

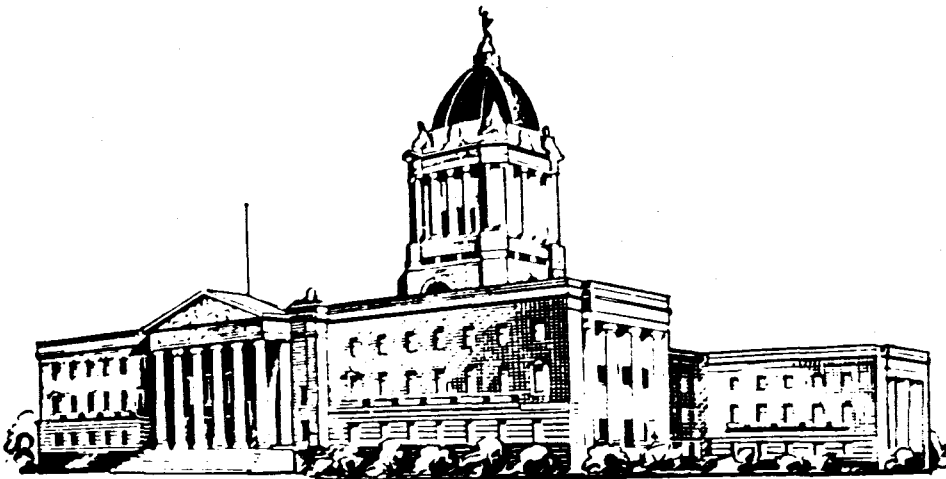


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Ben Hanuschak



Vol. XVII No. 86 2:30 p.m., Friday, May 22nd, 1970. Second Session, 29th Legislature.

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CHARLESWOOD	Arthur Moug	29 Willow Ridge Rd., Winnipeg 20
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CRESCENTWOOD	Cy Gonick	115 Kingsway, Winnipeg 9
DAUPHIN	Hon. Peter Burtniak	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
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EMERSON	Gabriel Girard	25 Lomond Blvd., St. Boniface 6
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FORT GARRY	L. R. (Bud) Sherman	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg 9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg 9
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.
GLADSTONE	James Robert Ferguson	Gladstone, Manitoba
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
KILDONAN	Peter Fox	627 Prince Rupert Ave., Winnipeg 15
LAC DU BONNET	Hon. Sam Uskiw	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
LAKESIDE	Harry J. Enns	Woodlands, Manitoba
LA VERENDRYE	Leonard A. Barkman	Box 130, Steinbach, Man.
LOGAN	William Jenkins	1287 Alexander Ave., Winnipeg 3
MINNEDOSA	Walter Weir	Room 250, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
MORRIS	Warner H. Jorgenson	Box 185, Morris, Man.
OSBORNE	Ian Turnbull	284 Wildwood Park, Winnipeg 19
PEMBINA	George Henderson	Manitou, Manitoba
POINT DOUGLAS	Donald Malinowski	361 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg 4
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE	Gordon E. Johnston	Room 248, Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
RADISSON	Harry Shafransky	4 Maplehurst Rd., St. Boniface 6
RHINELAND	Jacob M. Froese	Box 40, Winkler, Manitoba
RIEL	Donald W. Craik	2 River Lane, Winnipeg 8
RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	1516 Mathers Bay, West, Winnipeg 9
ROBLIN	J. Wally McKenzie	Inglis, Manitoba
ROCK LAKE	Henry J. Einarson	Glenboro, Manitoba
ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
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ST. BONIFACE	Laurent L. Desjardins	357 Des Meurons St., St. Boniface 6
ST. GEORGE	William Uruski	Box 629, Arborg, Manitoba
ST. JAMES	Hon. A. H. Mackling, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. JOHNS	Hon. Saul Chorniack, Q.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
ST. MATTHEWS	Wally Johansson	15 - 500 Burnell St., Winnipeg 10
ST. VITAL	J. A. Hardy	11 Glenlawn Ave., Winnipeg 8
STE. ROSE	Gildas Molgat	463 Kingston Crescent, Winnipeg 8
SELKIRK	Hon. Howard Pawley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
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SOURIS-KILLARNEY	Earl McKellar	Nesbitt, Manitoba
SPRINGFIELD	Hon. Rene E. Toupin	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
STURGEON CREEK	Frank Johnston	310 Overdale St., Winnipeg 12
SWAN RIVER	James H. Bilton	Swan River, Manitoba
THE PAS	Ron McBryde	531 Greenacres Blvd., Winnipeg 12
THOMPSON	Hon. Joseph P. Borowski	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	Kenton, Manitoba
WELLINGTON	Hon. Philip Petursson	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg 1
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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
2:30 o'clock, Friday, May 22, 1970

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed with this afternoon's Orders of the Day, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 40 Grade 11 students of the Charleswood Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Otta and Miss Sniezek. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

And we have 30 students from River Heights School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Cook and Mrs. Loeb. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights. On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate. Order for Return. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, can we have this matter stand?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that that can be done, but I'm quite certain that the Member for La Verendrye really didn't want to speak, so if the honourable member will adjourn debate, I think we'll have accomplished the same purpose.

MR. PATRICK: Okay. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rhineland, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Private Members' Resolutions. Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Rhineland, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne in amendment thereto, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

PRIVATE BILLS

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry I didn't catch your eye. I did hope that again we could move to the bills, and even then I note that there's only one that appears that there would be anything said on it, and that would be Bill No. 75, if the Member for Swan River wishes to proceed. On Page 12 of the Order Paper. Oh, here's the Member for Ste. Rose, if he wishes to call Bill No. 36, if we have leave to have that called.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on second reading. The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Logan, Bill No. 36. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I'd like the indulgence of the House to have the matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the same is true with regard to Bills 48 and 70, so if the Member for Swan River is not prepared to speak, we can move to another area.

MR. BILTON: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I too might have the indulgence of the House to let this matter stand. (Agreed.)

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps there are other members. I'm sure the Honourable Member for Swan River would not object if anybody else wished to speak on The Liquor Control Act.

MR. BILTON: By all means, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Hearing no takers, Mr. Speaker, can we go to the Private Members' Resolutions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Rhineland, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Osborne in amendment thereto, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood in further amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: In the intervening two days, Mr. Speaker, I'm a little calmed down, but really I don't think I can contribute much more to this debate at this time. I think an awful lot of people have made up their minds already and what I have to say won't persuade them one way

(MR. BOYCE cont'd) . . . . or the other. But I'd just like to state my opinion at the present time on the phrase "consider the advisability of" - and this is what I would like to see followed in this particular instance, that the aid to private schools be considered in light of that phrase; if we just consider the advisability of providing aid to private schools.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): I wonder if the previous speaker would submit to one question.

MR. BOYCE: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GIRARD: I wonder, Sir, when you speak of "consider the advisability of" are you thinking that we should be reconsidering this for financial reasons or for reasons of principle? I just wonder when you say "consider the advisability of" are you quarrelling with the principle of it or is it purely the finances?

MR. BOYCE: Well, I guess you're asking for my opinion, or how I stand on it, or how I feel on it. Well, as a matter of principle I'm for a much broader principle than this. I would even go so far as to suggest we should consider competitiveness within the public school system, that as far as the . . .

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): I agree.

MR. BOYCE: Now I'm in trouble? Oh, the member he agrees with me, he agrees with me -- (Interjection) -- perhaps I am. But this is one of the principles that I would like to see looked at and perhaps accomplished through this approach. Now, as far as the financial ramifications of it, I say yes, this is a governmental responsibility that will have to be looked at also.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the sub-amendment? The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Swan River, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce in amendment thereto. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, can I have that matter stand? (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: . . . the honourable member appreciates -- are you ready for the question?

MR. BILTON: Does the Honourable Minister realize that he's losing his chance to speak?

MR. USKIW: I didn't intend to, Mr. Speaker. I adjourned it for someone else.

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

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Winnipeg Centre, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, and the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned the debate for my colleague, the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, we've had substantial debate on this resolution already and I will not be extending it this afternoon. I have a good deal of sympathy for the amendment proposed by the Minister of Finance, because, as he indicated in his comments and as I had indicated in my original comments in making the resolution, I do believe that the Federal Government ought to be the one responsible for estate taxation, and that basically it should be a tax applied uniformly across the country and should not be the method by which we compete with other provinces for investment and development. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, we are still faced with the fact that Alberta and Saskatchewan have made some substantial changes in the Estate Tax. I think the facts are that it has proven of benefit to those two provinces. The Minister of Finance shakes his head - I still disagree with him on the subject, and I would refer him, not to the political individuals if he doesn't want to check with them, but with the civil servants, and I quoted from them in my original presentation in this House where the civil servants of the Province of Alberta state that in their view it has been a development tool for

(MR. MOLGAT cont'd) . . . . . their province.

So It's on that basis I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have to face the situation right now. Whether we like it or whether we don't like it, that's the competitive situation that is before us, and we have to make up our minds as a province what we are going to do, faced with a very difficult development problem. I think that the Manitoba Government in this case would be wise to consider making some changes in the Estate Tax in Manitoba until such time as Ottawa may be prepared to follow the suggestion of the present government.

We have no idea whether Ottawa will move on this soon or whether it will take a long time. In the meantime, we are still going to be faced with Alberta and Saskatchewan with a different estate tax than our own, and I submit that this will be harmful to the development in our province and I think that in the long run that the jobs that would be created by the investment that we could not only attract here but hold here from present Manitobans, would offset the losses that would be involved in the estate tax itself.

So Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's good enough for the government to simply say, "Let's wait and see what Ottawa's going to do about it." I think the province should take some action before that time, because it could be a very lengthy period. Let us take the action, but let us keep at the same time some pressure on Ottawa to make the changes on a national basis.

So Mr. Speaker, it's with that view in mind that I think that the Manitoba Government should act. I'm prepared to support the portion proposed by the Minister of Finance, but I don't think it's enough. I think that meanwhile Manitoba itself should move, and so I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that the proposed amendment be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words: "And Be It Further Resolved that in the meantime the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of bringing Manitoba law on estate taxation in line with the law in Saskatchewan and Alberta."

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the honourable member a question, and I wonder if I could do so before the question is put rather than -- I think I might lose the opportunity if the question is put or considered by you for any other reason. If that's acceptable, may I then direct a question to the honourable member? When he quoted some civil servants of Alberta, I don't recall whether he gave them, whether he named them, and gave . . .

MR. MOLGAT: I believe I did, Mr. Speaker, and I think it will be in the Hansard. I do not have my file here with me. I frankly thought that this debate would come a little later in the afternoon. I'll be very happy to get my file and provide the clipping from the newspaper to the Minister of Finance.

MR. CHERNIACK: That was a newspaper clipping that was being quoted.

MR. MOLGAT: Not just the story in general terms, but specific quotations from the civil servant involved.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I rise on a point of order. I question whether or not the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose can propose the amendment because of the fact that the original motion is standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. There is a general rule that a member may not amend a resolution that has been introduced by that particular member, and I'm not quite clear as to whether or not my honourable friend can amend an amendment, because if the amendment to the amendment is carried and the amendment is defeated, then in effect my honourable friend then would be amending his own resolution, and I suggest to you, Sir, that you might take this into consideration in accepting or rejecting the amendment proposed by my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I frankly did expect that there would be some questions about whether I was in order or not, but not on this particular point. I expected the questions on another point of order and I was prepared for that one as well. I haven't checked the rules specifically on this one, but I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that I am in order. You will notice that I was very cautious in the writing of it, that it is I am amending the proposed amendment; I'm not amending the motion as amended, or I specifically am amending the amendment - and I think that that is in order.

MR. PAULLEY: If I may, Mr. Speaker, I agree with my honourable friend that he is amending the amendment, but if in effect his amendment is carried and the amendment is defeated, then it might eventually be that he is in effect then amending his own resolution. I don't know if this is possible or not, I just draw it to your attention, Mr. Speaker, and I confess, I confess that this is the first time that this situation has been made aware to me. I can be wrong and my honourable friend, the Member for Roblin, says that I am wrong. I bow to his superior knowledge, but in bowing to his superior knowledge, Mr. Speaker, I do suggest that

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . . . you, as the presiding officer of this Assembly, may see fit to just check into the legality of the amendment to the amendment proposed by my friend, the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order. If the amendment to the amendment is carried, then it becomes a part of the amendment of the Minister of Finance, so therefore there would be nothing wrong . . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, as my honourable friend the Member for Rhineland quite properly points out, then in effect it becomes an amendment to the main motion, which I suggest is not proper on the rules of amending motions.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I have an opinion on this, too, but I would suggest that you take the matter under advisement to be absolutely sure.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to thank the honourable members for their comments on the point of order. I would wish to take the matter under advisement and give my decision thereon after I have had opportunity to consider the amendment to the amendment.

On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye and the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. George in amendment thereto. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: I'm glad, Mr. Speaker, that the members are so enthusiastic, but not being a farmer or oriented to the rural areas, I'm afraid I won't speak on this and I'll have to let it stand. (Agreed.)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: That's wonderful. I would move, seconded by the Member for Flin Flon, that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would have any objection to someone speaking on the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. MOLGAT: I regret I was not in the House, Mr. Speaker, when the motion, or the amendment was first proposed by the Honourable Member for St. George, because I would strongly urge to that member that he reconsider his amendment seriously -- (Interjection) -- yes. I suspect that the member, who is a young man and a new man here in the House, has been given some very, very bad advice by senior members of the government, because I think that the Member for St. George knows the seriousness of the agricultural situation in Manitoba. The Member for St. George represents a constituency which is in many ways similar to mine. We have the same type of economy. We are neighbors. In many respects, I think our constituencies are not as badly affected by the present agricultural situation as are others, because we depend on -- well, we have fish for one thing; we also depend on a great deal of mixed farming. But we have other problems, Mr. Speaker, and this particular year we are having substantial problems with water, which again isn't unusual to our areas, but which are serious. But the whole of the province is in a serious situation from an agricultural standpoint, and I really think that the member, when he is moving this sort of amendment, is making a grave mistake because he is in a sense belittling the seriousness of the problem and giving an entirely wrong impression about what is really going on in Manitoba. And I don't blame the member, because I'm satisfied that this advice came to him from other sources. I can only suggest to him, beware. Beware these senior politicians within your group who would want you to be going around patting the Ministers on the back when you should be really doing something else to that side of their anatomy, because they really require a push and not simply a gentle patting on the back.

Now I'm not saying that the Minister of Agriculture has done nothing; that's not what I suggest; but I think to take this original resolution which dealt with a very serious problem which the government spoke about a great deal prior to being elected, and which the Minister of Agriculture particularly spoke at great, great lengths when he sat on this side of the House-- I well remember him standing in this position over here, and he had the answers in those days. He had them all. Well, I don't find that he has solved them all and, Mr. Speaker, I am the first one to admit that many of our agriculture problems can't simply be solved by the Minister or by speeches.

MR. USKIW: Would my honourable friend submit to a question?

MR. MOLGAT: Certainly.

MR. USKIW: Would you itemize the answers that I had for specific problems?

MR. MOLGAT: Well, it would take me some research to get all the specifics, Mr. Speaker, but I'm sure that I will find many of them, and I'll be very happy to go through the Hansards, if he so wishes, and the journals, and get the specifics.

Now the resolution as proposed by my colleague, the Member for La Verendrye constituency, was not in any way critical of government. I think it was a sensible resolution in that he was seeking information for the members of this House from the people who are directly involved in agriculture and giving them an opportunity of expressing views on which we might then be able to act. And it seems to me it was a resolution that could be accepted by government without any difficulty, because it was not couched in critical terms; it was a positive proposal. And I'm disappointed, frankly, that this course of action has been taken, indicating that all is well, that the government had made representations to Ottawa and therefore we can sit back and the problems will solve themselves. I think that that is the wrong course. I'm sorry that the Member for St. George has made this amendment, or proposed it. I certainly intend to oppose it, not in a critical sense regarding the Minister of Agriculture. I think he has worked. I don't think he's solved all the problems but he's at least been to Ottawa and had put some pressure on them and so on. He may have done a great deal more but, be that as it may, I think that the amendment merely cheapens the resolution. It makes it into a political amendment or resolution, which was not the intent of the resolution in the first place and gives the impression that really this House is not seriously concerned about the problems of agriculture but is more concerned about the political problem of saying that the Minister of Agriculture is a great fellow, and that isn't going to solve our problems. I would strongly recommend to the member who moved it that he withdraw his amendment, and I would be prepared to suggest that certainly in our group we would grant him leave without any question and forget completely that the matter was brought up, and let's get down to dealing with the problems of agriculture, not the political problems of the present government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member submit to a couple of questions?

MR. MOLGAT: With pleasure.

MR. USKIW: Is it not true that the resolution in itself is a political manoeuvre in the sense, Mr. Speaker, that it asks for advice from the same group of people that are now giving the advice to the Government of Canada? It asks that this government ask the same people that are advising Canada that they advise us and in turn we advise Canada. So I don't know that that isn't a political manoeuvre.

MR. MOLGAT: Well, Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Minister's question, if he suggests that asking people like the Canadian Wheat Board and the Canada Grains Council, The United Grain Growers, the Manitoba Pool Elevators and other concerned public and private agencies, if asking these people, who are non-political, to appear before a committee of this House, if that's a political action then I don't know what the Minister is talking about. Because, Mr. Speaker, asking these people to appear before us has nothing to do with their consulting with Ottawa. I'm glad that they're consulting with Ottawa but we ought to be consulting with them too. The members of this House should be in contact with these people and I think the ideal way to do it is before the Agricultural Committee. Then the members of this House can be informed. Now if the Minister were to say, "I'm in contact with them. I know what they're thinking," I would still say that that's not good enough, because I think that the members of this House have a responsibility entirely apart from that of the Minister. The Minister is Minister of the Department; he's responsible in this House for the Department. We, the 57 of us, regardless of what party we belong to, have a responsibility to the province as a whole, and I think in many areas, Mr. Speaker, that this House could be doing a much better job, and must in the future do a better job, if it is going to be meaningful in terms of the people of this province, and one of the ways of doing that job is making sure that we consult with outside bodies, giving them an opportunity to speak to us; we can become more knowledgeable and we can -- (Interjection) -- No more questions? He asked the question. -- (Interjection) -- That's fine. -- and through that process the House will become a more important tool in a decision-making in this province and in solving the problems of this province, and I think that's the way we should have it, not simply having the Cabinet coming back to us and telling us, "We've consulted with so and so." Let the House do it and the committees are a good method of doing it.

MR. USKIW: I have a second question, Mr. Speaker, and that is that is it not true that if this government accepted the recommendations of those groups mentioned, that indeed all they would end up doing is supporting the policies that now exist at the federal level?

MR. MOLGAT: Mr. Speaker, the Minister obviously has come to the conclusion that he has the divine inspiration and the divine right to govern, that he is the fountainhead of knowledge and that the rest of us should listen to his recommendations but not listen to anyone else's.

Mr. Speaker, I want to come back to the essential point here, and this ties in with other resolutions and proposals that my party has made in the past and will be making again in the future, that the House must become a more effective instrument of government, and that the method of doing this is by the use of the committee, and it's for this reason that we proposed in the past that there be a committee on education, for example, and that we will be proposing it again in the future that such a committee be established, so that the House can gain information on education matters, that the members may then speak on the subject, and that the House itself would generate policy, not just the Cabinet Ministers. Well similarly here in agriculture I think that regardless, I repeat, of what consulting the Minister does, that the members of the House ought to have an opportunity to speak at a committee with these people, hear their views, let the members of the House decide. If the Minister doesn't agree he's free not to agree, but surely the members of the House would benefit by getting the information from these people. The Minister apparently feels that the Wheat Board, the Canada Grains Council, the United Grain Growers and Pool Elevators give bad advice. This is what he intimated. He intimated that we shouldn't be listening to them because they're the people who he suggests are the cause of the present problem. Well I don't think that these people necessarily give bad advice, Mr. Speaker. We may not agree with them on all accounts but I think that they are knowledgeable in their field and that the House would benefit by listening to them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I feel rather inclined to take part in this debate which deals with the question of agriculture because of past association, and continuing association, with the problem of agriculture. I've had the opportunity over the past number of years as a member of this Assembly, albeit an urban representative, of being deeply concerned with the plight and the problems of agriculture. I find that there's nothing really unusual in the resolution or the amendment to the main resolution that we have before us today, because it has been my experience over the past that similar amendments have been posed commending Ministers of the Crown for their actions. And this does not necessarily mean that the substance of the motion itself are being abrogated or set aside, because I'm sure, I'm sure -- (Interjection) -- By the former administration, yes. That's right. Because I remember, I remember, Mr. Speaker, and I may say to my honourable friend the Member for Arthur, that over the years the previous administration amended resolutions to that of commendation of the actions of Ministers. In our opinion, when we were sitting on that side, it should have been condemnation rather than commendation, and this I frankly confess, but this has happened.

As a matter of fact if I recall correctly, not so very long ago, a year or so ago, when the Honourable Member for Arthur was the Minister of Agriculture, he was commended because he went on a junket to Vancouver to see whether there were any boats in the harbour at Vancouver ready to take grain into their hulls, and I recall - I recall member after member of the Conservative administration of that time standing up, Mr. Speaker, and saying: By jove, if it hadn't have been for our good friend the Minister of Agriculture venturing over to Vancouver harbour there to see whether the boats were there or not we wouldn't have solved the problem of agriculture in Western Canada. And the very applause that my honourable friend has just given because I made that statement is indicative that what I am talking about now, at that time was accepted by my honourable friend who was then the Minister of Agriculture.

Now what is wrong, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, with this Assembly saying to the present Minister of Agriculture - and I don't give a continental basically of his political stripe - but what is wrong of saying, or in saying to any member of this Assembly, you're doing a good job. -- (Interjection) -- I wouldn't expect you, my honourable friend the Member for Morris, to say it because you're not the type apparently of an individual who will give credit to anybody who is doing a good job, and it seems to me that you take the basic attitude that, rightly or wrongly, the person that does a good job should be condemned irrespectively and your



(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . . statement of a moment ago is very indicative of your approach to democracy. I regret this very much, Mr. Speaker, because I think, I think that in this process of democracy that representatives of the people of Manitoba should ascend beyond the type of intrusion of my honourable friend the Member for Morris and that we should, each of us, be prepared to make our contribution to the well-being of Manitoba or Canada, whatever jurisdiction we happen to be participators in.

Now the suggestion was made by my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose a moment or two ago that possibly the mover of the amendment should withdraw it and accept the resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. This may be so. This may be so. I'm not suggesting that there isn't some validity in the point raised by my friend the Member from Ste. Rose, but transversely though, I want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose that there's nothing wrong in saying to a member on this side of the House, or indeed on that side of the House, we appreciate the job that you are doing in the field of agriculture or industry or labour, whatever the case may be, and I'm sure that this was not the intention of my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose who came into the House at the same time as I did a few years ago, and I'm sure I can say, and my friend will agree with me, that we have a mutual admiration society insofar as our approaches are concerned to the problems of Manitoba

But I also want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose, and others, that in the past, in the past the previous administration, the immediate past administration, rejected calling before committees of the House some of the organizations referred to in the resolution proposed by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye. And my honourable friend the Member for Ste. Rose nods his head in assent. If I recall correctly, there was one resolution proposed that would call the Grain Exchange organization in to deal with the question of the sale of wheat, or the Wheat Pool, and we know well what their attitude was, and at that particular time there was strenuous objections in this House as to the desirability of calling in representatives of the Grain Exchange to a committee to express their opinion insofar as the Wheat Pool was concerned at that particular time.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, when I hear my honourable friends opposite sort of critical of the actions of the Minister of Agriculture, all I want to point out is that he has been doing, I think, a reasonably fair job insofar as agriculture and the industry in Manitoba; that he has consulted, and he has said so during the consideration of his estimates. If we look at the resolution in itself, we call for an emergency sitting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture to consider all aspects of the problem and to recommend means of alleviating it - the problem of Agriculture. I'm sure we're all cognizant in this House, in this agricultural province, of the necessity of alleviating the present plight of the farmer and the industry in Manitoba.

And then further on, "Resolved that the Committee be instructed to report back to the House at the earliest possible time during this session, recognizing the urgency of the problem." What I'm trying to point out, Mr. Speaker, is that the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, in my opinion, does realize the urgency of the problem facing agriculture and I commend him, not as a colleague -- (Interjection) -- Oh yes it does, it does say that, to my honourable friend the Member for Roblin. I suggest that he read the resolution. It goes on further to suggest "The need for prompt action to assist the farmers of Manitoba". I think that it is only fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that the present administration and the present Minister of Agriculture have taken many giant steps -- (Interjection) -- Yes, he's a small man with big ideas for agriculture in Manitoba, and I think that the present government of Manitoba and the present Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba have taken giant forward steps in order to alleviate the problems of agriculture in Manitoba, only - only curtailed by the economic ability of the treasury of Manitoba to solve those problems. I'm sure that my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture would take more steps if the economic situation in Manitoba was such that he would be able to do so on behalf of agriculture.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation in commending the Minister of Agriculture for his stand, as indeed the previous administration did, by amendments to similar resolutions in many fields before. As a matter of fact, I think that some on the other side of the House will agree that on occasion even the present Minister of Labour and Government Services commended the action of previous ministers of the Crown in doing a job. So I say to my honourable friend, particularly the previous Minister of Agriculture, that there were even occasions, a few it's true, but there were some occasions when those of us on the other side

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) . . . . of the House said to the Minister of Agriculture, and other Ministers as well, we think you are doing a fair job or a good job in this particular area. It's true that on one occasion I did suggest that the salary of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I believe it was, should be reduced to 97 cents, but I did that at that particular time because I thought he was doing a bum job in respect of this department -- 98 cents, I'm sorry.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I thought that I should say a few words on this resolution, and I want to say one of the reasons that I am taking part in this debate dealing with the Ministry of the Department of Agriculture, as Minister of Labour I want to assure this House that labour is cognizant of the problems facing agriculture today. We realize fully the effect of the lesser income to agriculture, that it's going to have its effect on the industrial life of the Province of Manitoba. I respectfully suggest, Mr. Speaker, that rather than not commending the Minister of Agriculture per se, that we should ask him to continue doing the good job that he is doing on behalf of agriculture in Manitoba, notwithstanding the smiles of my honourable friend the Member for Morris.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't intending to get into the debate on this particular resolution until I heard the sermon just delivered by my honourable friend the Minister of Labour. As one who has some connection with a church background, as the Minister of Labour himself does, it pains me rather to use that analogy, but really, Mr. Speaker, of all the examples of fraud and superficiality that we have heard in this House this past week, if not in this entire session, there's probably none that compares with this rationalization and this defence of the Minister of Agriculture and the functions of the office of the Minister of Agriculture that has just been offered by the Minister of Labour. It's Friday afternoon in this arena to be sure when we hear that kind of drivel, when we hear that kind of rationalization and justification for a job that has not been done.

No one is saying that the problems facing the Minister of Agriculture have easy solutions, but for the Minister of Labour to stand up here and pontificate on the solutions that the Minister of Agriculture has achieved, has discovered and arrived at for us and on the accomplishments that this ministry has chalked up in its tenure, is utter, errant nonsense, Mr. Speaker. Even somebody as uneducated in the general area of agriculture as I, just purely on the basis of being a Manitoban, a member of this society and knowing and appreciating the problems that our society faces, agriculturally and economically in general, even I with my limited knowledge of the field recognize it for what it is, which is just errant nonsense, Mr. Speaker, and there is nothing in the debates in this arena in the past week or two that I can think of that compares with it for nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, how could any Manitoban, any Manitoban, urban or rural, in conscience, regardless of his political persuasion, support the amendment proposed by the Honourable Member for St. George, as conscientiously proposed as it may have been. This isn't a partisan situation, it is not a party question or a partisan consideration, it's a matter that affects our whole society; it's a matter that affects our whole economy. It's a matter that affects Manitobans large and small, urban and rural, in every corner and every section and every area of our community and everybody, surely even every schoolboy knows, Mr. Speaker, that a critical challenge and a critical situation faces our agriculture Minister, our agricultural department, our farmers and everybody directly and peripherally related to and associated with the agricultural industry.

And that means in the last analysis every Manitoban, because what the fortunes of the agricultural industry are, what the indices of our agricultural industry are, really constitute the fortunes and the indices of our economy in general. What happens in agriculture reflects itself and manifests itself all too soon in every other aspect of our economy and our society in this basically agrarian province, so for the Minister of Labour to stand up and to attempt to justify the non-action that has come from the Department of Agriculture and the Minister of Agriculture seems to me, Sir, to be a waste of the time of the members in this Chamber and I couldn't resist the compelling urge and motivation to get up and say so and to dismiss the Minister's remarks as utter nonsense.

There is a crisis in agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture is aware of the crisis in the field, no one disputes that point, but the amendment to the resolution suggests that we commend him for his initiative and his action taken in the federal area on behalf of the farmers

(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . . of Manitoba and this is demonstrably, on the record, absurd, Mr. Speaker. What initiative, what action and what innovation has been undertaken by the Minister of Agriculture, federally, provincially, or in any other area of our lives in Canada, that has to any extent improved, or in any way materially altered the position of our farmers and the position of all those of us who are dependent to a greater or a lesser degree on the welfare and the well-being and the good health of the agricultural industry?

This must be rationalization and justification, if not indeed hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, pitched to its highest degree or to its lowest degree, depending on the point of view from which you approach it. For the Minister of Labour to stand up and try to defend the Minister of Agriculture, to justify the discharge of his responsibility, is nothing short of ludicrous. The Member for St. George may have been very conscientiously motivated, and I'm sure he was, by the amendment that he proposed on the floor of this Chamber, but the amendment is unquestionably and indisputably out of place and irrational in the light of the circumstances obtaining today in our agricultural society and there is no argument, no case that can be made for a defence of the discharge of the duties of the Ministry of Agriculture up to this point in the life of this administration.

I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that there are no partisan or party considerations that influence my comments on this amendment and on the remarks of the Minister of Labour and on any other statements made in this debate up to this point. I speak purely as a Manitoban concerned with a crisis in our society, and for anybody to stand up in this House and say that the Minister of Agriculture has done great things by our farmers and by our agricultural community is making a mockery of the procedures in this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell would like to speak, I'm enjoying this. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few comments this afternoon on this, and I think I termed this ridiculous amendment to the sensible resolution that we have before us.

First, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I was interested in the remarks by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, but I was kind of sorry that he got up to speak this afternoon because we on this side of the House were finding it very interesting on that side of the House over there, the constant dodging and deliberately waffling and getting out of discussing agriculture in this Legislative Assembly, because this resolution and this amendment, Mr. Speaker, has been stood, has been amended, has been stood and stood for weeks and weeks in this House because nobody on that side of the House really wanted to dare get up and talk about agriculture.

But I want to say at the outset, Mr. Speaker, that the other day as I listened to the Member for St. George making a speech that was jammed at him by the Minister of Agriculture and bringing in this most ridiculous resolution, that I really had a lot of sympathy for the honourable member and, you know, my feeling of compassion - that's the word - towards the honourable member went up as the time went on.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, the information that I received was my own information and not jimmied by any Minister of the Crown.

MR. WATT: I don't know what the point of privilege was, Mr. Speaker, but any time my honourable friend wants to get up on a point of privilege I am quite prepared to listen to him. But I just say that that day that I thought that I had, you know, seen in this House a demonstration of gallantry that had never been present in the House before, for a backbencher to be jammed into a position like that by a Minister of the Crown, to get up and to explain the waffling and the bungling and the blundering that that Minister has done since he has become Minister of Agriculture and to shove it onto one of his backbenchers to speak for him just simply -- well, I was going to say that I really lost some of my compassion for my honourable friend up there from St. George because I was still turning over in my mind the statement of the First Minister in the House when he brought Pavlov's dogs in here and, you know, I'm going to talk about that.

MR. URUSKI: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Honourable Member that the Minister of Agriculture can handle his own affairs.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my honourable friend that the Minister of Agriculture may be able to handle his own affairs but he certainly cannot handle the affairs of the Province of Manitoba.

I submit, Mr. Speaker -- (Interjection) -- Do you want to make a speech on agriculture? Mr. Speaker, all right, let's get back to Pavlov's dogs for a moment.

MR. DESJARDINS: Ring your bell Pavlov.

MR. WATT: I really suspected that when it came down to the farm thing that before the Member for Ste. Rose got up to speak that probably by Tuesday, that maybe the Member for St. Boniface might be jammed into the position of standing up and defending the Minister of Agriculture . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Nobody will jam me.

MR. WATT: . . . because, you know, he has some interest in underground property.

MR. DESJARDINS: Jealousy will get you nowhere Doug. Nobody said that about you.

MR. WATT: You know, one of the major issues that has confronted agriculture since my honourable friend became Minister, as he recalled when I was Minister, one of the major issues that he seemed to consider was major at that time was tough and damp grain, and you know quite a few of the members around here will recall when we used to talk about tough and damp grain. Now our present problem, Mr. Speaker, is too much grain momentarily. We have a surplus and I just want to talk to you for a few minutes about the waffling and the bungling and the blundering of my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture insofar as our relations are provincial with the Federal Government.

And here -- and I've read this into the record before, Mr. Speaker, and I'll read it into the record again. Operation LIFT - we're talking about Operation LIFT - the last time I talked about Pavlov's dogs we were talking about Operation Demolition - wasn't it? There isn't too much difference. But here is what the Minister said when he came back from -- now this is negotiations that went on between -- (Interjection) -- I listened to you, I listened to the garble that you gave in here just a little while ago and said nothing. Here is what my honourable friend gave to the agricultural community of Manitoba when he came back from Ottawa after negotiating Operation LIFT: "We can look upon the new program as a sign of hope for the western farmer."

Now that's a nice statement to make to the farmers of Western Canada and particularly Manitoba, but, Mr. Speaker, later on now, this also came from the Minister of Agriculture - just a minute, I've got several of them here -- (Interjection) -- Yes, I've got one here on Pavlov's dogs that I must speak about in a few minutes -- (Interjection) -- No, he's going to speak on agriculture. Where did he go?

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have another position of the Minister of Agriculture now, and I'm quoting from Hansard, Page 766 on April 9th: "I want to say that we are not happy with the program because it does nothing for Manitoba. It does nothing for Manitoba. In fact" - and I want you to listen to this, Mr. Speaker - "in fact the program hurts the producers of Manitoba if that program is not altered, because it takes away from them the right to market a product that they have produced." Now, we're expected, Mr. Speaker, to stand up and support a resolution condoning the actions of the Minister of Agriculture representing Manitoba farmers in negotiations with Ottawa. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the actions of the Minister of Agriculture in establishing himself and identifying himself with Operation LIFT has cost the Province of Manitoba, has cost our agricultural community and indeed affected every person in the province to the extent of at least \$20 million. Now my honourable friend from Neepawa speaking the other day suggested probably \$12 million.

Now I'm not sure which figure is right, but I'm suggesting that as I have assessed Operation LIFT, as it embodies the \$140 million that the Federal Government had agreed along with the Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba to inject into the agricultural industry in western Canada, that our share in Manitoba - and I'm talking on a per capita or per farmer basis - where we have approximately 35,000 farmers as compared with 90 in Saskatchewan and something like 35 in Alberta, would it not be reasonable to suppose that if my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture had initiated a proposition to the Federal Government for the disposing or the injection of that \$140 million that at least \$25 million would have been expected in the Province of Manitoba? And how much did he say we're going to get out of it? How much? The First Minister mentioned about a million and a half the other day -- (Interjection) -- No, no questions right now.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that of all the things the Minister has said that he has done since taking office last July 15th that the debit - and I admit that probably on the credit side there are some areas that I would have to justify, Tory programs carried forward as I have mentioned before in this House - but on the debit side I charge that the government of Manitoba, the present government of Manitoba has cost our farmers at least \$20 million.

And what are they saying? The Minister of Finance, what's the Minister of Finance have

(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . to say, he was speaking on this the other day. "Surely our farmers qualify" - and he's talking about urgent - I was going to say indigents but I don't refer to farmers as indigents although I believe that it won't be long until we all are at the rate we're going with the present Minister - "Surely our farmers qualify. The lack of a comprehensive federal agricultural policy, the continuing and increasingly aggravating cost-price squeeze and uncertainty surrounding the marketing conditions for each year's crop, all our grain farmers are in an untenable position. Accordingly, we have provided in our budget this year for new approaches, new methods which can best immediately help our farmers in these difficult times. A major response is our provision of some \$21 million into the agricultural community."

How many million dollars have gone into the agricultural community so far? Almost a year now. And what is the interest rates? My honourable friend just gets up and talks about forgiveness. In the program that was established when I was Minister of Agriculture and agreed to with the banking and lending institutions, we were talking in terms of simple interest, and I say that simple interest would be in line with that area of their loaning program now where there is forgiveness involved, but where no forgiveness is involved, Mr. Speaker, I'm saying that there is a greater portion of that \$21 million is being offered at rates as high as 13 percent, and how many farmers are going to buy . . .

MR. USKIW: That's a lie.

MR. WATT: That is not a lie, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my honourable friend to retract that statement.

MR. USKIW: I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that my honourable friend would retract his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . the Honourable Minister that that is not an expression . . .

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend insists on making misstatements then I have to challenge him, and unless he can prove it . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. WATT: Again I say it, that the rate of interest, when you're talking about 9 1/4 percent compounding, is 13 percent interest or more, and I do not retract that statement and I ask my honourable friend to retract the statement that he made.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The fact that there may be a difference of opinion, after all that is what debate is all about, but the expression used by the Honourable Minister is not one that is accepted under our rules.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's not a difference of opinion, if I may, there are regulations which my honourable friend is fully familiar with which spell out the interest rate at 9 1/4 percent, now 9 1/2.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. May I ask of the Honourable Minister that the rules regarding parliamentary language be adhered to.

MR. USKIW: Well, I withdraw the remark, Mr. Speaker, but I would ask that my honourable friend stick to the facts.

MR. WATT: I thank the Honourable Minister for withdrawing his remarks and I simply say to him again that when we're talking about compounding interest that we're not talking in rates of 9 1/4 percent, we're talking in rates of up to 14 percent. And I reiterate this, Mr. Speaker, that this is what the money is costing the farmers. And I ask him again, how many million dollars have really been injected into the farming industry? How much? We've consistently asked questions on that side of the House pertaining to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, and I was reprimanded the other day by the Attorney-General when he spoke on agriculture for consistently asking the same questions over and over again, and I intend to ask those questions over and over again until I get a straightforward answer out of the Minister.

But I want to ask the Minister this, Mr. Speaker, why is he afraid to call the Agricultural Committee together? What is the matter? Is he afraid to meet the farmers from the constituency of Arthur? He doesn't need to be afraid of them. I sit on the committee and I'm sure that I'll see that no harm will come to the Minister of Agriculture if he'll just sit down and talk to them, and I'm sure that my honourable friends from Birtle-Russell, from Morris, will be sitting on that committee. What's he afraid of? What is the matter with meeting the United Grain Growers and the Manitoba Pool Elevator Association, and what is wrong with meeting the farm unions, or what is wrong with meeting the stockgrowers or the Farm Bureau? They've maybe moved out there about now and we daren't meet those people or not.

MR. USKIW: We meet with them all the time Doug.

MR. WATT: I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the solutions to the problems on agriculture are difficult. No one has ever really solved the problems on agriculture and I think it'll be a long time before anyone, or particularly governments, will. But I say this to you, that there is no solution to the agricultural problem in the division of our agri-people and our producers. And I want to give you a good example - and it applies directly, personally, to my honourable friend. One year ago the potato industry was in trouble. We had a glut of second grade potatoes which my honourable friend will recall. And what happened? We called a meeting in my office, the then Minister of Agriculture, and we sent out invitations to the processors, to the distributors and to the producers, to the wholesalers, to come and discuss a common problem in the marketing of second grade potatoes in the Province of Manitoba. Does my honourable friend over there recall what happened? About 30 people came, sat down in my office and talked about a common problem that applied to the consumers, to the producers, to the processors and to general agricultural people, and they agreed that they would sell No. 2 potatoes and they sold No. 2 potatoes.

I give you this as an example, Mr. Speaker, of what actually can be done in agriculture if there is some leadership in bringing these people together to understand each other's problems, but I am saying that the position that my honourable friend is taking right now, that there will never be any polarization or fusion or understanding of the agricultural people and the producers in Manitoba because he has refused to call them together and discuss their common problems. -- (Interjection) -- No, it's not a question.

MR. USKIW: No question. Okay.

MR. WATT: He's refusing to call them together. He has no intentions of calling that committee together, no intentions whatsoever, and all we want is the answer, why? Is he afraid of them or is it he just simply hasn't got the stamina to ask them to meet in a common interest of the whole agricultural community and take a plan to Ottawa that he might have some chance of establishing with Ottawa, rather than the muffling and the waffling and the bungling that went on insofar as Operation LIFT is concerned. I reject, Mr. Speaker, I reject the implication -- (Interjection) -- No, that's right. I could make some remarks on that, Mr. Speaker, but I'll pass it up. I say that I reject, I very strongly reject the amendment and I feel sorry for my honourable friend the Member for St. George in being jammed and shoved into that position, a position that no backbencher of any government that ever sat in this Legislature before was put into.

I say that it is unfortunate that we have a Minister who would pull something like this in this Legislative Assembly, but I say to him that we're quite prepared to help him. If he'll call the committee together and say "I've bungled and I've made a mess of Operation LIFT", surely we can find some solution to get out of it and get at least part of the \$20 million back into the Province of Manitoba that he lost in Ottawa two months ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Would the honourable member submit to a couple of questions?

MR. WATT: Sure.

MR. USKIW: When last in the last 12 years has the former government called the Committee on Agriculture to discuss with the various people in the industry? -- (Interjection) -- The Committee of the Legislature on Agriculture.

MR. WATT: I think my honourable friend from Lakeside is correct. I doubt if there was any sessions that I recall that we did not call the Committee on Agriculture. We may haven't if there was not agricultural legislation, but we have never rejected, we have never rejected when we were government a resolution asking the Agricultural Committee to sit.

MR. USKIW: It has never sat, Mr. Speaker. And my second question -- (Interjection) --

MR. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member . . .

MR. USKIW: No, I'm asking another question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: . . . because the comment just made by the Honourable Minister didn't sound like a question.

MR. USKIW: My next question, Mr. Speaker, is when the honourable member was involved in some negotiations with the potato industry, was that through the committee of the Legislature or through his good offices?

MR. WATT: It was through my good office, but the Committee of the Whole was informed at the time that the meeting was being called and I reported to the House on the results of that meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a few comments on this resolution this afternoon. First of all, looking at the resolution itself that we're amending and then the amendment, it seems to me that the mover of the amendment should probably have put in some more wording because what is left in the former resolution is the problems. But then he goes on and there's nothing there that will say that the problems have been corrected by the present Minister of Agriculture, they're just commending him for his work in making representations to Ottawa. I feel that if a motion of this type or an amendment of this type should come forward, certainly he should be congratulated on his work that he does in the province and in his department and not just go to the matter of his representations at Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, in our book produced by the Social Credit Association, we find in the basic principles that the second principle reads this way, and I quote: "The major function of democratic government in organized society is to secure for the people the results they want from the management of their public affairs as far as such results are physically possible and morally right." I definitely subscribe to that. I don't think we're getting it, not in Manitoba, and I think the economy shows this up, especially so the farm community. While the over-all picture as far as income might not be too bad, but certainly certain sections of the farm income are at a very low and if it wasn't that our farmers were so resourceful as they are, we would be in a much worse position yet. At our local area we're still on the one-bushel quota. This means that farmers can deliver very little in the way of wheat and sell it to the Wheat Board, because one bushel doesn't do very much and the returns of that certainly don't go to the extent, as is mentioned in the resolution here, that they can pay their bills and their taxes. There is still a lot left to be paid.

I recall the discussions we had in the Committee of the Whole when we dealt with the estimates of Agriculture and especially the Operation LIFT discussion. I never subscribed to the program and I don't think I will. I think probably that someone else higher up is taking the matter in hand so that our wheat surplus will be cut off very shortly. In fact, I don't think we have the surplus that our federal authorities seem to indicate. I don't think they are nearly as large and I feel that our farmers should remain in operation, should remain in production of wheat because we are the breadbasket of the world and we're producing high protein wheat, wheat that the countries of the world need for milling purposes to blend with their wheat in order to produce a proper bread. I certainly cannot go along with the program that the Federal Government has embarked on.

I am happy for one thing though, and perhaps our Minister of Agriculture played a part in that, at least I've been on consultation with him on this as well as with the Member for Provencher, the Federal M. P. for Provencher, Mr. Smerchanski, in contacting the federal minister in charge of the Wheat Board, Mr. Otto Lang, in getting special crops to qualify for quota purposes so that farmers can deliver wheat on acreages devoted to special crops. This is, I think, a lifesaver for southern Manitoba because if that had not been brought into being we would be hampered very, very seriously. I've brought this out before, that farmers in southern Manitoba's deliveries would have been reduced by 75 percent; as a result of this change their deliveries will be much, much higher. This will probably not apply equally to other parts of Manitoba, and while I am happy about southern Manitoba, I certainly can't say this for the rest of the province. I think the rest of the province should get some relief as well because in Manitoba we don't do that much summerfallowing and the farmers who are not producing special crops will be hurt very severely in my opinion, because we know that those farmers that are not delivering to the Wheat Board accept and have to accept much lower prices for their grain. Wheat is presently selling or has been selling for 90 cents to \$1.00 a bushel whereas in the elevator at least you fetch about \$1.25 to \$1.30, with the hope of probably some final return, so that the rest of the farmers in the province will not enjoy that same benefit that the people who produce special crops will be able to enjoy.

The matter of calling the meeting of the Agricultural Committee of this House and to have the people of the various organizations to appear and discuss this matter I think is quite proper, but it seems to me that the government is lacking confidence in the members of the House that are sitting on that committee, or why would they not allow them to meet, why would they not allow them to discuss these things if and when, and we know the situation is serious enough. It seems to me that there is non-confidence in the members of the Agricultural Committee. If that is it certainly let's get to the roots of it. Let's know what's keeping them away from calling the meeting. Is it this or are there other reasons? I think the Minister should

(MR. FROESE cont'd) . . . . . certainly stand up and speak on this matter and let us know.

I think there are other matters that we should be informed about. How is their program of cash advances coming along? Is there any further progress? Certainly this was brought into the Committee of Supply when we discussed the estimates and we haven't heard anything further. — (Interjection) — The Member for Lakeside mentions the Farm Implement Act. I think there are a number of matters that we should hear from because it's quite some time since we discussed the estimates and I certainly wouldn't want to leave this particular session without having accomplished anything to improve the lot of the farmer in Manitoba. I think the situation is serious and I think we as members of this House should make every effort to bring about something that is worthwhile and that we can help and assist them.

I think there are other matters on the horizon that the Minister should inform the committee of. What is in store for the egg producer? I hear there's trouble brewing there if things will not work out. Let's hear about them and if there are things that we can do, if there is matters that we should take in hand let us do so and not just have matters continue and matters ride.

I, for one, feel it also highly improper for an opposition member to support an amendment as has been proposed by the Member for St. George. I'm sure that he had no intention or no expectation for us on this side of the House to support such a motion. I think he could have brought in a much better amendment than what he has at the present time. I would rather agree with the Member for Ste. Rose that the amendment be withdrawn and that something really worthwhile be put in its place.

I do not want to burden the members of the committee with the matter of inland storage for wheat which I have well done on past occasions. I would like to hear from the Minister though whether this has received any consideration in their caucus and whether it's not a worthwhile matter that should be taken under consideration.

MR. SCHREYER: Operated by whom?

MR. FROESE: By the Provincial Government.

MR. SCHREYER: Interior storage?

MR. FROESE: If the private companies do not agree to enlarge their storage facilities then I think the government should take action and provide terminal storage at inland points so that the farmers who are already placed in a very severe position that they would not have to expend further monies for storage facilities and then, too, arrangements could be made whereby the Wheat Board would buy this product and pay for it. As I've mentioned previously, all it would do it would add to the inventory of the Canadian Wheat Board and this is what they're set up to do, this is their object, this is their purpose, this is what they were brought into being for, and certainly let us put the pressure on the Federal Government, and this is one way of doing it so that we can get action from them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I have not burdened the members of this House unnecessarily. I feel these are some of the matters that should be said and hope that something will come out of it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I certainly don't intend to dwell at any length on this amendment; however, I think it warrants that the members of this Chamber take careful note of what exactly is seemingly going on. I would like to commend the Member from La Verendrye who introduced the resolution. I think it was a very sensible resolution; it simply requests that a committee of this Chamber meet and seek information in order to assist in the decision to alleviate the problems that are now facing the farmers. What we are asking in the resolution is simply to equip the Minister and to equip the members of this Chamber a little better in order to arrive at constructive decisions that will assist people whom we all agree are in a time of need.

Now the amendment seems a little facetious, it seems a little as though the Member from St. George treats the resolution lightly. I understand and know the member well enough to know that this is not his intention but I submit to him that it's subject to this kind of interpretation. As a matter of fact it almost demands this kind of interpretation. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that in view of the seriousness of the situation and in view of the character of the amendment, I agree fully with the Member from Ste. Rose that it would be in the interest of he himself who moved it and the members of this Chamber if this amendment were withdrawn. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that this is a time to take the problems of agriculture lightly and I think that we ought to look at them seriously enough not to be whimsical about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?



MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I wasn't able to hear all that was said in this debate by the Member for Rhineland but the few minutes of his contribution that I did hear was so interesting that it prompted me to say something at this time with respect to the resolution on agricultural policy that is before us. I suppose one reason it's interesting to listen to the Member of Rhineland in this respect is because he is one whose whole life and interest has been relating to agriculture; he's a man close to the soil, if I might put it that way, and in many ways I like to think of myself as one who has at least a somewhat similar background.

May I say, Mr. Speaker, that I find it difficult to agree with honourable members opposite who would argue that we are being somewhat bantering about the amendment here. The mere fact that the Member for St. George, the mere fact that he has moved an amendment which commends the Minister is not something that we meant to be taken in a bantering way. We are serious about it. The Minister of Agriculture has given a great deal of time and energy and innovative thought to the farming industry in our province and to the problems that confront us.

Last night just before 10:00 o'clock the Member for Roblin got up and intimated that our present Minister of Agriculture had really done nothing of any significance to the farming industry in Manitoba, and in the one minute that I had last night I was able to point out to him two very specific things that the Minister of Agriculture here has been instrumental in bringing about. And I referred, and I refer again, to the fact that we have increased the budget of the Department of Agriculture something in the order of 20 percent, a percentage increase that compares very well with anything that my honourable friends opposite were able to do in respect to estimates of spending for the Department of Agriculture while they were in office. In addition to that, the Minister of Agriculture has brought forward a farm credit program that has revived the work of the Agricultural Credit Corporation because as everyone here knows in the latter years of the 1960's the previous Government of Manitoba pretty well closed up shop on the Agricultural Credit Corporation, no new loans were being extended by the corporation in the latter 1960's -- (Interjection) -- Yes guaranteed loans through conventional lending sources. But when money really got tight the banks did not give first priority to agricultural loans. I'm not suggesting that the policy of the former government was of no value at all; I'm suggesting that it was less useful, of less assistance to farmers than the new credit program that my colleague the Minister of Agriculture brought forward in recent months. Through this new program we are pumping in, making available something in the order of 12 to 15 million dollars for agricultural credit, taking the \$6 million from the previous year for a total in excess of \$20 million for credit that one hopes . . . .

MR. WATT: Would you permit a question?

MR. SCHREYER: In just a moment -- that one hopes and can feel reasonably certain will assist the farming industry through what is admittedly a difficult period. But the period of difficulty which farmers find themselves in now is something that is not to be attributed to this government, and I'm sure that even the most unreasonable person opposite would admit to that. I'm not suggesting the former Minister of Agriculture is unreasonable or that the Member for Morris is unreasonable but they are wont here to put forward arguments that we on this side must really regard as unfair. In what way is the government of the Province of Manitoba responsible for the fact that grain sales have been lagging so terribly, and they have been. In what way is the Government of Manitoba responsible for the fact that the Federal Government has not come up with a realistic support program for agriculture? We have, we have made many submissions and representations to Ottawa in the course of the past ten months. . . .

MR. WATT: . . . this side of the House we have never suggested that it's the fault of that government or the Minister of Agriculture that the sales of wheat have gone down, never have.

MR. SCHREYER: Well I wish my honourable friends would be a little more specific than as to in what specific way they feel that the present Minister of Agriculture or the present government are letting down on the job or somehow responsible for the major problems facing farming industry. Because if they have some specific criticisms I wish they would put them forward in just that way, in a specific way, so that we could deal with them in an equally specific way.

It is just not fair to say that the provincial government has not been making an effort with respect to the agricultural industry. As I was in the process of saying when I was interrupted, my honourable friend the Minister of Agriculture has made many submissions and representations to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and to the Federal Government. We really believe

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.). . . . that the present, the recently announced LIFT program by the Federal Government is of very little, if any, benefit to Manitoba farmers, and for that matter to prairie farmers generally. The Minister has said so and so have I. We have repeatedly urged the Federal Government, the Federal Minister to consider the advisability of a supplementary cash advance program or acreage payments, and we have also said that the province, if the Federal Government was prepared to do that, that the province would be prepared to participate in order to increase the amount available through supplementary cash advances or through acreage payments. But I must say to the Honourable Member for Rhineland, though he's not here at the moment, and to other honourable members opposite, that it would be unwise for the provincial government, I think, to go it alone in any kind of cash advance or acreage program; because if we did so, it would be relieving the responsibility, it would be lessening the onus on the Federal Government for what is primarily a federal responsibility, that of income stabilization for agriculture. That has always been understood to be a federal responsibility. The province in order to help improve the situation should and would consider financial participation in any acreage payment program or supplementary cash advance program, but to go it alone, would be I think unwise and unprecedented, obviously. Although the precedent doesn't worry me quite so much as what would happen in the future, there would be a confusion as to where the primary locus of responsibility lie in this country with respect to income stabilization for agriculture. When one considers the fact that the dairy industry in this country, heavily concentrated in the east as it is, there is a substantial continuing kind of income support and stabilization program, and who is carrying the burden of that? - it is the Federal Government, even though governments of Ontario and Quebec do have more of a fiscal resource capability than the prairie provinces.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland mentioned something about the problem that our egg producers were facing. May I say to him, and this is a concrete illustration, Mr. Speaker, of the efficiency, if I may put it that way, of our present Minister of Agriculture, because the problem has welled up to the surface only within the past three weeks. I believe that there were inclinations, there were indications some time ago that a problem might well arise with respect to egg production and egg marketing in Canada but it has really manifested itself in a very clear way only in the past two to three weeks and the Minister of Agriculture has already had considerable research and study done and is now making representations to the Federal Government and the Federal Minister with respect to this problem of egg marketing in Canada. The Member for Rhineland is right. There is a serious problem here and its been caused by the action taken by the government of Quebec. They have issued regulations governing the marketing of eggs in that province, regulations of such kind which we submit are ultra vires because they would govern the marketing of eggs not only of those eggs produced within the province but even those produced outside of the province of Quebec. And as such, are a restraint of interprovincial movement of goods or trade, and therefore in our submission ultra vires of the B.N.A. Act.

The Minister of Agriculture has put this in a succinct way to the Federal Minister and the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, I believe, in order to put, again to put the responsibility where it clearly lies with the Federal Government here because it is a matter of a province in our submission exceeding its constitutional authority. And who is supposed to adjudicate? In the initial instance the Federal Minister, Minister of Justice should be taking appropriate action. Now feeling convinced as we do that the action taken by the Egg Marketing Board and the government of Quebec, feeling convinced as we are that it is really beyond the scope of provincial powers, what can be done? It'll take months presumably to get this adjudicated. In the meantime, Manitoba egg producers face very immediate bleak prospects. I don't know what else can be done by the provincial government here except that which has already been done by the Minister of Agriculture. That is to have the necessary legal aspects investigated, the economic ramifications investigated, and to make direct representation to the federal ministers I referred to, and he's done that. It's now a case of if necessary, and we hope it won't be, to initiate litigation, to test the validity of the egg marketing regulations in the Province of Quebec.

I might add also for the information of honourable members opposite that at the last meeting of the Prairie Economic Council, meeting of prairie premiers in Regina, that quite a number of the items on the agenda related to western agriculture, prairie province agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba was there as one of the principals representing this province and we attempted to get interprovincial prairie province cooperation on a number of matters.

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.). . . . I think we did. But the fact that Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba may have made common cause making certain representations to the Federal Government respecting problems in agriculture does not mean that the Federal Government is going to listen. Farmers in Western Canada unfortunately are the victim of the simple fact that they no longer command the same proportion of political strength in Ottawa as they once used to. The present Federal Government is not as inclined to be as sympathetic to western agriculture and the problems faced by it as were federal governments of years ago.

I don't mind saying for everyone to hear that I really feel that governments in Canada have failed the farmers. They have failed the farmers in the sense that another relatively affluent country in this world, and I refer to the United States, has since 1940, if not a few years earlier, had a basic policy of farm commodity price support. Many other industrial countries in the western world have the same. Not perfect, leaves a great deal to be desired, but at least they have the basics of a farm commodity price support program. In Canada there is no such basic federal agricultural commodity price support program, there just isn't. There is for dairy products in respect to manufacturing milk. There is with respect to certain commodities named under the Agricultural Stabilization Act; I think 12 or 13 commodities. But a number are not price stabilized. I think that this - well perhaps it's putting it strongly - I regard it as almost a moral responsibility on governments in Canada to come up with a program that can compare, begin to compare favourably with the program in the United States. Now I know that some members will say that the farm commodity price support program in the United States has had many negative aspects, weaknesses, disadvantages to it; I suppose that is true. But ever since the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt they have had a parity price program, for too long I suggest, it had this one basic flaw. There was never any maximum or upper limit as to how much in the way of price support payments would be made by the public treasury to any one individual farm operation. And because during the course of the 1940's and '50's a number of farm operations became very large, I mean really large corporate farms in a sense, price support cheques from the public treasury went out to a number of farming operations, cheques in excess of six figures, and to the public, I should think to the majority of U.S. public, this was difficult to accept, difficult to justify and the farm commodity price support program in the U.S. fell into disfavour. Got a bad reputation. I think this was really a pity, because in its essence this is a fundamentally fair kind of policy for a federal government to have. Now they've corrected that. I believe that in 1967, or is it 1968, with respect to wheat production, they did put a maximum as to how much would be paid out of the public treasury in wheat price support, a limitation, a maximum of \$20,000 maximum to any one operation. I think in doing that they did, the government there did take care, did come to grips with the one major flaw in this overall farm program which I regard as being so much better and more fair than what we have had here over the years.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland and others who are interested in agriculture well know that in other industrial countries they have similar kinds of farm commodity price support programs, some might argue in certain countries really excessively high, accompanied by regulations of a kind which impede trade, restrict world trade in foodstuffs. That may be, but one thing must be said to the credit of these governments that have such programs, that they have recognized the responsibility of government to assist an industry that by its very nature is unable -- and this is really the crux of the argument for farm commodity price support programs -- the nature of the agricultural industry is such that it does not have countervailing bargaining power in the market place. Every other group in our economy or society have developed bargaining power, real muscle. This is certainly true of larger corporations. It's certainly true of trade unions. But it's not true of agriculture and that is why farmers have been facing the relatively bleak prospects that they have in the entire post-war period with only a few years interspersed where they have enjoyed good sales and relatively better prices.

It seems to me that farmers in our country they really face a choice of between two alternatives. Either they will, amongst themselves, want to agree to orderly marketing, well organized through marketing boards, and I know that there are those who would argue that marketing boards impinge on the freedom of the individual farm operator to so order the marketing of his product as suits him best and pleases him best. But that is the one alternative and the other - the other is to simply watch themselves being squeezed out, as they have been for the past many years, squeezed out one at a time. Units having to be consolidated to become larger in size; trying to remain viable by grasping at every opportunity to get more economy of

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) . . . . scale. Eventually the trend gets to the point where rural areas depopulate in a way that can only be described as sad, causing all kinds of problems for rural towns and trading centres; causing all kinds of problems to government in trying to provide modern up-to-date services in education, health, social services and the like.

The other alternative of course is for government, even though farmers no longer command a strong political voice, but for governments to proceed not on the basis of the strength or weakness of farmers political voice but to proceed on the basis of moral responsibility and say that because farmers lack bargaining power, countervailing bargaining power in the market place, that we feel it is right to adopt a policy of farm commodity price support. I don't think that that is likely to happen any more. I had high hopes ten, twelve years ago that a program of parity price support, something very much like it, would be adopted but it didn't happen and I'm not that optimistic that it'll happen now. All a provincial government can do within the sphere of its jurisdiction is to try and provide more up-to-date and better services in agricultural extension services, more and more liberal farm credit, can try to encourage diversification within the agricultural industry. It can try and have better forecasting of market trends so that if it sees that a certain kind of farm product or commodity is likely to be in over supply that it can gear up to assist farmers to make a transition from that product that is likely to be in over supply to some other, which in fact is really the whole point of our farm credit program as the honourable members know. And I believe that farmers are responding quite well. The Minister of Agriculture, as I recall, advises me that there is something in the order of, well certainly over \$15 million already out by those wishing to make the transition into livestock feeder operations, cow-calf operations and the like.

I know that more could be done in improving the efficiency of our grain collection and transportation system. I come to that now, Mr. Speaker, because I recall the Member for Rhineland made reference to that. But I can't agree with the Honourable Member for Rhineland that, you know, that we should be building interior terminals and that it should be done at provincial government responsibility and expense. Because the whole country grain elevator system, the whole grain gathering and transportation system has been acknowledged to be one of federal responsibility since the mid 1930's. I know that the honourable member might be inclined to say but that's a "passing the buck" kind of argument. If you feel that something really is a problem go out and try and come to grips with it and forget about the constitution. Well I must say I used to have that kind of attitude too, but it is fraught with peril.

MR. FROESE: I wonder if I could interject at this point. I certainly wouldn't call it buck-passing, but when our farm economy is at stake, I think if we can improve it in this way I think we should be ready to step in.

MR. SCHREYER: Well the honourable member knows that there has been a good deal of discussion about ways and means of improving the efficiency of western Canada's grain collection and transportation system. There have been studies made by the line elevators and by the Pools and even by the railways as to how we might improve the efficiency of our grain movement system. I think some proposals that have come forward have real concrete possibility and merit. For example, the one about, you know, in the future that there should be far fewer country elevators but of much bigger size. Of so much increased size that each elevator would have its own full cleaning -- (Interjection) -- I beg your pardon? Yes, its own cleaning facilities so that when the box cars are spotted and loaded, the grain is by then ready for direct trans-shipment on to ships. This isn't possible at the present time and it does cause unnecessary handling charges and the like. But does my honourable friend not agree that it's just not that simple to go over to this more modern and efficient and sensible system because so many line companies and Pool Elevator locals have such an investment in their present grain elevator facilities and they can't be abandoned just like that. But one hopes that arrangements are being made so that we can make the transition, rather than staying with the present.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): I wonder if I might ask a question?

MR. SCHREYER: I'm sorry, yes?

MR. HENDERSON: I wonder what the First Minister thinks of the use of the Port of Churchill. Are we making enough use of it or should this not be developed further?

MR. SCHREYER: I can assure my honourable friend that the attitude of the government towards utilization of the Port of Churchill is one of complete, but complete support. Now the honourable member should be interested to know that this year, not because of any action of the provincial government, but this year it so happens that the Port of Churchill will be utilized

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) . . . . to a maximum, to an all time record; that something in excess of 24 million bushels will be going through Port of Churchill this shipping season and one hopes that it can be brought up to what the Hudson Bay Route Association regards as being the maximum potential with the present facilities there of 30 million. One hopes this will happen.

For that matter the Government of Manitoba is working, we have for a few months now, on the possibility of establishing a Port of Churchill Promotion Authority which, together with the Province of Saskatchewan, alone if necessary, which Promotion Authority will be responsible for trying to work with the Wheat Board and the CNR and export and import firms to get more volume through that Port. Of course, one can get into a lot of detail, detailed problems that have to be dealt with, but I personally am very optimistic that utilization of the Port of Churchill for wheat shipments and for other kinds of cargo will only increase in the years ahead.

But to get back to the general picture with respect to grain movement in western Canada. I really feel that significant improvements can be made in it. The three points: one, as I've already mentioned, in the future we should be building larger country elevators, considerably larger than we are at the present time. That means fewer, of course, and there will be some local resistance to it. It'll mean truck shipping a little further by farmers. Secondly, I think that in concert with the building of larger elevators, with their own cleaning facilities, comes the unit train, so that when trains are loaded on the prairie they can without too much shunting and spotting and the like, they can go right through to the tidewater, to the ocean ports where the wheat from the trains would be simply loaded directly on to ships rather than going through the export terminals as they are now at Vancouver and the Lakehead and so on.

But as I say, the greatest problem here is how can this be done without causing some harm to existing investment by the elevator companies. And in any case, the province as such, whether it's the Province of Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba, can hardly take the lead here when the responsibility is so clearly that between the Canadian Wheat Board, the Board of Grain Commissioners, federal agencies, both the railways and the elevator companies. But in no way would the provincial governments stand in the way of such development because we would regard them as being beneficial.

Mr. Speaker, I really think that the amendment that has been moved by the Honourable Member for St. George, although it could be interpreted to be taken, you know, in a bantering way, being not serious and the like, we are quite serious about it, because I and my colleagues believe that the Minister of Agriculture has done as much as is humanly possible and has exercised his responsibilities of his office in a most conscientious way. And in case honourable members opposite think that this is just unprecedented that there should be a motion of commendation for a Minister, I can refer them to specific instances in the past, I can even give them the Journal page numbers where they, when they were in office, occasionally moved amendments to resolutions, amendments of a kind which commended the government, which commended the Minister, and in one or two cases the motions were moved by Ministers themselves commending themselves. Now I think that that's a problem, it displays great ego that the Minister of Agriculture here is not guilty of. The motion of commendation is moved by the Member for St. George and therefore should be much more acceptable to honourable members opposite than if the Minister of Agriculture had done like some of his predecessors and moved a motion commending himself. Therefore, I have no problem at all in asking honourable members opposite to be human about this, to be fair about it and to support the good works that have been done by our Minister of Agriculture.

MR. WATT: Would the First Minister - could I ask him a question? In the light of the remarks the First Minister has just made about the province not being able really to do much or go it on their own, I just want to ask him if he agrees with the Winnipeg Free Press, February 18th where the headline says: "Stopgap ready: Uskiw". This is a statement to Bob Culbert in Ottawa: "The Manitoba Government is prepared to provide \$12 million in its own program of cash advances to farmers for grain storage." Now, was that just a loose statement, I ask the First Minister? Was it just, you know, the First Minister has already said in a former speech in the House that his government and the Minister of Agriculture are carefully considering all aspects of agriculture before they make decisions. Did they carefully consider this decision to go it on their own to the extent of \$21 million, and are they now, is the government now?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I must say that the date mentioned by my

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.). . . . honourable friend being February, mid-February, strikes me that that is the date when the conference took place in Ottawa. The Minister of Agriculture was present. He made a presentation to the Conference of Premiers, Dominion-Provincial Conference, he made a presentation to the effect that the Federal Government should come forward with a program either of supplementary cash advances or of acreage payments, indicating that the province would be willing, and indeed anxious, to participate financially so as to increase the benefits to farmers in the province. One presumes that the other two prairie provinces would consider doing much the same. But I don't think that at any time has the Minister of Agriculture - and I stand to be corrected - I don't think that the Minister of Agriculture has at any time stated that we would be prepared to go it alone in a program of in effect what would be farm income support.

MR. WATT: Is the First Minister saying actually that the Minister of Agriculture did not make this statement then to the press?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I could invite the Minister of Agriculture to clarify but as I understand our proposal at the time, it was that we would be prepared to go forward with a provincial supplementary cash advance program if the Federal Government would agree to cooperate by making it possible for the recovery of the cash advances to be done on a first-out basis - what's the accounting term? Fifo or Lifo - Lifo, Last in, first out; but the Federal Government did not - or even pro-rated, I should add -- (Interjection) -- I'm not taking about a first mortgage. I'm talking about recovery.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I wish to introduce a number of students who arrived a short while ago, 40 Grade 5 students from Dauphin under the direction of Mrs. Couch, Mrs. Shewchuk and Mrs. Stanko. These students are from the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Recreation. On behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you here this afternoon.

The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS - (Cont'd.)

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But before I start I would like to ask the First Minister or the Minister of Agriculture a couple of questions. Is the First Minister prepared to accept a couple of questions?

MR. SCHREYER: Would the honourable member repeat his question?

MR. GRAHAM: First of all, I was very pleased to have the First Minister announce that \$15 million was already paid out. Could he indicate, or the Minister of Agriculture indicate, how many individual farmers who have applied for loans, have been granted approval? Is that information available?

MR. SCHREYER: I think that the Minister of Agriculture could reply to this. I believe that the amount that has been loaned out is in the order of \$15 million; as to the number of borrowers, I couldn't advise the honourable member.

MR. GRAHAM: My second question is, of the \$15 million loaned out already, is a major portion of that to cooperatives rather than to individual farmers?

MR. USKIW: If I can have leave, I would answer the question, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure I have to have leave to do this. The applications total in the number of \$17 million, three million of which are to corporate cooperative structures and 14 million to individuals.

MR. GRAHAM: Have these loans been approved?

MR. USKIW: No, I talked about applications, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figure on the number of approvals.

MR. GRAHAM: . . . you say that there are no grants?

MR. GREEN: On a point of order. I'm anxious that information be elicited but I want to make it plain that we don't want it as a precedent now that people will ask questions of persons who have spoken, and that's why the Minister of Agriculture asked for specific leave of everybody in the House. I hope that we're not going to further extend the kind of questions and answers that can go on by permitting a question period after a person has participated in the debate. The Minister of Agriculture asked for leave because he has already spoken and ordinarily could not answer questions. I'm anxious that the information be released but I want to make it clear that we don't want to develop another prong to the already complicated forms of debate that takes place.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, if we're on a point of order, I simply say, Mr. Speaker, that when the First Minister says in the House that \$15 million has been injected into the agricultural economy of the province, we want to know if this is correct or not? I'm not the type to stand up in the House and call the First Minister a liar, which has been the mode across that side of the House. I simply think the member should get a clear-cut answer to his question. If there is \$15 million that's gone into the economy, I say "Hallelujah, congratulations", but we want to know specifically how much money has really gone in to this. . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I resent very much the mere suggestion that there might be some deliberate intent on my part to mislead the House and the public. The fact of the matter is that we approved capital for purposes of farm credit in the amount of six million and fifteen million dollars, for a total of 21 million. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture advises that applications are in already to the amount of \$17 million, that approvals are being made daily, and he also indicated that it was in the ratio of three to fourteen as between co-op corporate structures and individual loan applications. There can be no question at all but that there will be something very close to \$21 million approved and actually injected into the economy by the end of the fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When the First Minister made his statement that \$15 million had already been pumped into the agricultural community of Manitoba, I was indeed pleased, but now I find that really it hasn't been pumped into the agricultural economy.

MR. SCHREYER: There'll be more than that pumped in by the end of the year, much more.

MR. GRAHAM: When the Minister of Agriculture, last year, last year announced the Agricultural Credit loans would be reinstated, he said at that time there would be \$6 million. We came back here this spring to find that while there were \$6 million in the budget, that actual-ly none of it had gone to the farmers.

Now we find the First Minister saying that \$15 million has gone into the agricultural community, and now we find really it isn't \$15 million; these are just the total of the applications. He has not told us how many loans have been approved. The Minister of Agriculture has said these are applications, but then again the First Minister said that approvals are being granted daily, but they cannot tell us what has been granted to the farmers in loans. So, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I have to say that it is a hoax being perpetrated on the farmers by the First Minister and this government. . . .

MR. SCHREYER: \$21 million more than the Conservatives.

MR. GRAHAM: I haven't got \$21 million and the farmers of Manitoba have not got \$21 million from this government.

MR. SCHREYER: \$21 million more than the Conservatives. . . .

MR. GRAHAM: \$21 million. The farmers haven't received it. You can stand up and say all you want that you're going to give it to them, you're going to give it to them. Where is it? The farmers haven't got it.

MR. BOROWSKI: What did you bums do when you were in office?

MR. GRAHAM: That's enough from you, too. This is a program of promises, promises that haven't been kept yet. Mr. Speaker, every day the farmer in Manitoba is finding himself in increasingly more difficult times; and what does this government say they're going to do for them? They're going to loan them more money. The farmer doesn't want a loan. He hasn't got the security left. He hasn't got the grain in the bin that this government said they would give them additional cash advances provided that the Federal Government allowed the province to have first claim when the grain was delivered to the elevator.

MR. SCHREYER: How much did the Conservatives give. . . .

MR. GRAHAM: The province wanted first claim.

MR. SCHREYER: You wouldn't even do that.

MR. GRAHAM: They asked the Federal Government more or less to take a second mortgage on the farmers grain; the province would supplement the cash advances of the Federal Government but they wanted first claim. But at the same time, but at the same time they were turning around and through the Agricultural Credit Corporation they were telling the farmers that if you have an existing loan at a low rate of interest you must pay it off before we will lend you the money because we want a first claim there again. They want a first mortgage. They

(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.). . . . would not take any second mortgage. Mr. Speaker, is this being fair? Is this being fair to the farmers? When the farmers are already in a position that is increasingly difficult and this government over here stands up and says that they will help the farmers, I ask you, where are they going to help them to? Where are they going to help them to?

MR. SCHREYER: If you sat near Duff then you wouldn't bring in any farm credit program at all. Not \$21 million; not even 2 million.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed amusing to me to hear the First Minister stand up, when he was supposed to be defending a policy that would help the farmer, he's turning around and criticizing, trying to pull the wool over the people's eyes. I say shame, shame on the First Minister. But earlier today, Mr. Speaker, we had that great advocate of equality, a former leader of the New Disaster Party in Manitoba, the Minister of Labour, stand up on agricultural policy and he said that labour sympathized. I commend him for this. The farmer today is locked into a position where his income is declining, and yet labour in the whole of Canada refuses to follow the recommendations of the Federal Government in trying to hold the line on inflation. They say flatly, no, they will not follow the recommendations of the Federal Government in trying to control inflation. And what will the result be for the farmers? Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for the farmers of Western Canada because in effect what will happen was the farmers will then become second-class citizens. These are the people who have really pioneered Western Canada in the past. They've shown the initiative to go out and do everything they can to make this province and this Western Canada a greater country, and now we have this provincial government trying to relegate them to the position of second-class citizens.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I have to say that I cannot support any amendment to a motion which would commend the Minister of Agriculture for the stand that he has taken in the past year on the agricultural problems facing Manitoba.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe the honourable member might not realize that the Member for Winnipeg Centre. . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could the House Leader repeat his comment please.

MR. GREEN: I merely indicated to the member that the Member for Winnipeg Centre had previously moved adjournment and then had permitted people to speak, so I believe the matter should stand in his name. I also suspect, although I'm not sure, that the Member from Morris has spoken, but I may be wrong. No, I'm wrong.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are now dealing with Resolution 11 on the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose and the amendment thereto of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When the Member for Ste. Rose introduced this resolution, I think each and every one of us in this House was concerned with the problems that will be facing us if the proposal of the Honourable Minister of Finance in the Federal Government is approved. By their own admission, the proposals of the White Paper would increase the revenue of the Federal Government by some \$5 billion. By the calculations of the Province of Ontario, they consider the figure to be very conservative and they estimate it would be six billion, three hundred and some-odd million.

Now when this happens, this means that there is actually less money available to the other two levels of government or else taxes have to increase at other levels. The members of this Legislature, I'm sure every one of them, have to be concerned about this because it could affect the economy of our province. It could mean that some fields of revenue of the province, of the present revenue fields of this province, would be closed and they would have to look for other forms of revenue. I think that this is something that is of exceeding concern because the present-day taxpayer cannot afford to pay too much more money. We are already taxed out of all proportion to our neighbours to the South, to other members of other jurisdictions throughout the world, and in fact we are one of the heaviest taxed people in the western hemisphere.

When the Minister of Finance made his amendment he stated that he felt that it would probably be acceptable to every member in this Chamber. However, the proposals that he has



(MR. GRAHAM cont'd.). . . . made, rather than being specific are very vague. The one part of his proposal that is probably the most significant of any is the fact that he omitted the very portion of the amendment from the Member for Riel where he said: "Therefore Be It Resolved that this House refer the whole question of the Federal White Paper on Taxation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development for immediate study and the presentation of a non-partisan recommendation to the government in Ottawa." The Minister of Finance has specifically omitted this part of the amendment by the Member for Riel when he in his closing paragraph states: Therefore Be It Resolved that this House refer the whole question of the Federal White Paper on Taxation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development for immediate study. This poses the question which I think each and every one of us should ask ourselves and should ask our constituents. The Minister of Finance does not want a non-partisan representation made to Ottawa.

MR. SCHREYER: You couldn't be non-partisan Harry.

MR. GRAHAM: I never asked to be on the Committee that was sent to Ottawa. He doesn't want a non-partisan representation made to Ottawa and I ask myself, why? Why would he not want a non-partisan representation? It's a most important question that each and every one of us should search our souls on. If we're going to be fair in our reassessment on taxation, if we're going to review the whole question of taxation at all three levels, I think it is essential that any committee that studies this and makes representation from one government to another, I think it's essential that it be non-partisan because the decisions that are going to be made are going to be lasting decisions that will carry on in effect for many years. It is of great concern to me that the Minister of Finance does not want a non-partisan representation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question on the amendment of the Minister of Finance to the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose? The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Labour, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution 14 on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie and the amendment thereto by the Honourable Minister of Labour. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and let me congratulate you on how well you look in that Chair. I think while the afternoon may be dull in many aspects - I see members sleeping in their seats over there - I'm not sleepy because I'm watching this Speaker perform and I think it is very very refreshing to see a change of face in the Chair. I'm at his mercy and I congratulate you; you look well, Russ.

Now let's get back to the business of Manitoba on this resolution, Mr. Speaker, which is a very interesting resolution and one that is going to have serious aspects on the economic development or the future of Manitoba. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I imagine that some of the debate this afternoon was not of their interest and likely they're out sipping coffee. However, have no fear my friend, I will carry the debate now and maybe no doubt you'll question me. But nevertheless -- Oh, the Speaker is back. No doubt, I guess when I rise to my feet, maybe the other Speaker figured that the House might get into a. . . .

But this is a very serious resolution, Mr. Speaker, and one that I think should deserve the serious attention of this House, and I especially direct my remarks to the Minister of Railroads. In this particular resolution - and it's one that has been debated at many levels - the municipal people have looked at this problem; the Federal Government has looked at this problem; I was part of the Rail Abandonment Committee and we've had many many many meetings. And even all the studies that have been done and all the oratory that has taken place, nevertheless, the system inevitably is going to be abandoned and so we must recognize and realize, regardless of what we do or what we say, the railway system in this province is going to be abandoned, no ifs or buts about it. I don't know what the future holds for the community where I reside. Where I live in a small village, there's a station agent there today that's already got his notice and six people are going to move out. I'm sure there is - what? - 57 other communities, 57 towns and villages that are facing the same problem. So in all aspects, I appeal to the Minister of Railroads, there likely will be three or four hundred jobs on the line. He shakes his head. I think he better take another look at it.

MR. PAULLEY: You had better read my speech of the other day.

MR. MCKENZIE: I tried to read your speech the best way I could, but I didn't hear you say anything about this aspect of it. Because I humbly submit to you, Mr. Minister, that in the village where I reside we can't afford to lose six people out of that village. We cannot afford to lose six people. And what else is going to go? The elevator system. The First Minister was speaking here a while ago, we're going to clean the elevators out of . . . . and another big elevator down the road. And that's why - I'm for that - but nevertheless that eliminates another 30 or 40 people out of that village where I live. The railroad goes; the elevator goes. Where are we going to go? You know, just where is Manitoba going to move in the next 25 years?

MR. DOERN: North.

MR. MCKENZIE: That's fine, I recognize TED, I'll try. . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Well, does the honourable member not agree that when I put forward the proposal that country elevators would be built in the future larger in size and fewer in number, I wasn't suggesting that this was necessarily socially desirable from a point of view of local communities but that it seemed to be economically more efficient and that this is what the studies of the past years have seemed to bring forward.

MR. MCKENZIE: I agree with the First Minister all the way. This is in fact what's going to happen and it's something I don't think that basically the average citizen or the average community can even challenge, let alone offer an alternative, and I doubt very much as I stand before you this afternoon, Mr. First Minister, that even this Legislature or this province can change that. That's inevitable, it's going to happen. But I think we have to take a look at what's going to be left for us to do or where are we going to go after this has happened - and as I say, it's inevitable, it's going to happen - and I'm appealing to the Minister of Railroads as one that should give us some ideas or some avenues where we can move in this difficult situation.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if my honourable friend would permit a question? Did I not suggest when I was speaking the other night on this resolution that we should continue the study and that the Canadian Pacific Railway were prepared to appear before the committee for that purpose?

MR. MCKENZIE: If the Minister had listened to my earlier remarks, Mr. Speaker, I submitted that the studies have been made. I have been in the debate for 10 years, 15 years on this particular aspect of abandonment of the railways in this province. So the study, I say, has been done; the record is documented; and I submit to the Minister that he's the one should stand up today and take the initiative and tell us what's going to happen, or is he going to sit there and talk about, you know, things that might or might not happen. He spoke the other night and basically he never gave me any information I can carry home to my constituency.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, I tried.

MR. MCKENZIE: I agree he tried, and he always tries and he's very successful at trying, but to get something across so that I can take it home and tell my constituents that the Minister of Railroads stood up in the House today and said, you know, this is going to happen, I can't say it because he didn't get across to me that way, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'm thick-skulled or maybe my Scottish background that I can't understand the Honourable Minister, but I humbly submit that I didn't get the answer that I would like to take home and tell the people in the village where I live what's going to happen. The station agent there has got the message; he's going to leave; his family is going to move out. . . .

MR. SCHREYER: . . . only the Canadian Transportation Commission.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, in the main, as my remarks come on in the debate, I think I will give the Minister some answers or some alternatives that we can offer, or maybe we can bargain and come out reasonably well and survive in my community.

The second part of the resolution, "Whereas this may seriously reduce the service to the people in these communities," well, that's inevitable once you take out the transportation system such as we've had there over the years, and one that we've built our whole community around that transportation system. The day was when the trains came into the village Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Everybody come to town to get their mail, everybody come to town to do their shopping, to get their cheques and everything happened. It was all built around the railroad. This is basically how many of the rural communities of this province are built, around the railroad system, otherwise they wouldn't have been there. Nevertheless, there is

(MR. McKENZIE cont'd). . . . where our rural economy was -- that was the base, let's say, in many many cases for a community to develop, built around the fact that the railroad was going to stop there.

Before that we had the boats at Shellmouth, just across the way from the village, where the boats used to come up the Assiniboine River and Shellmouth was where the boats stopped. And Shellmouth was a big town. At one time, Mr. First Minister, I'm told - and I wasn't there in those days - the Village of Shellmouth was some 1,200 people. The boats used to come up to the Village of Shellmouth and stop. Do you know how many people are in Shellmouth today? About 12. About 12 or 15. Over one thing only, the river boats stopped when the water in the Assiniboine got so low the boats could no longer travel. And this is an example now in the railway system where a lot of our rural communities, over no choice of their own or no fault of their own, are just going to disintegrate. And it may be a good thing, I can't predict the future, but we have a Minister over here who is supposed to be able to give us some suggestions as to where we're going to go. If we have to go that way and he'll stand up and tell us where we're going to go, that's fine. But I submit, Mr. Speaker, he hasn't said it. He hasn't told me. He may be privately talking to other groups, he may be talking down at the Union Centre or telling somebody but he's not talking here. He may be over at the CNR shops getting the insurance people all fired up over there but he's not telling me or the people of Roblin constituency what's going to happen.

MR. PAULLEY: I tried to the other day.

MR. McKENZIE: That's right. But here's the next part of the resolution, and this is most interesting, Mr. Speaker. It says: "Whereas no firm assurance has been given. . . ." There it is, Mr. Minister, black and white. And again I repeat it here so you'll remember: "Whereas no firm assurance has been given. . . ." As I stand here this afternoon I humbly submit, Mr. Minister, we still have no firm assurance from that Minister as to what's going to happen. -- (Interjection) -- He says they're going to study it. That's fine. Now, what's going to happen to these employees? Have you done a study in that, Mr. Minister? Can you tell them what's going to happen to them?

MR. PAULLEY: Yep.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, why didn't you tell them?

MR. PAULLEY: I tried to the other day but it didn't penetrate.

MR. McKENZIE: I never heard it. Did you tell me what's going to happen to the people, the agents in my constituency, where they're going to go?

MR. PAULLEY: Yep. I tried to but it didn't penetrate.

MR. McKENZIE: I'm sorry I didn't hear it. No, I didn't. Maybe it's because I didn't understand the way that you got your remarks across, and if that was the fact I apologize, but I'll read your speech again and see if I can get your theme of what the future holds. But nevertheless, I humbly submit if the railroads are preparing to abandon the system of this province built around these communities and they're getting out scot-free after all the things, the negotiations that were held and the agreements that were made, and they can walk off just like that, close up a community just like that, they must be penalized in some way. I didn't hear the Minister tell me how he was going to penalize them, but I say they should reduce the freight rates in those communities where I live fifty percent right across the board. They're abandoning the system, and if they're going to leave us without even a crumb on our table, something to do or some way that we can get our goods and services in and out - they're not going to provide the service - therefore I submit, Mr. Minister, that the Canadian Pacific Railway should be challenged by this Minister of Railroads. If they're going to abandon this system, if they're going to abandon these lines, they restructure their freight rates as of now or else they are not allowed to abandon it and we'll stand up and meet them at a railway crossing and challenge them to cross the line. Is that fair? Is that a fair assumption, or am I talking off the top of my head?

But I think -- (Interjection) -- maybe 25 percent, but I humbly submit, Mr. Minister, that this is fine, but nevertheless are we going to allow this to happen all across this province and they just walk off and leave it? And they take all the cream. They've got the cream of the crop already. I don't think there's any quarrel with that; they've done a good job. They've served those communities well, but nevertheless this is a change - and it's a changing world and I have no quarrel with the fact that they have to leave - but I think they shouldn't be able to just walk off and leave an area of -- it's fine economically, but who's going to pick up the ball? Is the Minister or the province going to pick up the ball?

MR. SCHREYER: We might; we might.

MR. MCKENZIE: Are you taking over the railbeds?

MR. SCHREYER: Could be.

MR. MCKENZIE: And make them into super highways? Or the Minister of Transportation? What's going to happen? We're wanting the answers. If in fact that is where we're going to go, that's fine, but let us get some statements or some ideas as to where Manitoba's going to go when this happens, and it's happening right now.

MR. SCHREYER: Write your Member of Parliament.

MR. MCKENZIE: I beg your pardon?

MR. SCHREYER: Write your Member of Parliament.

MR. MCKENZIE: I wrote my Member of Parliament. I think, Mr. First Minister, if we were to take a real stand, something like Thatcher took in Saskatchewan - you know, he stood up, he took them on and I think he's going to win. I really do. I think that at least he's not going to back off like this Minister of Railroads here is and not say nothing. Thatcher is meeting it and he's challenged them. "If you want to phase out the system, fine, but you've got to make a deal with me before you go." And I think we should. I think this Minister of Railroads should go and have a talk with the Premier of Saskatchewan and maybe the two provinces, it would be a two-pronged attack on this problem and maybe we could do it better with supporting him and his views on the abandonment of railways.

MR. PAULLEY: There'll be more miles of line abandoned in Saskatchewan than in Manitoba, because of Thatcher.

MR. MCKENZIE: Right. Right. Yes. Well, possibly we could negotiate some way that it could be approached, but I'm only submitting it as a suggestion and it's an alternative. I think if this Minister of Railroads would stand up and tell the people of Manitoba what he's prepared to do and the stand that he's prepared to take and what he's going to do, then I think this resolution would be meaningful and we'd know where we're going to go, but in the main, he wants to further the study. I humbly submit, Mr. Speaker, the study has been made, the exercise is over. We're facing the abandonment of these 57 agents July 1st. The ball game's over. And what happens after that? We don't know.

So, Mr. Speaker, before I take my seat, I support this resolution in most of its aspects. -- (Interjection) -- I do. I agree. It's an excellent resolution brought in by the honourable member, the Leader of the Liberal Party, and I think it's one that deserves more immediate attention than referring it to that committee, because by the time it's referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development the ball game may be over. But I would ask the Minister, on an emergency basis, to call the Committee on Economic Development as quickly as he possibly can and look at this issue which is so serious to rural Manitoba.

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

MR. SPEAKER put the question on the motion as amended, and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, might I ask that this resolution stand as the member is absent today.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member is aware that the....

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, unless someone else wishes to speak at this time, I would ask that it be adjourned, seconded by the Member for Arthur.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this resolution basically deals with a question of building codes nationally across this country, and that resolution, or saying that building codes nationally across this country should be applied, is very close to the word "Utopia". It would be wonderful but it just cannot be accomplished. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, when he spoke on this resolution, said that this was a problem basically of all the different communities and I think he's referring to boundaries, etc., and everybody has their own little rules and regulations about construction. The Minister of Municipal Affairs couldn't be more wrong when he says the problem is because we have a lot of towns and cities and municipalities.

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd.)

The codes in this province - first of all, if you're looking at the environmental section of the mechanical codes referring to health in this province, it comes under the Minister of Health and Social Services. That is the code that people work under mechanically in this province when they work with Metro and they work with all the other cities and municipalities in this province. The codes regarding electrical or the pressure vessels, etc., will come under the Minister of Labour in this Province.

So let's not really kid around. It wouldn't matter if we had 120 or 1,000 communities or cities in this province. What it would basically say is if the Province of Manitoba has adopted a code and each city or municipality, whatever they may be, was responsible for having a man who is knowledgeable about applying the codes of construction mechanically, electrically or whatever it may be, this is what has to happen. I don't say that we have to have 100 inspectors. We could possibly say that you could have inspection places all through the province, let's say one at Dauphin, one at Brandon, one up in The Pas, one in Flin Flon, but you would have a man working from there which knew the code of the Province of Manitoba, and at the present time the building codes generally in the Province of Manitoba are spread out in departments all over the place.

Now I don't care what happened in the past and I would charge the government to say this, that you can have a building code for Manitoba. I don't personally give a damn about building code for the whole of Canada, only in this respect, the man who writes the code or the men who write the code for Manitoba are probably -- or you can find intelligent men who can write the code for Manitoba and they will take a look at the products made across this country. They can say that this product can be used in Ontario and can be used in B. C. and can be used in Manitoba, and by the same token, because of our weather differentials in this area, they can say, well, in the Province of Manitoba we can't do this.

Now there is nothing wrong with working with the national people as far as a code is concerned. This is desirable for manufacturing throughout the country but it's absolutely impossible to say that you can use materials in Manitoba that you can use other -- let's put it another way. It's impossible to say that materials that can be used in areas where they don't have extreme temperatures or there are problems of rock or whatever you want to say, and the Minister of Transport knows there are problems up in Northern Manitoba where construction are concerned that don't apply to southern Manitoba, but you can have products that can be used nationally, electrically, as far as pressure vessels mechanically are concerned, there are products of insulation that can be used nationally and what have you.

But there are still problems in Manitoba so it is desirable, and it would make sense to me, that the Province of Manitoba sit down and take a look at the building codes - and for heaven's sake get it out of three different departments and get it under one department where they know and they keep their fingers on it - and write a code for Manitoba, while discussing things with the national people, and say this is what you have in Manitoba.

And I say to you this, Mr. Speaker, that when the Minister of Municipal Affairs says that it was a problem of the cities, he obviously hasn't spoken to the Metro inspectors, he hasn't spoken to the inspector in Brandon, he hasn't spoken to inspectors in different areas, because if he had, he would have found that every inspector in this province would come begging on his knees to him, saying Please, please have a Manitoba Code. Metro Winnipeg, the largest -- Metro, the largest urban area, would love to administer a provincial code. They're men that can administer the code. We are now sitting in the situation where we have provincial people bringing up a code; we have a situation where Metro can have a code. You walk into a Metro inspector and you say: Can you approve this? And they say: Well, we don't really like it but - and Metro wouldn't like it - but if you can get the provincial okay I'll go along with it, is what they'll say to you.

So for heaven's sake, all the inspectors in this province, and I go back to what I said in the beginning, if there's 110 of them - and that's not desirable - but as many as you do have will administer a code that is Manitoba's, made up by a group of men who have the common sense to work with the national people, look at products, and if there's any changes in products the approval will come from one area which is the provincial government, and then you will have men that will go out and administer your code and police it.

As I said, most of your building codes and what have you will come under the Minister of Labour, as far as pressure vessels, electrical and what have you are concerned, and then when

(MR. F. JOHNSTON cont'd.). . . . you get to environmental health, which is pollution - and I would only say this very briefly - you can talk about air pollution and what have you, but what goes down the drain is causing an awful lot of pollution in this province and it comes under the Minister of Social Services, or Health, Welfare and Social Services, and for goodness' sake get it all in one area, make a code and regulations for this province, and when you decide that it's going to be administered by the city, or you may say you want to have a man in an area that will handle three towns or four towns, make sure he's qualified to do the job and for heaven's sake get us out of the problem of it being helter-skelter in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the sooner that's done, the sooner that's done the construction people in this province will be very happy, because they're all getting very sick of going to one place, and then the man says: Well, this is my ruling but if you can get this man to agree, I'm overruled. It's just not satisfactory from that point of view. Get a Manitoba code that will fit in with the national deal, and if you're going to wait for a national code over this whole country you're going to wait for years. Get to work on a Manitoba code and get it done now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I read the resolution with a great deal of interest and I listened to the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek with possibly more interest than the contents of the resolution. My honourable friend for Sturgeon Creek seemed to imply that because of the areas of jurisdiction that there seemed to be confusion - and it could well be - but it seemed to me that my honourable friend was suggesting that in the areas of respective jurisdiction that there is continuing conflict between departments in government. And I want to assure my honourable friend. . . .

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Not conflict in the government, conflict between maybe cities and municipalities and the government as to who has jurisdiction.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, I understood from my honourable friend if I am correct, and I may not have caught his point, that he implied for instance that if the Department of Health and Social Services denied a person a permit to do certain things, if that department denied it then we'll go to somewhere else, possibly landing up in the Department of Labour, and we'll receive the approval. I want to assure my honourable friend that as far as I am aware since the time that I've had the opportunity of being Minister of Labour - and he's perfectly correct that in many respects and in many areas it is the Department of Labour that has supervision over construction in the Province of Manitoba - but I want to say that, as far as I'm aware, there's never been any conflict, or basic conflict between the Department of Health and the Department of Labour insofar as actual construction is concerned.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the Minister has -- can I, Mr. Speaker, say that - because I'd like to clarify this. . .

MR. SPEAKER: I don't believe that the member has a point of order.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: On a point of privilege then. I am not implying that there is conflict between the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare's Department and yours overruling one another. I am implying that a city or municipality at the present time that makes a decision can -- you'll find an inspector in this area will say: Well, if you can go to the province and get it approved, O. K. So we're working in a jurisdiction area where there's no firm satisfaction between the cities and municipalities and the province in this area.

MR. PAULLEY: I want to thank my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, and I want to say that I appreciate the points that he has raised in this debate and many of them are very valid. That is, that there seems to be conflict, or let's say instead of there seems to be, there is conflict as to what the code really is in some municipalities and the city. As a matter of fact I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend is well aware that the City of Winnipeg and Metro building code is far more restrictive than it may be in Timbuctoo or some other areas in the Province of Manitoba. And I would say that this is particularly true, as far as I am aware, in the insulation of electrical energy, or wiring for electrical purposes, that in some areas there isn't the rigidity that there is in, say, the metropolitan area under the code. But I'm sure my honourable friend, and I think he intimated this, Mr. Speaker, a moment or two ago, that the application of a National Building Code may not be the answer either, due to climatic conditions and other conditions as well.

I'm sure that my honourable friend is aware, as indeed I am, and not since becoming a member of this Assembly or the Minister of Labour, aware of the application of the so-called National Building Code at the time when construction was permitted for war-time houses and

(MR. PAULLEY cont'd.). . . . the likes of that. The municipal by-laws of the City of Winnipeg and others were thrown by the board and the C. M. H. C. said we'll adopt a National Building Code, which was far more loose than the metropolitan - well, we didn't have a metropolitan government at that time of course - but the general municipal by-laws of the Greater Winnipeg area. I think that he referred in his discussion to this point. And he is right. He is right when he says that there are two or three departments of government, that is provincial government, charged with certain responsibilities at the present time, and I think, Mr. Speaker, my friend is making a very valid point, that maybe they should be brought together into one general building code for the Province of Manitoba.

He referred to the matter of sanitation. As a matter of fact, I must confess that I was somewhat amazed when I started to study really the jurisdictions of the Department of Labour, that I found that insofar as the installation of say a sewage system is concerned that while the Department of Labour, and also in conjunction with the Workmen's Compensation Board insofar as the aspect of safety provisions for trenching and the likes of that, that the Department of Labour had some jurisdiction but then the Department of Health and Social Services, or Social Development as it is now called, had inspectors insofar as the actual installations of plumbing and the sanitation aspects.

So there is this duality, if you will call it that, of jurisdiction at the present time, and as I say, Mr. Speaker, my friend may have a very valid point in his suggestion that they should be brought under the aegis of one jurisdiction. Not however, would I suggest, Mr. Speaker, for one moment that we may change the letter of the law as to what should be done. I wouldn't suggest that that would necessarily follow, but I do agree with my honourable friend that there is some confusion and some annoyance created because of the different jurisdictions having different areas of responsibility.

And also, Mr. Speaker, as far as the provincial jurisdiction on buildings being the supreme - if I may use that term and I use it very very loosely - authority in some areas of construction such as public buildings, hospitals and theatres and assemblies, we must have it and we have got it at the present time where the Department of Labour, through its Fire Commissioner's Office for instance, must approve of every plan for every school that is built in the Province of Manitoba so that the pupils in the case of schools and the public in the case of public buildings are protected so far as entrances and exits are concerned. So we have that. . .

MR. SPEAKER: May I remind the Honourable Minister that it's 5:30. If he wishes he may be able to continue with his remarks when this matter next appears on the Order Paper. The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Labour, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.