 to assist in the erection of buildings for and equipment of a hospital in the Town of The Pas. It also would grant permission to the Local Government District of Consol to make a grant to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anthony's General Hospital in The Pas in an amount not exceeding \$37,400 to assist in the erection of the same buildings for and equipment of the hospital in The Pas. And for the purpose of raising these monies to make the grant mentioned to the town, a by-law to borrow an amount not exceeding \$225,000 and the issue of debentures to secure the amount so borrowed, payable within a period not exceeding 25 years from the date of the issue and bearing interest at a rate of sufficient yield to yield the amount to be borrowed. The same applies of course to the Local Government District of Consol.

The money secured by debentures issued under Sections 3 and 4 will be repaid in annual installments during the current season of the period within which the debentures are to be discharged, Mr. Speaker, and these installments shall be such that the aggregate amount payable for the principal and interest in any year shall equal as nearly as practicable to the amount that is payable for principal and interest during each of the years of the period. So I recommend this bill to the House and hope that they will pass it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PHILIP PETURSSON (Wellington): Mr. Chairman, I have a comment and a question on this bill. The question probably first. It is suggested that there be an amount not exceeding \$225,000 granted to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anthony's and so on for the construction of this hospital. The by-law as I understand it and as the honourable member stated, the by-law is for the purpose of raising this \$225,000.00. But in the bill itself the figure used is \$245,000.00. Is this an inconsistency in the bill or is this actually — and then why would they be raising \$245,000 if all they need is 225? The figure \$245,000 is mentioned in Article No. 3.

MR. MCKENZIE: I think, Mr. Speaker, that the....

MR. CHERNIACK: closing debate if he....

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland. Order please. Has the Honourable Member for Wellington finished his remarks?

MR. PETURSSON: No. Then if an answer is not immediately forthcoming, I hope it will be forthcoming a little later on. The point that I wish to make was, Mr. Speaker, that in

(MR. PETURSSON Cont'd.)... effect hospitals in Manitoba are not any longer in private ownership and they are not basically the individual responsibility of the communities in which they are to be built, but it appears to be made contingent upon the granting of a money by-law, or the passing of a money by-law, that the hospitals be built. If the hospital is necessary in a certain area it becomes necessary, but if the electors, the ratepayers who vote on this money by-law turn it down then in effect the hospital will not be built. This should be a responsibility of the Manitoba Hospital Commission or the government, the province as a whole. If the hospital is needed then of course it should be built, but not based on this contingency which could possibly not be accepted by the municipality - the municipality or the electors in the municipality, not wishing to burden themselves with the amount of money that is involved. I would very much like to have some comment on this particular point, explanation for the need of this particular procedure and a comment on the other point that I make that these proposed hospitals are not in effect the primary responsibility of the community in which they are to be set up.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to observe one matter and that is that as already pointed out by the Member for Wellington, that there seems to be a discrepancy between the two figures. I don't know whether this is correct or not. However my question is: Does this constitute the 20 percent that is required in order to receive a capital grant from the government, the total amount that is being asked for in this bill? If the figure under No. 3 is correct, then it would be roughly 300,000. If the other figure is correct, it would be 280,000 and on the basis of that, the total expenditure would be roughly 1.4 million or 1.5 million. The first paragraph states that this is to assist the erection of buildings. Does this mean that the total outlay of this project will be in the neighbourhood of a million and a half or what is the score. And is the government participating in this venture?

HON. J. B. CARROLL (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs)(The Pas): Mr. Speaker, before the member answers I could just say a word of comment. The reason for this bill of course is that this is not a municipal hospital, it is a private hospital but one in which the people of The Pas and the Local Government District have a very substantial interest. I would also like to point out that the Federal Government are making a special contribution because of the large Indian population that this hospital will be serving. So the 20 percent will be made up of a contribution by Indian Affairs, a contribution by the Town of The Pas and the Local Government District of Consol.

I can't explain the discrepancies between the figures in the bill and the ones mentioned by the member who introduced it except to say that this is a maximum figure and presumably the requirements may be somewhat less than this but they must put in a maximum figure to allow for differences in tendering prices as compared with the present estimates that they have for the construction costs of this new facility.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say a word or two. What was said by the Honourable Member from Wellington I think prompts me to say a few words. It's perfectly in order to discuss it under this bill although it doesn't affect and it doesn't mean that I'll vote against this bill. But I feel that there is certainly something in what the Honourable Member from Wellington said that we shouldn't worry about this 20 percent any more. This is something that I said in the past. You have this 20 percent of any new construction, capital cost has to be paid by the district and here in Greater Winnipeg area the 20 percent is levied by a tax from the Metro Corporation to the people in the Metro area and I stated in the past that I feel that this is wrong. We have many people from the rural points and we welcome them. We know that this has got to be done. I'm not suggesting for a minute that they shouldn't be allowed in these hospitals here, but nevertheless they use these hospitals and probably there will be more usage if at all possible and more construction needed now that we've passed this Medicare and I think that the government would be well advised to take a second look at this and I think that we should do away with this 20 percent. Some community might want the hospital and it might not be needed but they've got the 20 percent. I know that it has to be approved by the Commission but even then they've got the 20 percent to put in because they have a little more than other communities and I don't think this is right. We have a Commission that should study the needs for new hospitals or for enlarging the facilities of certain hospitals. We have an example in Saskatchewan where they're closing all kinds of

(MR. DESJARDINS Cont'd.)... hospitals now. I think that there is a commission that decide where these hospitals will be. We should have in mind the welfare and the health of all the population of Manitoba. We should have these hospitals wherever we need them and I think this 20 percent from now on should come from the consolidated revenue or from the province at large. I might be stretching things a bit here by bringing this under this bill but it is that 20 percent that we're talking about. I certainly don't intend to oppose the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks,

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite proper to discuss the question posed by the Honourable Members for Wellington and St. Boniface in this bill because as the Minister pointed out this amount of money that's requested here on the part of The Pas and the Local Government District is to pay towards the 20 percent required to construct the hospital. This is an archaic system that has been going on in Manitoba for years where the owners of the hospital have to provide 20 percent of the capital cost, and we still talk in terms of 20 percent and 80 percent as if these figures are meaningful. The federal-provincial authorities between them pick up 80 percent we are told; the local owners, that is the municipality, or if it's a private hospital the private group pick up 20 percent making a total of 100. It sounds good but in fact it's completely unrealistic because it just isn't the case.

The federal-provincial governments between them pick up 80 percent, not of the cost of the hospital, but a mythical cost based on \$5,000 per bed. It's about 10 years since the cost of beds went beyond the \$20,000 range; the latest figures we have are that they are running \$30,000 a bed. So when the federal-provincial governments talk in terms of 80 percent, they are actually talking in terms of contributing \$4,000 a bed; but the 20 percent which has to be raised by the local authority is actually based on the cost, the actual cost. So you find that the local authority is paying more through its 20 percent than the federal-provincial governments are paying through their so-called 80 percent. I think it's essential that we recognize and we get down to the facts in Manitoba. With the coming of a hospital plan and with the new technologies available, the old idea of a community owned hospital or a hospital being operated by a small private group, whether it be a church group or any group, is gone. We're hanging on to a myth. The fact is that the private hospitals can no longer exist on their own. Everyone is covered by hospitalization. The hospitals today are paid on a per diem rate, that per diem rate is built into the premiums that are paid through the hospital plan and the grants provided by the Federal Government. They're entitled to hospital care at the rate of \$35.00 a day. In that \$35.00 a day is an amount to pay the debentures which have been issued on behalf of that hospital, the principal and the interest is incorporated in a per diem rate. And to suggest that our private hospitals somehow operate on their own is nonsense. None of them can exist and we know from reading the local press that where the few are still in existence, they are having difficulties staffing their people through their voluntary organizations; they have to turn more and more to the professional administrators as health provision through hospitals is becoming something that the state is deeply involved in and is going to become even more deeply involved in.

I agree that it's high time we discarded this obsolete and as I say mythical approach, and recognize that a hospital is a facility which is serving not just a local community but an entire area, much greater perhaps than the area that's created on which a levy is placed. There's no doubt that the community in which the hospital is situated does have costs associated with the hospital and always will have and I don't think they'll ever reject them, but to impose on them a 20 percent participation is I think archaic in this day and age. I would like to suggest that, although this Bill I would support because we need this facility at this time, that the government look very seriously at updating its legislation, coming to grips with the problem and recognizing that if a hospital has to be built the Hospital Commission should state (a) that it is necessary, and if it is necessary it shouldn't be dependent upon the wealth or lack of wealth of a certain community. There are many communities where hospitals maybe should be built. As a matter of fact, it is in those areas of our province where there is poverty, where there is sickness, that hospitals are needed, and yet they are the very same communities which can least afford to approve by ratepayer by-law a by-law requesting two hundred or three hundred thousand dollars, and to deprive them of a hospital because of that is nonsense. The Hospital Commission should determine where the hospitals go and the Hospital Commission, through the government, having made that decision, should then throw the resources of the province behind that hospital to make sure that the hospital is built where it's

(MR. MILLER Cont'd.), ... needed and not only where the ratepayers approve through ratepayer by-laws.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable gentlemen for their contribution in the debate. In answer to the Honourable Member from Wellington's question, it is my understanding that the town contribution or grant to the hospital is not likely to exceed \$225,000, but the Chairman of the Finance Committee feels that the town might have difficulty possibly in disposing of the debentures at eight percent plus interest and may be required to issue them at a discount, so therefore they are asking for authority for the other figure. That's my understanding of it.

The philosophy of hospitals - I enjoy the debate in that - but in my position as the mover and seconder of the Bill, it's by wishes of the local people and I can't debate that today. I think it does call for a great debate another day.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?

MR. DESJARDINS: Before we vote, did he say he was the "mover and seconder of the bill"?

MR. McKENZIE: Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Just a slip of the tongue. You were rather sharp. It was just a slip of the tongue I'm sure.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm always sharp on Thursday morning.

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

MR. McKENZIE presented Bill No. 32, An Act to permit The Town of Flin Flon to make a Grant to the Grey Nuns of Flin Flon General Hospital for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, the Flin Flon General Hospital is presently owned and operated by the Grey Nuns and it has been found to be inadequate in servicing the Flin Flon area which of course includes Cranberry Portage, the Town of Creighton, which is in Saskatchewan and of course the numerous outlying settlements near Flin Flon. The Grey Nuns in conjunction with a committee representing all other interested parties and organizations (this would be the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, the Flin Flon Clinic, the town, etc. etc.) have for, I understand, three years been studying and planning this addition to their hospital to try and update its present facilities and to provide for more wards and beds and to provide much needed operating theatres and facilities to house all the necessary diagnostic services such as x-ray, lab, etc., that are needed. The estimated cost for the construction and equipping of this addition is \$2,250,000.00. Proposed plans and estimates have been approved by the Manitoba Hospital Commission and all other authorities. Under present government policy regarding construction of hospitals, the local community involved is required to contribute the 20 percent of the total cost which was spoken about a moment ago, and of course the other 80 percent is made up by the government and Hospital Commission grants and loans to the owners and operators of the hospital.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, the community of Flin Flon is required under this Bill to raise 20 percent of \$2,250,000 or approximately \$450,000.00; Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Limited is committed to a grant of \$225,000, so that leaves \$225,000 approximately to be provided by the residents of Flin Flon. The only authority with sufficient borrowing power to provide such funds is the Town of Flin Flon and the Council of the Town of Flin Flon have decided by a unanimous decision, a certified copy I have of that, to apply for authority to borrow an amount not exceeding \$250,000 by way of debentures for the purpose of this grant to the Grey Nuns Hospital.

The Municipal Act presently provides that the cities, town and municipalities may make grants to hospitals of an amount equivalent to one mill annually on its assessment, and of course such a grant is of course inadequate under the circumstances that I am drawing to your attention this morning, Mr. Speaker. So accordingly the Town of Flin Flon is requesting authority by the way of this Bill for the Legislature to pass a by-law for the purpose of borrowing by way of debentures an amount not exceeding \$250,000. The same factor applies here, Mr. Speaker, as I spoke about with The Pas Bill and that is that the town's contribution is not likely to exceed the \$225,000, but the finance committee of the council felt that the town, again the same as The Pas, might have difficulty in disposing of the debentures at eight percent interest and may be required to issue them at a discount, so therefore they are asking for

(MR. MCKENZIE Cont'd.)... authority for the \$250,000 rather than the \$225,000 which is closer to the actual grant required by the hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Just a word. I'm not going to make the same speech although it was very short, that I made on the other motion. It is the same thing of course and we feel exactly the same way, but I think that it might be an occasion now to recognize the work done by these people. I think that it would be a sore mess if the day would come that these Order of Nuns and of any religion, I'm not suggesting one more than the other, I think that these people are very dedicated and I think that we owe these people an awful lot and the least we can do is take this opportunity I think, to recognize the value they have to the people of Manitoba for their hard work and for being so conscientious in looking after the need in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. PETURSSON: Mr. Speaker, I would endorse the words of the Honourable Member for St. Boniface in paying tribute to the people who operate these private hospitals. It's true that if they weren't there to take over a hospital or to build a hospital or to operate a hospital, in many instances the hospitals would not be there. It wasn't my purpose in connection with the earlier bill to protest the building of a hospital but rather the methods used in raising this 20 percent, the procedure by which the hospital is to be built and raising the funds necessary for it. I pay full tribute to the people who operate these hospitals and wish them every success.

At the same time I would wish to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the simple raising of this 20 percent of the estimated cost is no real assurance that a hospital will be built. You can raise the money but you don't get the hospital. Winnipeg is an example. Several years ago the City of Winnipeg appropriated what was then to be 20 percent of the cost of the construction of a hospital in connection with the Municipal Hospitals, the King George, King Edward and Princess Elizabeth. The money was appropriated by the city; that hospital is still not built. A shovel hasn't been put into the ground. In the meantime the Grace Hospital has been constructed and is in operation; the Victoria Hospital is under construction and there was serious discussion at the time of the proposed hospital on the Municipal Hospitals ground that the Victoria Hospital become a part of that complex. However, agreement could not be reached and the Victoria Hospital has located in another place and is under construction, whereas the Municipal Hospital, the addition to it, which at the time was regarded as much needed, hasn't even been started. There have been, as I understand it, several sets of plans, there have been changes of policy as to type of hospital, but so far in spite of the money being available, nothing has been done and I just wonder what is the reason for the delay. Why should these other hospitals which came along actually later than the proposal for the Municipal Hospital, why should they have been built and the addition to the Municipal Hospitals not?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that my honourable friend from St. Boniface raised this question of the House pausing for a moment to pay tribute to the dedicated service that institutions - and I think some of us who do not belong to that particular religion could even say "especially" the Sisters of the Catholic Orders that specialize in nursing have given towards health throughout this province and throughout this country and other countries. It's been my experience that no people in any line of work anywhere are more dedicated than these Sisters are and the Hospital Orders, if that's the right name, I think have made a contribution, many many times beyond the call of duty - and I say that without any reservations. But I do mention this other part and it's something that I'm sure that the Honourable Minister of Health is aware of, and I don't know the answer, I don't know the solution to propose, but the thing that has disturbed me greatly when I have visited at hospitals where the Sisters are in charge and also ones where graduate nurses of other groups are in charge, the thing that disturbs me, Mr. Chairman, is that the most competent people in the nursing profession, including the Sisters, are now so greatly engaged in paper work that they don't get time to do very much nursing.

This is one of the things, Mr. Speaker, that seems to be, it seems to be inherent in the kind of a system that we're developing here that the more we - and I'll try and avoid using the word "socialism"; I'll try to avoid saying it's because of a socialistic tendency; I'll try to

(MR. CAMPBELL Cont'd.).... avoid suggesting that it's either this government's fault or the federal government's fault — it seems to be the fault of the times, Mr. Speaker, that as we get — (Interjection) — yes, my honourable friend says "Turn the clock back" — and to my honourable friend and some of his colleagues, this is the most serious indictment that can be made of anything — don't ever go back to what used to be; just keep going ahead and getting into more and more difficulty. This is the situation, when you get to a place where you can't carry on, you don't turn the clock back, you may have to stop it for awhile, because this is the problem that I see in the health area, that the multiplicity of paper work, plus the multiplicity of administration plus the multiplicity of costs, is something that is making health care — and I predict that under Medicare it will continue to rise — making it simply out of the reach, not only of the private individuals but soon of the government.

The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks mentioned a little while ago, if I caught his figure right, that it's now something in the neighbourhood of \$30.00 per bed — \$30,000 per bed. It's only a few years ago that we talked about 8 and 10,000 per bed — now it's \$30,000.00. Similarly you could quote the costs of patient day care and so on. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself 100 percent with the remarks that have been made with regard to the dedication, the quality of service that particularly these Orders and many other organizations have given. It's not their fault, but I say that it's a sad day for health care in Manitoba and throughout the rest of the country when we find that these people who are so dedicated and are so competent and are so able to help, find that their best efforts are expended on administration rather than on nursing care. And now we're going to have the same type of thing, I judge in the medical service as well.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be a Jonah who is prophesying doom all the time. Well I don't prophesy doom; we'll get along with this. I suppose if it costs \$30,000 per bed now as compared to 8 or 9,000 a comparatively few years ago, I suppose that so long as you have inflation which gives that many more dollars for everything that's done, I suppose you can get up to where you can have it costing 60,000 and then 80,000 and then 120,000 and so on, and providing you keep inflation going, I suppose the figures don't mean very much, and what really counts is good health care. No question about that. But I ask the question seriously, I ask it seriously, can the people who are administering the hospital plan, and will soon be administering the medical services plan, can they continue to face these rising costs, and can they continue to take the best people, the ones most qualified to give service, can they take them into the administrative field.

It's likely I won't make a speech on education so let me say that the same thing is happening in education. The best teachers are required now over in the administrative side, they're getting out of teaching. What's the answer? I don't know, I don't know. Mr. Speaker, in spite of my advanced years and grey hairs that my honourable friend here is alluding to when he says turn the clock back, in spite of all this, I have never advocated turning the clock back, never, never; but I do advocate looking ahead to where you're going all the time. I have advocated all the way through the years that the reason we have to be careful about venturing into these costly social programs is because of the fact that they grow of their own momentum, even though you don't make them one particle more generous, they grow on themselves, they grow year by year and that's why you need to look ahead. That's not turning the clock back. That's just planning.

That's a little ways from where I started, but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that though I'm a 100 percent behind paying tribute to the great service that so many people in the field of health have given, I do view with considerable misgiving the fact that we're using so many of these people in the administrative field now, with ever increasing costs, and withdrawing them from the direct health care.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, in closing the debate on the bill I thank the members again for the contributions that have been made in the debate and the tributes that have been paid to the Sisters of the Grey Nuns Order and to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anthony's at The Pas, and coming from a community where the Sisters of Sacred Heart have operated a hospital for many years, I think that they deserve more praise than even this assembly could extend to them for what they have contributed to the health service of Manitoba, and I'm most grateful that it did come in on the debate of this bill.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of

(MR. EVANS Cont'd.).... Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MATTERS OF URGENGE AND GRIEVANCES

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

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I tried to introduce a subject through the form of adjourning the House earlier in the week and it was your ruling that that was not in order at that time. So, I'm using my privilege of speaking on a grievance going into Supply. I'm also aware that this will be the only chance I will have during the session to speak on a grievance matter, however, I consider the subject of such importance that I am happy to forego that privilege in future.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure many members of the House who are from the rural areas are aware of a situation that has been going on for the past several weeks wherein farmers who are purchasing fertilizer - certain types of fertilizer - are finding themselves in the strange position if they wish to obtain the best price possible, of going to the United States to purchase fertilizer that is manufactured in Manitoba. I'm speaking now of the Simplot Plant at Brandon where certain types of fertilizer are manufactured and sold through dealers throughout western Canada and in the Northern United States.

I would like to quote to members of the House current prices of three types of fertilizer, one is known in the trade as 11-48-0. The best cash price for this type of fertilizer by the ton in American funds is \$85.00; the same fertilizer that is manufactured in Manitoba is selling in Manitoba for \$103.90 Canadian funds. Taking into account the 8 percent differential in funds between Canadian and American, taking into account the shipping charge of \$5.00 a ton, there is still sizeable monies to be saved by people going across the line to such towns as Grafton, Cavalier, St. Thomas and Langdon and purchasing fertilizer that is manufactured in Manitoba. I can also quote another type known as 34-0-0, usually purchased in bulk - American funds \$49.00; Canadian funds \$72.00. There again, taking into account the difference in funds and shipping charges, there is a sizeable savings to be made by our farmers going across the line and buying their fertilizer.

A third type - although I'm not sure whether this one is manufactured in Manitoba or not - it's known as 23-23-0, is purchased in the United States for \$73.00 American; in Canada \$96.00 Canadian funds. I'm told by the Honourable Member for Carillon, I believe, in an aside, that this is also manufactured in Manitoba.

Now, what could this House do about this situation, Mr. Speaker? I suppose not a great deal, but I would think that the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture could hold discussions with firms manufacturing or selling these products in the Province of Manitoba. I really don't know what the answer is, but I find it rather strange that an American firm financed largely by government assistance, either through loans or forgiveness grants or a combination, should manufacture a product and find it profitable to sell it in United States at a much lower price than they sell the same product in Canada. I think this is a very unfair position our farmers are put in, with the battle they have in the cost price squeeze and I think that some level of government - and in this case I'm speaking now of a provincial government - should take a good look at this and should attempt to do something about it, although I say, and I admit freely, I have not the answer to this, but I think that some attempt should be made to try and solve this problem so that our farmers can buy at home, and buy at the best price that is possible.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Souris-Lansdowne in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Department of Youth and Education. The Minister of Youth and Education.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I should just finish the remarks I was on when we closed out the other night. The Honourable Member for Elmwood had a number of questions which he had directed in his comments and before we carry on I would like to answer these.

(MR. CRAIK Cont'd.)

First of all, with regards to university fees, he quoted a number of statistics involving provincial contributions towards the bursaries and scholarships and support in general for students at the University of Manitoba. The figures which he used here are ones I think he probably had excerpted from a recent study done by the University of Manitoba Students Union - which in fact I believe a note of commendation should go to them for the work which they did - but the figure which has been used here for the bursaries at \$69.00 per student for Manitoba is one which will require some examination.

As I mentioned in my introductory remarks, the support this year has increased of the order of \$200,000 support to University education in the form of bursaries and scholarships. The total amount that this comes to including the other university bursaries, private ones and so on, amounts to a total of about \$2,244,000, and if you divide the number of students in our universities into that, if you use a figure of 15,000 students divided into that, you come up with a figure which is considerably higher than the one which he was using. Nevertheless, the — (Interjection) — Yes, I don't know how you separate these out. Again it's a matter of quoting statistics because what is government, some of the provinces may in fact not show it as government support but actually is included in university. Obviously there's university money that comes from the government that are called university bursaries, but nevertheless they're funded almost completely by the provincial government. It's partly the method of how you keep your books. But nevertheless the support for university student in the form of bursaries is higher than the figure which he mentions. It's a good question as to whether it is high enough and he made the point that undue hardship is worked in some cases for people coming from the rural areas of Manitoba. And this I must support 100 percent because I spent a number of years myself on a voluntary committee that spent a great deal of time trying to interpret to the various high schools in Manitoba, and particularly in the rural area, trying to improve the liaison in communication so that they were aware not only of the bursary support which was available to them, but also to try and motivate the students in these areas towards a university education. And having spent quite a bit of time on this, it's my own personal feeling that the bursary support which we are offering may not be as much as we would like it to be and it is — maybe we hopefully will be able to increase it more as time goes by. Although this may not be as high as we want it to be, there is very little doubt in my mind of the fact that there are not too many cases that you can find where very deserving students who have a desire to go to university have not in fact got the support necessary to get them there. The basic problem in getting people from the low income brackets into universities is not first of all financial in this day and age. The basic problem is more one of a motivational problem, a problem of the fact that they don't have, in most cases, the incentive generating from the home situation or from the home community that creates in them a desire to go on to university.

Now, I think you come down, on university fees, to the basic philosophical argument as to whether or not governments in fact should carry 100 percent of costs of university. As I said in my opening statement, we have concern, the university has concern, the community has concern, that when all of the dollars for their operation comes from government, if this point is reached, then is not there some concern about the autonomy of the university? And I know that staff people are concerned at the university, administrative people are concerned, the community is concerned about this. Now this is one argument for students, in actual fact, having a say. As I said, the percentage support of the university by student fees has been dropping steadily over the years. Ten years ago, or maybe a little better than that, the figure that comes to mind is roughly 30 percent of the support. In fact we have institutions existing now where the percentage that is supported by student fees is much higher than it is in another institution. But now, on the average of the costs for the three universities, the support is of the order of 16 to 17 percent.

I don't think there's any magic figure that you can reach here. All we know is that it has been going down steadily and the increased support from the Provincial Government has been going up steadily. It's a value judgment that you have to come to, as to whether or not, what level of fees exist at the university or whether in fact you have fees paid by university students. Personally, I still believe in the old-fashioned idea that fees are good. I know that others will say that they create a barrier, but at some time in life every person has to learn to stand on his own two feet and the amount of his university fees for him, or her to better their education, may in some cases work a hardship, but in the majority of cases I will

(MR. CRAIK cont'd.) back the stand that to learn to pay your own way is part of moral development. There is no condition in Manitoba today whereby a person cannot get a university education if he has the intellectual capacity to do it and he has the desire to get it.

This is the case, Mr. Chairman, that I'd like to make. The Manitoba Government does not control directly the budgets of the universities. This is not a desirable situation. I don't think anybody wants it. I have hesitancy to direct questions to the universities regarding their affairs that even come from the House because I believe that questions should come directly from members of the Legislature and go directly to the boards of governors of the universities. The relationship between governments and universities is one that has been traditionally an arm's length sort of a relationship and it is one that I think the majority of the community wishes to maintain. So in fact I don't know exactly what fees will be at the university. In my opening statement I made the statement that it should surprise no one if they in fact increased, and that is as far — I'm not saying that they will increase, I said simply that it should surprise no one if they do. I suppose it is going to depend how the university itself decides to cut up the pie in terms of their projects and their other income as to whether or not they will in fact raise their fees this year.

Now the other point the Honourable Member for Elmwood made was with regards to trade schools, and I would say simply here that the governing of trade schools is a problem, remains a problem, but not a problem to the extent that anybody is desirous of throwing the baby out with the bath water because trade schools do perform a very valuable function — the private trade schools perform a very valuable function in the total educational picture. In Canada, even with the advent of vocational education throughout the country, private trade schools have continued to increase their enrollments across the nation. And it seems rather strange that they would, with the other educational possibilities available to people through the technical institutes, but in fact trade school enrollment has increased across the nation and has increased in Manitoba even during the past years. Now they do fill a necessary gap in many cases. And they do — in fact there is duplication of what is offered at a trade school in many cases with what is offered in the public institution. Nevertheless, many people seem to prefer to go to a trade school, whether it's because the course is given at nights and the other one is given during the day or whether it's a shorter course with possibly more flexibility, at any rate there are gaps in the educational system where trade schools do perform this valuable function.

Regarding their controls and with regard to the bankruptcy of VIP, I think it's generally known that the bonding that was required of this company was placed at \$10,000 which was considerably higher than had ever been done previously. As a result of this bonding protection, when the company did go bankrupt all people enrolled were covered adequately by the bonding, and apart from their educational opportunity available to them after that, the keypunch operators that were involved were given the opportunity to go on to the M. I. T. However, very few did because most of these people are working full-time, and in addition to that most of them, particularly in the computer programming course, did not have the initial entrance requirements in order to avail themselves of the more lengthy and more rigorous course that is offered at the M. I. T. The bankruptcy was unfortunate but I think we did everything that we possibly could. All we can say is that in the interests of the valuable job that private trade schools do do, all we can do is proceed with as much caution as possible and try and scrutinize them as adequately as possible in hopes that we can screen out those that show indications that they may not have a viable operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Chairman, it appears to me that not all members take an interest in education, the House being rather empty this morning. However, I feel that this is a department where we're spending the most money that is being allocated by this government to any department in the Department of Education, and therefore I feel that it is a very important department, and naturally the children of our country and their education should be a prime concern to the members of this House. I listened with great interest to what the Honourable Minister had to say in his opening remarks. Naturally, in addressing the estimates like he did, you have to cover so many items, and this is also going to be my problem here this morning because you cannot just address yourself to one particular aspect of education; it is so involved that you have to cover the waterfront.

But, Mr. Chairman, I rather failed to hear the Honourable Minister give us some of the trends in education. What are the prospects? What are the trends for the future? Surely

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) enough we should have some indication of that. We should not just go on past records, on the report that we have before us which is almost a year old. I think we need current information. We should have the facts as to what will happen this coming year or several years from now. It seems to me that the enthusiasm that was here a year or two ago is lost, is gone. We don't hear the government benches speaking about education the way they did a few years ago. And what is the reason for this? Why do we have a situation whereas it seems as though this balloon has rather deflated by now?

Mr. Chairman, there are quite a few things that I would like to raise this morning under the Minister's salary. Some of the things naturally could be discussed later under individual items, but I feel that so many of these are interlocking and therefore I will cover more than would probably be necessary at the moment. Last year we had a bill introduced by a private member in connection with teacher aids. The bill did not go through; it was defeated. But it seems to me that there is a program whereby certain schools are bringing in teacher aid on a trial basis probably, experimenting, but what is the situation here? Surely enough there must be other provinces who've experimented in this where we could gather information as to the value of this program and whether we should do likewise, because if we just let this thing come along without taking cognizance of it in a real way, this could mean large expenditures. This could mean that we would have probably another 50 million dollar tab for salaries because if we are going into this - well I use the term "loose housing"; it's probably not a very good term to use - but the open classroom type where your teachers will just be planning the program and you have other people coming in to do the correcting of the pupils' works and so on, that this would mean further employment of many many more people. What is the government's attitude on this? Are they encouraging it? How many schools are experimenting with this? I think we should know.

Then, too, a program of this type, what does it bring with it? It seems to me there are so many loose ends with this whole program, that you will have children in various grades and at different levels, that they'll probably be at a much higher level in one subject than in another, and how are you going to finalize this when you come to that the child is going to leave the elementary schools and continue into high schools? Where are we on this whole program? Surely I can see that we have many planners and schemers who would like to have this system brought in because this would then mean less of the arduous work, of the daily routine work, and which would then permit them just to sit down and plan the work and let somebody else do the real hard work of the daily classroom.

Then too, who are the people that are evaluating these programs that are being brought in? Are the same people that are bringing in these programs, are they also doing the evaluation of them? Because I feel that surely enough if a person brings in a certain program he will probably evaluate it in a much different way than another one, another person who might be more objective, and therefore I feel that this area too needs more consideration and that the members of this House be brought up-to-date on this.

The matter of salaries. Sure, we have had some very substantial increase in salaries so that the teachers I think in general are much more satisfied. I have the 1966 report here and on Page 25 we have a table of the salaries that were existent through the various years from 1950 to 1965 on, and the final average salary given for 1965 was \$5,103.00. I put in for a Return the other day asking for information on this very item. I'd be very happy if the Minister could inform us as to what the average salary is today and just what increases we have. I think he gave us the number of the teachers employed in the education system in Manitoba. In 1965 we had 9,088 teachers employed and the total salaries were \$46,380,000 representing 57.1 percent of the total amount expended. What is the situation today and how have we come up the last three years since then? -- 1965 is the last one reported. The later reports of 1967 and 1968 don't contain this table any longer. They have omitted it from the report. Could we have the reason why this is being omitted and not being brought up-to-date? I think this would be very valuable information as to what is happening salarywise in Manitoba.

This brings me to the other point and that is the value of our money spent. Are we getting proper value for the money that we are spending in education in Manitoba? How does it compare with other provinces? Because we know that the tax burden is increasing year by year and that people in Manitoba are required to pay more and more taxes each year for the purpose of educating their children. A few years ago it seemed, when the unitary system was brought in, that this was the answer to all the problems; this was hailed as the big era. Now we hear very

(MR. FROESE cont'd.) little of it. What is happening? Are the people really satisfied in the unitary divisions with their new programs? It seems to me that instead of getting the people — have them retained in involvement, that we have a loss of involvement by the people of Manitoba in education. I don't think we have the same involvement as we had a few years ago and I don't think this is a good thing. We should have more people involved in this matter. One reason I give is I attend the Annual School Trustees Conventions, and it seems to me that the interest shown in these conventions several years ago was much higher than what it is today. Here again I feel that the trustees are just told: "This is what you can do; this is what you shall do;" and that's it. They just accept it, whereas in years gone by I felt they had a much more genuine interest and probably much more dedicated to the cause of education than they are today. It's more like a machine operating today compared to what it was a few years ago.

Too, I would like to know, the Trustees Association submitted a number of proposals to the government, requests of changes — what is the government's reaction on these? Are they accepting some of these? Will some of these requests be turned into legislation and brought forward? Likewise, the Teachers Society also I think made some requests. What is happening to these? Will their propositions be accepted? I remember too well one of them was the matter of regional bargaining for a school trustee. Will the government succeed in bringing in legislation on this point? I had quite a discussion with the executive of both these organizations on this matter and personally I feel that the trustees would be losing a certain amount of autonomy under this matter of collective bargaining, or regional bargaining, and that I personally do not favour this, but there were many other proposals that were submitted and I would certainly like to hear from the Minister on this as to whether they will be accepted or not.

Last year we amended The Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund Act. Here, too, I would like to know from the Minister what has happened. How is it working out? I noted one of the items was in connection with investments, that we allow the Fund to invest in World Bank bond issues. Has anything come about as a result?

Then, too, I find it rather strange that we have a fund here of some \$38 1/2 million or \$34 1/2 million and the teachers have their own credit union which is in a borrowing position. They borrow money. Cannot the Fund invest in the credit union in their own credit union, so that the teachers' credit union wouldn't have to go outside to borrow money? Why cannot they use some of their own funds for that purpose? Surely enough this should be made available. After all, it's their own money and they should be able to use it. Is there something in the Act of the Allowances Fund, The Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund Act, to prohibit them from doing so? I would like to see this matter investigated and hear from the Minister because at the present time they're borrowing something like 15 percent of the assets of that particular credit union.

While I'm on it, I feel that the School Act should be amended to permit school districts to deposit funds with the credit unions. We have many credit unions in Manitoba that certainly give a very outstanding service. I've made these requests in other years that the school districts and divisions be allowed to deposit their funds with credit unions because their hours in many cases are longer and teachers can more readily use the services of a credit union as a result of that. I find that's the case in our local area and I'm sure this must apply in many other areas. Could we hear from the Minister on this?

On the matter of pensions, I note from the report that in the years '62-'63, the average pension was \$125.00. Last year this apparently increased to \$255.00, which is almost double or more than double the amount. This is certainly very good news, in my opinion, but what is the average amount of pension outstanding? It does not give us the average of the total number of pensions in effect and what the average pension would be, so I would like to get this information as well.

The Minister covered many other individual items. I will have to refer to these on that basis as well and some of them will be more in the nature of questions. First of all, the matter of school inspectors. We find that many of the divisions now have their own administrative staff; they have their supervisors. What function does the inspector provide where you have all these administrative people and these supervisors? Is the need still there for school inspectors, especially in the unitary divisions? In the multi-district divisions you still have the smaller school districts where you probably require this, but is it actually necessary still to retain the school inspectors today because of the revision?

(MR. FROESE cont'd.)

Then I note from the report that the School Buildings Projects Committee will now come under the Public School Finance Board. Just what does this imply? Does this mean that all school building projects will first have to be okayed by the Public School Finance Board before the Building Projects Committee will even consider working on them? We heard in the Throne Speech that further controls would likely be given to the Public Schools Finance Board. Does this mean that they will also be able to regulate the special tax that a division or district can levy? I think these are questions that we should have answered when dealing with the estimates because the estimates allow for a considerable increase in expenditures. Last year the total amount given is 136; this year it's 149. We know that under Buildings and Projects there is a reduction of some \$5 million and then, however, we see an increase in the section dealing with grants and which accounts for an increase of roughly \$10 million, so that we will be spending increased funds on education for the year and I would hope that this money will be spent wisely and that we get our value for the tax dollar.

The Minister spoke very glowingly about the Frontier Division. Here was an area where action was really going. Is this because of the ARDA agreement that we have more development and more things going on in these divisions up in the Interlake area? Is it the federal money that we're using to advantage that we have more things going on up there, or what is the reason for having more activity in that general area?

We have received the Boundaries Commission Report. I haven't had time to study this the way I would like to. Maybe the explanations are in that report, I could not say, but Mr. Chairman, I would also like to hear from the Minister, how do the expenditures compare between the unitary and the multi-district divisions? Are the unitary not much more expensive per student than the multi-district divisions? We haven't got the latest information in this report but the indication of the last year in the report seems to be that the operations of the unitary divisions are much more expensive, and whether in these areas we are really getting our money's worth. I think we're probably getting just as good an education in the multi-district divisions as in the unitary at much less money, and I would like to hear from the Minister on this whether this is not the case.

We also note from the report the other item in the estimates that raises the total amount is the increased grants to the universities, something like \$7 to \$8 million. The Honourable Member for Elmwood already referred to this, but what is the increased moneys going for? We now have the University Grants Commission; the money is allocated and handed over to the Commission for them to divide between the various universities and then spent. What are the increased funds going for? Will it be to alleviate the expenditures of the students or is this extra money going into facilities and supplies and so on? I think we would like to hear from the Minister on that as well.

There is some mention made in the report of the Manpower Adult Training program. On previous occasions I have questioned the Minister in connection with the operating schools. I still have not received the information. Whether he has it or not by this time I cannot say, but maybe he could indicate to us how many of these classes are in operation, and just where are we going as far as our adult training program is concerned? Are we tying this in with the universities more and more, or will this remain separate, and to what extent will we be subsidizing this program in the future?

I do have some more items to discuss; some of these I'll discuss later on. There's one matter, though, and that has to do with the tax rebates. We know that over the years we allocate so much for tax rebates but not all of these rebates are collected by the farmers or the taxpayers, and what happens to these moneys? I've had a request from the local municipality that these moneys that should be coming forth to taxpayers in their particular municipality be left with their particular municipality and not with the government, as is the case. What is the Minister's reaction to this? Could we have this brought about? And how much of these moneys have not been collected? How much is still outstanding?

I think, Mr. Chairman, these are a few points that I would like to raise at this particular time. I will have more as we do go along and bring in some new matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Hamiota.

MR. EARL DAWSON (Hamiota): Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be brief but I would like to point out a few things to the Minister. Before I do, I want to congratulate him on taking over the position of Minister of Education and Youth. If I had the opportunity to entitle my few

(MR. DAWSON cont'd.) short minutes I think I would call it "Equal Opportunities in Education." It is my belief, Mr. Chairman, that there's an education gap between the urban and rural students of Manitoba. I think that some of the examples I could give would be the teaching of creative arts, probably music and technical skills, maybe physical education, and some others. I think that through educational TV we could narrow the gap between the urban and the rural pupils of Manitoba and do something towards education. I know that the Minister has reported that there are some broadcasts right now - about a half an hour - but I don't really think that the time is adequate enough. I think that if we could improve on the existing facilities we could do much to narrow the gap between the urban and rural.

A few of the recommendations I'd like to make to the Minister would be that he set up an educational TV committee in Manitoba. This committee could probably be composed of teachers, possibly civil servants, technical people, and people from the Minister's office, and I think that the committee could investigate two main areas. They could in all probability coordinate the programs and the production between not only Manitoba but between the western provinces. I think that the committee would have to find a way also of providing schools with television receivers and video tape recorders because many of the schools, not only have they not got one TV receiver, but I think they would need at least four or five. And in this manner I think we could narrow the gap between the rural and urban education, what I've mentioned.

The other point I wanted to touch on, one that I feel is very important to people from the rural areas, is the fact that university students should be subsidized, particularly those that come from rural areas. I know that for the pupils or students living in the City of Winnipeg the factor of board and room is not one that they have to be concerned with, but for a parent who is sending a boy from a rural centre into university he must be concerned with the fees plus the fact that he's faced with a board bill of at least \$65.00 to \$70.00 per month. In all, I think that if a boy is allowed some pocket money (or a girl) which is a necessity nowadays, that the total bill for people from the rural areas is approximately \$1,700 opposed to about half of that for students who are able to live at home in the City of Winnipeg or Brandon, and I think it's one of the things that we should be doing, Mr. Chairman, to narrow the gap that I suggested earlier between the rural people and the people that live in urban centres.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to deal with a particular topic in my remarks about children with learning disabilities which is a rather new area. However, before I do that, I want to just make a brief comment back to the Minister on his comments about the fact that he felt that any student in Manitoba who wanted to go to university these days can make it. I would point out to him that out of several hundred thousand university students in the country, in our country, that some 15,000 every year interrupt their education, and when you look at the figures you find out that 78 percent of the students who interrupt their education come from families that have an income power of less than \$6,000 a year. You also find out that most students are getting an average of about \$500.00 a year from their parents, and I'd like to ask the Minister to explain that, because it seems to me very simple, that if a student is fortunate to come from a middle class or upper class family he is getting loans and grants and so on which he doesn't have to pay back to his parents, whereas, if a student comes from a lower income family then he has to interrupt his education, then he has to take out student loans which he has to repay, that he has to go into debt, that he has to seek part-time employment, and I think that this is a very significant problem. Then the Minister talks about the problem of motivation. A student who comes from a lower income home obviously may have some difficulties of home motivation and then have to jump an economic barrier. The Minister feels that barriers are useful but the problem is that the economic barriers are usually barriers to the lower income groups and are not barriers to the upper income groups, and I ask him to attempt to explain that.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to deal with an area that I think is something relatively new in our country and in North America and I think an area that we have not yet touched in the Province of Manitoba, and that is the problem and the recognition of children with learning disability. These are first of all children who have problems but yet are of normal or potentially normal or of above average intelligence. They are actually a special category of handicapped children and they are often analysed to have poor motivation or emotional disturbances, poor hearing and so on, and yet this is not so. This is frequently the way these children are analysed in our system and frequently the way that they are dealt with. They are dealt with as problem children physically or emotionally handicapped, when this is actually not a proper

(MR. DOERN cont'd.) analysis. If I could read a definition of children with learning disabilities coming from an American advisory committee in Pennsylvania, the Advisory Committee on Handicapped Children, it would go along the following lines: "Children with special learning disabilities exhibit a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using spoken or written languages. These may be manifested in disorders of listening, thinking, talking, reading, writing, spelling or arithmetic. They include conditions which have been referred to as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, development phasia, etc. They do not include learning problems which are due primarily to visual, hearing or motor handicaps, to mental retardation, emotional disturbances or to environmental disadvantage." And as I said, they are often felt that this is what the problem of these students -- this is often analysed as their problem when in fact it is not.

I am not going to go into an explanation of how their problems are manifested because that's getting rather technical, but I would like to attempt to outline the extent of the problem and perhaps some of the solutions that we should be examining. I don't know whether the Minister is familiar with this problem, whether he intends to take any action with it. I think he's had some briefs sent to him but the province itself and the department has not yet entered into this area. For example, it can be estimated that among normal children you have a degree of this type of learning disability which varies, estimated between 5 and 15 percent. For example, the City of St. Boniface in 1967 to 1968 conducted a sample survey and determined that 22 percent of their children -- this is in the City of St. Boniface -- 22 percent of the children tested in kindergarten and Grade 1 were normal children yet suffered from learning disabilities of one kind or another. The City of St. James is one of the few areas which has undertaken to establish a resource teacher that would go into this problem in regard to the elementary schools. The Province of Saskatchewan took tests of their total school population from Grades 1 to Grade 8 and determined that 12 to 14 percent of their school population suffered from learning disabilities for which they had no specific program at the time, for which the general classroom teacher and resource teachers would have to be immediately trained in a crash program basis in order to deal with this problem.

Now, we have a Child Guidance Clinic in this province which is located in the City of Winnipeg, and I suppose that these are the people who would logically deal with this type of problem but they themselves are handicapped by a shortage of personnel. Some of the personnel that they have do not have the proper comprehensive training to test and analyse and help treat this problem. They also have an incredible waiting list at the Child Guidance Bureau. I am told that their present waiting list is as long as 1,200 referrals and that their case load increases by 300 percent a month, that if a person lives in the City of Winnipeg or Greater Winnipeg area and he wants to go to the Child Guidance Clinic for help or testing, that he would have to wait from four to six months. So something must be done in that area.

Now we have formed recently a Manitoba Association for Children with Learning Disabilities -- (Interjection) -- Yes, they are normal children but the Association refers to them as children with learning disability. And they recently had a conference on learning disabilities at which they had some 530 people attend and also some 100 teachers joined their association. There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of teachers who have realized for years that they have had children in their classrooms who appear to be of normal intelligence yet have all kinds of problems which were dealt with in one particular way and yet somehow or other -- these children were normal, yet they did not produce in a normal fashion and the old answers seemed unsatisfactory. So when teachers went to this conference and are starting to become acquainted with the problem -- this is very recent; talking of a few months or a year or two -- there is some enthusiasm on their part. Most of them recognize that children in their own classes are in this particular category.

A lot of children for example in early grades, particularly in grades 1 to 4 fail their grade because of the way that they are treated, and undoubtedly if we had a program that would go into this area, we could probably detect some of these learning disabilities and we could probably save unnecessary costs of children repeating and the emotional and social costs that they themselves have to pay by being failures in a normal system. A lot of these children also find their way into technical and vocational classes when they could in fact tackle academic classes, so they are being put into channels which perhaps are useful channels but perhaps are not ultimately suitable to their talents and abilities. Many children who come out as dropouts

(MR. DOERN cont'd.) and juvenile delinquents and damage school property, according to Amercian surveys they figure as many as 70 percent of these children have learning disabilities as their root problem and they're not simply delinquents or emotionally disturbed children.

Also, children who have this type of a problem in the ordinary classroom system of course are very difficult for an average teacher to deal with, and they require extra time and effort on the part of the teacher who may again not recognize what is really their problem. They can be helped and they can be properly treated in a general classroom situation, providing that the general classroom teacher has some supporting advice, some supporting help, some resource teachers who will go in and assist them. And when this sort of treatment is followed, the results can often be extremely impressive. If I might just back track for a moment: if we look at Manitoba, out of the 235,000 children in our school system approximately, if we take a conservative estimate and say that 5 percent of our children would suffer from these learning disabilities, that would give us a total of some 12,700. But some of these, of course, are now being examined and are now being treated by the Department of Education under the category of certain physical and emotional disabilities. Some 5,000 children are getting treatment but this still leaves some 8,000 who would really fall into this category and who are not being given — they're not being recognized and they're not being treated properly.

Mr. Chairman, the statistics on the possibility of recovery in the sense of allowing these children and giving them the proper treatment so that they can go into a normal situation and function much better than they do, they are rather heartening; the possibilities are real. If you look at some American statistics, for example in the State of Maryland, in 1959 they had some 468 children enter perceptual classes and five years later 452 of them over 90 percent — 95 percent and more — returned to normal classes, or had some special assistance but went back into the normal classroom system. In New York City, 7 out of 10 children who received some treatment went back into the normal classroom. These are children who would normally drop out, or repeat. In London, Ontario, starting in 1960 and so on, they took 24 children and within a year or two 14 of them went back into the classroom. In Ohio State, out of 41 classes 2 out of the 3 children went back to the normal classroom situation.

So, Mr. Chairman, that is the extent of the problem that I've gone over. Some of the suggestions and recommendations of the association I'd like to draw to the Minister's attention, some of which I've already given, that the teaching profession should first of all be made aware of this problem and its dimensions — and that, of course, includes the department and the Minister who head up the whole team. They must be made aware of this problem. They must show some leadership in this problem. We need courses in diagnosing, understanding and educating these children at the university level, and perhaps we need compulsory courses in the teacher training. We need a program to train teachers to work with children in the school system. We have to take our kindergarten and primary teachers and train them to learn how to administer tests so that we can recognize which children have learning disability. We have to consider giving these children special consideration; for example, oral examinations perhaps. Perhaps private examinations rather than the regular kind. Audio-visual aids. All sorts of special considerations and equipment.

At the secondary level, they may require certain modified courses which would enable them to go through the high school program and enter university eventually. We certainly need a vast expansion of psychological services. We certainly need a diagnostic centre, whether it's the Child Guidance centre which would be the most logical, or some other new area. We need more therapists and psychologists and medical personnel. The Minister supports me on that.

And of course we could also use some funds so that teachers could be sent away to attend workshops and conferences. Our Manitoba teachers are really just breaking new ground here and they need some special assistance. And of course we need, ultimately, research. I might just point out that the Manitoba Teachers Society has passed resolutions which I think have been forwarded to the Minister, asking for some of these special courses, and the Society itself intends to take certain action to disseminate information to their own members, etc.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, on this item, the government in its educational policy presumably intends to educate every child in the system. To the best of our ability we intend to advance each child to the limit of his capacity, and yet we have large numbers of children who have learning disabilities who obviously are not getting this type of treatment, and to deny

(MR. DOERN cont'd.) them the right is of course a very serious thing. So I would urge the Minister to really examine this particular area and if he has any plans to take action in this area, or if he has any thoughts on this question, then I would like him to inform the Committee of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK (Burrows): Mr. Chairman, I listened to the Honourable Minister's speech in presenting his estimates with keen interest, and through his speech there was one point that I was very anxious to hear and which I must confess I did not hear. And I reread his speech and I could find no reference, no mention of it. You see, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister is in a somewhat different position from his predecessor. We had lived with his predecessor as Minister of that department for a number of years. I think that in the course of the activities of his department, whether he said so in so many words or not, we knew what his philosophy was, what the philosophy of his department was. Now we were able to detect that. If he didn't say so, we were able on the basis of something to formulate our own conclusions as to what appeared to us to be his philosophy.

What are his aims and objectives of his department? What does he propose to do? Is it merely continuing the existing system? In other words, is he saying that all's well and good and let's continue merely attending to the staffing of classrooms and seeing to it that there are teachers in classrooms and pupils in those classrooms and books on the shelves, and the walls are standing up and the roofs are over the walls enclosing those buildings called schools - or what? How does he see the matter of education fitting into today's day and age? What are his predictions for the future? How does he assess our present education program in terms of preparing our youth to take their place in the future? How does he see the education program that's offered our youth today as it would benefit them or affect them in 20, 30 or 40 years' time in the year 2000, or some time after that? Because, Mr. Chairman, that is the century that these people will be living in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wonder if I could interrupt the honourable member and he could carry on at 2:30. I call it 12:30 and I leave the Chair until 2:30.