

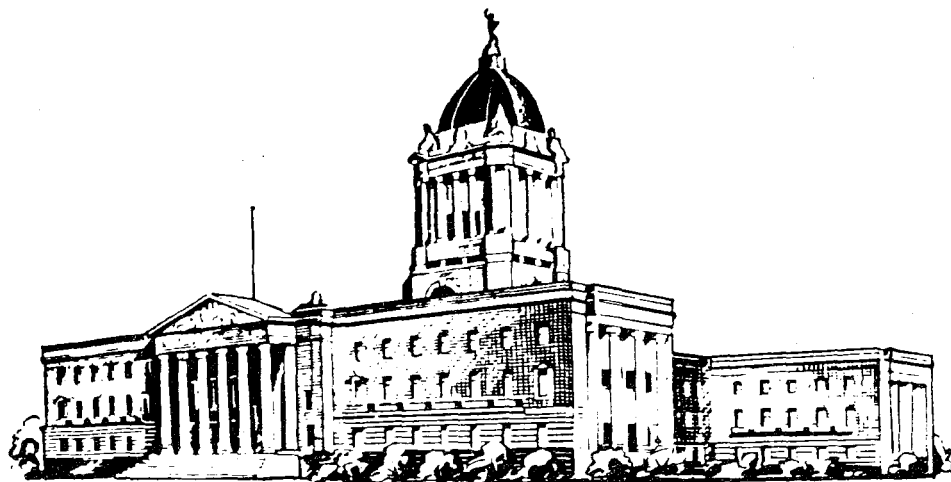


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XIX No. 25 2:30 p.m., Thursday, March 30th, 1972. Fourth Session, 29th Legislature.

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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 o'clock, Thursday, March 30, 1972

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 60 students of Grade 11 standing of the Miller Collegiate School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Brown, Mr. Schmidt and Mrs. Brown. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

We also have 18 retired Supervisors from the Canadian National Transcona Shops, whose total service to the railway equals 720 years. On behalf of all the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you all here today.

The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): I wonder if I may have the granting of a personal privilege due to my former workmates being in the gallery this afternoon - the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Is the request of the Minister of Labour granted? Is it agreed to? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my honourable friends for their courtesy in allowing me a special privilege in adding to your welcome, Sir, to former associates of mine in the Canadian National Railways service. As you indicated, Sir, about 800 years of real devoted service to this great railway of ours, this national railway, the Canadian National Railway. I do want to say they are deeply appreciative and they asked me to say so of the recognition that was given by the First Minister, our Premier, Eddie Schreyer, in naming me as the Minister of Labour in this Assembly, and from time to time, Mr. Premier, they remind me of this. Welcome boys!

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for Rhineland have a point?

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Yes. Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Labour having had the opportunity to address his group, maybe I could get leave to do the same thing to ...

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed? The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of welcoming the students from Miller Collegiate here this afternoon. I hope that they will enjoy the session and gain by it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I don't have a group here but if I do I would also like the privilege.

SPEAKER'S RULING

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to make a statement before we proceed. Yesterday the Honourable Member for Morris rose on a question of privilege alleging that a breach of privilege of the House and the members had occurred in the publication of a document by Mr. Alan Early. I thank the honourable members for their contribution to the procedural point. I should like to indicate that my ruling deals only with the technical and procedural aspects of the matter and not in any way with the merits of the situation or the allegation.

The standard definition of privilege as defined in May's 17th Edition, on Page 42, states: "The Privileges of parliament are rights which are absolutely necessary for the due execution of its powers. They are enjoyed by the individual members because the House cannot perform its functions without unimpeded use of the services of its members and by each House for the protection of its members and the vindication of its own authority and dignity."

These definitions are very general. It is perhaps on purpose that a clear and logical definition has never been given of our parliamentary privilege. However authorities on the subject argue that the privilege includes freedom of speech in the sense of immunity against defamation; freedom from arrest in certain very limited circumstances; exemptions from court duty as witnesses or as jurors; protection against undue influence and reflection on members.

There are also the collective privileges of the House dealing with the control of its proceedings and publications; the calling and protection of witnesses; the reflections and indignities affecting the House as a body or as an institution; the right to set up its own rules and the

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) traditional privileges claimed by the Speaker on behalf of the House at the opening of Parliament. It will be seen thus that parliamentary privileges concerned with the special rights of members, not in their capacity as Ministers or as party leaders, or whips, or Parliamentary Secretaries, but strictly in their capacity as members. Allegations of misjudgment or mismanagement or maladministration on the part of a Minister in the performance of his ministerial duties does not come within the purview of parliamentary privilege. It therefore follows that an Executive Assistant to a Minister whose actions are in the above ambit does not come within the purview of parliamentary privilege.

Further it has not been established that the document was produced during Mr. Early's hours of duty to the Minister. I regret therefore to indicate to the Honourable Member for Morris that the question is not a matter of parliamentary privilege. In making this decision the Chair wishes to state that it is only as to form and procedure and does not prevent a further discussion on the matter in some other valid procedural context. Thank you.

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

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Milk Control Board and the Annual Report of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, not knowing precisely which Minister may be responsible, I direct the question to the First Minister. Can he tell us whether or not the construction schedule, the building schedule at Leaf Rapids is proceeding on schedule?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the honourable member a precise answer but I can advise him that according to the latest information given me, it would seem that the construction schedule was on schedule, or reasonably so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, on March 23rd, the Honourable Member for Lakeside asked me whether there were funds specifically set aside for purposes of education and building of schools in the Interlake under the ARDA-FRED program, and whether the time period in any way has been shortened, or have other arrangements been made.

I wish to inform the honourable member, Mr. Speaker, that there are no provisions under the ARDA-FRED Agreement for capital monies for schools. The money for the regional vocational high schools comes from the Federal-Provincial Vocational Agreement, which is quite separate and apart from the ARDA-FRED Agreement. As the honourable member may be aware, the regional vocation schools, including the one at Selkirk, which is in the Interlake area, were built with federal monies provided under this vocational agreement.

Now capital funds for other public school buildings within the Interlake area as elsewhere come from the Foundation Program and the Finance Board can approve 100 percent from the costs of these buildings and many schools have been built in the Interlake with monies, the expenditure of which was so authorized by the Finance Board: St. Laurent, Ashern, Moosehorn, Fisher Branch, etc.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, the question whether or not the ARDA-FRED Agreement has been altered in any way is not relevant for the purposes of this question. But I may add that, as far as I know, there has been no change in the dates of that agreement but I think the honourable member may be aware that under the Vocational Capital Agreement, the Federal Government has stipulated that we expend our share by 1975, and this we will be able to do since we have at this point about \$1-1/2 million uncommitted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I'd like to address the question to the Minister of

(MR. BEARD cont'd) Labour. I wonder if he is now prepared to give the same courtesy of personal privilege to the members of this side of the House that he's received this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I was just discussing this matter with my leader, the Premier of Manitoba, and it really, Sir, it was in jest that I made reference to my former workmates who have made a contribution of seven or eight hundred years of service to the Canadian National Railways, and I intend, I intend, Sir, I intend to write a letter to you, to the Official Opposition, and also include the independent members of this House, asking them if they will consider the gesture of mine, with consent, as not a precedent to go back to the previous methodology, but rather that it was done in jest, and that I would not suggest that this should be a normal procedure. We got away from that, and I trust and hope that my honourable colleagues in this House will accept that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources, Environmental Management. Can he advise when the transcripts from the water commission meetings at Gimli, and Selkirk, and Winnipeg, will be available?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I shall take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: A supplementary. I also intended to ask, would he advise whether these transcripts shall be made available publicly to the general public?

MR. EVANS: As a supplementary reply, I'll take that as notice as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. J. R. FERGUSON (Gladstone): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture, and ask him: Is it the intention of the Hog Producers Board to average the price for the day?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: I don't know, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Member for Lakeside asked whether or not civil servants travelled first class or other class on aircraft flights. I told the House yesterday that I believed that the case was that we were simply standing on past policy and past practice in that respect. I've checked further and it is clearly understood policy that public servants travel tourist, or economy class, unless there be some special reason of scheduling which makes it impractical to do so, but I believe that that latter caveat is virtually academic, that the practice is according to the administrations manuals one of allowing for travel by tourist or economy class. So when I said that the practice is one of stare decisis, I meant that - case of standing by things stood by. This has been the long standing practice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the practice that the First Minister has just referred to apply also to personnel like Dr. J.C. Weldon and others attached to the Planning and Priorities Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would have no idea why it would not. It is right in the Administrative Manual which guides the practice of civil servants and Ministers I might add. I believe that the answer I gave yesterday was correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct the question to the Minister of Agriculture, a question that I asked of him a number of days ago insofar as the Canada Manpower Training On-the-Job Program was concerned, as it pertained to farm help - the deadline was March 17th. Has he done anything to -- inquire as to whether this date can be extended?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: I don't recall what answer I gave to the honourable member opposite, or if I gave any, but I do recall mentioning it to my staff for a report back which I have not had an opportunity to look at. I don't know if there's anything back on it to date.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Will the Manitoba Government receive larger grants in connection with crop insurance from the Federal Government than heretofore, and if so, to what extent?

MR. USKIW: I think I've answered that one more than once, Mr. Speaker. The answer again is that there are negotiations under way, or discussions; there have been and will continue to be in the next number of months between the ten provinces and the Government of Canada for a crop insurance program, an improved crop insurance program. Where those discussions will lead us is yet to be determined, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Has the Minister in concert with the Hog Marketing Board set any dates for the election of producers to that organization?

MR. USKIW: As I recall the regulations, Mr. Speaker, they define certain dates by which action must be undertaken. I don't know at what stage of development the Hog Marketing Commission is in at the moment with respect to the setting-up of boundaries or districts, boundaries, etc., but I can undertake to find out for the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister refute then the rumor that it is the intention of the board to appoint producer members to the board rather than . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the Honourable Member for Lakeside rephrase his question.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister tell me that the present board that is operating the Hog Marketing Commission or - has any intention of appointing producer members to the executive of that said board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: As I understand the legislation and the regulations the Board has no power to appoint anyone, I believe that power rests with my office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the Minister any intention of appointing producer members to that Board?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Intentions of ministers are not relevant. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I wonder would he tell me as to whether or not the Canadian National Railways have purchased the Swan River-The Pas Road Transport System.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure my honourable friend is aware that I am not answerable for the actions of Canadian National Railways. That is a federal matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister have any knowledge of railway abandonment of the CN rail service between Dauphin, Swan River and Hudson Bay junction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: None other, Mr. Speaker, than those that were announced during the period of time that my honourable friend from Swan River was a member of government. But I want to assure my honourable friend that any endeavours for rail abandonment in Manitoba will be vigorously opposed by this administration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I'd like to address my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if he could inform the House whether the health inspectors in the north are being transferred to the Department of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Honourable Member for Rock Lake asked

(MR. HANUSCHAK cont'd) me whether the Turtle River School Division had asked for an appointment to meet with me and at that time the answer was no. It hadn't and I checked and I found that my answer was correct. But the Board did meet with me at my invitation as many other boards have in the Province of Manitoba with whom I have requested meetings to better acquaint myself with the state of affairs of education in the province and the honourable member may convey a message back home that the meeting with the Board of Turtle River was a most fruitful one.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, maybe to try and clarify the answer I gave to the Honourable Member for Churchill. Health inspectors are not being transferred from the Department of Health and Social Development to Northern Affairs, or Mines and Resources and Environmental Management, unless some responsibilities are being transferred, at least partly, regarding health inspectors when it pertains to environmental management in the north.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Well, will those inspectors be placed in the medical, in the health department by others?

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker, it's a redeployment of responsibility and in some cases we may be asking some of our health inspectors to maybe work just a little bit harder.

MR. BEARD: One supplementary then. Will we be receiving further federal grants to this type of programming.

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, unless I get clarification of this last supplementary question, I have to indicate that to my knowledge there is no change insofar as cost-sharing agreement with the Federal Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it I want to reaffirm this, we will not be meeting this evening. It has been agreed that government business will hold sway until 5:30. I think this is so, so therefore, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest you call for Orders for Return.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Before you call the business of the House for the day I wonder if I might direct a question to the Minister of Labour pertaining to the business of the House. Yesterday because of the illness of the Minister of Agriculture he indicated that perhaps we might go on with the Department of Labour. I wonder if it's his intention to continue in that order, or whether we would now go back to the Department of Agriculture after Consumer and Corporate Affairs are completed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I thank my honourable friend the Member from Morris for raising that point -- it will now be my understanding that because of the presence, thankfully, of the Minister of Agriculture, we will proceed with the order that was originally given to my honourable friend, namely that Agriculture will follow Consumer Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. HARRY SHAFRANSKY (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave of the House to make some change in the Standing Committees of the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SHAFRANSKY: I propose that the Minister of Finance on Privileges and Elections be changed for the Minister Without Portfolio, and on the Economic Development Committee the Minister Without Portfolio for the Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed -- the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I would ask honourable members to state what they are rising for. I've got members popping up all over and I don't know what is going on. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Would you please forgive me for popping up but in all due respect, Sir, may I indicate to you that the proposition of the Honourable the Whip of the government party had not been officially accepted and I think that that should be done before recognition is given to the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, we from our part have no objections to the suggestions made

(MR. ENNS cont'd) by the Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do hope when I bring in - bring some changes forward that they will be acceptable to them as well.

ORDERS FOR RETURN

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. On the proposed Order for Return, of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, could we have this matter stand.

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed) On the proposed Order for Return. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. CY GONICK (Crescentwood): Moved by myself, seconded by the Member for Gimli,

THAT an Order of the House do issue for the respective period of January 1, 1965 to January 1, 1972 a return showing the following information concerning the Department of Industry and Commerce as regards its aid and assistance to private industry in the form of research, grants, travel, etc.

1. The number of firms receiving such grants and/or assistance.
2. The names of these firms.
3. The dates at which each firm received its grant and/or assistance.
4. The specific kind of grant, aid or assistance given to each firm.
5. The dollar amounts of grants, aid or assistance given to each firm.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we're prepared to accept this Order for Return. I would point out that, however, the term "assistance" is a very broad term and as members of this House may know, day in and day out we are providing various kinds of technical information, and various kinds of non-financial assistance to firms on an on-going basis so I presume that the honourable member would understand that we would interpret the term "assistance" primarily to mean financial assistance or some type of substantial assistance. I would also point out, Mr. Speaker, in accepting this Order for Return that in the Annual Report of the Department of Industry and Commerce which I had the privilege of tabling only a few days ago, most of this type of information was set out for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1971, but having said that we will endeavour to provide this information back to 1965, January 1 as requested.

MR. SPEAKER: (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the government . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour on a point of order. --(Interjection)--

MR. PAULLEY: You wouldn't know you've only been around here for a few years. On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding in the rules of debate if there is an interjection by the Honourable Member for Rhineland that would constitute the commencement of a debate according to my interpretation of the rules, understanding of the rules, if the government accepts and the member who proposes a motion, then there is no debate.

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

GOVERNMENT BILLS

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, will you now call Bill No. 5, proposed by my colleague the Minister of Finance dealing with succession duties.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance, the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have no objections at this time to it standing but if any other honourable member wishes to speak on this important resolution and bill, I'm sure that they will be given the privilege of so doing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland on the point of order.

MR. FROESE: I was just called to adhere to the rules. I don't think we are following the rules at this point.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member did not raise a valid point of order let me assure him. I am trying to conduct procedures of this Assembly to the best of my ability and according to your rules.

(MR. SPEAKER cont'd)

Order please. The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Now call Bill No. 6, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): May I have this matter stand, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not object to this standing but I'm sure my honourable friend from Brandon West would agree on this very important bill that if any other member wishes to make a contribution, he would yield to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Stand? The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 3, an Act to amend the Mortgage Act standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING presented Bill No. 3, An Act to amend the Mortgage Act, for second reading.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy at this point to indicate to honourable members that this is one of the numbers of suggestions that have been made for changes in legislation advanced by the Law Reform Commission and it has been incorporated as an amendment to the Mortgage Act.

The principles of the bill before you are fairly straight forward. The provisions basically provide that every mortgagor shall be entitled after the passage of this Act to request from the mortgagee a statement as to the amount owing under the mortgage obligation, or the mortgage debt, once a year. Also the mortgagor in the event that he intends to pay off the encumbrance, the mortgage debt, would be entitled to a statement for the purpose. In the event that the mortgagee is disinclined to furnish on the request of the mortgagor a statement as to the balance owing, the mortgagor will be entitled, pursuant to the provisions of this bill, to obtain such a statement elsewhere, provided it's at reasonable expense, and charge that off as against the mortgagee.

Further provision in this bill provides that after the coming into force of the bill every new mortgage drawn will have within it provisions that every mortgagor may be entitled upon request, without further cost, to a mortgage statement, at least once every twelve months, or as needed for discharge purposes, or for the sale of the property.

And in further explanation, Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to point out that there hasn't been any grave problem exist in Manitoba, or elsewhere, in respect to this area but there have been concerns evidenced by some persons from time to time that there has been a difficult area of understanding between the rights of a mortgagor and a mortgagee in respect to the production of statements, and it has from time to time been argued that a mortgagor is bound to pay the expense of the providing of a mortgage statement to him or her. This now clarifies the law and makes it incumbent upon the mortgage holder, or the person to whom the money is owed, to furnish without expense to the borrower, the mortgagor, an annual statement. It clearly will have the effect of providing for certainty of the law and provide for those who have had difficulties in obtaining regular statements, precise information as to how much is owing on their encumbrance.

I think it's a very valid and reasonable change in the law and one to which we should all accede and congratulate in effect the Law Reform Commission for advancing this most reasonable and needed change.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to peruse the bill and I agree with everything what the Attorney-General has said. I think it's a really good piece of forward-looking legislation and what it really does is - the mortgagee has to furnish the statement of accounts showing the amount of payments that have been made and what is the outstanding balance, and in most cases the mortgagee has this information on file anyhow, or the mortgagor in all cases, or in most of the cases, would have to either get a chartered accountant or a lawyer to get this information for him and in many instances would be quite

(MR. PATRICK cont'd) expensive. So what it really does is just telling the mortgagee that you have the information so on request, or once a year, you must supply it to the mortgagor and in my opinion I feel that it's a real good piece of legislation and will certainly be accepted by all the mortgagors. So I certainly wish to support this legislation...

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I too welcome this piece of legislation. I think this is long overdue. In fact I know of many instances where people did borrow money and later on were unable to get statements as to what the situation was - unless a person does keep records, and even then if you keep records that this often will not suffice, and this will now be a matter of course so that information will be made available to them. I certainly want to congratulate the Attorney-General for bringing this matter forward.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Reston, that the debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable the Attorney-General. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING presented Bill No. 8, an Act to amend the Judgments Act, for second reading.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I called for an explanation, Sir, and somehow or other it missed your hearing. I wonder if that might be given.

MR. SPEAKER: Can we revert in procedure? I should like to ask all honourable members to pay attention. I am trying to proceed with your business as expeditiously as possible and I did mention --Order please -- I did mention "are you ready for the question?" Therefore I called the question. The Honourable the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the honourable members realize that there was no dilatory steps on the part of this member to defer from explaining this bill. I attempted to gain your attention, Sir, but you did not happen to be looking my way.

This bill again is a very simple bill. However, it deals with an important matter, important in the lives of some, and no matter how small or singular may be the problem nevertheless it's worthy of amendment where it does create difficulty in the lives of people.

Similar to the bill that I introduced a few moments ago the proposed amendment to the Judgments Act comes to us by way of recommendation from the Law Reform Commission. At the present time where a judgment is registered in the land titles office against property which is owned as joint tenants between spouses then a discharge of the judgment is not permitted to proceed unless or until there has been an appeal period run from the time that an order of the court is given for the discharge of that judgment. What the Law Reform Commission has recommended, and which we believe is reasonable, is that where one of the parties, one of the spouse who has an interest in property, makes application for a discharge of the judgment and the other partner, the other spouse consents to that application for discharge of the judgment then the court may proceed to give an order for discharge of the judgment without there being the necessity of an appeal time period to elapse before the registration of the judgment, the discharge of the judgment can be proceeded with. In effect, it provides for an abridgement of time by consent of the parties through court process. It's very simple and straightforward and very clear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I thank the Honourable the Attorney-General for his explanation and, Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity of examining his bill and we're prepared to let it go forward on the understanding that we may have further comments in committee stage.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q. C. (Minister of Finance) (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister for Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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

and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with the Honourable Member for Logan in the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Chairman, just before the House rose yesterday afternoon there was a point of order before you which had been spoken to by a number of honourable members. I indicated then, that is to say just before the House rose, that the adjournment would give us an opportunity to peruse the written record and that I would withdraw the point of order that I was presuming to raise at the time, if the record showed that I had misunderstood the Honourable Member for Riel. Mr. Chairman, having perused the transcript of the written record I must say that I did in fact misunderstand the statements of the Honourable Member for Riel. He was, as the Member for Morris argued, he was stating opinion which I concede along with everyone else is his perfect right to do so. He was not presuming to state fact and figure which I had been wanting to challenge. Therefore in light of that circumstance, Mr. Chairman, I, as I said yesterday afternoon, I withdraw the point of order which was raised and which was a subject of misunderstanding to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank the honourable member. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: In spite of the First Minister's offer of withdrawal, the question that is actually before this Chamber was the question of a withdrawal of a statement by the Member for Riel which the Chairman of the Committee had asked the Member for Riel to do, and that is the matter that's before the House right now, and that's the matter that we must deal with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank the honourable members for their statements and I would like to at this time make a brief statement. I too have checked the written record and I find that I ruled in error and I wish to rescind my ruling and offer my apology to the member and to the Committee for the ruling in my error of judgment.

The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if for the record may I be permitted just to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: . . . make an observation. Can it -- other than the methodology which we have used, can it be indicated in Hansard that the House, or the Committee I suppose, accepted the position that you now take for the purpose of the record, rather than just the mere clamouring of the desks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, there is no need for an indication of the House to indicate anything. The Chairman has made a ruling, he has withdrawn it, and that is sufficient for the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your reconsideration of the ruling. It was not our intention to attempt to put you in a bad position but I believe you were headed for it under the conditions that existed when we closed last night.

The point that I was discussing yesterday, the point that I think that raised the point of order was the general state of attitude of business in Manitoba and this is the point which the First Minister took the opportunity to introduce what he claims are the statistics that show that the businesses of Manitoba are more numerous than they were at some future period, and that the dollar volume is larger than it was at some future period. Well, Mr. Chairman, we would welcome the figures which the First Minister can supply us with, and we would look forward to looking them over. However --(Interjection)-- Yes, at any time at all, the sooner the better. The point is still valid, Mr. Chairman, I would gather from your ruling and from the past procedure of this House that it is the right of a member to present to the House his impressions and the results of his experience in the community about what a particular segment of the community may feel, how they may feel about the environment in which they operate. And there's no question, Mr. Chairman, that the environment vis-a-vis the business community of Manitoba towards any sort of a positive attitude does not exist. In fact the environment, Mr. Chairman, is very very negative.

Now I said yesterday that we've had several taunts from across the House when the suggestion has been made that we should prove it. Well there's no way that we're ever going to prove to the satisfaction of the government of the day that the business community of Manitoba

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) is in a depressed state and that their attitude, which to a very large extent predicts the sort of enlevel of entrepreneurship you're going to get in this province, is such that you're not going to see an act of aggressive and healthy business community develop as long as this government is in power. That's fantasy to the Minister of Public Works. However it's certainly not fantasy for those of us that have to deal on a day to day basis with the business community of Manitoba and on some occasions have to put up with their tirades against the government and against the system in general, not just the government, but the system in general that is degrading what they feel was a once healthy province as far as they were concerned to the point where most of them are saying that they're hanging on and now a hanger-on attitude is not one that is going to develop a healthy growth of any segment of society, whether it's in business, or it's in education, or whether it's in some other social field. But that is the attitude that now prevails in Manitoba as far as business is concerned.

It's a hang-on business. They've got their roots here and they're here because they have to be here and they accept such statements as we heard yesterday from the Attorney-General, the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Consumer Services and Corporate Services, when he says that he certainly hopes that Mr. Basford will not back away from any of the positions that were stated when he prepared to introduce the bill into the Federal House, the Competitions Act. Well, Mr. Chairman, let me tell you the favourite term, the favourite word around Ottawa these days that has been coined in recent times is "debasfordization" and that has been coined since Mr. Basford has left the Department of Consumer Affairs in Ottawa and it is with a great sigh of relief that a segment, a large and what was a healthy segment of the business community, now refers along with a great number of the civil service in Ottawa, to a period of "debasfordization".

Well let's certainly hope that "debasfordization" means significant changes in the Competitions Act. In fact, Mr. Speaker, if they could write into that Act some sort of a provision where the members opposite that now hold down government benches that have never, with very very few exceptions, ever had experience in the business world, if they could write into that Act a provision where these gentlemen in all their wisdom could be exposed to the problem of making a day to day living in the market place, then maybe we should get some maturity, we could get some maturity of judgment that would change their attitudes. But we're not hopeful of that, Mr. Chairman, not at least until the next election.

Well, I tend to agree with that, Mr. Chairman, there is an awful lot of entrepreneurial spirit on the government side. That's right. You certainly -- by the number of takeovers and bankruptcies there is entrepreneurial spirit and there is entrepreneurial shipwrecks galore as we look at the record of activities. That's not my intention to get into that.

I do believe that there is another more important aspect where the Minister does have a responsibility, and that is in consumer affairs. And rather than stand here and show us how his department has raised their budget by 25 percent, and industry that - he says his department that's going to spend \$1,763,000, but needs another \$50,000 in public relations through public information services to do it, because the First Minister tells us that others have been agglomerated elsewhere. I would simply ask him to point out, as I did yesterday, an industry in Manitoba that's doing \$1,763,000 worth of business that in this year intends to increase its public relations budget by \$50,000. And I would invite him to present the information in that respect, any industry at all that has increased its P.R. budget by \$50,000 in Manitoba.

The one positive area that the Minister could take a look at on behalf of the Manitoba consumer would be to examine what is going to happen to the hydro power rates in the province. There is every evidence, Mr. Chairman, that there is going to be a significant increase in the power rates of the province. Well I am going to say, Mr. Chairman, I'll state that on the basis of the information that we now have, that by the mid 1970's that the interest charges alone on the debt incurred on the Nelson project is going to exceed \$50 million a year. Mr. Chairman, the total revenues of Manitoba Hydro are \$65 million a year. Now, you are not going to attempt to pay for them as you are today all in one shot, because you are to a certain extent, even at this point, capitalizing interest. But on the investment, on the Nelson River if you take the interest on the money that has been invested and what is going to be invested at 8 percent the charges are going to be up at \$50 million plus per year.

Now I think that the Attorney-General, the Minister of Consumer Affairs would find this a rather dull sort of an undertaking. It hasn't got nearly as much schmaltz in it as it has when he's designing legislation to crack down on malpractice in business; so he won't have nearly

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) the fun he'll have in designing that kind of legislation. But if he wants to do his job, perhaps he can put to work some of the people contained in his \$1-3/4 million budget, and perhaps he could even take a little out of that \$50,000 he's going to spend on public relations and try and predict to the consumer of Manitoba what he's going to pay for power by the mid 1970's. Is he going to pay 25 percent more, like they are paying now in Saskatchewan, or is he going to pay 50 percent more? My prediction, Mr. Chairman, is that the increase in power rates by the mid '70's will be between 25 and 50 percent higher than they are now. Where they are in between that 25 to 50 percent will be how many more mistakes that this government and its appointed administration of Hydro is allowed to make between now and about 1973. But based on that alone, Mr. Chairman, the mistakes that have now been made in Hydro policy and are going to be made on Lake Winnipeg regulation, was up to \$100 million wasted on nothing, which in itself piles on another \$8 million worth of interest charges. I'd like the Attorney-General in the Department of Consumer Affairs to do a cost-study in terms of Mr. and Mrs. Consumer in Manitoba and tell them exactly what their mistakes are going to cost the consumer, vis-a-vis the development of power in northern Manitoba.

I suggest and I am willing to say again, Mr. Chairman, that I am willing to wager, if it's proper in the legislature, that the increased costs, if proper costing is done, is going to result in an increase in power rates in Manitoba by the mid '70's based on the decisions that are going to be made in the next twelve months - an increase in power costs by the mid '70's of between 25 and 50 percent depending on how many mistakes are made in those decisions. And that I think is the most important point that has to be made and where the Minister has a specific responsibility to the consumer, in addition to designing the legislation and invoking the rules and regulations that he's going to impose on the business community of Manitoba in dealing with the public.

Let him assume some of the responsibility that he is trying to charge the business community with. Let him and his government, who more and more are becoming not only the group that are setting the rules of the game, but the referee in the running of the game, let them also assume the responsibility that they are imposing on the business people

Now the Attorney-General thinks this is very very humorous and that, Mr. Chairman, reflects exactly the attitude of this government. It reflects precisely their attitude towards the consumer. It doesn't reflect their attitude towards designing legislation -- boy they can crank out the legislation, they like that. But it certainly reflects a very callous, arrogant attitude, such as he demonstrated here yesterday towards the consumer himself and that, Mr. Chairman, are all the remarks I have to make at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Riel has taken advantage of the opportunity of debate on the Estimates of this Department in order to make a rather wide-ranging reference to various aspects of the economy of our province, and relates this in turn to the operations of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Having been afforded that opportunity, I hope that the Chair will allow me a few minutes in which to deal with some of the allegations and arguments put forward by the Honourable Member for Riel. I would begin . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Riel on a point of order.

MR. CRAIK: Is it not usual practice for the Minister of the particular department in question that is in Estimates to reply, and I raise it because of the rather far out points of order that were raised in this House yesterday and I think that this one is legitimate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Speaking to the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Riel, I should think that his past experience in this House is enough to tell him that there is no prohibition as to who may take part in debate on the Estimates of any department. The rule in that respect is very clear, and inasmuch then as the Honourable Member for Riel has made reference to certain of the indices of the economy of our province, I'd like to deal with that, and that in turn in no way impinges upon the Attorney-General or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs from dealing with some of the other specifics that were raised by the Member for Riel.

What is one of the main preoccupations, imagined preoccupations, of the Honourable Member for Riel? Well it has to do with the climate, so-called business attitudes and climate for business in our province. And he tries to make something, some argument as to the number

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) of businesses that operate in our province, the number of bankruptcies, etc. Now it so happens, Mr. Chairman, that during the debate on the Speech from the Throne, I, at that time was able to indicate just what the relationship was of the number of businesses operating in this province, the number of bankruptcies registered in the past year or two as compared with other provinces and as compared to years gone by in this province. Although it's perhaps unfortunate in a sense that I'm repeating some of the argument, I find it's necessary to do so. I tell the Honourable Member for Riel in a way that I really believe he will want to remember, that the number of businesses operating in our province is larger now than it was at any time in the past. In a sense we are setting new records every month, every year, in that respect. In terms of the general, total aggregate economic production of our province, we set new records as we go on. The totality of economic production in the Province of Manitoba has passed the \$4 billion mark and now at this exact point in time is passing the \$4-1/4 billion mark for a 12-month period. That is a level of aggregate economic performance and production that is greater by several hundred million dollars than what was achieved by our province's economy in any year in the decade of the 1960's. So how the Honourable Member for Riel can pretend, and pretend is the right word to describe his posturing, how he can pretend that our economy is under-performing relative to years during which he had some responsibility, is beyond me.

He then raises the question of Hydro -- I assume that it was not out of order for him to do so, to refer to Manitoba Hydro operations under the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I suppose he raised the matter on the pretext that the Consumer Bureau was there to protect the consumers of hydro as well. But what is the main thrust of the argument of the Honourable Member for Riel? It was that Manitoba Hydro has undertaken huge capital borrowings on such a scale as to generate such debt servicing charges as would seriously impinge upon Manitoba Hydro's ability to provide energy at reasonable cost in some imminent future year.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put on the record the borrowings of Manitoba Hydro in recent years, and just who was responsible for the asking of this House for the authority to borrow certain sums of money. I look at my master sheet here of annual capital borrowing authority requested and I find lo and behold that in 1966 the government of the day came in with a requisition to this House for \$100 million; in 1968 they came to this House for authority for borrowing for Manitoba Hydro of \$200 million; and in the Capital Supply Bill of 1969 it was presented to this House but not passed, in the spring of 1969, would you believe, Sir, \$200 million again. When you add it all up it comes to a grand total of \$500 million in capital authority requested by the previous administration. Now let's not play games, Mr. Chairman. At no time have I suggested that the previous government was wrong in coming to this House for capital borrowing authority for Manitoba Hydro on this scale and magnitude. In fact, anyone who wants to be intellectually consistent about it, would have to admit that once the decision was taken, which by the way I agree with, and agreed with right from day one, the decision to go, to go full steam with the development of the Nelson River, then at that point in time a person would have had to admit that this would mean coming to this House requesting the capital authorization of many hundreds of millions of dollars, in fact billions, because the full development of the Nelson River is a 20-year program, plus. It involves the generating of electrical energy in the order of something close to six, seven or eight million kilowatts, perhaps even a little more, and it involves the total capital investment over the next, over this generation and into the next, over the next twenty years of something in the order of \$3 billion if you add all things together, and this \$500 million that my honourable friends, my predecessors in office asked for, was - certainly nothing horrendous about it. Everyone knew that they would have to be asking for money for borrowing authority on that scale. But let the Honourable Member for Riel not now pretend, now that he is on the other side, that they had nothing to do with the asking of authority for the borrowing of many hundreds of millions of dollars for Hydro, because in fact, the record shows that they did just that. Therefore any debt servicing load and charge that Manitoba Hydro will have to countenance in the next decade is something that could almost, in fact was predeterminable in 1966 when the formal agreement was signed between Manitoba and Canada to go with the development of the Nelson River.

The Honourable Member -- before I take my seat I must advise my honourable friend the Member for Riel that his preoccupation with business, climate, and so on -- I don't want to go over all of the indices that I have mentioned already during the Throne Speech debate,

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) such as the total aggregate value of economic production; such as the value of factory shipments, although I just can't resist pointing out to my honourable friend that the total value of factory shipments from Manitoba is several hundred million dollars higher than it was during the average of the years when the Conservative government was in office. So there is a growth of several hundred million dollars in value of factory shipments. And I note that in today's Globe and Mail, that the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce have just made public a report on capital investment reports, capital investment reports of intentions for 1972, private and public sector, and it shows that there is going to be a downturn in total capital investment spending in our country in 1972; a downturn in the sense that the rate of increase will fall off from what it was last year and the year before, and they are predicting that for Canada as a whole the national percentage increase in capital investment will be only in the order of 5 percent.

It's a matter of some concern to us I am sure, but the report also shows that Manitoba will be the second highest province in terms of percentage increase of capital investment intentions, private and public sector. In fact, the report which was just made public today, or yesterday, indicates that Manitoba's reported investment intentions will show an increase of something very close to 10 1/2 percent, or exactly double the national average, that in terms of capital investment spending in 1972 not only will Manitoba's rate of increase in capital investment spending be twice that of the national average, but will in fact be the second highest of all the provinces in Canada and will show capital investment rising to something in the order of \$920 million.

Now, Mr. Speaker, capital investment of \$900 million plus is something that is on a very large scale. I suppose that if there was a year in Manitoba's history when the amount was greater, it was probably that year when we had by coincidence the combination of intensive capital construction activity on the Kettle Rapids Generating Plant, plus the construction of the CFI, The Pas Forest Complex, and those two rather gigantic capital investments -- I won't try to rate the two as to their effectiveness and desirability, but it's suffice to say that I can agree with my honourable friends opposite on some of the things they did, and the decision to go ahead with the Nelson River I have at no time quarrelled with, so that investment activity that was going on in 1969 with respect to the construction of the Kettle Rapids plant, fine. The construction activity going on at The Pas with respect to CFI complex that, Mr. Chairman, is still something beside which we must put a large question mark. But in any case, the point I am making is that if one adds together those two large projects, which happen to be going through the most intensive stage of construction activity in the same 12-month period, then one can see that their capital investment would have been quite large. But in 1972, despite the lack of that kind of fortunate coincidence, we are shown here by Federal agency prognostications and research analysis, that Manitoba will have a very healthy capital investment spending record indeed.

In the light of all that, Mr. Chairman, and in the light of what I have just revealed with respect to who asked for what when it comes to Manitoba Hydro borrowings, I think one can only conclude that the member for Riel, although he is certainly entitled to have preoccupations and to voice them, it certainly doesn't follow that we have to give them weight simply because of their great inaccuracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Chairman, the most significant point that has just been made -- I at least confined my remarks to the responsibilities of the Department of Consumer Affairs. I made the prediction that the Hydro rates in Manitoba by the mid 70's would increase by between 25 and 50 percent. I said that that was dependent on the number of more mistakes that are made between now and then. The reason for the prediction, and I stated it very clearly, was that it was from an accumulation of capital expenditures that began in 1966. I am quite prepared to agree that they were made. We didn't get all that concrete without them. I think it's also important to point out that last week the government announced a \$50 million bond issue which was based on \$200 million borrowing authority that the First Minister attributed to the previous government in '69.

So, Mr. Chairman, let's at least attempt to be a little bit on the intellectual honest side here. I made one singular point, Mr. Chairman, one singular point. The point was that Lake Winnipeg regulation is going to cost up to \$100 million is absolutely useless as far as the consumer of power is concerned in Manitoba, and that if he was doing his job as Minister of Consumer Affairs, Sir, he should examine to determine whether this imposition should be

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) made on the consumers of Manitoba.

And again I say -- and the First Minister, I think it's very significant, did not comment on the figures. He talked about everything else, he brought in statistics to show what monies were going to be spent on capital in Manitoba in 1972; he did not give the breakdown of what that 10 percent increase was, whether it was public or private. I think he knows very well that there's an inordinate amount of federal spending in this particular year in this particular part of the country and if he peruses that he will find that that comes out of the statistics. But at any rate we asked the First Minister to give us his statistics and let us look at them that he's referred to several times.

But let him come back to the one major point, Mr. Chairman, -- or two. Lake Winnipeg is \$100 million down the drain with no benefits to the power consumer of Manitoba -- between 56.5 and \$100 million wasted as far as power production is concerned. Second point - that by the mid 1970's if they do their bookkeeping correctly the power increases will amount to between 25 and 50 percent depending on the number of mistakes they make between now and next year.

. . . . continued on next page

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm delighted that now the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services has such a broad scope of activity in respect to the Province of Manitoba that I, too, like the Honourable Member for Riel could make speeches far-ranging dealing with Lake Winnipeg regulation, the great drain system down the Nelson as he chooses to call it, and so on. And you know he has a thread upon which to hang his argument because it is true that the Public Utilities Board is one of those boards which at least answers to the Legislature through the Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services.

But I frankly was amused, Mr. Chairman, not by the extent of the remarks that the Honourable Member from Riel made because I appreciate that he had some basis, some thread on which to hang his argument. But I was amused by the content, not by his concern. I think, I'm always satisfied that members who rise in this House do attempt -- oh sometimes they try to beguile us or confuse us or amuse us, and certainly some of the members on the other side perform very well in that latter category -- but I wasn't particularly amused at the content so much as the fact that the honourable member was really getting carried away into his favorite subject. He was diverting himself and the House from really the responsibility of the department before us. The department is certainly not responsible for Lake Winnipeg regulation, Lake Winnipeg control, development of power and so on. And the question of rating, yes, maybe the people of Manitoba will have something to say about rate structuring but I agree with my Premier who has spoken that the die was cast by the honourable members opposite back in 1966 in respect to the development of hydro electric power in Manitoba. And I'll have something more to say to the Honourable Member from Riel on that subject matter when I think it's more appropriate to do that.

But I really don't want to take up too much time of the House on what I consider to be a diversion -- high level or low level whichever one might wish to call it by the Honourable Member from Riel. I do think however that I should say something about the questions he did raise that had some effect on the department. In respect to his gloom and doom about Manitoba business, I think we have to take that with such a large grain of salt that really it's most indigestive to hear those comments -- really in spite of the fact that the statistics that the Premier has indicated and the objective reporting from time to time that does emanate from Ottawa and other sources, that things aren't all as bad as the honourable member would like to paint them to be. The fact is that we're doing very well; we'd like to do a lot better. Every province in Canada would like to do a lot better but comparatively speaking, in spite of the fact that we've suffered from the economic mistakes, the calculations that were made in Ottawa, we have done very well and we have responded with works programs that have kept our economy in a much better position than it would have been otherwise and I'm sure would have been had the Honourable Member from Riel been sitting on this side of the House.

Now, Mr. Chairman, he did raise one very legitimate concern and when honourable members advance constructive criticisms or even at least pointed argument I'm inclined to give it all the respect it deserves and answer them. He did point out that there was provision for a substantial increase in the cost of Information Services and I frankly acknowledge that. The increase however isn't as horrendous as the honourable member would lead us to believe. The increase of about \$50,000 is partly made up of the general increase in administrative costs reflecting increased salaries and so on. But there is a specific increase of \$30,000 in the budget and I would like to tell the Honourable Member from Riel and others who are interested what we propose to do in respect to improving Information Services.

It's not, Mr. Chairman, our intention to develop a large propaganda organ to speak to the people of Manitoba about the great and wonderful objectives of this government. What we intend to do and the honourable member is setting up on his desk -- and with pride -- the pamphlet which now outlines to many, many thousands of people in Manitoba their rights under the amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act that he -- that honourable members opposite together with members on this side perused and discussed and finally implemented in our last session. And what we want to do, Mr. Chairman, is to bring home to the people of Manitoba what their rights are because many, many people in this province have failed to take advantage of the rights that exist for them under the benefits particularly of the advanced legislation that has been passed by this government in the last several sessions, and the amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Act are a case in point.

But in respect to the Information Services item I want to -- the particular item -- there

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) have been a number of people who have pointed out to us in government that many people in communication with government have difficulty in determining the appropriate level of government to which to refer and even if they determine the appropriate level of government sometimes are confused, are frustrated in endeavours to get specific connections with the particular program or the particular department for which an individual program is linked or administered.

For example, there are many people who have a concern in respect to a particular subject matter and they don't know whether their problem is purely local; whether it can be dealt with by their local government administrator or city clerk; or they don't know whether it's a matter which should go to their community committee or the newly unified City of Winnipeg Council, or their area council if it happens to be outside of the City of Winnipeg; or they don't know even if it is determined to be something under the jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba which particular department for which a program is administered.

Also there are people who have problems involving programs administered by the federal government. And so it is our hope and expectation that we'll be able to develop a much improved telephone informational service so that if a person phones the government telephone exchange, either long distance or locally, that they will be able to get much more direct and effective information such that they won't be going from department to department until finally they get an answer to their problem. It's our expectation that improved techniques will provide a much more effective information service to the people of Manitoba and that in essence is what is provided for in what I consider to be a fairly significant increase in the budget covering the Information Branch.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that with the exception of that one item the other observations that were raised by the Honourable Member from Riel have already been appropriately reviewed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Acting Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Acting Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a few comments in response to the Member for Riel who dealt with consumer legislation and dealt with the question of business psychology in Manitoba. He steadfastly maintains that the attitude of business in Manitoba is very low but I wonder what he is doing or his colleagues are doing, including the Member for Sturgeon Creek, on that count. Are they, for example, attempting to dissuade people who talk of certain complaints against the government; do they attempt to encourage people, say who are considering moving from the province when they are confronted with those facts or are they in effect fanning the flames.

The honourable member seemed to take the position that he is opposed to consumer legislation and I think it's incumbent on the members of the Conservative Party to put their position on consumer affairs because I gather from listening to my honourable friend that he is opposed in principle to consumer legislation. He seems to take the position that all consumer legislation is damaging to business, and I think that he should spell that out. It may be true that some rules and regulations can impede production; it may be true that some rules and regulations may have a cost factor to the business community but in principle, is the Conservative Party opposed to the introduction of any consumer legislation. Not only is this government making strides in that area but the federal government has made certain improvements in consumer legislation and I don't think that the Liberal Party of Canada can be described as the opponent of the business community. The Republican Party in the United States is making certain improvement, however small, in consumer legislation. I don't think they can be described as the enemies of the business community. So I simply say that if the Member for Riel has complaints about certain restrictions or constrictions of government consumer legislation, let them make those points known but the impression that I have is that they are steadfastly opposed in principle to the introduction of any consumer legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. GONICK: Mr. Chairman, I have some general comments that I would like to make about the activities of this department. At this time my comments will be quite general.

If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the basic premise, the basic thrust of this department's operations is that the vast majority of businesses in the province are good corporate citizens, whatever that means, and it's only the swindlers and the crooks and the sharks that have to be rooted out and then everything would be okay so far as the corporate world is concerned, so far as the consumer is concerned. An inordinate amount of money and

(MR. GONICK cont'd) energy is used up tracking down these crooks, in fact, towards doing something illegal.

The department has said therefore in effect that it's not really concerned about normal practices. These are all right. It's only abnormal business practices -- those practices that are illegal that have to be halted. And, Mr. Chairman, that seems to me to be saying -- for example about drug pushers, the heroin pushers, that heroin traffic is okay; what's wrong is that the -- and the average dealer is okay, it's only those dealers that dilute the heroin and deliver a product which is diluted and not very effective -- a substandard product. Those kind of heroin traffickers should be rooted out but the average dealer is okay and the heroin traffic itself is okay; and though I wouldn't in any way say the average businessman has related to heroin but I would say that the analogy with respect to the attitude of the department towards a business is much the same.

I think what the department has not done or I think perhaps what the department has decided is that normal business behaviour is acceptable. And if it is, if it is, then I would suggest that the practices of the department, the concerns of the department the allocation of resources within the department are perfectly in order and perfectly understandable and that it is quite right to spend your time tracking down the shysters and leaving the rest of the business community alone.

But, Mr. Chairman, this party used to believe, this party that now forms the government of Manitoba used to believe that profiteering on people's basic needs is an evil -- that was the former belief of this party -- that it is criminal to exact profits on food, on clothing, on housing, on fuel, on health, all the things that ordinary people must have to live -- and that the real criminals -- the former belief was that the real criminals are not these petty thieves, they are not really very important -- but the giant corporations; that used to be the belief that those are the real thieves that have to be rooted out. The Hudson Bay companies, the Safeways, the Great West Life, the Westons, the BACM, the Winnipeg Supply and Fuel, the Greater Winnipeg Gas Company, that's what we used to talk about when we talked about evils of business practices, not the petty thieves which the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs are spending their resources and tracking down.

So there has been I would suggest then a basic shift in the philosophy of the party as reflected in this government's operations. It used to be the philosophy of this party that it's the giant corporations that have an inordinate amount of power over people's lives; they control the prices, the basic commodities; they determine what kind of food people can eat, what kind of shelter they can afford, what kind of clothing they can wear, and what kind of shoes their children can wear; what kind of health that's available and that's too much power for corporations to have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . have a bit of order. It's very difficult for the Chair to hear what the member is saying.

MR. GONICK: Mr. Chairman, it's probably quite true that the members opposite aren't as interested as the members on this side in this particular dissertation. We used to say, Mr. Chairman, that private corporations should not have this kind of power over people that the name of the game is taking that power away from them and giving it to agencies which are responsible to people. That used to be the philosophy of this department with regard to the business community. But this department has decided to leave the corporation criminals alone and to go after the petty thieves. Now, Mr. Chairman, what crimes do these large corporations commit. And they're not illegal of course, that is why they seem to have escaped the attention of this department.

Take for example the Hudson Bay Company. We've had a recent controversy over the exploitation of Indians by some of their own, and I don't know whether those accusations are correct or not. But supposing that Mr. Courchene has taken all that \$59,000 and stuck it in his own pocket; I would say Mr. Chairman that even had he done so the Hudson Bay Company every day, every day of the year robs the Indian people of more than \$59,000 every day of the year and it has been doing so for 100 years. --(Interjection)-- That charge, that charge has been substantiated year after year in reports in books, in studies, in research, in studies that have been done at the House of Commons, and I will gladly bring proof to the members at some other stage. I don't have that proof available to me.

In the report of the Northern Task Force as I recall, a report acceptable to members opposite even, there was some suggestion which would call for government stores in the north,

(MR. GONICK cont'd) It seemed to me that if the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs were concerned with the exploitation of the native people in the north by the Hudson Bay Company, they'd be looking for some alternative means of supplying basic foods and other requirements of the north. And I would wonder why that has not got the priority of the department rather than tracking after petty thieves.

Or take the grocery chain business across the province, dominated as we know by Safeway, Westons and Dominion, three chain stores that control over 50 percent of the grocery industry in the province. And this industry has been studied extensively; it's been studied by the Batten Commission which published the report in 1967 under the auspices of the Prairie Provinces Cost Study Commission set up by the Prairie Economic Council, and that report indicated that Safeway is the price leader, it sets the prices the other stores follow - that in 1966, Safeway earned a profit on its investment of 27 percent in 1966 and I imagine that is repeated each year, whereas the average profit in Canadian business is only eight percent. The Batten Report says that out of every dollar of sales profits account for three cents per dollar, advertising over one and a half cents and excess capacity waste, utilization of capacity four cents per dollar; so that almost 10 cents on a dollar of purchases by housewives cannot be accounted for in the basic purchases but rather goes in the form of profits advertising and waste. We talk about wasteful government spending; I wonder why so little attention is paid to waste in our enterprise system.

The Batten Report says that in the grocery industry the profits are higher in the prairie provinces than anywhere else in Canada. The average family's income in 1969 was something like \$8,000 per family. They spend about 20 percent of that or \$1,600 in food. If we apply the statistics that the Batten Report Commission has come out with we see that \$150 each year for each family goes in the form of profits, advertising and waste to these chain stores. I wonder why the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs doesn't spend its time tracking down these criminals rather than the petty thieves that seem to occupy its attention. There are many things that we can do about this. For example very recently a major wholesale company was up for sale. I didn't see the Province of Manitoba making any effort to purchase it. It was purchased by another corporate criminal in the east which will go on exploiting the people of Manitoba. That could have been stopped to a degree by the government taking over this family owned enterprise which now is owned by an absentee landlord in Oshawa.

Then, Mr. Chairman, there are such things as buyers' clubs which are controlled by buyers. I don't mean the co-operatives that we have but there are buyers' clubs, there are buyers clubs even in Winnipeg which are run by the people that are the consumers. I'm sure that this form of business is one which could use assistance, support in trying to invade the field and cut down the power of the private industry. I didn't notice in the Estimates that any funds are being made available to consumer controlled buyers' clubs.

Then, Mr. Chairman, there's always the possibility of the government itself going into the retail end of it by forming a government chain to compete with Safeway, to compete with Westons, to try to hold down the prices of food products. Something which this party has always stood for -- and in this instance not a government monopoly but a government competitor to the rest of the industries -- something which this government has not even looked at doing let alone doing. This kind of research, this kind of investigation, this kind of recommendation which I would regard as serious and having a permanent effect on the economy rather than it forever chasing swindlers who will exist in every society and as soon as one is eliminated another one will replace him so that the effort is futile in the end. Why this kind of serious work is not being done by this very important department I do not know. It certainly is a let-down for people who have worked in this movement, socialist movement, who have taken for granted, taken for granted that profiteering on food would be brought to an end by a social democratic government.

There are other areas we could touch on, Mr. Chairman. There is the area of housing -- and I don't want to speak about our public housing for our low income people, this I can talk about later -- but with regard to ordinary wage earners, housing that's available to them or that is not available to them. In most parts of the City of Winnipeg we know that there are a few large developers that have cornered the market in land. I'm going to detail this later when we talk about the Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation. What they do is they amass large tracts of land around the city, they hold them until they can be sold at a huge profit to themselves, or they build on them themselves. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I ask you to consider the latitude that the honourable member is taking in the discussion of the Estimates of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs which include apart from general administration the Consumer's Bureau, the Manitoba Gazette, the Public Utilities Board and Securities Commission, Public Information Services, the Purchasing Bureau and the Queen's Printer. In my opinion the member is going far beyond the latitude that would generally be exercised in the consideration of these Estimates.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak on the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to the Honourable Member from Morris, under the Department of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Internal Services are the various boards that have been alluded to, the Securities Commission, the Public Utilities Board to which applications are made in respect to rates of various kinds, public utility rating. In addition under the aegis of the Consumers Bureau operates the Rentalsman, and the administration of the Landlord and Tenant Act is an aspect of governmental statute for which I am responsible to this House -- and I question that there is any greater latitude being taken now by the honourable member who is speaking than was the extensive discussion that the Honourable Member from Riel had in respect to various undertakings in the province on the basis that it did affect rates of utilities within the province. I would hesitate to subject any member to restrictive latitude particularly when Consumer Affairs is so wide ranging and certainly does include the provisions of housing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: . . . generous comments of the Attorney-General touched me deeply. When he says that he doesn't want to restrict any comments in this House, he should have added to that that he only wants to restrict the speeches of the members on this side of the House because that is the attitude that he's been taking all through this debate.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member questions the motive of my rising to speak on a point of order and that is a question of privilege. He indicated that I rise and object or speak on a motion only when it is in the interests of this side of the House. Now the honourable member was not in his seat obviously when his colleague the Member from Riel who spoke at length in respect to a wide range of subject matter that barely touched on the administration of my department and I did not object in any way shape or form to the relevance of his debate -- and for the honourable member now to impute motives to me is unbecoming of him and to the Member from Riel whom I'm sure would agree with my remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. GONICK: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the price of housing and the interests of the consumer of course getting value for his money and having decent accommodation available to him for rent which he can afford, which I think has something to do with the, should have something to do with the department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and I think it does.

I was speaking of the activities of the land speculators who themselves by their activities account for such a large proportion of the increase in the prices of homes and apartment dwellings. The added value that they expropriate by their speculation is almost entirely the result of community works, of roads, water mains, sewers, schools that the community pays for, yet they are the ones that expropriate the profits from the sale of their lands which they hold until they can sell these lands at a higher price. The result is artificial scarcity of building lands -- in order to pay for the high cost of lands, builders must construct luxury homes well beyond the means of ordinary people, not poor people, ordinary people and luxury apartment buildings, apartments of which ordinary wage earners cannot afford. On a home that costs \$18,500 in 1964 - '65 that now costs - the same house essentially -- costs \$27,000.00. The cost of land has risen by over \$700 which is the major increase over any other item. Pure profits for land speculators.

I would recommend that instead of fiddling with petty thieves the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs should be investigating this legal robbery of an order which far exceeds the order of any of the thievery that they are investigating and prescribe appropriate action. If that means expropriating vacant lands around the city I would think that that

(MR. GONICK cont'd) would be a wise policy. Then of course there is the whole question of the monopoly in the building supplies' trade and cement and so forth which begs for investigation for action on the part of the provincial government, and even the federal government which we cannot expect to act in these areas and in view of that we have to take responsibility for it provincially. Decent housing we know is impossible to afford for most working people. CMHC says that no family should spend more than 25-27 percent of its income for shelter, and at \$5,000 annual income this means the family shouldn't have to spend more than \$112.50 a month and we know that it is almost impossible to find an apartment let alone a house of two or three or four bedrooms which is a family size for anywhere near that price -- which means that people are paying far more than they can afford to pay, going into debt to do so -- and if that isn't exploitation of a basic requirement of every family in this province, I don't know what is. --(Interjection)-- I didn't hear the member opposite, if she'd care to ask a question.

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Chairman, I think that -- I might ask the member whether he thinks it isn't a bit unreasonable to suggest that it's exploitation of other persons when a family has such a large number of children that they have difficulty in finding housing. Who's exploiting?

MR. GONICK: Mr. Chairman, in answer to that -- a two-bedroom combinations seems to be not excessive for one or two children. The average size in Manitoba exceeds that of families. I don't think the family of two or three children is excessive -- that family should have two or three bedrooms -- that is not excessive. What is excessive is the price that it costs to get that kind of accommodation in a decent building or a decent house. It certainly exceeds \$112.50 anywhere in the city except in the slum core. My honourable friend from Flin Flon suggests tents and perhaps we're coming to that in the City of Winnipeg.

With regard to a mortgage of \$15,000, \$20,000 which is not at all unusual, the average family would have to pay \$1,500 to \$2,000 in interest alone in the first year; and earning \$5,000 and half the families in the province earn \$5,000 or less, how can they afford that kind of money for decent accommodation? So I'd ask, Mr. Chairman, whatever happened to our rent review? Why not consider rent control? Just taking our Department of Welfare alone, it is required to pay exorbitant rents for welfare recipients -- for slum dwellings -- and I think the department has to answer to that.

I will not speak about the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation because that will come under a different department. I'm not talking essentially about housing for low income people; I'm talking about housing for ordinary wage earners and they have a major problem, and I don't think that this department has been addressing itself to that major problem.

We could look to other essential areas. Take the question of milk. I cannot understand how it is possible to accept any verdict from the Milk Control Board which would allow any increase in the price of milk. I would say that if the Milk Control Board allows any increase in the price of a commodity as important as milk, I would say that we should just abolish the Board. I mean if those are the kind of recommendations they are coming out with. And we had an opportunity to move into that area as well which we didn't take advantage of. When Modern Dairies which is the largest dairy enterprise in the province was up for sale we allowed a large American company to purchase it, Beatrice Foods, which in no way will control the price of milk in the province, will no way keep down the price of milk in the province -- probably will mean that dairies throughout the province will be purchased, bought up by this company -- a very powerful company -- which means that in the long run and probably it isn't very far away, will eliminate whatever little competition we have in this industry.

Or take the question of bread! Not too many months ago the bread companies announced they were going to increase the price of bread by one or two cents a loaf. I don't understand how that can happen in this social democratic province, to allow the price of bread, something as essential as bread, to rise any higher than it has been. I would say that on the contrary the price of bread should be forced down as should the price of milk. And we know that the price increase was several-fold what would be necessary to account for any increases in wages. In any case there was no accounting; they just did it and I don't understand how the department would not be concerned about the fact that producers of bread, producers of milk are raising their prices every year in this province.

Or take the question of gasoline. It's another basic commodity. Why not investigate,

(MR. GONICK cont'd) Mr. Chairman, the whole dealership relationship because we know that the dealers — when you talk about the price, the increasing price of gasoline, sometimes the dealers are blamed but we know that isn't true because there was a major study done in the Province of Alberta only a few years back. I think it was called the McKenzie Report, and it explains very clearly how the oil companies are squeezing the operators by charging him with the highest gasoline price of any purchases; by increasing his rent as his volume increases; by charging him rent on the basis of gross sales so that he can obtain a slice of what is received for auto repairs; by charging the dealer with the gimmicks and the costs of sales promotions; by inducing the dealer to invest the savings in oil company products and take the risk of losses incurred in retailing them. The dealer is required to buy only the products of the oil company he is dealing with, he can't buy from others. This is a kind of feudalism I would suggest which bears looking into. I wonder why the department on the basis of this research done in Alberta could not recommend a system whereby the dealers were freed from the control that has been placed on them over the years by the oil companies. And the report indicates to us further the average service station operator works more than 70 hours a week for an average of \$1.72 an hour. In Alberta leases are terminated at the rate of nearly one per business day. Over the past decade in the City of Windsor, 522 operators have gone out of business and that is in one week. There are less than 200 stations in that city. So, Mr. Chairman, this seems to be an area that we can investigate, the degree of excess capacity in that industry — four stations on every corner — that must go into the price of gasoline. Why shouldn't that be investigated by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs? — (Interjections) — Yes, the taxes have accounted for part of the increase as well.

There are other industries that are well worthwhile investigating which the federal government wouldn't bother with because they look too small from the federal perspective but just take for example, the movie trade. It costs two dollars — (Interjection) — Any movie, whether it's the movie that Mr. Borowski is able to popularize by his occasional comments, or movies which come to town and leave the next week. They cost \$2.00, 2.50 2.75. We know that the movie trade in the city is controlled by two or three operators. There must be a degree of monopolization there which probably is costing the movie-goer an extra 50 cents, 75 cents for every movie that he attend.

There's the question of the funeral parlor industry which again is being purchased by major companies. I know that in my case I've had two deaths in my family over the past three or four years and that the cost of a funeral, a moderate funeral, was \$500.00 per — and of course under those circumstances you don't bargain for prices. It seems to me that that is another industry which should be investigated thoroughly by this department and I don't see any indication that this is being done.

So what I'm trying to do, Mr. Chairman, is suggest that the real thieves in our economy are not the petty criminals — which the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is tracking down, trying to track down and which will be replaced by others as soon as they are discovered — but the giant businesses who every day rob the people of their incomes and their savings. In other words, Mr. Chairman, I'm saying it is not the abnormal business practices which the department should be concerned with but the normal everyday business practices of the giant corporations that operate in Manitoba. And I would say that if one concludes that business practices that are normally conducted by our giant corporations are perfectly acceptable then the allocation of funds by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is perfectly justifiable. One could quibble with an expense here, an expense there. One could make suggestions as the Member for Assiniboia has as to how better to do the job in order to get rid of the shysters, but if the main problem is not with the abnormal business practices but with the normal business practices then I would say that the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is essentially irrelevant. It doesn't touch on the main problem. The work it does is useful, it's all right to track down the shysters but it doesn't really count for much because they'll be replaced the day after they're discovered by someone else.

At least the consumer advocate so-called, Ralph Nader, who is a self-professed liberal, by no means a socialist, goes after the giants and I wonder why this Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with all the powers it has as a department of government insists on going after the pygmies which is essentially what we're doing. The Minister mentioned Ralph Nader in passing as a model to follow and at least in this respect I would agree that just as he goes after the giants in the trade and ignores the pygmies I would think that the Government of

(MR. GONICK cont'd) Manitoba, much more powerful than Mr. Nader, should re-orient its program and allocate its resources to tackle the giant corporations which I think are legal criminals and do criminal work in their exploitation of consumers every day that they operate, and every minute they operate. --(Interjection)-- I've named several of them, Mr. Chairman, I'll name them again. As an example -- only an example -- Great West Life is one; Safeway Company is another; Weston's is a third; the Hudson Bay Company is a fourth; --(Interjection)-- Thank you; Eaton's is a fifth. The members opposite seem to know who the criminals are as well as I do. So, Mr. Chairman, with their help perhaps we can get the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to alter the orientation of his department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, in rising to answer the Honourable Member from Crescentwood -- I believe I would find it easier without the assistance of friends opposite but perhaps I can understand their eagerness to assist me. They find that there are some differences of viewpoint that do exist between the Member from Crescentwood and some members of his caucus. I really in having listened to his remarks have a feeling that the differences that exist are differences in attitude towards the role of this department at this given time. The whole area of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is an area that is clouded by divided jurisdiction between any province in Canada and the Parliament of Canada. As I've indicated in the past in this House -- probably not in this House, elsewhere -- in commentary about the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs there can be no question about the overriding importance of the federal role inasmuch as the Federal Parliament controls much of the basic indices of our economy; whether it be weights or measures, or interprovincial transportation, media broadcasting which transcends provincial boundaries, the whole area of extraterritorial economic movement of goods and services, to the extent that the role of a provincial government is certainly over-clouded by the overriding importance of the Federal Parliament in this field. That's not to say however that there is no role, no significant role for a provincial department to play. And I do agree with some of the specific complaints that the Honourable Member from Crescentwood addresses to me in his remarks and I will try to deal briefly with some of his comments which I thought were well made despite the interruptions from across the floor. --(Interjection)--

Well now, if the honourable member cares to listen I hope that I will try to answer his question. He indicated that our department is overly concerned or too much concerned with those who are preying on the system as it presently exists and we should be going after basic structural reform in our economy. Now it's a question of priority, of effort. It's a question of application of dollars, of provincial spending and it's not possible to do everything that one wants to do in the given time framework that we would like. Now this is not to suggest that by those remarks that I agree that everything the Honourable Member from Crescentwood has suggested we ought to do is within the category that I would necessarily approve, but there's no question that there needs to be much more effective consumer advocacy in many of the fields which he listed. He suggests that -- if I could deal with the area -- he dealt with the question of food and a number of specific areas and I would like to briefly refer to those. I think that rather than trying to use controls per se in respect to prices of commodities what this government must seek to do and I believe is endeavoring to do is to provide a framework within which people will be earning a reasonable amount of money with which they can buy the kind of food, clothing and shelter to which they're entitled. Now, rather than trying to control the marketplace by artificial control, I think that the other approach that I indicate is by making it possible for more and more people to consume in more reasonable proportion the goods and services to which they are entitled. That's not to say that there is no responsibility of government to effect controls where controls appear to be necessary. But I think, for example, that I would like to cite to the Honourable Member from Crescentwood the field of housing, which certainly is one which we as a government have been most concerned about. I want to put on the record here that the Honourable Member from Crescentwood has given much of his time and effort in respect to the further development of public housing within Manitoba and I know has been of assistance to my colleague who is responsible for housing in Manitoba.

The fact that we have embarked as a government in much larger scale housing development has had, I believe, a significant effect on rental prices. If it hadn't been for the fact that we have built a very large number of public housing units, both for low income groups and for elderly persons, I am certain, Mr. Chairman, that we would have seen in Manitoba much

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) higher pressures on the amount of rental right throughout Manitoba. So the answer doesn't necessarily lie in controls. The answer in part is by utilizing the old economic determinants, where they can be used effectively, of supply and demand.

I want to point out for example that in respect to rent review, my colleague the Minister of Education had appointed a one man board to inquire into the rentals in the Thompson area because there were substantial complaints of excessive rentals and improper rental conditions in that area. Well prior to that review having been completed some dramatic changes occurred in respect to the price of base metals and the world economy, and there was a substantial downturn in the mining activity at Thompson as a result of which the need for expanded accommodation in that area was no longer necessary. So the fact that some basic change had occurred in respect to the demand for housing in that area, certainly eliminated perhaps what might otherwise have been a very urgent demand for some control mechanism.

So I suggest that the overriding concern of government must be to give everyone the power to be fairly equal in the market place in respect to the consumption of goods and services. That's not to say that I'm totally unconcerned with the problems that the honourable member points out, where there is ever increasing monopolization in certain fields of activity and he cited for example the ever increasing mergers and grouping in the food industry. This industry is international in character, let alone federal or Canadianwide and it's very difficult for an individual provincial government to be able to take the kind of measures that would have any realistic effect upon the international marketing and international control of food products simply because in most instances it would be a matter of a brief time before those affected would have our legislation before the courts and if we were not able to sustain our overriding jurisdiction in the field, we would be doing a disservice to the people of Manitoba.

So we have to, in short, Mr. Chairman, be very careful about the areas in which we move and develop our program in a very pragmatic manner. That's not to say that you know, the future of monopolies or near monopolies in Manitoba is assured. I fully expect that the Federal Government will not back down. If they do I think then the pressures will increase upon provincial governments to develop their own type of response to monopoly and cartel control of marketing of food products, particularly throughout Canada as a whole.

The honourable member cited some specific examples in respect to areas of what he considered to be excessive profit taking, pointed out, for example, the report of the Northern Task Force indicated that there was a need for more effective competition in the north, more realistic pricing in the north, and I agree. I think that the steps taken by our government in advancing transportation systems to the north have had a significant effect on some costs of both goods and services in the north, very dramatic decreases in costs of transportation have occurred as a result of the new roads and now the advanced air strip building in many of the communities that otherwise had no effective direct communication with areas of Manitoba in the south. In addition to that, I am confident through the Department of Co-operative Services, the Extension Branch, it will be possible to develop effective co-operative ventures in areas of the north where the native people themselves can participate. I would rather, Mr. Chairman, rather than the government initiate and control aspects of this sort of development directly, that the people of the community themselves be encouraged to take responsibility through the co-operative services branch and develop the response to the need that was evident and has been outlined by the honourable member and which I concur does exist in some of those areas.

He pointed out some of the -- when I say he -- the Honourable Member for Crescentwood -- the obvious very high percentage taking in some instances in respect to the merchandising of products, particularly by groups who attain a near monopoly condition, and I agree that that is a matter of grave concern and I believe that in concert with federal program development we ought to be able to do much more than we have hitherto in this area.

The honourable member touched on the question of the high cost of land as it affects the price of housing, and here again I agree; there is no question but government, both local government and provincial government must develop through forward planning the acquisition of land for development purposes for the communities themselves, rather than abdicate this role to speculators and I believe that our government is developing responses to that.

I note also that the Unicity government has confirmed again the principle of developing certain areas of the city through acquisition of the property by the local government itself.

The honourable member specifically dealt with some food products such as milk and bread and gasoline. In respect to the cost of milk, while I agree with him that . . .

MR. JORGENSON: . . . honourable Attorney-General a question?

MR. MACKLING: Yes.

MR. JORGENSON: Since when has gasoline become a food product?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is quite right - if I said, if I included that in a catalogue of food products obviously it was a slip of the tongue and I am deeply indebted to the honourable member for having brought that to my attention. It would have grieved me all over the long weekend to have thought that I had led the honourable member astray to such grievous intent. --(Interjection)--

Well, I think that when it comes to pipes, Mr. Chairman, and some of the pipes which exude effluent of various kinds, the Honourable Member from Morris is probably an expert,

Now, I was dealing with milk and milk and honey is not the hallmark of the attitude of the Member from Morris. However, I think he would rather deal with the land of rape and honey. However, dealing with the pricing of milk, Mr. Chairman, while I agree with the Honourable Member for Crescentwood that it would be a matter of grave concern if there were substantial increases in the cost of milk, since it is such a basic food in respect to the well-being of all people in Manitoba, nevertheless I understand that the relative increases in prices as between milk and other fluids which are consumed, including soft drinks, has indicated that there has been more a price increase in respect to some other beverages consumed than there has been in respect to milk. I for one, believe that the farmer has been one that has not received the kind of return on the goods he produces that is commensurate with the cost of production to him.

Now I don't know whether necessarily there is a case to be proven at this time for a substantial milk increase, but I am confident that the Milk Control Board will weigh every factor very carefully before any decision is made recommending a change in the price of milk. That is one area where we do have a Board which is in a position to provide for regulation and control and I suggest to the Honourable Member for Crescentwood that when we provide for that kind of mechanism then we must be prepared to accept, must be prepared to accept the kind of order that they are likely to make, because if we followed much of the logic of his argument we would have more operations like the Milk Control Board dealing with other products such as bread. I suggest that rather than be overly concerned with controlling prices our major concern I think has to be to provide people of Manitoba with more income with which to buy more bread and milk and the other products that they need.

Now the honourable member also touched on the question of semi-monopoly or near monopoly control in respect to the areas of the merchandising of gasoline and gasoline products and by-products and I have had occasion to make reference to the McKenzie report and I think that that is a legitimate concern. I know that there is a high concentration of power in the hands of those oil and gasoline companies which have vast chains of garages and gasoline markets and it's certainly an area that must bear closer scrutiny in the days and weeks ahead.

The honourable member also touched on a number of specific industries which I think are a cause for concern. He pointed out particularly the high cost of dying and I agree with him that we have seen in our society a growing concentration of power in the hands of an ever fewer number of people in a particular industry. I can recall that the former leader of the opposition is now employed, for example, he was in business himself as a private undertaker, he is now a representative of a large, as I understand it, Texas company which has been proceeding to buy up and control a fairly vast network of undertaking establishments throughout Canada. I regret that the future holds a continuing period of ever increasing concentration of power by industrial groups enlarging their spheres of influence in the manner that I indicate has been taking place in respect to the funeral industry.

However, Mr. Chairman, there are already in existence groups in society who have taken the time and the trouble to make available to members much more economic means of funeral arrangements. There are self help groups that are in existence and I wouldn't like to give advertisements specifically to those groups but I am sure that honourable members have become aware of them themselves. So that in total, I am afraid that I haven't answered the Honourable Member from Crescentwood to his satisfaction. I know I haven't answered all of his comments to my satisfaction or to the satisfaction of members of the House, except to say that in conclusion, Mr. Chairman, that many of the categories that he insists must receive much more vigorous attention by this department, really find their answer in major government development in allied departments and as a consequence of which the policing or the

(MR. MACKLING cont'd) investigation by a consumer-oriented or consumer activity department would be much reduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, we have listened the entire afternoon to the government side of the House occupying the time of these estimates, time that the Attorney-General knows full well should be allocated to the opposition in examination of the Department Estimates. I therefore move, seconded by the Member for Lakeside that the Estimates of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs be approved. --(Interjection)-- There's a motion before the House, it's not debatable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. On a point of order . . .

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, my point of order, on my point of order, the honourable member has made a false statement in this House. He has impugned, he has impugned the integrity of his own colleague, the Member from Riel, inasmuch as he said that the honourable members of this House have listened all afternoon to debate on the estimates of the Department of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services, and I would like him to correct his statement in deference to his honourable colleague.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . on the same point of order?

MR. CRAIK: Same point of order, Mr. Chairman, there's no necessity for the Member for Morris to be concerned about impugning any of his colleagues here. We have come to believe that one presentation from this side is adequate, particularly in the last few days since we have adopted the adage, the first one is on the house, and that's enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a motion that the question has been called on -- what is the motion again?

MR. JORGENSON: The motion is that the Estimates of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs be approved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This requires a separate resolution for each resolution, I believe, is that correct? Resolution 42 in the amount \$302,300.00. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In speaking to this Minister's Salary I'd like to pass a few remarks before you pass it, reflecting on what the Member for Crescentwood had to say and I must say at the time that he did speak out and I give him credit for it. And when the Member for Crescentwood speaks out he says something . . .

MR. IAN TURNBULL (Osborne): That's more than you can say for the Conservatives!

MR. BEARD: And when he says it we listen. And I don't say that I agreed particularly; I don't know what the other members - I can't speak for them -- but at least I do respect him for having a point of view and expressing it.

I was amused though to listen to the Attorney-General because he was trying to juggle a pretty hot potato there and I don't really think he came to the point which the Member for Crescentwood was trying to deal with and so the answer was really not given and that was the policy of the New Democratic Party in respect to dealing with private enterprise and the merits of social democratic policies of the party both before and after they had taken office. And I believe this is correct and we have seen a change in the party. Now that is up to the members of the Cabinet and their caucus I suppose as to how they want to make the decisions on a day to day basis, but we do find that some of them are changing their minds and some aren't.

I would say though that the Member for Crescentwood in making some of his charges has not really faced up to many of the facts of life in that he is stating that we should be looking into many of the established good corporate citizens of the Province of Manitoba and -- (Interjection)-- and what I feel are good corporate citizens apparently the Member for Crescentwood feels are not. I feel that they are good corporate citizens in that they have been established in the Province of Manitoba for many years, they have certainly gained the confidence of the public in Manitoba for years and have shown a profit over the years and have withstood competition for years and so they must have the confidence of the people of Manitoba. And I believe that we must judge them in accordance with the confidence of the people of Manitoba, the electorate, have placed in their business dealings with the public in general. I believe that the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs' position must be one in which they stand as the referee and must see to it that they remain good corporate citizens and see

(MR. BEARD cont'd)to it that they are good taxpayers, conduct their business properly and remain competitive with the rest of the businesses in the province.

The Minister Without Portfolio, the Member for The Pas suggests that I speak about the Hudson Bay Company. I think that the Hudson Bay Company of course established for many years in the Province of Manitoba -- and I could speak for a long time on both sides of the Hudson Bay Company and there are many times that I speak I am not very generous in my thoughts in the dealings of the Hudson Bay Company and in many many cases I share the Member of Crescentwood, their dealings particularly in Northern Manitoba have not changed since the days of the fur trade when they were still piling the beaver skins musket high and trading beads for skins. But perhaps that is where his thought could come into being where we could encourage co-operatives to move in but I do not -- refuse to go any further than that. I don't say that government should go in and I said if we could encourage co-operatives to go in and in some way, shape or form make a deal with the Hudson Bay Company and take over those operations in the communities that can only afford one business outlet, then perhaps the time for the community to take over those business operations themselves would be well worth looking into. I don't think it can be done on an expropriation basis but I think perhaps more on an experimental basis on those in which the company would be ready to hand over to the co-ops and I think if a group were ready to sit down with the company then it's quite possible that there would be areas in which we could do some experiments on that basis.

Now the Member for Crescentwood has speculated on the business profits and the profits that business both large -- and particularly large - but when he says that - and I say to him that he hasn't faced the facts of life -- I've jotted down two or three things as he was speaking and the things that came to my mind was first of all the speculation. When these companies moved into the community of Manitoba there was speculation, in many cases they started in Manitoba. They started new businesses in Manitoba, so it was a speculation, an investment of large sums of money. They could look forward to bankruptcy and in many cases we found in fact that they have entered into bankruptcy after years of operation. Because of the changing ways of doing business in the world today some become obsolete. Maybe it's because they haven't changed with the new business world, but there is an obsolescence moving in and more and more we find businesses going broke and it's apparently through a change which I don't like and I think it comes through credit cards, the use - excessive use of credit cards and I don't agree with that type of financing but these are the things that the companies have to battle with - business has to battle with -- and financing itself and credit has become a millstone around the neck of many businesses. Instead, the Member for Crescentwood recommends that the government does it themselves. Perhaps I could even go along with that if it wasn't -- when we look at what government does it first of all requires an awful lot of red tape and whatever way you cut the cake it's still going to take red tape. And then there's going to be an excessive amount of administration costs because they're using public money and you've got to protect that public money, so the administration costs in the general rule is far over and above what a general retail outlet can stand and when you start to load the administration cost on to retail outlets then of course the cost of your commodity is going to go very high because you can't subsidize it -- where are you going to get the money? At present your ability to tax gives you the opportunity to take your slice of money out of the profits without any investment in the business itself and I think that is the real profit that government should be looking at. They don't have to invest but on the other hand they have ability to reach in and take a profit out which they require to provide government services not only for the business but for the private sector. We are recognizing from day to day, more so from day to day, that we have to raise our funds to operate the province from business and from the wages of the people that live within the community. We always hear people saying that you've got to shift taxes from the property owners so if we are going to lift the tax from the property owners we're going to shift it on to the business, the industry, and of course those that are earning money.

And then of course we have to look at the mistakes. Now private enterprise hasn't got a monopoly on mistakes. Government can also make mistakes, and coming from northern Manitoba or living in Manitoba we are reminded particularly at this time a government mistake every day that we open the paper and read about it. We are told that there was a mistake with CFI. I'm not convinced thoroughly that there was a particular mistake there but in any case, the public today consider that the money was misused and if this is the case then I think that we have to reconsider government going into private business. We have to consider the

(MR. BEARD cont'd) Development Fund that we have set up. It hasn't been successful. We've had problems in loaning money to assist businesses that have already invested money in a business; and if we can't go hand in hand with the private enterprise in operating a business then we're not only going to lose that Manitoba Development Fund money but we're also going to lose the money that we would also have to put in to make up for the money that private enterprise is putting into those businesses.

So I really can't see where government can get into any more business than they are at present. But I think that we should be looking more at how we can interest more people into coming into the province, more good corporate citizens with secondary interests in industry and businesses to use up the resources that are within the province itself. My goodness we're blessed with some of the best resources in the world in the Province of Manitoba. We're dragging our heels on how to use them. I don't think it's up to us to take over Eatons or the Hudson Bay Company, or the Imperial Oil Company, but I think it is more imperative that we look at how we can make better use of the raw materials such as nickel, such as the fish industry, copper etc. that is available and is not being used. And if we're going to continue to ship this out of the country then I think that we're going to lose. I know I'm getting away from the subject, Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Chairman, and before you rule me out of order I think I'll close. But I do feel that if government remain as administrators then we'll be far better off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be lengthy, but I have a few points that I would like to raise in connection with the legislation that was passed here I think a year or two ago, namely the Consumer Protection Act. We spent what was it? -- two or three years' work before the actual legislation was passed -- probably longer than that and I would like to know from the Minister as to the performance we are getting under this legislation.

I know the Minister made some comments earlier on it but I would like to know is business adjusting to the Act and has it been adjusting and has it experienced great difficulties in doing so.

We pass the Act, the regulations are being passed by Cabinet, by Order-in-Council and I would like to know from him as well as to whether they have had to make changes from time to time in the regulations governing this Act and as to the experience that business has been experiencing under it.

I notice from the various provisions in the bill that there is provision for reporting and I have had this brought to my attention that Credit Unions at one time in the early stages felt great inconvenience because of the change of forms and so on and the way of a reporting that had to be made.

Then are lenders giving copies of agreements to borrowers? I know that we now have Bill No. 8 before us which will definitely make it compulsory. I thought under the legislation that we passed under the Consumers Protection Act that this was also already implied in that legislation, but maybe we need further legislation on this.

One further matter is group insurance that is being provided. How is the cost calculated on the individual borrower? I think this is another matter that I would like to hear from him. Then in connection with prepayments and also especially balloon payments. I know that where we had second mortgages that so often the case was that you had a balloon payment after three years or so on that the borrower could not meet and as a result he had to renegotiate and generally there was another balloon payment after a certain period of time. Has this not been eliminated as a result of this legislation? Are we getting rid of this? Certainly I would like to hear in this regard.

Then one reservation I had on the legislation and especially one concern and that was that as a result of too many restrictions we might increase the cost to the borrower as a result, and in fact, in some cases might even prevent some people from borrowing completely, because if they were a poor risk and rates were not to exceed a certain amount that these people would not be able to get credit. Has he had any people making appeal to the department in connection with this, that it has caused difficulty? These are some of the questions I had in connection with that particular legislation that was passed and I certainly would like to hear the Minister comment on that.

I note that further on we do have various items not directly concerned with the Minister's Salary but if the motion presented that the Estimates be passed in total, I would like to have

(MR. FROESE cont'd) him also give us some information in connection with the Securities Commission. What is actually the function of this? Probably he could report to us as to the volume handled and what matters are being referred to the commission, what safeguards or guidelines have been set up by the commission and how they govern themselves.

I notice at the Agriculture Committee hearings especially in the Interlake area that we heard from a case where the creameries lost thousands and thousands of dollars because of dealings, and that they had been under the impression that these people were bonded yet later on they found out they weren't and they were suffering losses of over \$200,000 as a result, through the sale of butter and so on.

Does the Securities Commission not have anything to say in these regards and what action is needed, and if action is needed, I think we should bring about action so that these things will not recur, because this has happened more than once. I know the Winkler Creamery at one time lost \$11,000 on two carloads of eggs. The same thing happened there, - they thought that these people were bonded but they had no surety afterwards.

On the matter of Public Information Services I notice that there is a \$50,000 increase. I rather had the idea of moving a motion that the allocation be lowered to the same amount of last year.

I for one have to be convinced that this is needed before I will vote for the substantial increase. I notice from the envelopes that are being sent out by government departments that the ones coming from Public Information Services, the stamp is for 20 cents, whereas from the Agricultural Department it's 6 cents, both the same type of envelope. Maybe it's because one is sealed and the other is not. If that is the difference in cost is it worth it to have all those envelopes sealed? I think we can effect savings in this way.

So with these few comments I will let some other one take . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'll be very brief so that it won't take from the time of the House in respect to the consideration of the estimates. I'll deal with the Honourable Member from Rhineland's remarks; I really think that I couldn't in a few words answer what really were not questions to me as such by the Honourable Member from Churchill but rather comments about really the contribution to the discussion by the Honourable Member from Crescentwood.

The Honourable Member from Rhineland wants further elaboration of the experience of the Department under the Act and I would certainly be prepared to do that, although I think that I have placed on record the performance of the department by outlining the number of cases it has handled both in total, the number of complaints received, the number of cases taken to court, won, lost or otherwise. I think that's there, I've really covered the question fairly well. Mind you, he may want still further elaboration but I would rather not at this stage since I did feel I went into it fairly fully.

He questioned the need for further concern in respect to various provisions of the Act as it was passed, particularly prepayments and balloon payments and so on. It is my understanding that the Act is being enforced and that where it is brought to our attention that there is this type of payment provided, then it's struck down. There is an application if necessary to court to prevent it and to frustrate it.

He was concerned about whether or not there had been any substantial increases in the cost of borrowing and I don't believe that's the case, I think that there has been fairly vigorous competition in respect to the lending field and I don't think that there has been any inverse effect of the further regulation that is provided under the Consumer Protection Act.

His concern in respect to the Securities Commission, it's role, really I don't like to take the time of the House to go into detail about the area of its control but it primarily deals with the marketing of Corporate Securities. Now in the cases that he was concerned about, the operation of, I think brokers of food products and even livestock, they don't fall under the aegis of the Securities Commission. There is a problem in some of those areas and I think the problem could have been met with effective bonding, but bonding had not taken place in an appropriate manner, if at all in some cases.

In respect to the operation of Information Services, here again if there is a particular problem and it certainly could be looked into as to whether or not there is, you know, an over use of a certain type of mailing rather than another, I'll be happy to go into it.

Now I think that by and large covers the points raised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney.

MR. EARL McKELLAR (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Chairman, I would just like to say a few words on the Minister's Salary in this department. I must say that the discussion this afternoon hasn't been very educational but I guess there's been lots of talk anyway. The Member for Crescentwood he gave us a real lecture on what I consider Communism this afternoon, one which many of us don't appreciate although we listened to it. --(Interjection)-- Communism, state control, name it what you want.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, we heard the honourable members opposite all afternoon and I am going to say something here right now, speaking on behalf of some of the small businessmen in the Province of Manitoba. Some of the small businessmen, Mr. Chairman, who are not recognized by this government, are not recognized, they're not wanted in the Province of Manitoba.

The Honourable Minister gets up in his opening remarks and said that only union shops are the only ones that we recognize on any contract or any bill of work over \$200,00. Mr. Chairman, is that the way to treat the small businessmen in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point of order has been raised. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Point of order has been raised by the Attorney-General.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman - I know, Mr. Chairman, there is heat on the other side but no light. Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from Souris-Killarney said that the Minister got up in this House and said that the only printing contracts are given to union shops. That isn't what I said. If he'll consult Hansard that is improper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: . . . could learn a bit of advice. It's far better for him to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. The Honourable Minister of Labour. Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, we are just entering into a period of observation of the death of the Prince of Peace. I think this may be an appropriate time for me as House Leader to move that the Committee rise and report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise and report? Call in the Speaker. Mr. Speaker the Committee of Supply has directed me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Osborne the report of the committee be received.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Attorney-General that the House do now adjourn and stand adjourned until 2:30 on Tuesday next.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried, and the House adjourned until Tuesday, April 4th.