

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Thursday, 19 June, 1980

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports By Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him, could he explain the situation why hay is leaving the province of Manitoba. It's being cut in the province of Manitoba and it's now being transported to Saskatchewan, which points to a lack of co-ordination on his and his government's behalf, and while farmers in Manitoba are searching for hay, and are awaiting further announcements from this government which have not come.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Time and time again you have attempted to make the point that the purpose of asking questions is to ask for information, not to supply it to the House. I would ask that that rule be enforced.

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

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, well maybe the Attorney-General doesn't think the matter is urgent; I'm sure that the farmers of Manitoba believe that the matter is urgent, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. There is no question that I consider this matter urgent. I only wish the member would follow the rules of the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to start off again, I ask members opposite to withdraw their remarks when I sit down. When I raise a matter of privilege, it's my right to do so and, I think, any member of this Assembly's right to do so. I shouldn't be subjected to those kinds of remarks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George on a point of order.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, if I can put my question, I don't believe that the Attorney-General had a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I could ask the Minister of Agriculture what co-ordination is under way to assist farmers of Manitoba in terms of keeping the hay supplies that are now being cut within the province of Manitoba, and because of the co-ordination that was done in our neighbouring province, hay is moving from the province of Manitoba outward rather than being utilized within this province, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any specific instance that the member is referring to, but being a member bordering the province of Saskatchewan, in certain cases there is a transfer of hay moving back and forth throughout the different provinces, of the producers own desire. In fact in some cases, Mr. Speaker, some farmers have land on one side of the border or the other, and I would think it would be unfair if those particular farmers had land in Manitoba with hay on it, that we would restrict that movement back to those Saskatchewan farmers, or vice versa. I think we have to look at it, Mr. Speaker, as Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments have, we're in this drought situation, not because we want to, and don't feel there's need to bring strict border restrictions on the movement of product back and forth, but we have to co-operate as provinces to try and help our farm communities.

That, Mr. Speaker, has been the spirit of the approach between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It's been openly and fairly discussed. To further suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there are large quantities of hay going out of Manitoba into Saskatchewan, that are going to hurt our livestock producers, I don't think is justified. I don't think that is taking place because we don't have large amounts of hay. It could be in a minor sort of a way. As far as our Crown lands are concerned, Mr. Speaker, that is available for Manitoba farmers, and we are making it available through the local RM's, the local municipalities, to allocate that hay. If it's private hay that's being sold to Saskatchewan farmers, Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for us to control or in fact prohibit that kind of action taking place.

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

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not a matter of controlling the supply, Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of co-ordinating the supplies. Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister what actions he proposes to take to deal with situations where the big round bales of hay now are selling for 60 a bale in terms of providing adequate feed supplies or alternatives to farmers so that there is the prevention of scalping. As we discussed this matter over four weeks ago and suggested the Minister take some innovative

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approaches in terms of feedbank and purchasing ahead so matters that are now occurring wouldn't occur, and I'd like to know what he proposes to do.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, we have had in place a program of moving in pelleted screenings from Thunder Bay, purchasing and providing them. We've been providing freight assistance programs for movement of hay internally. I also would like to add, Mr. Speaker, that when we look at the time of year it is, it's now just about the normal haying season, where in fact the hay prices are being established, and because of a short supply, we are seeing somewhat of an increase in price, which is a normal process that we would see happen at this particular time of year.

Further to that, Mr. Speaker, we have put all our efforts into identifying and putting in programs, or at least assessing programs to this point of moving larger quantities of low-priced hay in from eastern Canada. We are in that particular process, Mr. Speaker, of doing that kind of thing and it's a matter of increasing the total quantity of hay and alternative sources that's important to regulate the prices which he is referring to, for us to put in place. The ceiling on the cost of hay, or the ceiling on the price of which one farmer can cause another, Mr. Speaker, I don't think would be fair to the farm community. But the answer to the problem is to increase the supply so that in fact, there are more supplies available at less money. And that, Mr. Speaker, is where we are aiming our work at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. George with a final supplementary.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicates that he wishes to increase the supply. When the province of Manitoba purchased screenings, approximately 1/20 of that purchased by the province of Saskatchewan, how can he increase the supply availability to farmers?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture — he indicated that he is making Crown lands available — could he indicate how long it will take to deal with the backlog of applications for Crown lands, where he indicated that he wanted specific instances. He knows there have been letters from farmers, how long will it take the departments to co-ordinate the backlog when it's now hay-cutting time, not fencing time, when farmers would like to get that cattle, when community pastures are being closed down, when there is no grazing in the province, how long will it take to get his department to move on the co-ordination of the Crown land, Mr. Speaker?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, there is action in that particular area; there are fences being built, there are sections of land being approved and cattle actually being moved out. One in particular is in conjunction with a particular community pasture, that there were some concerns that those livestock would have to be moved, the adjacent wildlife management area that is available is being prepared to move those livestock onto. But I think the member has to remember that there are also people that have occasional hay permits that are involved in some of

these areas and they have to be dealt with too. We cannot move in and take away from people what they planned, as an individual, for their hay supplies. So there's a matter of co-ordination, Mr. Speaker, and that is being done. There is fence being built right now to contain some of these livestock, plus the fact, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the overall action by government, I would say that again, we have to work with the farm community, work with the local municipalities, and we are putting every effort into either obtaining more livestock feeds to keep the price down, and also to make the Crown lands and wildlife management area. That process, Mr. Speaker, is immediate. I am sure that there isn't anyone being held up at this particular time for the want of a government decision to move.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Health. Has the Minister received a communication from the Alcohol and Drug Education Service to the effect that unless a significant financial commitment is forthcoming by June 25th, they will have to close their doors?

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): I don't think I've received that precise kind of communication from the ADES, Mr. Speaker, but I certainly have had approaches from the ADES in recent weeks containing essentially the same message. I am not aware of any direct written communication of that nature, but I am aware of the challenges facing the ADES and the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba and the government in addressing and hopefully resolving the ADES problem.

MRS. WESTBURY: I think a letter is then on its way or on the Minister's desk perhaps, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to ask a question of the Minister of Natural Resources — I see he's just entered the Chamber — I wanted to ask if he can give us any further information on the whole matter of the Garrison Diversion in addition to what he was able to tell us yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might be given leave to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Honourable Minister leave to make a statement? (Agreed)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MR. RANSOM: I have three pieces of information that I would like to table, Mr. Speaker, and two I would like to read into the record. One is the Diplomatic Note from the Canadian Embassy in Washington to the Department of State dated June 18, 1980. Another is the telegram which we have sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee, plus eleven additional senators. In addition to those two, I

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would just table the Department of External Affairs press release regarding the subject.

First the Diplomatic Note, Mr. Speaker. "The Canadian Embassy presents its compliments to the Department of State, and has the honour to refer to previous exchanges of views between the Canadian and the United States governments on the Garrison Diversion project. The Embassy wishes to express the serious concern of the Canadian government, that important new funds may be appropriated for the Garrison Diversion project, which as currently authorized, would have a seriously damaging impact in Canada. The Embassy understands that such funds would not be spent on portions of the project with potential, direct implications for Canada. Nevertheless, in the absence of any significant project redesign which would fully protect Canadian waters and reflect the recommendations of the International Joint Commission, such continuing construction momentum could well result in actions that could lead to a violation of the Boundary Waters Treaty. The principal reason for this concern remains the Lone Tree reservoir and various connected works. The Canadian government therefore considers that satisfactory resolution of the serious bilateral implications of this project should precede decision aimed at completion of the Lone Tree reservoir, or works whose operation under the authorized plan, is dependent on the reservoir. In the Canadian government's view, the serious issues raised by the project require a deliberate process of review, which fully addresses both the well documented Canadian concerns and the IJC's recommendations.

Canada's concerns over the potential adverse impacts of the Garrison project have been made known to the government of the United States on numerous occasions. Canada has sought and secured several important United States assurances, including the undertaking to "comply with its boundary waters treaty obligations not to pollute waters crossing the boundary to the injury of health or property within Canada." And commitment that "no construction potentially affecting waters flowing into Canada will be undertaken unless it is clear that this obligation will be met."

Furthermore, in 1977, the United States formally undertook to consult with Canada before proceeding with the construction of the Lone Tree dam, the key project component to completing the inter-basin link. The IJC has characterized the possibility of inter-basin transfers of foreign fish species, diseases and parasites as a concern "overriding everything else" and recommended that the Garrison Project not go ahead until this danger has been eliminated. The biota transfer problem remains a very real concern. Canada continues to believe that the only way to deal with this problem would be for the project to be further modified to eliminate all inter-basin transfers of water.

The Canadian Government has been appreciative of United States Government assurances regarding the Garrison Diversion. It has also welcomed the recognition Congress has previously given to Canadian concerns and United States obligations. The Canadian Government continues to attach great importance to co-operation between our two countries in resolving this serious bilateral problem

and requests that no action, including the provision of new funding, be undertaken until the outstanding bilateral issues are resolved. The Canadian Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurance of its highest consideration.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we have sent a telegram to the members of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee and to eleven additional Senators recommended by the Canadian Embassy in Washington.

The government of Manitoba is advised that the United States Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee has approved a supplementary appropriation of 9.7 million for use in further development of the Garrison Project. We are informed that the Sub-Committee resolution directs the appropriated funds to be used for the New Rockford Canal. Under the Garrison plan now authorized by Congress, irrigation from this Canal would involve drainage into the Cheyenne River, which is in the Hudson Bay drainage basin.

I wish to remind you of my letter of May 29th, 1980, in which I warned of the danger, documented by the International Joint Commission, that use of Missouri water in the Hudson Bay drainage basin will destroy our multi-million dollar Manitoba fishery. I ask you again not to make appropriations which will have this damaging result in Canada.

It is signed the Honourable Sterling R. Lyon, Premier of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for his statement. Certainly the events of the past 24 hours have been of major concern to Manitobans pertaining to the Garrison. It had been our intention to request leave of the House to introduce a resolution pertaining to Garrison so that a unanimous position could be made known from this Chamber to Ottawa, and our resolution was to have been worded as:

WHEREAS an appropriation now before the United States Senate would keep alive the Garrison Diversion Project and could make inevitable the inter-basin biological transfers, which will result in serious to Manitoba;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province of Manitoba oppose the Garrison appropriation being considered by the United States Senate, and call upon the government of Canada to intercede at the highest level against the appropriation.

It appears from the Minister's statement that there has been communication of this morning from the province of Manitoba to the appropriate channels.

I want to also mention, Mr. Speaker, that we are fortunate in having today, with the sanction of External Affairs, in the personage of Terry Sargeant, the Member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, who was present in Washington making representations on behalf of all Manitobans as to their concern pertaining to Garrison, and I believe that indicates clearly the fact that all in the Manitoba political scene are expressing their greatest opposition to these developments, certainly insofar as the efforts by Terry Sargeant on behalf of an area in the province of Manitoba that would be most gravely

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affected if indeed the proposals were to be finalized and to, in fact, cause the pollution that is feared.

Mr. Speaker, I want to simply indicate at this stage that the Minister has tabled telegrams and other documentation in the House. We welcome those telegrams and documentation. We say to the Minister however, that it has reached the stage, the point, that more effort hopefully, if time permits, must be undertaken at the highest levels, and those highest levels must take place in direct communication and direct talks involving the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States; at no lower level do I believe we can ensure that there is some prevention of the processes which have been put in place, and because of the veto power which is enjoyed by the President of the United States according to their Constitution.

I would call upon the Minister, and I believe that surely this would have the sentiment of each and every member of this House, that we call upon Canada at the highest level in the office of the Prime Minister of Canada to intercede at the highest level the office of the Presidency in the United States in order, that that highest office will use the constitutional power that is available to that office in order to veto any approval by the US Senate to appropriations pertaining to placing in motion an irreversible process towards finalization of Garrison.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister would advise us of any further action which the government proposes to take today or this evening. I commend the actions that have so far been taken, but in view of the fact that the United States political system has a heavy lobbying component, I wonder what further action our government is about to take.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, we are in constant contact with people who are well informed about the hourly course of events with respect to this Garrison situation, and we will be responding in ways that we think are appropriate, but at the moment it is impossible for me to outline anything specific.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the same Minister, and ask him he can inform the House what impact the presence of the NDP Member for Selkirk-Interlake might have on the President of the United States when he refused to support their stand condemning the Russian intervention in Afghanistan at the recent NATO meetings.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that this is a precedent at all, that Mr. Sargeant would be

making representation in Washington. It's my understanding that MPs have, on previous occasions, gone to Washington and voiced their concern at various intergovernmental committees, and certainly any action that could have a positive impact would be welcome.

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

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Some time ago I asked the Minister if, when the Secretary of State, Mr. Cyrus Vance, was in Ottawa to lobby for a boycott on the Olympics and the embargo of grain to the USSR, whether or not the Minister had requested that the Garrison be put on the agenda at that particular time. And I ask the Minister now, in view of the fact that I understand that the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States will be meeting shortly, perhaps this week, in Venice I believe, would he ask the Prime Minister's office to have the Garrison question placed high on the priority list that they will have for their agenda? I think it has to be dealt with at the top level, as suggested by my leader, and this is a good opportunity, Mr. Speaker, and I ask the Minister if he would get in touch with the Prime Minister's office to have that placed high on the list of agenda?

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, we will give consideration to that, certainly, as to a number of other possible actions, but I must point out to the honourable member and to the House that the assurances have been given by the executive level of government in the United States and by their foreign affairs people. We have the assurances from that level of government. But because of the nature of the system of government in the United States, then money, of course can be appropriated by the House of Representatives and by the Senate, and that is the area where the concern is arising at the moment. We continue to have satisfactory or strong assurances from the executive level of government.

MR. ADAM: On the same point, Mr. Speaker, I understand that one of the areas for discussion will be the dispute on the fisheries, the Atlantic fisheries and the Pacific, and it seems to me that the Garrison is equally as important, if not more important to Canada, and I see no reason why that can't be put on the agenda.

MR. RANSOM: Perhaps there is no reason why it couldn't be put on the agenda, Mr. Speaker, but the analogy that the honourable member draws is perhaps an interesting one as well, because in the fisheries dispute it's my understanding that the executive level of the government of the United States had negotiated a treaty with Canada, and it is one of the senators of the United States, specifically Edward Kennedy, who is holding up the ratification of that treaty.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

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MR. SAM USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can indicate to the House just how many tons of hay or tons of pellets that he has been able to identify as being available to the cattlemen of this province?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the numbers of tons that initially were purchased by the province to start the program out were 1,000 tons. Further to that, Mr. Speaker, the private grain companies, or may I add, the farmers' own grain companies, being the Manitoba Pool Elevators and United Grain Growers, and other companies who are in the business of selling screenings, started out or continued on the program of offering the sale of these screenings to the cattlemen, and it appears as if the need is being met. I haven't heard of any requests not being filled at this particular point.

As far as the numbers of tons of roughage, what have been identified as far as numbers, to this particular point, have been just in the terms of adequate supplies to meet the needs of the Manitoba cattlemen, particularly out of Ontario. We are moving and have been moving some of the feed in, in not such large quantities as may be required for further on down the road, but I think the indications are at this particular point that there are large tonnages or large amounts of hay available and really we haven't run into any anticipated shortages from that particular source. To put a quantitative figure on at this particular time, all I can indicate is that initially there were some several hundreds of thousands of bails available to the province and we're in the process of acquiring that particular feed.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is certain that there is no actual shortage in Manitoba, then could he explain to us what is causing the rapid price escalation that has taken place over the last six weeks? Can he confirm that prices of a ton of hay have gone up to about 140 a ton, which is a very high price, given the economics in the livestock industry, Mr. Speaker, and can he confirm that farmers are in a position to afford that price?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the member possibly misunderstood what I said. I said there were adequate supplies of feed, not in Manitoba but in Ontario. That's what I said, and I would also like to say that I can confirm what the member is saying, the prices have escalated in the province of Manitoba. The objective is to increase the supplies of feed from outside of Manitoba so that it gives those people the opportunity to buy hay at lower prices. What we also have to look at, Mr. Speaker, is the freight charges that are placed on those particular feed supplies that have to be moved into the province.

I think it's a matter of making the proper moves to alleviate some of those charges that are placed on that hay that has to be moved in to make those supplies available at less of a cost than the farmers are now having to pay.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet with a final supplementary.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Minister to confirm or deny that there are tonnages of hay being moved out of Manitoba into the province of Saskatchewan. Substantial amounts of hay are being sold to producers of livestock in Saskatchewan, and in turn, Manitoba is looking to Ontario for its supplies. Does that not confirm, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba has not been able to co-ordinate the supply situation with the need situation within the province of Manitoba?

I can identify hay movements from east of the Red River that are going into Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I guess what the member is indicating is that we should have some kind of a hay marketing board or some kind of a restrictive mechanism put in place that would restrict the people of Manitoba selling their hay to whoever is there indicating their desire to buy it. Now, I think what we have done is put every effort forward to distribute the hay through the systems that are available to the producers of Manitoba, and I would have to say that to put in place restrictions that would inhibit the movement of hay from Manitoba to Saskatchewan wouldn't be in the best interests of the efforts that are being put forward by both the government of Manitoba and/or the government of Saskatchewan and the Canadian government. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we move to increase the total supply of hay in Manitoba, and the same thing has to happen for the province of Saskatchewan, so that we can, in fact, see not an increase in the price of hay but a larger supply of hay which will, in fact, afford producers more hay to buy and will somewhat reduce the price of that particular feedstuff.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the member is not suggesting that I prohibit the farmers of Manitoba who have hay for sale, from selling it to consumers of hay, who may lay just across the border in Saskatchewan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Several days ago I had asked him a question pertaining to an application by a group of people out at Rivers Air Force Base with respect to municipal status, and he had indicated that there had been no correspondence at that time, and he later indicated to me privately that in fact there had been some correspondence. Could he advise us what that correspondence was and as to the current status of that application?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I had indicated to the member that there had been some communication between the group and my Deputy Minister, there had been no correspondence, and I have asked my Deputy to prepare a report on his meeting with the group and make that available to the Member for Rossmere.

MR. SCHROEDER: Again to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, is that project one where the Minister expects that there are still ongoing negotiations with his department, or is that project dead?

MR. GOURLAY: With respect to that project, it's inactive at the moment. I'm not sure whether there is a possibility that it can be reactivated later. However, I have asked my Deputy to present that information and a copy will be made available to the member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere with a final supplementary.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Education. I'd asked him a number of questions during the last stages of the estimates. I'm just wondering whether he has the answers ready on those questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): That material is being filed, Mr. Speaker, and I will forward it to the honourable member, I would expect in the next day or so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister tell this House why elevator agents at Rivers are asked to load old boxcars while some 51 tanker cars are sitting in an old gravel pit at Rivers, as reported by Patrick McKinley of today's Tribune, some of which are Manitoba-leased cars, backed up by pictures that I took Sunday last, and they were there roughly a week at that time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the member asks a question which is one that, after bringing it to my attention, caused me to phone the grain transportation co-ordinator and get an explanation. Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the cars were put into that particular location on a return trip from Thunder Bay; that they have been since moved out, as of yesterday, to be loaded to move grain, I believe it's to the west coast ports; that we have seen, because of the dry weather conditions and the farm community not delivering all the grain supplies, but in fact holding some of them because of the unsuredness of the crop in which they hope to harvest this year, that there has been somewhat of a reduction in the amounts of deliveries. But I have been assured, Mr. Speaker, that the cars will be used and we will see, particularly with the opening of Churchill, more grains move in the next few weeks.

I was concerned when the member brought it to my attention, and I have been assured by the grain transportation co-ordinator that the cars will be used and that it was just a matter of a week's period of time. As far as the use of the old boxcars, I can't explain that, Mr. Speaker; as I think we're all aware,

that is a federal jurisdiction. It's a federal Crown corporation that pulled the cars into the gravel pit, and you can rest assured that I'm not very happy to see not only Manitoba hopper cars sitting there, but also Canadian Wheat Board cars, and it was the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker, that put the pressure on the government to buy hopper cars and get involved in this very thing, the movement of grain, which I think, Mr. Speaker, has to be looked at in total before any further introduction of more rolling stock. That, Mr. Speaker, was the reason why we were in the business for short-term leasing, rather than long-term investment of hopper cars.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, yes, I want to get back to the original line of questioning with respect to the drought conditions. The Minister obviously misunderstood the intent of my question. My question was whether or not the Minister was in a position to co-ordinate the supply and the need situation in Manitoba so that we can avoid, to the extent possible, the shipments of Manitoba produced hay into other provinces; in other words, to conserve it for our own cattle. The Minister's response was that it's not practical to legislate. Mr. Speaker, no one asks for legislation. I asked the Minister whether his department had the capacity to co-ordinate the effort to make certain that the burden on the taxpayers of Manitoba is minimized, since we are being asked to pay subsidies on the transportation of hay supplies all the way from Ontario. Now, that is a burden that we have to bear, Mr. Speaker. Now, at the same time, those same subsidies are being paid to people who are purchasing hay in Manitoba and shipping it to Saskatchewan. So there is a tremendous lack of co-ordination . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the question whether the Minister has the capacity to co-ordinate his efforts to avoid that kind of a problem, and it's a problem that is apparent and everyone knows that it's there, but the Minister has not yet responded to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Perhaps we can give the Minister a chance to reply.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, to respond to the member's question of whether or not there has been a co-ordinated effort, we have co-ordinated several thousand of tons of hay and worked through the regional agricultural offices putting together a system that I think has worked very adequately with, particularly the last year's crop. I am sure the member is referring to producers in the province who produce hay and who have sold hay either to other farmers in Manitoba, or farmers who have moved in from Saskatchewan to buy that particular hay. Mr. Speaker, those farmers who are producing hay in Manitoba have been requested to list, to identify those hay supplies with our agricultural representatives and agricultural districts.

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Mr. Speaker, we have asked the farmers to do that. If they aren't doing it, we can't force them to do it, but it's a general request that went out some time ago and it's a continuing request. If the farmers who are in need of hay want to buy that hay, it's being listed for sale through our offices, and if not, Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Minister is taking a rather inordinately long time to answer the question.

The Honourable Minister for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister, in light of the fact that he has ag. reps. in every locality of agro-Manitoba, whether or not it wasn't practical to have the ag. reps. and additional support staff simply do a phone canvass in the respective areas and to tabulate those supplies that are identified, and make that known to the people that have the need for those supplies. That is a very simple procedure and it has been done in the past.

Has the Minister the figures to indicate how much supplies he has identified in Manitoba, and whether or not that information has been conveyed to the producers who are in need of those supplies?

Secondly, I would ask again, Mr. Speaker, whether the Minister agrees that the cattlemen of this province can afford those prices that are now being demanded for those hay supplies?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first question, yes there have been phone calls made by the department to those people, and there have been people put in touch with one another. The farm people who are producing livestock cannot afford to pay the high price of hay that is being asked in some areas. For example, we have had figures from the dairy producers and contacted the livestock producers, where they have truly indicated their inability to pay those prices for feed.

Is the member suggesting that we should bring in some kind of a mechanism that prohibits those people that have hay for sale from selling it? That is the only alternative that he is offering, Mr. Speaker, that is what he is suggesting.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that it is customary to let questions be asked of the Treasury Bench, not the other way around.

The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Natural Resources and ask him whether he concurs with the statement from a representative of Ducks Unlimited (Canada), which claims that as many as 25,000 ducks and 25,000 muskrats could die if the Saskeram Marsh is lowered another foot?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, that is a technical assessment that has been made by Ducks Unlimited, who, of course, have a long-term lease for the management of the Saskeram Wildlife Management Area. I think they had some qualifiers attached to that, one being relative to the timing of raising of water levels again after the haying operations are complete. I think that is one of the crucial considerations, and if we are able to manage the haying operation in a satisfactory fashion, then we should be able to maximize hay production and still allow for returning the water levels to satisfactory levels as far as wildlife populations are concerned, thereby minimizing the impact on the wildlife populations and upon those people who depend on that wildlife.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, a related question. Does he concur with Stewart Morrison, who said that the marsh is now 1.2 feet below the allowable level, and if there is further drainage there will be a devastating effect?

MR. RANSOM: I think perhaps the honourable member misunderstands the information, Mr. Speaker, in that Ducks Unlimited has a licence to operate the water level within a certain range, and at the moment the level is approximately a foot and a half below the upper maximum which they are allowed to utilize.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether he can give this House the assurance that he will preserve and protect the wildlife of Manitoba and not be out-talked or out-maneuvred by the Minister of Agriculture?

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I am not privy to what went on within the Cabinet of the previous administration —(Interjection)— the Honourable Member for Elmwood knows more about privies perhaps than I do. Within our Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, we tend to work together and take decisions that are in the best interests of the province.

We recognize the concern, Mr. Speaker, that Ducks Unlimited have, and the concern that the people who are dependent upon that wildlife have, because if the area was to be mismanaged it could have, as they say, a devastating effect on the wildlife.

We also realize, Mr. Speaker, that the present drought situation can have a devastating effect upon the agricultural community of this province, and when there is a possibility to get increased hay production from that area, and at the same time attempt to minimize the effect on wildlife, then that is the decision that we take, and we take it jointly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could just bring us up-to-date in terms of the actual levels in the Saskeram area now, whether the drainage has started without his assistance or with his assistance, and how much water has been drained off, and what are the actual levels at this time?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: If I recall the figures correctly, Mr. Speaker, I believe that on the 15th of June the level was 851.75, and yesterday the order was issued to Ducks Unlimited to operate the dam in such a way as to reduce the water level to 850.8.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the reports last evening that water had been released by others than Ducks Unlimited was correct, and how that is affecting the water levels, and whether or not the actual drainage is under way at this time?

MR. RANSOM: I do not have conclusive information, Mr. Speaker, on what has happened. There are rumours to the effect that the honourable member makes reference to, that perhaps some people who were not authorized to operate the dam, had in fact attempted to do so. My understanding is, if the reports are correct, that the action would have been taken probably within a matter of hours by Ducks Unlimited in accordance with the orders that have been issued.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas with a final supplementary.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Resources again, when the negotiations began with Ducks Unlimited in regard to the Saskeram and the possibility of lowering the water levels in the Saskeram, when did those negotiations begin so that Ducks Unlimited could prepare their plans and proposals?

MR. RANSOM: I am not certain, Mr. Speaker, when negotiations, as the honourable member refers to, began. I am not sure that negotiations are necessarily the correct way to describe the communication that has taken place between Ducks Unlimited and the government. Within the terms of the licence, the government has the authority to take this sort of action, and Ducks Unlimited, while having a very great concern for the waterfowl population, as it quite understandable, because that is their primary concern, they nevertheless recognize the situation which we face in the province, and have agreed to cooperate with us in the way that they have. When I say that an order has been issued, an order has been issued because that is required under the terms of the licence, it is not a case of having to have them operate the dam against their will.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Resources. Would the Minister of Resources concur with me that a resolution at this time pertaining to Garrison expressing the unanimous support of all members of this House against the proposed appropriation in the US House of Representatives and Senate pertaining to Garrison would add some support to the earlier efforts undertaken by his ministry pertaining to expressions of opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I guess I am gratified at this point, that the honourable members of the opposition have seen fit now to think in terms of providing unanimous support for the actions that this government has taken. On previous occasions, Mr. Speaker, when I have informed the House of actions that have been taken, we have had responses from the Honourable Member from Rupertsland that certainly gave the impression of less than total support for the actions that the government has taken. With specifically to the suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I would have to inquire as to the exact timing of the events that are taking place at the moment but I would think that in principle it would be a valuable thing, a worthwhile thing, to have the unanimous support of the House for a position of the government. I would be pleased to discuss that possibility with the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response. I would just like to indicate to the Minister that the resolution would call upon Canada, the highest levels in the government of Canada, to intercede at the highest levels in the United States against the appropriation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I think that is perhaps a subject that could be discussed between the Leader of the Opposition and myself as to what might be the most appropriate wording to have the greatest impact.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Time for question period having expired, we'll proceed with the Orders of the Day.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, held in August 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this time, I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to the Speaker's Gallery, where we have a Mrs. Denise Renard, of Miami, Florida, and Mr. Antoine Préfontaine. Mrs. Renard and Mr. Préfontaine are the daughter and son of the late Honourable Albert Préfontaine, who served as MLA for the constituency of Carillon from 1903 to 1935. They are also the brother and sister of the late Honourable Edmond Préfontaine, who served the same constituency from 1935 to 1962.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

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MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister for Government 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.

MOTION presented.

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

MATTER OF GRIEVANCE

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I find it necessary, Mr. Speaker, to use my grievance in this Session on the manner in which the province of Manitoba is now faced with the serious situation of drought in this province, and I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, insofar as we are concerned on this side of the House, that we believe that the actions of the government up to this point in time can only be described as inept insofar as coming to grips with what I believe is one of the most serious problems that have faced this province in many many a year.

I don't recall even in the 1930's that we, in Manitoba, faced this kind of a situation. Perhaps we did, Mr. Speaker, but we here, on this side of the House, have brought to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture, as far back as April, in which the Member for Inkster raised a point requesting information as to whether there were any contingency plans in place in view of the serious drought that was apparent and that would be experienced by this province this year.

Mr. Speaker, I believe even prior to that a question raised by the Member for Inkster, or in about the same time I raised the question of the water table in the province of Manitoba back in April. I suggested to the Minister of Mines and Resources that the water table this year was approximately five to six feet below normal. The reasons why, Mr. Speaker, I posed this question to the Minister was to find out whether he was aware but to apprise him of the fact that we were in a difficult situation because of the water table and subsequently, Mr. Speaker, when the winter snow melted there was no water at all; there was no runoff. It simply disappeared in the ground and, Mr. Speaker, I'm suggesting that it was at that time that we were trying to apprise the government of what could happen this year, and subsequently we have seen that happen, Mr. Speaker. What we have said has come about.

It's not that we are happy that there's a drought. We are very, very disappointed, and we would have hoped that we would have had sufficient moisture to prevent what has happened, Mr. Speaker. We know that it's not the government's fault that there's a drought but the only condemnation that we can direct, Mr. Speaker, is that the timing and the warning that was given by members of the opposition, and the timing that the government saw fit to move in any direction in regard to the problems that are facing the farmers of this province and the ranchers, Mr. Speaker, this is what we want to criticize. Because we, a month and a half ago, were asking the Minister to immediately get into a supply, to buy a supply of feed and pellets. I raised that question. I asked the Minister whether or not he was

prepared to purchase alfalfa pellets and feed to have on hand in order to put a damper on the escalation of prices because we know that's what happens. Everytime that there is a disaster this is what happens, Mr. Speaker, and the reply I received from the Minister of Agriculture at that particular time, Mr. Speaker, was that, well, it wasn't time. They were assessing the situation. It wasn't yet ready. We could get some rain, we may get some rain, and that would change the picture overnight.

Mr. Speaker, we could not afford to take that chance, and we raised it not only in this House in the question period, Mr. Speaker, but we raised in the Committee of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I advised the Minister in committee that if he decided to spend any public funds to stockpile hay or feed he would receive no criticism from the opposition. Mr. Speaker, when we raised the question in the House as to whether he was prepared to do that, he said we were not ready to do that, it wasn't time; it was too early. Yet, Mr. Speaker, a few days later they did come out with a statement that they would buy, they would do something. They were going to buy some pellets.

Mr. Speaker, I also brought to the attention of the Minister that we should perhaps hold grains that are now on hand, in Manitoba, that those grains should be held here in the event of an emergency, which has now developed into a very, very serious situation. The Minister said that he was not able to do that, Mr. Speaker, that there was no way that you could stop the grain that was in store, that you could hold that grain here.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has criticized us for not coming forward with suggestions. Even yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister was grandstanding here saying that I have extended invitations to the members of the opposition to bring forth their suggestions, and they have not done so, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have been advancing suggestions for the last three months to the Minister of Agriculture in this Legislative Assembly, and he has refused to accept those suggestions. My colleague, the Member for St. George, raised the question of the wildlife areas that could be turned over for the use of livestock under this crisis that we are now facing in Manitoba, and the answer has been consistent, Mr. Speaker — "we are assessing the situation on an ongoing basis, and we are looking at it; we are looking at it and we are assessing it." And that is the response that we have received on practically every occasion that we have asked a question in this House of the Minister.

We have asked him what is happening insofar as providing the wildlife areas for the ranchers at this particular time, and the Minister has got up and said, well, you tell us where the wildlife areas are; can you identify where they are and then we will look at it; we are reviewing. So for the past three months, Mr. Speaker, insofar as we are concerned, it has been a process from the Minister of Agriculture of reviewing, assessing, we're going to look at it, and it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that what we have witnessed is a government that has been dragging its feet on this particular situation.

I brought to the Minister's attention that the grain companies and people like Cargills were buying up all the supplies of alfalfa pellets in Manitoba. They

were quicker than the Minister on the draw, Mr. Speaker. They saw an opportunity to pick up all the supplies that were available in Manitoba, to have them on hand. They were good businessmen, Mr. Speaker. They're good businessmen. That's what they're there for, to make money.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has no concern from the ranchers of this province. He is prepared to allow the corporate sector to buy up all supplies and then charge whatever the market will bear. That is what the Minister has been doing. And finally, Mr. Speaker, even after responding to my question that it was too early to buy the pellets and to get stocks on hand in order to keep the prices down, they finally decided they were going to buy 1,000 tons of screenings from — I believe it's screenings, we haven't had an exact breakdown of what it was, but I believe it's screenings, Mr. Speaker, that he has apparently purchased, or the government has purchased 1,000 tons of pellets to have on hand.

But what about the fodder? What about the roughage, Mr. Speaker? We also asked the Minister, either in the House here or in committee, whether or not he would do a survey in Manitoba. It wouldn't have been difficult, Mr. Speaker, every district office, every ag rep could have done it; they have staff, they know who the producers are, they know who sells hay, Mr. Speaker, in their own particular areas, they could have made a survey and determined where the hay is. They didn't do that. He said, you don't expect us to start canvassing every farmer to find out whether they're going to have any hay or not. Well, I'm suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that's what should have been done. We should have identified those sources of supply, anybody that would have any surplus, and contract or commit the government to pick up those supplies at a reasonable price for the producer, give the producer of hay a reasonable profit in a situation where it's a drought, but also, in order to keep a lid and a damper on the escalation of prices from bringing in feed from miles and miles away, Mr. Speaker.

It was obvious today, Mr. Speaker, that there is no co-ordination. The Minister does not know how much feed there is available in the province; he was unaware that there is feed moving out of the province to other areas, to Saskatchewan, it came as a surprise to him. Surely he must have agriculture representatives, perhaps in Roblin or Dauphin or somewhere that would be on top of the scene at the local level and would be aware of what's happening in their own districts, Mr. Speaker, but the Minister today was unaware of what was taking place.

So we say, Mr. Speaker, that the government has not acted promptly enough. We do not criticize them for the drought, it's not their fault, it's something that's happened, Mr. Speaker. But we do criticize them for not taking action soon enough when it was brought to the attention of the government way back in April. The records are there, Mr. Speaker. The records are there.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister did come out with a statement, I believe, in May. We brought these problems to the attention of the Minister in April, the end of April, I believe, and the government had come out with a statement on the 22nd of May. And I want to quote from some of the comments made by the First Minister at that particular time:

"I wish to announce that the government will provide special feed assistance, first, secure supplies of feed grain, and secondly to help cover the costs of transporting it. To make that possible, we are looking at supplies of hay from southern Ontario, screening pellets, barley, oats, and other feed grains and milling by-products that may be available and suitable as an alternate source of feed, Mr. Speaker." This is on the 22nd of May. We were asking the Minister what they would be doing in April. This is what we wanted to see done in order to have those supplies on hand, in order to keep a lid on the price of feed, Mr. Speaker, because as it was brought out today, the feed prices have now gone up to about 140 a ton. In order to winter a cow, just for the winter, not for the summer, not to get her over the summer because the pastures are disappearing very fast, Mr. Speaker, so the farmers are going to have to buy some supplement feed to finish off the summer, and he's looking at the possibility of having to purchase three tons of feed to winter one cow, and he's looking at a price of anywhere from 120 to 140 a ton.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the present situation continues, we are going to see the price increase, probably higher than that before fall. So how can any rancher pay that kind of money under the economic system of the livestock industry at the present time, Mr. Speaker. There is no orderly marketing in the livestock industry, the producers will have to take whatever is offered to them, and because of the fact that there will be more cattle moving to market, naturally that depresses prices, and they have already dropped. Prices have already dropped. Mr. Speaker, under those circumstances, one wonders why the government has not acted much sooner, as we had suggested that they do, because it's absolutely ridiculous to think that a rancher who is going to have to buy feed this summer to supplement the sparse pastures, and then turn around this fall and buy hay at 150, maybe 175 a ton. Mr. Speaker, that cow will not repay the costs of keeping her over the winter. It will provide a calf a year from last spring, the next fall of '81 before a rancher sees a calf that he can sell. Mr. Speaker, there's no way that those calves are going to be sold to cover the costs of what it's going to cost the ranchers to keep their livestock through the next winter. So I'm suggesting that the government has dragged its feet on this issue and they should have moved much quicker. We understand, Mr. Speaker, also, that there is grain available, there is grain on hand at the present time.

I posed a question to the Minister of Agriculture that we should request that the grain in Manitoba on hand should be held here for our own producers, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister did not accept my suggestion. But I am told now, Mr. Speaker, that farmers are going to the elevator companies and asking for grain and they can't buy it. They won't sell it to them. The grain is there but they won't sell it to them, Mr. Speaker.

So again we find that the Minister has not apprised himself of what's happening. He has not found out what is happening, there is some grain — I'm not saying there's a lot of grain, but there is some grain available — but when the rancher goes to the elevator to buy it, they say, well, I'm sorry, we

can't sell it to you because it's already sold, or we have orders for it and it can't go. I'm saying that we are facing an emergency, Mr. Speaker, and we need some leadership here. We need some leadership. We need a government that is prepared to stand up and speak for the farmers. We ask that they display some leadership and get in touch with the proper authorities, whether it's the Wheat Board or the federal government. I also criticize the federal government for their paltry assistance. Paltry. — (Interjection)— Well, I think it's spelled P-A-L-T-R-Y but I'm not sure. But I think it means that it's very insignificant. I think it's an insignificant amount of money that the federal government is committing to help to assist the ranchers of this — well, it's paltry, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the pronunciation wasn't quite right.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government at this particular time, and this Minister should be on the doorstep of the federal Minister demanding. Mr. Speaker, we're talking a loss here of not only the ranchers, but the farmers. The farmers are looking at a loss in revenue this year that could go as high as perhaps 400 million, because of the drought situation. And we have a federal government that's offering assistance in the way of about 5 million. Mr. Speaker, we say that that's not good enough, and this Minister had better get off whatever he is on and start getting in touch with the federal Minister of Agriculture and asking him to come out here to Manitoba and take a look at what's going on, because what is happening here in this province this year is a disaster. We find that the Minister has been very, very lax in coming to grips. We have asked him time and time again.

What's happening to the wildlife areas? We understand that it took one rancher three weeks in order to get his application processed to get cattle into a wildlife area. We've asked the Minister whether he was going to provide herdsmen, or whether we had to wait until all these areas were fenced. What did the Minister do? He got up and made politics. He was using this issue for politics, Mr. Speaker. We say that the disaster that's facing Manitoba this year goes beyond the realm of politics. We have made suggestions time and time again to the Minister to try and suggest what he should do. We've asked him to provide supplies, he hasn't done it. We've asked him to hold the feed here, he hasn't done it. He doesn't know that feed is leaving Manitoba. He doesn't know that and he doesn't seem to care. He doesn't care, Mr. Speaker. Because he says, well, we can't do anything about it, this is a free market system, let it go. I'm saying that he should have polled; we asked him away back in May and in April to poll all the ranchers. We asked him in Agriculture Committee in Room 254 to make a survey of every district to see where the supplies were, identify those sources of supply, and buy them if necessary. And we advised the Minister that he would receive no criticism from the opposition if he spent any tax dollars for those purposes.

Mr. Speaker, the same thing has been happening in other areas as well. So what is happening now, the dairymen are now faced with a similar situation where the costs that they have to pay for feed for their dairy herds is beyond an economic feasibility, Mr. Speaker. The cost is too high.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, I have asked, further to the statement of the First Minister in which he said, "We will make emergency hay and pastures available on Crown lands, including wild management areas for livestock if drought conditions worsen." Well, they have worsened, Mr. Speaker, much worse than they were.

"We will assist in transporting livestock to those areas. If it becomes necessary, we will provide assistance to farmers to irrigate hay crops, using community lagoons and other available sources. For example, the waters that could be diverted into the Portage Diversion, and the use of natural flows into the Red River Floodway."

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister here about Monday, I believe it was, if it were possible to obtain pumps to irrigate lands adjacent to Lake Manitoba, and the reply I received was, we'll look at that, we'll assess it and see if that's feasible. I'm just paraphrasing, but that is the type of answer I have received: We will assess that, we will look at it to see if we can do that. Mr. Speaker, this is the 19th of June. This Monday was the 16th. On the 22nd of May, the Premier stated in this House, "We will irrigate hay crops." Period. That's not assessing or reviewing, the Minister on the 16th of June said, well, we don't have that kind of a program, but we will look at it.

I also asked the Minister if he had any programs that would assist farmers whose wells had gone dry. And they had notice, Mr. Speaker; I advised the Minister of Resources in April that the water table in the ground was five or six, seven feet lower than it should be. We knew then, Mr. Speaker, that there would be a lot of wells going dry. I asked the Minister if he had a program that would assist farmers who had to drill new wells, to help them do that. Well, Mr. Speaker, he said he didn't have a program, but he would look at it, he would assess that. Well, we have a pretty good assessing Minister, but one who has little action.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I immediately phoned some of the farmers, ranchers that had asked me to determine . . . Okay, Mr. Speaker, do you want to do that now?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: If I may interrupt at this time, to introduce some visitors, 35 students of Grade 8 standing from Spruce Street School, from Ear Falls, Ontario. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

MATTER OF GRIEVANCE Cont'd

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to defer to you and introduce our guests from Ontario, and they are certainly welcome to our province.

Mr. Speaker, I phoned a rancher, who had phoned me on Monday about irrigating haylands, Mr. Speaker, with the waters of Lake Manitoba, and he said, his ag. rep. was gone, his ag. rep. was in Gladstone, and he was away for a week. During an emergency, I don't know why. The ag. reps., I suppose, have to have holidays, or maybe he wasn't on a holiday. But the ag. rep. from Gladstone wasn't

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there, so I suggested to this rancher that he get in touch with Ste. Rose immediately to find out whether there was any pumps available, that the Minister would be looking at this program and hopefully that he may be able to irrigate his haylands.

Mr. Speaker, I called the farmer back a while later, and he said, yes, I phoned and I was advised by the ag. rep. there that there are no pumps available and an hour earlier, Mr. Speaker, the Minister said, we have pumps and, if there are none, we will buy some. We will buy some; we will acquire some; we will purchase them; we will have pumps. Mr. Speaker, this fellow would like to know where they are.

The Minister was telling that he was only going to look and see, he didn't have a program but he had hoped to have a program to irrigate. Mr. Speaker, he is supposed to be on the same committee that his First Minister is, who is the Chairman of that Committee, and on May 22nd the First Minister said that they will irrigate hay crops. Well, I say that there is some ineptness here and it is obvious.

Now what is going to happen, Mr. Speaker? What is going to happen? I suggest to you, of course, we are going to have to buy hay. The Minister is going to buy hay. He is going to come out with a program and say, well, I guess we will have to help the ranchers to buy hay.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Roblin fought all throughout the Agriculture Estimates on the buying of hay. He was opposed to any purchasing hay. He walks in now, the Member for Roblin; I am sorry he was out of his seat when I made that comment. But the Member for Roblin spoke against and argued against assistance in purchasing hay for ranchers in this province. He wants them to pay 140 a ton, Mr. Speaker, that is what he wants, and probably 175 a ton by fall. He is running out, Mr. Speaker. Well, of course, he has business outside of the Chamber and I shouldn't be commenting on the absence or presence of any member, Mr. Speaker, because I guess it is unparliamentary. Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, we have seen a very very poor demonstration of a government here to come to grips with what is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the only problem that is going to develop out of this drought that we are now facing, Mr. Speaker. Businessmen are going to be faced with a serious problem. I have brought it to the attention of the First Minister in the question period; I was ruled out of order, but nevertheless I tried to bring it to the Minister's attention of what is happening in rural areas, where businesses are falling by the wayside, because of what has happened in rural areas. We brought it to the attention of the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Speaker, and I wasn't called out of order then, because it was the proper Minister to address it to.

Mr. Speaker, the high interest rates that are now in effect and also what is going to happen is that the Minister is going to come out and say, well, we are going to ask the municipalities to advance loans. We are going to ask the municipalities to advance loans to the farmers so that they can buy feed at 140 to 175 a ton. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister what municipality in Manitoba is able to finance such type of loans, Mr. Speaker? And he wants to get off the hook, Mr. Speaker. He wants the municipalities to do his dirty work. He is passing the buck, Mr. Speaker;

he wants the municipalities to do his dirty work. It is the municipalities that will have to do the collecting, Mr. Speaker.

We have the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation here. Why set up another credit organization, Mr. Speaker? We have one available here. But the Minister wants to get off the hook. He wants somebody else to do his dirty work, and he knows very well that no municipality is able to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen demonstrations by members of the Conservative Party, both federal and provincial. Mr. Speaker, we asked the Minister about the embargo on grain to the Soviet Union and, you know, the Minister strongly supported the embargo of grain to the Soviet Union, as did the Minister of Highways, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, those Ministers who were responsible for the embargo, who supported Flora MacDonald in Ottawa when she was sabre-rattling, Mr. Speaker. When she was rattling her sabres, Mr. Speaker, we had the Conservative Party, Mr. Don Mazankowski, supporting that position, we had Mr. Murta, Mr. Speaker, supporting the embargo to Russia, and where are they today, Mr. Speaker? We have a big write-up in the Press and Murta says, to hell with the embargo, to hell with the embargo, that is the headline. He put it in, Mr. Speaker. He put it in. He put it in, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the gall, the unmitigated gall of Don Mazankowski, Mr. Speaker, to come on television and say that had to be changed, we had to reassess our position on the embargo. He had a pretty sheepish look on his face, Mr. Speaker, and well he should, because he is the man who put in the embargo. He is the man that was responsible for the embargo of grain to Russia, that has cost farmers of Canada a million dollars a week, that is what it is costing the farmers of Manitoba. Oh yes, sure, Don Mazankowski and his colleagues were going to make it up, oh anything that is lost by the farmers we will make it up, we will make it up; then after while, Mr. Speaker, they couldn't determine how much loss came about because of the embargo, Mr. Speaker. This government has lots to be accountable for.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I see that you indicate that I still have five minutes.

Mr. Speaker, for people like Mr. Murta and Mr. Mazankowski to make an about face, as they have done, is intellectual dishonesty. That's outright intellectual dishonesty for people of that stature, people in that category, people in high office in government, former Ministers of the Crown. To come out with that kind of a statement now, to me is nothing but intellectual dishonesty, Mr. Speaker.

We see, Mr. Speaker, what is going to happen. Mr. Speaker, this province is in a disaster situation and this government's hands are tied because they are running this province into the ground, into debt and into deficit.

I hear the Member of Minnedosa laugh. Well, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, our per capita debt has gone up 1,000 per capita under this kind of a government. Mr. Speaker, it has gone 1,000 further in debt than we were three years ago and a deficit — a planned deficit — very carefully planned, which is planned for 136 million, which is going to end up about 170 million or more. When the drought is over and

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supplementary supplies are all added to that, we are looking at maybe a 200 million deficit, Mr. Speaker.

We ask the government to get down to business and show some leadership and come out and put a moratorium on those farmers who are going to be strapped for payment of debts between now and fall. Mr. Speaker, we asked that this government do that, that they stand up and implement a moratorium on farm debts, and also that they get off and stop asking the municipalities to do their dirty work. Mr. Speaker, we ask that they not ask the municipalities to do their dirty work, but they have the MACC come in with programs to assist farmers over this very very trying period in the history, Mr. Speaker, of farming in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the Minister to immediately convene the Standing Committee on Agriculture to deal with this whole question, to go out in the Dauphin area and The Pas, Brandon, Roblin, Winnipeg, Interlake, southern Manitoba, southeast Manitoba, southwest Manitoba, Morden, some place up in there, Virden, wherever the committee should go to assess the situation eye to eye with the farmers. Let them come in and express their views.

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): Open the doors.

MR. ADAM: As my colleague from Flin Flon says, let's open the doors. Let's open the doors, Mr. Speaker, because they have been closed. There has been no committees of any kind in the last three years. Let's open the doors and let the people have a look at the disaster that they elected in 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise to respond to the Grievance as brought forward by the Member for Ste. Rose and I would like to speak on a Grievance that I think that it's time that we put some real fact on the record and not continue to hear the continual rhetoric from the member opposite from Ste. Rose du Lac.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we cannot under-estimate the seriousness of the problem that is bestowing the agricultural community, which in fact carries through to the total economy of Manitoba. Many times we, as a government and the Premier of this province in many of his speeches, have indicated very strongly and very openly that agriculture is the true backbone of the Manitoba economy.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it has truly been demonstrated today throughout all of Manitoba that that is in fact the case, that we are seeing a difficult time for the small businesses throughout rural Manitoba and generates through to the larger centres that rely on those communities to provide them with their incomes. Small business, particularly in some of the areas that are more seriously affected because of the dry conditions, are feeling the pinch to a great degree.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to this on this grievance in two areas: One, the problems that are created because of some of the lack of longer term decisions made by certain individuals that have represented the province in the past few years; some

of the short-term measures that have been put in place by this government and some of the long-term planning that has been put in place, not only by this government but previous Conservative governments in this province.

Mr. Speaker, in outlining the seriousness of the problem, I would have to suggest that the member suggested a figure of some 400 million. Mr. Speaker, I indicated yesterday some of the anticipated loss of crop being in the neighborhood of 50 percent, and I guess that's where he obtained that figure, that is the immediate loss of crop production in the province.

As I also indicated yesterday, the problem that has been created because of the drought, the full impact of that will not be felt probably until next year. Because farmers are now selling off some of the grains they've had in reserve, they are selling off some of the livestock, they are culling their livestock operations and, in fact, it will help their cash flow. But, Mr. Speaker, from Day One, and I say Day One of the short-term problem, we have to say that our objective was to maintain the breeding stock in this province, both the dairy and beef cattle, the sheep and any other livestock that are essential to generate the income or the production for the agricultural community.

Let me start, Mr. Speaker, by going back just a few years and looking at some of the programs that were put in place and I would have to commend the Conservative government when the now Premier of the province was a part of that government, and the Premier of the province was the Honourable Duff Roblin, who had the foresight, and let me say, Mr. Speaker, had the foresight to introduce a program known as the Manitoba Crop Insurance Program. Mr. Speaker, that program, because they put that program in place, Mr. Speaker, has afforded the farm community a coverage of 200 million in crop insurance coverage this year. Mr. Speaker, that was the foresight that we had from the government under the Honourable Duff Roblin and the now Premier of the province, who was a part of that government. Mr. Speaker, that's the kind of foresight that we have in this government today. The government had foresight to put in place a program that was not only backed, Mr. Speaker, by the provincial treasury, but also because of their foresight they have a reinsurance program with the federal government that backs the provincial treasury in times of severe disaster such as we are facing today.

Mr. Speaker, it is that kind of foresight that is going to help us through times like this, Mr. Speaker, and I want the public of Manitoba to know that because of those programs that today the severe impact is being felt, but not to the extent that it would have been felt without those kinds of programs. I want to commend, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, who is now our Premier, and when he was a part of a government that had the foresight to implement those kinds of programs, as well as his colleagues of that day.

Mr. Speaker, let me also look at some of the other long-term planning that was put in place by previous administrations, by previous Conservative administrations, Mr. Speaker, and that is in the case of putting in water dams. The Shellmouth Dam, Mr. Speaker, why was the Shellmouth Dam built? It was

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built to help in the times of flood and in the times of drought, Mr. Speaker. There is a reservoir of water, Mr. Speaker, to help the help people irrigate their lands and to use in times of need, for livestock needs, for many things, Mr. Speaker, long-term planning by a Progressive Conservative government, those people who had the foresight to put in place mechanisms, structures, that will help people in the times of need so that we don't feel the total impact of a drought such as we are facing today.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at the record and take a few minutes to look at the record of the last administration. What did they do for long-term planning for the agricultural community when it was times of drought? Mr. Speaker, let us look at what they did. Mr. Speaker, we had that government, that famous NDP government who are now saying, why don't you make wildlife management areas available to the farmers. Who took that land from the farmers, Mr. Speaker? It was the NDP government that took that land from those farmers, 475,000 acres, enough to pasture 80,000 cattle; to keep 80,000 cattle in this province, Mr. Speaker. That's why, Mr. Speaker, those farmers have to come now and ask for that pasture. Mr. Speaker, and they ask about fencing. Why do we have to fence it? Mr. Speaker, that same government took those fences away so the farmers couldn't use it. There would have been no reason, Mr. Speaker, if those fences had been left in place, that the gates could have been opened today and the cattle turned in. But no, Mr. Speaker, it is our fault . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Minister is relatively new. I want to ask him whether he'd permit a question.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, when I'm through I will permit a question.

Mr. Speaker, we had the government of the NDP Party taking away the land the farmers needed to make their income. The backbone of this province was being eroded by the New Democrats when they were in office, Mr. Speaker. Direct competition to the farmers, whereas today, Mr. Speaker, we have to go back and now make it available to that farm community.

Mr. Speaker, let us look a little further. We talk about the Saskeram area which has been made available. In 1961 when there was a Conservative government in office it was made available at that particular time for the farm community and there was a bridge put in place, Mr. Speaker, and I'm not sure but I will check the records, I believe under the NDP Party that bridge disappeared. Mr. Speaker, why didn't they rebuild the bridge? They tore down fences and burnt the bridges, Mr. Speaker, so that the farm community couldn't get to the feed reserves when we're in times of drought. I will check that out, Mr. Speaker, but I would have to say that the least that could have been done was the bridge could have been rebuilt after it went out. I say, Mr. Speaker, it happened in 1961. The government made that grassland available, and in 1980, when the farmers need it, it is being made available. Mr.

Speaker, we are doing everything we can to make all the lands available that have forage and hay on them for the farm community.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Ste. Rose, says why would you involve the municipal people; why would you say that the municipal people should be involved? Mr. Speaker, let me tell you: Who is closer to the farm community than the people who are elected by the farm community and, in most cases, farmers themselves who understand the problem and are good administrative people who know how to help themselves? Working with the provincial government, Mr. Speaker, what stronger team could you have? But, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Ste. Rose doesn't understand that. He has to have a bureaucrat go out and tell agricultural people how they should farm their land or how they should distribute their hay, Mr. Speaker, hay that was taken away from them by the Member for Ste. Rose when he was a member of the government.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, because the member who was speaking, the Minister of Agriculture, is indicating that I said that the people out there didn't know how to farm the lands, and we want to have a civil servant. That's what he said, Mr. Speaker. All I said was that he should not be asking the municipalities to provide loans that the government should be doing through MACC. That's the only reference I made.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have to inform the honourable member he did not have a point of privilege. A misstatement of fact or a misunderstanding is not a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, what I was referring to was the allocation of the hay and co-operative efforts that have to be put forward in times of severities that we are seeing today because of the drought conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to indicate that The Municipal Loan Act is an act of the provincial government that can be made available for those farmers. It's just another tool that can be used and should be assessed as far as difficult times that they're facing.

Mr. Speaker, let us go back to what really took place this particular spring. We saw an unusual early thaw. We saw a time that we were anticipating some difficulties because of a shortage of moisture. Mr. Speaker, for the record's sake, let us go back and look at prior to April 30th of 1980. A public press statement, a public release went out from my office recommending to the farmers of Manitoba that they get involved in crop insurance or buy crop insurance because it was a year that it would be possibly needed. Mr. Speaker, that was a statement, a public press release going out of my office, asking the farmers to consider buying crop insurance, and, Mr. Speaker, there was a response to that request. Unfortunately, and I will say unfortunately, there were several farmers who thought they didn't particularly

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need it. That was a judgement on their part. Mr. Speaker, something that at this particular time, I'm not criticizing those farmers for. I don't think when people are in times of severe difficulty that it's time to criticize them and say, well you could have bought crop insurance. Mr. Speaker, we have to pay attention to what programs may be introduced to help those particular individuals. Mr. Speaker, to turn your blind eye to those kind of people would say, we will let them disappear out of the agricultural community.

Mr. Speaker, we have to listen to the grain farmers, we have to listen to the livestock producers, and I would say that our immediate and our urgent concerns are the dairy industry and other livestock producers who have to have pasture or hay supplies to provide the milk and the meat that these people need in the province of Manitoba, the consumers; yes, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite me need not only for their sustenance but for their constituents, and let me tell you that that is our efforts, to make sure that those feed supplies are to be put in place.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time or sometime very shortly after that I communicated to the federal Minister of Agriculture by letter requesting federal assistance and notifying him of the conditions that were being experienced in Manitoba. It took several weeks, Mr. Speaker, to get a response from that Minister. Followed by that letter I telexed the Minister, Mr. Speaker, again requesting the federal government pay attention to what was going on and that we needed some support. Finally, Mr. Speaker . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, let us go back again. In the interim, Mr. Speaker, we had a committee of our government set up with the PFRA to meet in Regina, where discussions took place on programs that may be implemented. We had a Drought Committee of Cabinet that was working to outline programs that could be introduced and, Mr. Speaker, that has been what has taken place.

We have introduced, Mr. Speaker, an assistance program to transport cows and calves to pasture. We have introduced a program, Mr. Speaker, to move pelleted screenings and hay throughout the province. We have put in together a feed co-ordinating office, Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, to co-ordinate the feed supplies and list those hay supplies and put the farmers together in the province, Mr. Speaker. We, Mr. Speaker, have introduced — and this is another long-term program, Mr. Speaker — a water program that would assist farmers to drill wells and transport water to their farm sites. That's a long-term program, Mr. Speaker, that was introduced over a year and a half ago. The foresight to help those farmers before they ran into times of difficulty such as we are seeing today. Let me just speak briefly, at the same time as we introduced these programs, we put a program in place of buying hay in Ontario and moving it out by truck.

Mr. Speaker, as the drought has increased we've seen need to further expand that program, and to this date, Mr. Speaker, we have purchased several thousands of bales of hay and are expanding that program as it is needed. Mr. Speaker, we are working on other transportation programs with the railroad to move in the massive amounts of feed that

are going to be required. Mr. Speaker, they are saying how much. Mr. Speaker, we are working with the farm community so they can tell us how much they need. Mr. Speaker, we are working to keep the price down so that they can afford to buy it. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are working with the farm community, something members opposite don't understand, to work with the farm community. They worked in opposition to them, and it can be demonstrated line and chapter and verse, with their Land Lease Program, Mr. Speaker, taking the land away from the farmers; with the Crown Land Program, and let us speak about the Crown Land Program. Their Crown policy, Mr. Speaker, was what? To keep the land in the hands of the government, Mr. Speaker, so the farmers couldn't use it on a long-term basis. We have offered that Crown land for sale, Mr. Speaker, so those farmers can be assured of pasture and feed supplies and long-term investment. Mr. Speaker, where was their Crown land sale policy? They kept it all to the little NDP government for themselves. Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of applications being processed at this particular time; hundreds of applications being processed at this time for the sale of Crown land.

Let's go back to the feed program, Mr. Speaker. We initiated the movement of screenings into the province but we do have several farmer-owned grain companies, in case the members don't understand how the grain company system works. We have Manitoba Pool Elevators that are owned by farmers. We have United Grain Growers owned by farmers, and they sell screenings, Mr. Speaker. They assured us of a supply available to their customers. We said it is your business and we will support the freight program for you; carry on and do that kind of work.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, we have said to the farmers who were going to have to pay to have their dugouts filled, Mr. Speaker, we will waive the cost of filling your dugout for this particular year; maybe not a large dollar amount, Mr. Speaker, but a significant amount to that farmer who may be having a severe hardship in getting that kind of money to pay the government. Mr. Speaker, I never heard of that under the last government. They provided, Mr. Speaker, a program, but still they charged the farm community.

Mr. Speaker, let us talk about the feed grain that the Member for Ste. Rose says one minute it's short supply and the next minute he says it's adequate. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, what our request was to the federal Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board at a meeting in Victoria held on June the 3rd, a direct request from me was to allow feed grains to move in from the United States, so those people could buy grains if they were available in the US and wouldn't be restricted. That, Mr. Speaker, has happened. Do they want some statistics? I understand that there's one elevator that has made available over one million bushels, or their request is made for one million bushels of feed grain coming out of the United States to provide the livestock producers in this province with the grains that are needed. It's a matter of distribution, Mr. Speaker, and that is what we are working to help do. It was on behalf of, and helpful to, I'm sure, the farmers of this province that those actions were taken by the federal government. But it came from a request by the

provinces, or partially from a request by the provinces at a meeting held not very long ago.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at another program that we have to talk about. And I think it's important that we support that kind of program. And that, Mr. Speaker, was an announcement made by the federal government. I think we have to be realistic when we are talking to the farm community, that in certain cases we are going to see the culling of some livestock herds. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, the member is saying, it has already happened. Those cattle are being sold, not as the Member from Ste. Rose would suggest, at depressed prices, in fact I understand we're looking at a steady market and have seen the cow price increase somewhat last week. Mr. Speaker, I think he should put actual facts on the record and not fiction, as he so often does.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have to be realistic, and some of the livestock do have to be culled from this province. We want to assure the livestock producers, that there are markets available. We have had indications from Alberta, where they have received sufficient numbers of inches of rainfall, we have seen movement of cattle to Ontario on a normal basis, but Mr. Speaker, there has to be a normal culling process take place. We're talking about a culling process that no one likes to see happen, but we cannot demand that the farmers not sell their cattle. And if they make that decision, what can we do? We, Mr. Speaker, can support what the federal government recommended that they are looking at, and we want to see that they do it, and that is to defer the income until next year, that they aren't taxed on the money that they receive from sale of livestock this year, that that is rolled over and deferred until next year. So that if they want to buy back into their livestock enterprise, or purchase more breeding stock, that they have the money available to do so.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that it's imperative that the federal government implement that kind of a program. It just gives them the same opportunity as the grain farmer has at this particular time. I think that's a good move, and I support that kind of action.

Let us just go back and review what we have seen happen. I have indicated some lack of action, I think from the federal government, not only lack of action but lack of understanding of the severity of the problem. We have indicated to them what the difficulties are. The moneys they have announced to date, and I want the farm community and the members of this House to understand really what they have introduced, and that has been picking up half the costs of those programs that have been introduced. To suggest that 7 million for two provinces is sufficient, I'm sure we want to let them know, and we have already said so, that it is inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, we are certainly furthering our pressure on the federal government to get involved in further programs for the movement of feed into the province, and I'm sure that they will agree to that kind of program. I want to say that I think it's imperative that the federal government further review, or re-assess the impact that this drought condition is going to have on, not only the Manitoba economy, but on the total Canadian economy. The

importance of agriculture to Canada cannot be underestimated, and I think it's happening at this particular time with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, we, as a government, have been meeting with, and discussing programs for the farm community with farmers, with the crop insurance board of directors, with the union of municipalities, Mr. Speaker, with the livestock associations; with those people who are affected, we are working with them to implement programs that will assist them.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to also add that I think that we have to continue to work on, or to look at, recommendations that may have to be implemented to not force farmers — and I say that as far as the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation is concerned, we will not force the farm community to make payments where the people are unable to do so because of the drought conditions. There are certain people, Mr. Speaker, who may be able to, and feel that they want to make those payments, but I can assure the agriculture community today that they won't be forced by the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation into hardship because of the drought condition.

Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for the Royal Bank, but we have communicated with the banking industry, that in fact we don't expect that they would put the same kind of pressure on the farm community as they normally would because of the dry weather conditions. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the whole action that the government has taken, both looking at the long term, by the introduction of a crop insurance program that has given the farm community base coverage — and I say base coverage, because that's what it was introduced for. We look at the long-term water programs that have been introduced by previous Conservative governments; when we look at the ones that we have introduced, and the planned ones that we're looking at, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the farm community and all of Manitobans that it is the long-term objective that we have good, sound water management planning in this province, where we have conservation programs put in place, where we have water supplies available for large, massive irrigation projects.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is commenting from his seat. Mr. Speaker, we should have had, in place by this particular time, a large water structure such as the Pembelier Dam. We should have had large, underground aquifers identified and tested, Mr. Speaker, so they are available to the farm community. Why, Mr. Speaker, do we have to now wait and find out how much water there is to draw. Mr. Speaker, I have to say, eight years of neglect for the farm community is partially why we are having some of the impact we're having today.

Mr. Speaker, let me assure the members of this Chamber that it is our long-term policy and our short-term policy not to see the farm community go through severe hardships, and it's a combination of planning and programming that has to be put in place by members of the rural Manitoba, by the MLAs from the Dauphin area who are sitting in here, from Emerson, from Portage la Prairie, the Member for Minnedosa, who I would have to say has been part of future looking and development because of the announcement we heard last week by the

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Mohawk Gas Company to introduce — in where? — in Canada, Mr. Speaker, the introduction of alcohol for energy, right in Manitoba. The first one in Canada. A real move. And why was that? Because of the planning by the Minister of Finance and the government on this side of the House to remove some of the tax so that there was an environment for the private initiative to go ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the private initiative really rubs in the grains of the members opposite. Mr. Speaker, and other members, the Member for Roblin, who has brought to my attention the concerns of his RMs when it came to getting into the Saskeram area, pressure from that Member for Roblin saying, Mr. Minister, we need that hay. Our councils have made representation, we need that hay. And Mr. Speaker, what have we done? We have responded to the Member for Roblin. And they got the hay. They burned the bridges, Mr. Speaker, and we got the hay.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Gladstone, putting pressure on this government, suggesting that we had to get those wildlife management areas available for the farm community. And what have we seen, Mr. Speaker? We have seen action in that particular area. Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the members of this side of the House, the MLAs, for their input into recommending to me things that have to be done to alleviate the problems of the farm community during the dry conditions. And on ongoing long-term programs. Mr. Speaker, it would be my intention to have input from those same MLAs and from rural Manitoba to identify long-term water projects that will alleviate some of the short-term problems that we are now in. I think it's imperative that they be involved in the planning of the kind of water systems that we need.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say at this particular time, in replying to the grievance — and I think it's a matter I should conclude in this particular way — that I, and this government, appreciate and understand the seriousness of the problem, because we are, the majority of us are part of that particular problem. We are part of a problem and we are going to be as helpful and as constructive in the resolutions that have to be put in place to alleviate the hardships.

Mr. Speaker, we will be announcing further programs that will be, I'm sure, well received by the farm community; they are being well planned and put in place very shortly so that the farmers of Manitoba can produce the milk and the meat and the bread for this country. It will, Mr. Speaker, be put in place in time for those farmers to make their decisions on whether or not they feel that they should have to cull their livestock, or whether they should be in a position to continue to feed them over the period of the coming months.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are at a period of time where we would normally see haying take place. The members opposite have mentioned that the hay prices have increased and they are concerned about the movement of hay out of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the movement of hay in Manitoba, too; I am concerned that those people who have hay make it available to the farmers of Manitoba. But Mr. Speaker, I can't legislate that that take place, because I live in

Manitoba, I live in Canada. I would expect the people of Ontario — they have been very, I would say very receptive to our buying of hay in their country. They don't want to legislate us for moving the hay out of Ontario. Mr. Speaker, there could be people in Ontario that need something that we have, and we don't want to legislate that away from them.

Our involvement in buying of hay in Ontario will help the people of Ontario. I think we have to, as a Canadian people, we have to not continue to say we are Manitobans, or we are Saskatchewaners, we are farm people, Mr. Speaker. We have to work together to the betterment of all of Canada, and I think we can see that come right out of the farm community.

I believe that the future of Canada, that the co-operation that is needed within Canada will be led by the farm people of this nation. I've said it before and I'll say it again, that the strength of any nation is demonstrated in the strength of its agricultural community and people. Mr. Speaker, when we have times of drought as we've seen here today in this past few weeks, don't underestimate the strength of the farm community. We, as a government, are going to be there beside them to help them. We will do everything to alleviate the hardships that they may have to face, but Mr. Speaker, I'm sure they feel, as a part of this country, it is part of their responsibility to help themselves and work with us. We don't have all the answers, Mr. Speaker, we have asked for their advice, and we will continue to do that.

Anything within our power as a government will be done to save our farm community, the amounts of money that have to be put in, I'm sure will be used to the best advantage. Mr. Speaker, they are saying, quantify the amount of dollars that have to be put in. I want to say here today, on a sound plan to help the farm community, we can't say that there are any limits on the amounts of money that will be put in to save the farm community. Mr. Speaker, the importance of the agriculture community to Manitoba is certainly not underestimated by this government. The future plans that will be put in place will make sure that we come through this particular period of drought with people who are, I'm sure, closer and they are in a situation where they will go ahead and lead the way in food production for not only Manitoba and Canada, but for the world.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the member indicated that he would be willing to answer a question at the end of his comments, so I put to him two questions. One is, could he identify to us those burnt bridges that I know nothing about, Mr. Speaker. The other is, he talked about governments taking land away from people, and I don't know of any government that took land away from people. But I suspect he is referring to the ARDA programs which was started by the Conservative government of the '60s, and carried on with the government of the '70s, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder if that's what he is referring to. And if he is referring to that, that was a land reclamation and conservation program that he's talking about. There was no land taken away from anybody.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all, clarify the first one. If I referred to burning of bridges, it could have been that the bridges washed out, and it was just an expression. I will correct that. I did say, in the time that I was speaking, that I would check out just when the bridge went out. It could have been prior to their time, but if that's the case, we will find out, Mr. Speaker. But it should have been replaced during the eight years, and now we're having to go in and put in an accommodation to get in to make that hay available.

On the second question, Mr. Speaker, no, I would have to say that the Conservative government that introduced the ARDA program was another one of their foresighted programs and a good one to develop the interlake area, Mr. Speaker. I can refer to all those programs that were carried over from the Conservative government, but I have very few I can speak about that were carried over from the last administration in Manitoba. And it wasn't that particular program that I was referring to. What I was referring to was the 470,000-some acres that went into wildlife management areas that were taken from the people by the last government. Mr. Speaker, I can refer to the Land Lease Program, where lands were bought away, some 200,000 acres, over half-a-million acres that was put in government hands, which have to now be administered by government instead of letting the farm community administer it and handle it themselves. That, Mr. Speaker, is what I was referring to.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried, and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty, with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Economic Development.

SUPPLY — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This Committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to Page 36 of the Main Estimates, Department of Economic Development and Tourism. Resolution No. 48, Clause 2. Operations, Item is (g) Travel Manitoba, (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, in view of the short amount of time, I think I would like to begin with just a few points and save some other comments for this evening.

I want to ask the Minister about his efforts to attract tourism to the province. It seems to me that there is a double challenge at this particular time, that we are first of all looking at increasing Canadian tourism, including our own people, to encourage our own people to see their own province and spend some of their money here, and also especially in view of the fact that there is quite an adverse effect on the exchange rate. When one goes to the United States today the savings are no longer there, and the other area is to attract American tourists to Canada.

Just to mention the American scene first, I, personally, rarely go to the United States in terms of the summertime. I, like a lot of people, like to visit

spots in Manitoba at Clear Lake, Falcon Lake, and West Hawk Lake, and so on and so on, but I did, as a matter of fact, for the first time in at least ten years go to Fargo, like a lot of people, on the long weekend and it was certainly my impression that the old advantage of going to the States to buy some goods has disappeared, that when you compare some of the American prices and then you consider the exchange rate, that attraction and that magnet has gone. I think that, of course, can be played on, maybe not in direct language, but nevertheless is obviously known to the people of Winnipeg and the people of Manitoba.

It seems to me that, going back a couple of years, that the tourist department has failed to attract American tourists in a couple of very simple ways. Now I know that we have spent a great deal of money on brochures and on some pretty fancy television advertising, newspaper advertising and so on, but there are a couple of major selling points that I don't believe were either featured or properly hit in the past couple of years. And I go back to the former Minister and I now go to the present Minister, as well, namely that the exchange rate gives us a tremendous advantage in attracting people and, to me, should be heavily featured, prominently featured, in all our advertisements, so that when you can say to people that anything that they buy and any dollar that they spend on room and board, and gasoline, and everything else, that they are going to save 15 percent automatically, I think that is a powerful selling tool.

In addition, I wanted to mention the gasoline business. I mentioned this a year ago during estimates, and I don't know whether this is still as good a selling point. I just don't have the information as to whether or not there are any shortages in the United States at this time, and I am thinking especially of the Dakotas and Minnesota, etc., but if so, if we can make any favourable comparisons, then I think that, too, should be made, that there is ample gas and then again the 15 percent differential, which is to our advantage.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that one should be able to attract a greater number than normal of American visitors, and as I have already said, I think that we can also expect that there will be a decline in the number of Canadian tourists who are going south, because of the dollar differential.

I look with some alarm at articles as appeared last summer in the daily papers saying that, for example, when the Tribune in July, 1979, quote Emerson customs traffic down by 40 percent. I am just pointing out to the Minister that if his ads don't prominently display the dollar differential and the gas, if that is still a factor, then his advertising budget is not being properly utilized. I might point out that this declining tourism has been a problem going back at least to 1978, when we were told that in the first part of the year and so on that figures were down from previous years.

The other point I want to make is that we are going to have to compete against a couple of pulls from the west and the east. Minaki, which I regard as practically a part of Manitoba, however isn't in Manitoba; I think some of us have a softer spot in our heart for that resort, which is an incredibly beautiful and first-rate facility, but the Ontario Government

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has poured millions and millions and millions of dollars into it. They are still going to pour millions into it, and I don't think it is going to be ready in terms of "Open for Business" for a few more years. But right on our border, of course, we have Minaki Lodge, soon to be revived and, of course, we have the pull from Kenora, and areas like that.

On the other side of the province, to the west, we are under a barrage of anniversaries. I am trying to think now what anniversary it is — the 75th Anniversary of Saskatchewan and Alberta. There is, of course, tremendous promotions and I suppose we will be seeing an ever-increasing amount in terms of radio-television and the press and so on, to attract people to the other prairie provinces at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I have sent away for some of these materials and they are making detailed appeals to former residents, to relatives of residents; there is all sorts of activities planned for Alberta and Saskatchewan.

I have one brochure, for example, here from Alberta, which features events and cultural activities. I am glad to see the use of the word "culture". It is featuring the symphony and their ballet company and their Theatre Francais, in fact, from the Citadel appearing in Edmonton, and so on and so on. They are providing their people will all kinds of mailings and postcards and brochures. They are providing people with sort of letters or sort of cards that you can write in, promotional buttons and banners, etc.

Saskatchewan, the same appeal. In fact, I am just looking at the Saskatchewan book here and I notice their Minister of Tourism is Reg Grose. That is interesting, I don't know if that is any relation to Rex, but it certainly sounds like a familiar name in Manitoba. —(Interjection) No, this is Saskatchewan, and a New Democrat to boot.

I simply say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has a natural advantage this year in that the exchange rate should attract American tourists and should keep Manitobans and Canadians in Canada. At the same time, however, I point out that he is getting this pull from the west, he has got a lot of strong competition, greater than ever, and maybe he could tell us just what he is doing to exploit and to benefit from the American situation, and what he is doing to counter the attractions from the rest of the prairie provinces at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):

Mr. Chairman, I will try to briefly say under Salaries we have 44 people, 44.21 in the department, and 5 in Destination Manitoba, which makes a total of 49.21 people. Under the item of the attractions that he's speaking of and the advantages that we have, I'd like to show the honourable member just what has happened in tourism in the province of Manitoba when he speaks about the graphs. It's very clear, Mr. Chairman, that the amount of money spent, starting in 1970, moved down in 1972, up in 1973-74, and from 1974 on the government chose not to spend too much money on tourism and dropped it right down to here in 1978.

Mr. Chairman, the relation of people coming to the province is very very much related to the amount of money you spend, because the amount of money

that was spent went up in 1974 and then dropped in 1978, and the number of people that came to the province, visitors to Manitoba, went up from 1970 to 1974 and when they stopped spending money it went right down to its low period of 1978. In 1978 our tourist business started to increase as we started to spend more money on promotion. It doesn't take much of a complicated equation to figure out that the promotion directly relates to your number of visitors; from 1974 to 1978, the money dropped, the people dropped. I can supply the honourable member with one of those graphs if he so pleases.

We are advertising in United States. Our advertising in United States is this year we will be spending 261,000. It will be in the area of electric media but mainly in the area of ads in the papers. Our copies don't make a very large indication that the American dollar is worth more than the Canadian dollar, but we do, in our copy, stress the value of the US dollar. The value you receive in Canada for your US dollar and the availability of fuel is also stressed in our ads. All our ads are available if they are required.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, the Fargo and Grand Forks Retail Business and Hotel report Canadian business down 20 percent this year, which only proves that what is happening this year is the same that happened last year: Manitobans are travelling more in Manitoba.

The income that we have from tourism, totalled, Manitoba travellers and American travellers, is around 300 million. It is our fourth largest industry at the present time.

This year the Minister, the Honourable Mr. Grose, from Saskatchewan, visited here when the Rendezvous promotion was on, or convention was on in Manitoba. It was sponsored by the two provinces. He showed a film on his province about coming home. We played up our province with our film that we have, and we, Mr. Chairman, don't have a celebration going on such as they do in the other provinces but we estimate a good fall-off in Manitoba as people are going across the country on their holidays to their homecomings and carrying on with their holidays, and we expect and have seen many people in Manitoba from Canada who have been travelling back and forth. We do have a car-counting procedure at the present time. The advertising in the States was increased this year to Illinois and Wisconsin, mainly because of the surveys that we had done regarding the traffic in Manitoba in the previous year.

Mr. Chairman, the budget for tourism marketing this year is with media advertising, promotion, creative services and travel information services will be 1,556,000; 857,000 in media; 206,300 in promotion; creative services will be 310,000; and of course the travel information services will be 154,000.00. That, Mr. Chairman, is an increase of 214,000 this year.

Tourism is regarded by the government as one that can increase and, as a matter of fact, our hotels on many many — and I stress that — occasions this year in Brandon and Manitoba have been very full throughout the recreation areas of the province. They have had times when they couldn't take any more, and our northern lodges at the present time are doing exceptionally well. I was in Minneapolis when

they had the Sportsman Show, with many of our northern lodgers who put up displays there, and they had bookings for the whole year. I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that our advertising is directed into that area. It is directed across Canada. We expanded this year, hopefully to catch the business that the honourable member is talking about to BC, Alberta, Quebec and a small amount of the Maritimes, with mainly newspaper advertising.

I can say to the gentlemen opposite that the amount of money has been increased over last year. We expect, we are projecting, Mr. Chairman, an increase in visitors to Manitoba or other Canadians of about 5.7. This is other Canadians. We are expecting an increase of American visitors of approximately 2 percent, and we are expecting in foreign visitors 10 percent, for a total of 4.6 increase in tourism in the province of Manitoba this year. We expect to see the visitors spending increased by a total of approximately — well 11.2 percent is the estimate. That has been done on the projections, Mr. Chairman, of last year as far as American visitors were concerned. We had a drop mainly because of the flood in the Red River Valley and certainly because of the energy problems — I wouldn't say crisis — in United States last year. We haven't heard as much from the United States that there is a shortage. If members will recall, last year they were advertising a shortage.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour is 4:30. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour, and this committee will resume at 8 o'clock this evening.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. At this time, I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my right, where we have 27 students of Grade 6 standing from Winnipegosis Elementary School under the direction of Mr. Sirediuk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING PUBLIC BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: On Thursday's Private Members' Hour, the first item of business is public bills, followed by private bills.

BILL NO. 40 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE LABOUR RELATIONS ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The first item on the Order Paper today in Bill No. 40, An Act to amend The Labour Relations Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this bill for the Minister of Labour and I understand that he doesn't want to speak on it, so if

anyone else wishes to they may, otherwise we'll go on to committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on this legislation, and I'll start off by saying we are against it. We have had this before with the Plymouth Brethren. This government is not noted for its good feeling or good relations to labour. The present Minister of Labour is very unpopular with labour and the former one, of course, much more so.

The MFL accused this government of introducing back-to-work. This government, Mr. Speaker, is definitely in favour of this type of legislation. A few years ago we had a meeting with the Plymouth Brethren and they followed the same tactics as autopac. They brought children, friends, and packed the hall for the emotional impact on the committee. It was a lively committee and we agreed that the problems would be handled by the union. I think we gave, although I didn't agree with it, but we gave in to a certain extent to this type of person who doesn't want to pay union dues.

They believe, Mr. Speaker, in the master and servant relationship, and that's a religious belief. Religious beliefs, Mr. Speaker, are sometimes wrong, sometimes absurd. I refer to the Jehovah Witnesses, who don't believe in blood transfusions, and how many people have suffered and even died because of this belief. It is believed by people that the earth is flat, and they are welcome to those beliefs. But, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if they remember the older people of the era before we had unions at all. Do they remember when the children worked in the cotton mills in Manchester at six years old, in damp cold buildings with no windows. The windows were a liability, not because of the air and the sun but because of distraction to the workers. They never saw daylight for months, Mr. Speaker. And children at the age of nine, and this happened at Springhill, worked the coal mines; 10 hour shifts with no light; went home at night and slept or rested for the next shift; no compensation, Mr. Speaker. If they got hurt they just did without, depending on the generosity of their neighbours in those days. These were the good old days.

It was my fate or my destiny to work in a coal mine at the age of 14. Had I went through school, that was the limit. A company town, Mr. Speaker, a town where everything was owned by the company, the houses, the store, where you never quite got out of debt; where a man's life, Mr. Speaker, had about the same value as a shovel. These were the good old days, and I hope they never ever come back. To appreciate the efforts of the men who sacrificed their health, and sometimes their lives to make the lives of the labourer more tolerable.

Mr. Speaker, they speak of strikes, they speak of the power of the large unions. It is true, we have strikes, we'll always have strikes, and I honestly believe that every man has the right to withdraw his labour, regardless of who he is or what he does. Do these people, Mr. Speaker, appreciate the eight-hour day, compared to 12, 16 hours? Do they appreciate the compensation benefits, the sick and the welfare

plans; do they appreciate the paid holidays, the job security, the coffee breaks and collective bargaining, where a man has a right to stand up and bargain for what he thinks or knows is his rights? To receive all these benefits but are unwilling to pay.

Mr. Speaker, these people were willing to accept so much and give so little. Actually, nothing. And they are now going to pay for it, they're as phony as a 3.00 bill. There should be no legislation, no man in this House should even think of passing legislation so they wouldn't be compelled to pay, or not to pay, rather, union dues.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation to me, is the worst kind of legislation, and I'll definitely do all in my power to defeat it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Johns, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The next bill is Bill No. 44, An Act to amend The Medical Act, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand).

Bill No. 69, An Act to amend The Fatality Inquiries Act (2), (Stand) and Bill No. 71, An Act to amend The Social Allowances Act (2), (Stand). (Both standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Roblin.)

SECOND READING — PUBLIC BILLS

BILL NO. 62 — THE PHARMACEUTICAL ACT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to speak on the principles of the Pharmaceutical Bill. The Pharmaceutical Act was initiated to bring about the updating of the statute and remove some . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Has the honourable member a motion?

MR. KOVNATS: It was hidden under my ashtray, Mr. Speaker.

MR. KOVNATS presented Bill No. 62, The Pharmaceutical Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, the Pharmaceutical Act was initiated to bring about the updating of the statute and remove some of the anomalies in the old Act. The existing Pharmaceutical Act has remained largely unchanged and unamended for more than 20 years. This act is designed to reflect the fact that the pharmacist is a health professional, and it conforms with the general principles that prevail in this type of health act.

The act also recognizes that the pharmacist carries on a retail business, serving the public, and therefore some of the provisions of the act must direct themselves to the manner in which such businesses are carried on. This act recognizes that public interest and public concern must be viewed with favour in proposing two non-professionals be appointed to the council of the Pharmaceutical Association. This would allow the public, the people of the province of Manitoba, to be represented on the governing bodies of self-governing professions. These lay persons will be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, by Order-in-Council.

The appointment of lay persons has worked well in other professions. The Council may make by-laws, not inconsistent with this Act. It provides the Council with the power to impose money penalties by by-law. These by-laws must be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor by Order-in-Council.

This bill will provide lay representation on the disciplinary committee dealing with offences against the act or by-laws. The new bill will provide for an appeal from the findings of the disciplinary committee, through the council and through Queen's Bench. Complaint procedures will follow in the same system, allowing the general public a course to be followed to have their complaints reviewed. In the past, there was no mechanism by which members of the public could complain against members of the association.

This act also recognizes that pharmacists must be residents of Canada, and some other restrictive clauses of the old act have been removed. Being a British subject has been deleted. Detailed qualifications of pharmacists are listed.

This act also provides for the mechanism for appeal of the registrar through the council and Queen's Bench.

In a greater effort to protect the public, this act provides for examination of pharmacists who have ceased to be licensed for periods of greater than three years. With our changing times and new drugs and methods coming on the market regularly, this will ensure that pharmacists keep up with the times.

Under penalties and prosecutions, the scale of fines has been increased to be in line with present day prices caused by inflation. These are penalties the judge may impose against the public or a pharmacist for breach of the act or regulations. The council has the right to cancel a licence for failure to observe proper pharmaceutical practice.

Mr. Speaker, the passing of this act will further ensure protection of the public and the upgrading of the pharmaceutical profession.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: If the honourable member would permit a question, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask him whether the Act anywhere provides for absolute liability insurance to be carried by members of this profession or the governing licensing society.

MR. RADISSON: I have read the act, and I can't say that it does provide for that type of insurance.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

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

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 63 — THE MEDICAL ACT

MR. GARY FILMON (River Heights) presented Bill No. 63, The Medical Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, The Medical Act has been redrafted with three main objects, firstly to improve the College of Physicians and Surgeon's effectiveness in assuring the public that it receives the appropriate standards of care from medical practitioners; secondly, Mr. Speaker, to assure that applicants for registration and registered practitioners receive just and fair treatment in dealings with the college; thirdly, to arrange the format of The Medical Act into a logical manner incorporating government guidelines so that it is easier to understand and to compare with other health profession acts.

There are four major changes which depend on the passage of this act. Firstly, all decisions of the Executive Committee with respect to registration, enquiries, discipline, or suspension, and enrolment on a specialist register, may be appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench by any aggrieved party that is, either the doctor or the complainant. At the present time, as members are aware, only a doctor who has been found guilty at an enquiry may lodge an appeal. Secondly, four lay members are to be added to the governing body of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is known as the council. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, the post of Investigating Chairman is established. This allows the College to subpoena where indicated, matters necessary to appropriately investigate complaints to determine whether a formal enquiry is indicated. At present, matters or persons may only be subpoenaed before the inquiry itself. This allows for an intermediate step, before which any matter, complaint or otherwise, need be taken to a full blown inquiry.

Fourthly, Mr. Speaker, the power is provided in this act for the establishment of standards of continuing medical education by regulation, subject to approval by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. It is not intended, at the present time, to bring in mandatory continuing medical education immediately, rather, voluntary compliance will be used for a period of two years, and subject to the experience of the College in the voluntary compliance with the continuing medical education requirements, such regulations may or may not be asked for, for approval by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. However, a standard would be passed as a regulation under this portion of the act providing for

the listing of compliance with the standards in the register, which is open to the public.

The remaining changes brought forward in this act formalize in legislation present practices which are carried out under rules or policies by the College at the present time, including such matters as, firstly, the specialist register, this is currently kept, and it affects the public recognition of the special skills and competencies of physicians, and it also is, of course, of concern for the MHSC in their payments to the physicians.

Secondly, the educational register, and I repeat that these are items that are currently carried on by the College, but the educational register is now formalized in legislation; thirdly, registration is defined by this act according to training and experience, a matter which is currently being done but not in the legislation under which the medical profession operates.

Fourthly, the Standards Committee, which audits standards of practice and extends those audits from hospitals to office practices, again, current practice but being formalized in legislation. Fifthly, the Program Review Committee, which establishes statements of standards, serves as a consultant on these matters to hospitals and to the MHSC, is formalized in the legislation, the complaints committee, likewise, also the procedure for filling vacancies to the council by by-election is now established in this Act, and finally the issuance of an annual licence as defined and specified in this Act.

With that brief introduction, Mr. Speaker, I commend the bill to members' attention today.

Thank you.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the Member for River Heights would submit to a couple of questions.

MR. FILMON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering whether the member will agree with my interpretation that the bill does provide for appeal on the evidence, as it appears before the council in camera, and does not provide for trial de nouveau. If my interpretation is right, does he agree with that limitation that the court is not given the opportunity to hear the evidence itself or any other evidence before arriving at its conclusion on an appeal?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, not being a lawyer, as the Honourable Member for St. Johns is, I am not sure of all of his terminology, the trial de nouveau, etc., but I would say that it wasn't my understanding that was the case. My understanding was that all matters are appealable, but if it is an interpretation merely of the decision rather than an opportunity to view all the evidence, that was not my interpretation, but that is something that I can clarify.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you. The second question is: Would the honourable member comment on the

interpretation that regardless of the stated intentions of the college, the Act provides that they shall have power immediately to introduce mandatory continuing education, and if I am right, would the member then agree that is really academic as to what they say they are going to do, the legislation that is being proposed does provide for mandatory continuing education . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Order please. I suggest the honourable member may be debating on the bill, rather than seeking information.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, thank you for your suggestion. May I point out that I will be making a speech, I assure you, but I am asking the honourable member as to whether he agrees that in spite of what he said as to the intention, the fact is his bill, I believe, does provide for mandatory continuing education. If I am right, Mr. Speaker, then I think the honourable member would not like to mislead us into going down the path of believing that it would be voluntary, when in effect we are dealing with a mandatory bill.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you don't want to allow the question, that is up to you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, the member is quite correct. The bill does provide the ability for the legislation to be passed. The regulation, of course, is subject to passage by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Therefore, it may or may not be passed, but the Bill enables that regulation to be passed and the two-year test of voluntary compliance is simply a matter that the college is concerned about and wishes to have that before it proceeds to ask for the passage of the regulations; but you are right, the bill does enable that to be done right from the time of passage of the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Mr. Speaker, if the member would permit one final question, I would ask whether this Act requires the college to carry absolute liability insurance in order to protect the interests of persons negligently treated by its members?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that it does.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

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

MOTION presented and carried.

BILL NO. 65 THE REGISTERED NURSES ACT

MR. FILMON presented Bill No. 65, The Registered Nurses Act, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In introducing Bill No. 65, The Registered Nurses Act, may I say that firstly it is being submitted for three major reasons: Firstly, to update the provisions of the current Act to reflect current values and needs of society in the 1980s; secondly, to remove inconsistencies and lack of clarity which exists in the wording the present Act; and thirdly, to maintain the rights and responsibilities currently assumed by the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses, the objectives of which are to serve the best interests of the public.

Highlights of the Act, Mr. Speaker, include the description of nursing practice or the practice of nursing as carrying out those functions which have as their objective the promotion of health, prevention of illness, alleviation of suffering, restoration of health, and maximum development of health potential. Such practice is described as including collecting data related to health status of an individual or group, interpreting data and arriving at a nursing diagnosis, setting care goals, determining nursing approaches, implementing care, assessing outcomes and revising plans.

Secondly, the proposed Act provides a clear means of protecting the public from those person not qualified to engage in the field by setting education and experience standards for membership by restricting the use of term "registered nurse" to persons holding membership in the Association and listed on the roster; by imposing penalties on persons improperly calling themselves registered nurses; by requiring employers to insure that persons they employ are in fact registered; by imposing continuing education requirements as a condition of membership; by providing for a process of review of the qualifications and performance of members; and by providing a mechanism for excluding a person from membership who is found incapable. There is, of course, a due process of appeal provided for in the Act.

Thirdly, the proposed legislation is written so as to be understandable to the public, so that they may understand their rights and the protection provided for them under this Act.

Fourthly, the proposed self-governing legislation relates solely to the licensing and quality of professional conduct and does not include provisions for furthering the economic goals of the membership. Members are probably well aware that those functions and responsibilities fall under the parameters of the organization know as MONA, Manitoba Organization of Nursing — I am sorry I have forgotten, but MONA is the euphemism for the group that is interested in the economic goals. This is the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses, who are governed by this Act, and they are interested in the quality of professional conduct.

Fifthly, the legislation requires that regulations be subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, and thus would be published in the Manitoba Gazette, available for public perusal.

Sixth, the legislation requires the Board of the Association to develop, establish, and maintain standards of professional ethics among its members. The legislation does not, however, require that a code of ethics be developed and made public. As well the legislation provides for a review mechanism to enable individual practitioners to appeal a decision with respect to registration and disciplinary matters. Any person may file a complaint against a member.

The proposed legislation clearly outlines procedures for each step of the appeal process, outlining time limits, conduct of investigation, action which may be taken by the appeal body, and requires notification in writing of the decision within a specified time. There is also provision for the participation of lay persons on the Board, the Complaints Committee and the Discipline Committee.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the legislation proposed transfers to the regulations such items as educational standards, reciprocity, and portability of credentials, accountability, continuing education and such regulations are all subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

I commend this Act to the approval of the members of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING — PRIVATE BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: We will move on to Adjourned Debates on Second Reading of Private Bills. Bill No. 30 standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand.)

BILL NO. 54 — AN ACT TO GRANT ADDITIONAL POWER TO CHARLESWOOD CURLING CLUB LTD.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 54 — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned this debate on behalf of the Honourable Member for St. Johns.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to start talking about entrenchment in the Constitution and I assure you I am talking about this Bill, so hear me out for a little bit and then you can decide.,

Mr. Speaker, we hear discussions on entrenchment of the rights of people into our Constitution, and there are members opposite, and I am looking at the former House Leader, the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs, who has made important speeches

about rights, Bills of Rights, and that, and the fact that our system is such as to provide protection — I am not quoting him, I am talking generally, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be called to task by him. I am not quoting him, but the idea has been presented and argued vociferously that our system protects people and that it is a good system and it doesn't need entrenchment in the constitution for the protection of individuals.

I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me a moment ago, that I would like to have Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights here to refer to, but I don't have it in hand yet, I may yet have it.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking here about what? An Act to grant additional powers to Charleswood Curling Club Limited. It seems to be just a routine sort of a matter to deal with. It is a club, they want to deal with their membership in a certain way, and why not?

Mr. Speaker, last year we debated a golf club and I raised a principle involved and honourable members opposite thought that I was making too much of an issue of it, and I was making an issue of much lesser consequence than I am going to speak about now, Mr. Speaker, because last year we were dealing with a club which was incorporated by the Legislature in years gone by and which was a non-profit organization operating for the benefit of its members.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I call to your attention the preamble to this Bill and it says, WHEREAS Charleswood Curling Club Ltd. was incorporated under the laws of Manitoba by Letters Patent dated April 17, 1946. Mr. Speaker, it was not created by an Act of this Legislature, it was created in the usual way under The Companies Act of the time by Letters Patent with shareholdings, Mr. Speaker. There were, I think I know somewhere what the authorized shares are, and the number of issued shares — authorized 800 shares, issued and fully paid 434 shares. Mr. Speaker, we know very well that people who own shares in the company have a right to share in the assets of the company, and this is a company, just like any other company, like Investors Syndicate would be; no, I am sorry, that is wrong, like any corporation that you see operating in the city in the normal course that applies for a charter, gets a charter through The Companies Act, and proceeds to do business for profit. That profit involves the fact that the owners of the shares have certain rights. Now, the next item, the next paragraph on the preamble is therefore very important. Here we are dealing with some 400 odd shareholders who own, together own the company and the assets of the company, and what do we find? Second paragraph of the preamble, "and whereas the shareholders of the corporation at a special general meeting called for the purpose, have authorized and instructed the directors thereof to apply to the Legislature" — I pause, Mr. Speaker, to say why apply to the Legislature? Well the balance of the preamble tells you why — "to obtain extraordinary powers for the corporation beyond those powers as granted under the laws of Manitoba."

Mr. Speaker, we are being asked here to give powers to the directors and the shareholders of a company, to have such extraordinary powers as are

beyond those which are granted under the laws of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, shouldn't we pause? Shouldn't we stop and consider what is wanted here? Here is a company, a regular business operation, which now says to the Legislature, we were incorporated under The Routine Companies Act but we want to come here. Why? Because nowhere can we get powers under the laws of Manitoba unless you pass a special act which will give us such extraordinary powers. So, Mr. Speaker, we are now the Legislature, and now I harken back to entrenchment. I'm sorry I don't have the Diefenbaker Bill of Rights — I call it Diefenbaker because he dedicated a good deal of his effort and energy in that Bill of Rights, so I give him credit for it — where certain rights are spelled out. I would have liked to have had it here to deal with, but it's unimportant in the sense that we know what we are talking about.

We are talking about a limited company, a company incorporated for profit, which is now asking for special powers, and now I go back to entrenchment of rights under a constitution. One of the rights, I should think, would be that any individual will not be dealt with in any way that is contrary to the principles of our society. In this case, the system we operate under recognizes ownership of certain assets. And what we are asked to do in this bill is to confiscate certain assets from an individual. Not expropriate, expropriate involves payments in return, but, Mr. Speaker, we are not really doing that. In this case we are taking it away — taking it away, not paying anything for it, but just taking away shares. That is the extraordinary power that is being requested.

Mr. Speaker, I give due credit to our page and to the librarian in the legislative library, because I now do have the federal Bill of Rights before me, passed in August of 1960, and the very first item reads, "It is hereby recognized and declared that in Canada there have existed and shall continue to exist without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, color, religion, or sex, the following human rights and fundamental freedoms, namely, (a) The right of the individual to life, liberty, security of the person, and enjoyment of property and the right not to be deprived thereof except by due process of law."

In this case, Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with right of the individual to enjoyment of property of which he cannot be deprived except by due process of law. This is the law that is being proposed for us to deprive him of the rights set out in that Bill of Rights, Mr. Speaker.

Now, what is the real purpose behind this? The real purpose is perfectly legitimate and perfectly understandable, Mr. Speaker. Here is a club with some 434 shares, the club having been incorporated back — I gave the date — 1946, some 34 years ago, and by now most of the members, the shareholders, are not around, they don't know where they are. They have moved, they may have died, they may have left the province, to the extent, Mr. Speaker, that when they sent out a notice to all shareholders for the meeting that we are dealing with now, that 24 shareholders attended in person; 24 out of some 400 aught plus shareholders, and that's understandable. The club, through all the years, has been operating as a curling club, has been carrying on the various

activities of recreational activities of the club, but gradually they've been losing members. And now they find that they are in an awkward position because they can't get their members in order to do the kind of business they would like to carry on and they want more members to come in. So what they say is well, if a share costs 25 and we can't find the shareholder, let's impose a — I would call it a tax or dues, or I guess they have another name for it — an assessment of 5 a year, and in five years time the shares will have 25 owing by them, they cost 25, then we want the right to just wash out the share, just get rid of it.

It seems reasonable, Mr. Speaker. But let me bring to your attention that the subscribed capital of this company is 10,850, that's 25 a share for 434 shares. I didn't do arithmetic, but I assume its right. I am told by the solicitor for the company that the replacement value, the insurance or the replacement value of the building, chattels, and equipment and curling stones, is approximately 660,000 for insurance purposes - 660,000. And I am told unofficially that the land is probably worth 100,000, setting everything else aside. Let's assume it's only worth 100,000. Picture, Mr. Speaker, what happens when and if this property is expropriated by the municipality, and they pay whatever should be paid, let's say 100,000.00. Let's not say 600,000 although that is the — it's insured for over that — but let's say 100,000 and then that company has 100,000 in cash in the bank and the shareholders have paid in a total of 10,000 for that. Now we know that shares worth nominally 10,000 are worth actually 100,000 to 600,000, depending on what the true value is.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember this is a private company owned by it's shareholders for profit, and they have every right in the world to wind up the company, distribute the shares amongst the existing shareholders — and distribute the money, I'm sorry — amongst the existing shareholders on a share basis, proportional basis. Now we find a share that costs 25 might be worth 250 on a distribution, might be worth 1,000 and more depending on the true value.

Mr. Speaker, I have had occasion to talk to the president of this club, who happens to be a person of the highest repute and a person for whom I have very great regard. His name is Alex Lawrence. He's a lawyer. He was in law school ahead of me, and in all my dealings with him throughout 40 plus years, I have found him to be absolutely honourable. He says he cannot really believe that somebody — the shareholders — would wind up the company and distribute the assets to their personal advantage, because indeed they would have the power so to do, but he doesn't think they would do it.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, I've discussed this proposal with him, with their solicitor, with the member who introduced the bill and with others, and there is agreement that it is quite possible for anybody to get a hold of these shares. And once they get hold of the shares, they run that company, they control it. They can wind it up. Now, Mr. Lawrence said to me what happens now if there is an expropriation or a sale and we end up with money, we would want to build another curling club. I said, by all means, but what would happen if whoever owns the company, that is whoever owns 51 percent

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of the company, that's all they need, 51 percent of the voting shares, or less, say 51 percent of shares of those people who attend, could then wind up the company, distribute the sale proceeds amongst themselves and there is a terrible attraction so to do.

My proposal to all these people to whom I spoke, Mr. Chairman, after having discussed this with Mr. Tallin, the legislative council, was to bring in an amendment which he prepared for me, which reads as follows, to add a section that reads as follows: Upon dissolution of the corporation, property remaining after paying all the debts and obligations of the corporation shall be paid to an organization in Manitoba, the undertaking of which is charitable or beneficial to the community — my idea being, Mr. Speaker, that eventually this company will be dissolved and the assets, whatever they are worth, I believe should not be distributed to the members then of that time, but really should be turned back to the community to be used in such a way as the then shareholders would agree because they would give it to that organization; that it either be charitable in purpose or be beneficial to the community, for recreational purposes or anything else, Mr. Speaker. I thought this was eminently reasonable and I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that no one to whom I spoke disagreed with the reasonableness of my proposed amendment.

The problem is, as Mr. Lawrence explained it to me, that they are not going to have a meeting of shareholders for some period of time, and he would like to submit this to shareholders in order to have them formally approve, because as a honourable person he doesn't want to take the responsibility on himself to say, sure, bring your amendment in committee. So, I said look, I can bring it into committee anyway, then what? Are you going to instruct the mover of the motion to vote against the amendment? He said I don't know what I will do, but I won't have the authority. So I said, well, all right, we're in the Legislature. It'll go to committee. I will bring this amendment to committee, then it's up to the committee to vote and subsequently the Legislature, to vote on the reasonableness of my proposal, that only when the club has no other business to transact and has a pile of money, that that money shall be paid to an organization in Manitoba which is charitable or beneficial to the community and that would be done by that very organization before it winds up. And I said to Mr. Lawrence, then it will be up to members of the Legislature to decide what is fair and reasonable. And that's the way it stands because, Mr. Speaker, otherwise this Legislature would be giving a power which is in direct conflict, in my opinion, with the Canadian Bill of Rights, which is opposed to all principles in which I think British justice is established, that you don't confiscate for the benefit of another individual, that therefore peoples' rights are protected.

Mr. Speaker, I will, of course, not object to the passing of this. My thought was either move a six-month hoist in order to give them an opportunity to hold a meeting or, on the other hand, to let it pass into committee, propose this in committee and rely on the conscience of the members to see whether or not they agreed with this kind of confiscatory powers

which are given to a shareholding company, a company operated for shares.

Mr. Speaker, I just can't help but recall the discussion that took place when we brought in The Mineral Acreage Tax Act which was confiscatory in the sense of any taxation where the taxes are not paid, then they lose their rights. My, the screaming that went on from the Conservative group about that confiscation. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is confiscation blatant and open and I don't say it to the discredit of any of the members. I am sure it is not their intention to do that and as I say, speaking to every person to whom I spoke, they all agreed that my proposed amendment was sensible, reasonable, and protects the rights of the individual.

However, apparently they have not yet approved of it. Eventually, the Member for River . . . for Crescentwood, I'm sorry, I think I referred to him wrongly before, but the Member for Crescentwood will close debate, and may hold the bill until he gets such authority to speak on behalf of the Club. But whether or not he does, it would be my intention, in committee, to move the amendment that I read out to you, which I believe protects the rights of the individual, and then it will be up to the Legislature, the committee first and then the Legislature, to decide whether or not it is correct, that we, as legislators, do protect the rights and property of an individual and not pass legislation which is abhorrent to that principle.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood will be closing debate.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of order, if you would, in consultations with the Minister of Resources, we have a resolution which we would like to introduce. It does require unanimous consent, and we would like to do it, of course, before 5:30, because we'll be going into committee at 8:00 o'clock and wouldn't have another opportunity today, and in view of the acute time situation, it's important . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Is there unanimous consent?
The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, just so that we understand what we're giving unanimous consent to, my understanding is that the motion will be read, two sentences will be uttered by the Minister of Natural Resources in response thereto, and the motion will be dealt with. Is that correct?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the time exigency, that's all that would be permitted under the time situation. That is certainly in line with what the Minister of Resources and myself have indicated. It may be that other members want to participate in the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, is there unanimous consent to introduce this resolution?

Order please. The Honourable Member for Crescentwood on a point of order.

MR. WARREN STEEN: Perhaps then I could stand Bill 54 in my name then and keep it for another date.

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I would like to take a few minutes and speak, so I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for River Heights that Bill 54 be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried and the House accordingly adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning (Friday).

MOTION presented and carried.

RESOLUTION — GARRISON DIVERSION

MR. SPEAKER: Now we're under another item of business.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose that:

WHEREAS there is an appropriation for the Garrison Diversion project now before the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS the completion of the project, as currently authorized, would result in inter-basin transfer of foreign fish species, diseases and parasites from the Missouri Drainage basin into the Hudson Bay drainage basin; and

WHEREAS the International Joint Commission has stated that such transfer is a concern overriding everything else, and recommended that the Garrison project not go ahead until this danger has been eliminated; and

WHEREAS the Manitoba government, under two administrations, has consistently opposed the authorized project, sought to protect Manitoba's interests through co-operation with the government of Canada, through direct representation to the United States Senators and Congressmen;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House support the action of the Manitoba government, calls upon the government of Canada to take whatever action is necessary to prevent the expenditure of further funds in the Garrison Diversion project until such time as the outstanding bilateral issues relating to this project are resolved.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I just would like to point out that this issue has not been, and is not now, a partisan issue. I'm sure that all Manitobans would share in the sentiment that's expressed in this resolution. We appreciate the expression of support that is in this resolution, and I believe that the passage of it would be a positive step and I would urge unanimous support for the resolution.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, that this House do now adjourn and resume in Committee of Supply at 8:00 o'clock.