

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

9:30 o'clock, Monday, July 27, 1970

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, my question is for the Minister of Health. I wonder whether he could indicate whether the department, or he, or his officials have had discussions or correspondence with the Federal Government in connection with the Le Dain Report.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development)(Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I've had some discussion with the Deputy Minister of Health.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister could indicate to the House whether the government has now taken a position in connection with the report.

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture)(Lac du Bonnet): . . . Return to an Order of the House No. 34 dated June 26th.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce I wonder whether he could indicate to the House what new businessmen have created new businesses and thus new jobs in Manitoba in the last six months.

HON. LEONARD EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce)(Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, that question obviously is not a question for the Orders of the Day. It's more for -- I would say, with my limited legislative experience, that type of detailed question requires an Order for Return, and I'm sure the honourable member is trying to set some kind of a trap or some type of situation whereby -- he's displaying his usual vindictiveness very early in the morning.

MR. SPIVAK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Minister can inform the House whether any new businessmen have created any new businesses creating any new jobs in the last six months.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Natural Resources)(Inkster): . . the first question, a supplementary hardly appears to be in order.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I will frame it as a new question. I wonder whether the Honourable Minister could inform the House whether any new businesses have created any new jobs by any new businessmen in the past six months.

MR. EVANS: Yes. A categorical yes, and I hope within two or three days to announce another one.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Honourable Minister would inform us what new businesses have been created, creating new jobs in the last six months.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the Honourable Minister had answered that question earlier.

HON. ED. SCHREYER (Premier)(Rossmore): Mr. Speaker, I was rising to suggest that the series of questions put by the honourable member, I suggest that he is aware that they are out of order, and if not out of order are certainly the kind that one does not normally hear or expect questions asking for that kind of detail, and his persistence indicates a certain contempt for this Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. LEONARD H. CLAYDON (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question of the House Leader -- I think probably it's within his jurisdiction -- if the transcripts of the hearings in the Public Utilities Committee will be available to members of the House before it is debated on third reading in the House.

MR. GREEN: No, Mr. Chairman, I couldn't guarantee that. I know that Hansard will be working as quickly as possible but I couldn't guarantee that all of the transcripts will be available before the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. CLAYDON: A supplementary question. I wonder if a special effort could be made to

(MR. CLAYDON cont'd.) reproduce a transcript of that portion made by Mr. Schwartz.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm almost sure that that particular portion will be transcribed for various reasons.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie) Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position now to release the RCMP investigation into certain aspects of the Highway Department at Dauphin, Manitoba?

HON. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Minister of Transportation)(Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I am just as anxious to get that report as the Member for Portage la Prairie, and as soon as I get it I can assure him that it will be made public in the Legislature, and if it comes in after the session and the House is closed, we will make it public through the press.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I wonder whether he could indicate to the House whether in the past six months the percentage increase in the cost of living is higher than the percentage increase of average weekly wages.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I would refer the honourable member to publications of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which are available in any library in Winnipeg, which are available for purchase at a very nominal price.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GILDAS MOLGAT (Ste. Rose): . . . say something before the Orders of the Day. -- (Interjection) -- Oh. Well, then, before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up the question asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party regarding the investigation at Dauphin. This has been going on for some time and I wonder if the Minister could indicate when he expects the report and what are the reasons for the delay.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'm in a kind of a difficult position to answer the question because I agree with the member that the investigation has taken far too long. I've been raising hell with the Attorney-General's department and have told them in no uncertain terms that I think it's taking too long and if I don't get a report soon that I will make certain suggestions and statements publicly. He has indicated, after discussing it with the RCMP, that a report was supposed to have been given to me on Friday. I don't have it yet and I don't know what the hold-up is, but I'm not satisfied with the way things have been going. I would like to get it cleared up because there's a lot of people sitting on the edge of their seats saying, you know, "What's going on? Am I going to lose my job? Am I involved? And I don't like the situation any more than the rest of the members, and it's my hope that the report will come in this week and we can deal with it and get it off the table once and for all.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, in order to assist the Minister of Transport, I'll direct the question to the Attorney-General. When are you going to release the report on the Dauphin Highway investigation?

HON. AL. MACKLING, Q.C. (Attorney-General)(St. James): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transportation has already talked to me about this, and as I entered the Chamber I heard him indicating this. My information is that this report should be completed very shortly. However, those assurances were given to the Minister of Transport some time previously and those assurances were given to me as well, and I'm disappointed that the report wasn't available sooner. However, my deputy is looking into the matter to make sure that the report is available as quickly as possible.

I might advise that apparently the major difficulty in the technique of investigation is that there have been too few people who have been available for what is an extensive number of cases. They have a very extensive caseload and there's been too few personnel, and my department has taken this up with the RCMP. What happens is that when these people are involved in these cases and they are required to testify, it may be that they're testifying in respect to a federal case and they're involved in going down to Ottawa and so on, and it has taken up too much of their time. They can't complete these cases in the ordinary course of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it was understood by all of the members of the House that we would be moving to Law Amendments Committee to hear the briefs, if any, relative to the Tax Deferral legislation and to deal with that particular Bill. It's my thought that the House

(MR. GREEN cont'd.) adjourn now until Friday; that we not come back into the House today unless honourable members wish to come back on that particular bill, but that's all that we would be taking up in any event; so unless there is strong objection or reasons given to the contrary, we would like to adjourn the House now until Friday, call Public Utilities Committee for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and Friday if necessary, the House to meet Friday morning, and then move into Public Utilities Committee if we're not finished, but I'll hear from my honourable friends.

MR. WALTER WEIR (Leader of the Opposition)(Minnedosa): Well, Mr. Speaker, if the only other business that the government is contemplating would be Bill 148, then I would agree that the House be adjourned until Friday, because it would be my view that when representation is heard that the government would use the good judgment that I expected them to use the other day and indicate that there would be greater time given to consideration of Bill 148 and that it would go to the Municipal Affairs Committee in between sessions, and I'm still -- I may be optimistic enough to think that that might happen as a result of our hearings that we've got today, so rather than counting on coming back and doing some business, I'd be quite happy to have the House adjourn now until Friday.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for everything that he has said, because I think that he may have good reason for his optimism or not good reason for his pessimism, whichever way you want to take it, and I would move, seconded by the Honourable Minister for Cultural Affairs, that the House do now adjourn on the understanding that we would meet again on Friday at 9:30 in the morning.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could ask a question of the House Leader on a point of order. This weekend is going to be a long weekend and there are members that come from some hundreds of miles to attend the session, and I understood you to say the House is going to be called for Saturday morning?

MR. GREEN: Friday morning at 9:30. The business of the House could then, in accordance with our rules, continue on Saturday, or Public Utilities could, but I'm not suggesting that it would and we could certainly discuss that Friday or the First Minister may have a word to say on that now.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have only a proposal or suggestion for honourable members, not suggesting that we make any decision about it, but inasmuch as next Monday is a holiday, Civic Holiday, and the following day is the second day of the Premier's Conference which is being held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, this year, it would seem perhaps a fair exchange for the House not to sit Tuesday - to be in recess both Monday and Tuesday - and to exchange that for Saturday, or some such arrangement. The members can consider that in the meantime.

MR. SPEAKER put the question and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until Friday morning at 9:30 A.M. July 31st.