

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Saturday, July 24, 1971

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements; Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): I wish to table Return to an Order of the House No. 3.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions; Orders of the Day. The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, just before the Orders of the Day are called, the Leader of the Opposition asked me on two occasions yesterday as to whether there was any development with regard to mercury pollution on Lake Winnipeg and I just want to advise the House that there are no matters to be announced in that connection.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the House is in a position where two committees are meeting this afternoon, scheduled for 2:30; the Agricultural Committee and the Municipal Affairs Committee. I think the rooms are 254 for Agricultural Committee and Room 200 for Municipal Affairs Committee. -- (Interjection) -- 254 for Agricultural and 200 for Municipal Affairs. I thought that's what I said. So we would ask, Mr. Speaker, that you leave the Chair and return at the pleasure of the members when they are ready to go back into the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): At the moment out in the corridors the Agricultural Committee people are being directed to Room 200. Is that correct?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that members will be able to determine which room they're supposed to go to. I understood it as I announced it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am leaving the Chair to return at the will of the Assembly.

* * * * *

Sitting Resumed

MR. GREEN: . . . continuing to work -- (Interjection) -- no? Well the Agricultural Committee in any event is continuing, but the fact is that we wish to be back in the House this evening at 7:00 o'clock, so I've just called the House together to get the House properly adjourned. I move, seconded by the honourable . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): For further clarification and to facilitate the working of the House, can the First Minister indicate what's on the Order Paper at 7:00 o'clock?

MR. GREEN: I did indicate, Mr. Speaker, that we would start with Bill 36. There is a bill that was held in the name of the Member for Arthur but he would want it not to come up this evening, so that Bill 36 is the next one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, there is a supplementary item of House business here which would be much better if we could get agreement on now. That is, that inasmuch as the House Leader has indicated that at 7:00 o'clock we reconvene here to deal with third reading of bills for the duration of the evening's sitting, I'm wondering if the House Leader for the gentlemen-opposite could indicate whether the House would be agreeable to the Committee on Agriculture meeting concurrently, starting at 7:00 o'clock. This is something that I had discussed informally with the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Member for Rhineland at around 11:00 a.m. this morning. If that could be agreed to, it would expedite the business of this House and there would be almost no conflict inasmuch as the Unicity bill would be taken up at 7:00 and the Agricultural Committee would be meeting at 7:00 as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not that sure of the clubs that I have in my hand; if it is the government's intention to do that, I suppose they can do it. They do it with some reluctance on my part in the sense that I have, as the Premier is aware of, after some consideration in the Agricultural Committee, if that is resolved satisfactorily, that is satisfactory to my motion before the Agricultural Committee, then of course there would be no difficulty. However, if the intention is to proceed in the Agricultural Committee against the wishes of a motion now on the table of the Agricultural Committee, then it would be with some difficulty and with some reluctance that I would accede to the government's wishes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable House Leader for the Opposition I think knows that on a matter as important as whether or not a committee meets concurrently while the House is meeting we would have no intention of proceeding without the concurrence of honourable members opposite.

There is an alternative which I would like my honourable friend to give us a reply to now, and that is that if honourable members opposite would be agreeable to the Agricultural Committee meeting now, since we've agreed to reconvene now, and continue for the next half hour, then we would withdraw our request for meeting concurrently this evening and simply meet here.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, if I understand the Premier's suggestion properly, that the Agricultural Committee continue to convene till 6:30, or not later than 6:30, that then the question of dual sittings does not arise?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Yes, that would be my condition as well, that I cannot be in two places at the same time, if these committees meet simultaneously. I'm agreeable to that if . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Finance, 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 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening.