



Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

28 Elizabeth II

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

February 16, 1979

Time: 10:00 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): O Eternal and Almighty God from Whom all power and wisdom come; we are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our Province; grant O Merciful God, we pray Thee, that we may desire only that which is in accordance with Thy Will; that we may seek it with wisdom and know it with certainty and accomplish it perfectly for the Glory and Honour of Thy name and for the welfare of all our people. Amen.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Meer for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Your Standing Committee on Public Accounts first met on November 24, 1978 and commenced examination of the Report of the Provincial Auditor for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1978. Mr. Parasiuk submitted his resignation as a member of the Committee and was replaced by the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mr. Schreyer. Your Committee met again on December 15, 1978 and accepted the re-appointment of Mr. Parasiuk as a member of the Committee vice Mr. Schreyer who had submitted his resignation as an MLA. A further meeting of the Committee was held on February 2, 1979.

Having received all information requested by any member on matters arising from his report, or assurance by the Provincial Auditor that requested information would be provided, the Report of the Provincial Auditor for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1978 was adopted.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise you, Sir, and members of the House that the simulated rose on everybody's desk is representative of the Manitoba Heart Fund Drive and a reminder to Help Your Heart Fund Help Your Heart.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement with respect to the Business of the House and advise honourable members that agreement has been reached to adjourn the House Tuesday afternoon in order to proceed to the Brandon Winter Games. The Manitoba Winter Games, I am informed. I'll get it right yet. That's perhaps an indication of my lack of participation.

The buses will be leaving the Legislative Building at 3:45. A schedule has been prepared by the Minister of Fitness, Recreation and Sport and will be distributed to members some time this morning.

I would ask that honourable members would notify the Minister's office if they intend to leave for Brandon so that he'll have some idea of how many people are leaving and how many from each family will be going.

Any further information with respect to the matter, I think, can be answered by the Minister of Fitness, Recreation and Sport, who is in charge of the arrangements.

The House will be sitting Tuesday morning, adjourning for the afternoon and then Wednesday the House will be sitting as it normally does Wednesday afternoon and Wednesday evening from 8:00 till 10:00.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I did tell my honourable friend that I would certainly convey that to my colleagues as being a reasonable proposal. I believe that it would be necessary to have unanimous consent, I expect that it would be forthcoming. I was not able to meet with the caucus, as a caucus, prior to this morning's meeting, but I think that I can tell the honourable member that I consider that meeting Wednesday, as a full day, in place of Tuesday is a reasonable request and it has been my impression that our group has always been prepared to accede to reasonable requests.

MR. JORGENSON: Then perhaps, Mr. Speaker, in order to clarify the matter, once and for all, you might ask the House if there is unanimous consent for the House to sit Wednesday night.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, it is very likely that that will be forthcoming. If the honourable member wants to put the question to 22 individuals and deal with in that way then he runs his risks. I am telling him that it is most likely that that will be forthcoming. I will be able to advise him of it certainly by Monday morning, and I expect that there will be no difficulty, but if he puts the question to the 22 members of the opposition I don't know what response he will get.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER, Attorney-General (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Section 11 of the Regulations Act, I wish to table one copy of each regulation made since the last report to the Legislature in being Regulations 23/78 to 246/78 inclusive, and Regulations 1/79 to 24/79 inclusive.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Premier (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker' I wish to lay on the table of the House the report of the Electoral Divisions Boundary Commission (1978).

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

Before we go into the Oral Questions I would like to, at this time, welcome to the Legislative Gallery 60 students from the Ruth Hooker School of Selkirk. On behalf of all the honourable members we welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister in connection with the review of Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, as outlined in the Throne Speech. I ask the First Minister if he would indicate to this House as to who will be in charge of the review of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, when is that review to be commenced and what are the terms of reference of the review?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: MR. Speaker, before responding to my colleague the Leader of the Opposition, may I take this opportunity to welcome him in his new seat in the Legislature, to wish him that conservative and reserved degree of success that we will hope he will have in that position, and to hope that he will long sit in that seat after many many elections.

Now, in response to his question, I believe it was with respect to the review, all of the information that he has asked in the question will be forthcoming in due course.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question to the First Minister. In connection with the offer by the federal government to provide \$5 million grant towards the Winnipeg Enterprises re the Arena, has the provincial government determined its position in connection with the matching of that grant offer by the federal government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Attorney-General. I wonder whether the Attorney-General could confirm figures made available to me to the effect that notices exercising powers of sale, which is the first step in a foreclosure proceeding, had the following results. In 1976 there were 172 for the entire year; in 1977, 280 for the entire year — that's the first year of the great capitalist experiment — and in 1978 the figure has moved to 1,183 for the year. This being the first step in the foreclosure proceeding, I wonder whether he can confirm those figures to me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that question as notice and inquire into the information.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder, on a supplementary question, whether the Honourable the Attorney-General can confirm to me that he has advised the Registrar-General and his staff that this information which is on the public record and needs merely compilation and was made available last year will not be made available to an MLA, a member of the Legislative Assembly, unless there is first made a request through the Minister; that this which is public information — it's not secret documents, it's on the records in the Land Titles Office, it only needs a compilation — will not be made available to a member of the Legislative Assembly unless there is first a request made through the Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the situation was that such information had never been compiled before and distributed to anyone in the past but I will also review that particular matter and advise the honourable member in due course.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question on the same subject to the First Minister. Can the First Minister confirm that the entire Civil Service has been advised that with respect to public information, and I'm not talking about secret memos of which we get through another source but I am talking about public information, that no member of the Legislative Assembly is to be provided public information unless there is a clearance by a Minister of the Crown that information will be provided.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm my honourable friend's speculative allegations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister. In the Throne Speech delivered yesterday the government announced its intention to establish a committee to review constitutional proposals. I wonder if the First Minister could clarify the statement when he indicates that the committee would be established after a consensus and agreement had been reached on all the proposals, does that mean that the committee will review the a new constitution after it's been agreed upon or will he reconsider and establish a committee so that the people of Manitoba can make their views known before that consensus is reached.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker, the intention of the government is similar to the intention of the government back in the sixties when other matters in the constitution were being negotiated at that time. It was thought as a matter of procedure to be better to continue the negotiations that are going on through the Continuing Committee of Ministers on the various topics that have been laid before that Committee; and as positions are arrived at, of general consensus, as the weeds are winnowed out from all of the suggestions, and so on, as we get to a point where we believe

there is a growing consensus on the major matters, then those would be taken before any final approval would be taken, given to the Committee of the House and the Committee of the House, being the master of its own rules, would — I would hope — then seek public advice on these consensus, or near consensus matters, that had been drawn up by the Continuing Committee of Ministers and the First Ministers.

Now I would expect that this process will continue, that is, the meetings of the Continuing Committee of Ministers and subsequently of First Ministers will be continuing during the balance of this year. There may well be an intervening event such as a Federal general election which would probably be helpful in speeding up some of the deliberations. But when those meetings have reconvened when there is a body of material on which there is some reasonable consensus, then I think it would be appropriate to have the Committee of the House begin its public deliberations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the First Minister indicate whether he intends to refer any of the positions already taken by the Manitoba Government in relation to constitutional matters . . . would he refer those to this Committee of the House that he intends to establish, so that there could be some ongoing examination of those assertions to determine to what degree there might be improvements within them?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, the intention would be as I have stated earlier, to attempt to deal with those matters upon which there is consensus or growing consensus among the eleven governments.

MR. SPEAR: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a final supplementary.\$

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a final supplementary I would ask the Minister if he would clarify the position taken by the Government of Manitoba in relation to the proposals dealing with the distribution of powers on natural resources. Does he agree with the position taken by the Premier of Alberta and the Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House of Commons, that the total control of natural resources be entirely restricted to the provinces and there should be no Federal participation in that jurisdiction?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Question Period is not a suitable or appropriate time to answer questions of that nature.

There is a record that is available with respect to the public portions of the last discussions and I'm sure that we can take up that and any other topic on the constitution in the course of Throne Speech Debate, Budget Debate, or any of the other general debates we have in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Will the Minister of Finance advise the House on whether the Government of Manitoba was dissatisfied in any way with the quality of the auditing services performed by the Provincial Auditor and his staff, with respect to the thirteen Crown corporations, agencies and commissions which are now to be audited by thirteen private chartered accountancy firms?

Mr. Speaker, was the Minister, in any way, dissatisfied with the work of the Provincial Auditor and his staff?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the long answer to the question is no.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Will the Minister of Finance please inform the Legislature as to what basis the thirteen private chartered accountancy firms were selected out of approximately 125 chartered accountancy firms listed as having offices in Manitoba in the

Telephone Directory?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, there was some discussion of this at the last meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, the report of which was tabled this morning by the Chairman, the Member for St. Vital. I would suggest that the Member for Brandon East perhaps review that discussion that took place there. It may, in part, help him with his question and if there's any further questions after that I'd be glad to deal with them again.

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

MR. EVANS: I thank the Minister for his answer I will do that. But, very specifically, then on what basis was one particular firm, namely Coopers and Lybrand, which according to the Winnipeg Tribune has a senior official who was active in fund raising for the Conservative party, on what basis was that firm selected to handle one of the most lucrative accounts, namely Manitoba Hydro?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that the firm in question, one of the main reasons for that particular firm's engagement was Manitoba Hydro in particular, is that they are an international firm, they do have a strong office in the United States in particular, where financing for Manitoba Hydro has traditionally been a major source of financing, and there are some advantages of having a firm of that international nature engaged in a Crown Corporation that does have an international requirement. So, Mr. Speaker, again, if the member wants to he can read the information there in the Public Accounts record and he will find that there is some rationalization for the selection of the firms contained therein. There were four firms of the total that are Manitoba firms that are not national or international, the remainder do have. But I would point out that in the case of all of these firms it's not really a case of them being national or international or local because like most firms of professional organizations they do have partners that are residents of the province and it's more a matter of having a continuity across the country because most of the rules and regulations that apply in this business come under the CICA, Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, regulations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN (Wellington): A supplementary to my learned friend from Brandon East's question to the Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the honourable member that he should be asking a new question rather than a supplementary.

MR. CORRIN: It is a new question but it's with respect to the same issue, Mr. Speaker, and I think that that's quite proper and within the rules set out in Beauchesne.

Mr. Speaker, the question is to the Honourable Minister of Finance and I am asking him if he could perhaps amplify his remarks relative to the advantages of utilizing international firms. I am motivated by some concerns in this respect myself, and as he knows I've written him on one occasion and he's responded to me, but could he please tell me what the advantages of utilizing international firms are in this case as opposed to local firms?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would refer, again, the member to the same source as I've indicated. We had some discussion of this at the Public Accounts Committee. He also may wish to read that record.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pursue the questions that I asked earlier with regard to the release of information and which the First Minister described as a speculative question. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that two senior civil servants — whom I will name if they are guaranteed protection

by this government, that they will not be fired as a result of me naming them — two senior civil servants told me that they cannot give me information, even though it may be public, unless the request is made in writing to the Minister — excuse me, one told me it had to be made in writing, the other one told me he would have to get clearance from the Minister to give me the request. Is it therefore speculative to ask the First Minister whether it is now the policy of the Conservative administration that information, which is made available and which is public, will not be made available to a member of the Legislative Assembly unless the information is first requested through the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any change in the usual procedures with respect to access to general public information to all members of the House, however, I will make an inquiry based on my honourable friend's speculative question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster with a supplementary.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, then I direct the First Minister to make that request through the Registrar General of the Land Titles Office, whom I asked personally for the information, who told me that it would not be made available because it embarrassed a Minister last year; and that my request would have to be made through the Minister if I was to get that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. It flows from his answer on television yesterday that he's concerned about certain government monopolies, like Autopac and the Liquor Commission. Is the government giving any consideration to breaking the monopoly of the Manitoba Telephone System by allowing the private sector to compete for a share of its business?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I expect the courtesy of a reply. I am asking the First Minister whether his government is considering farming out, sharing, splitting, shifting the business from the Manitoba Telephone System, or Manitoba Hydro, to the private sector?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the honourable member that he has every right to ask a question, whether or not an answer is forthcoming he has no obligation, or right to demand an answer to any question he asks. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend, during the course of the session would care to refine his question so that it's capable of understanding we'd be quite happy to try to answer it. **MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, since the government has indicated that they are, in fact, going to give some of the business of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission to the private sector, could the Minister indicate how he intends to make up the shortfall in revenue from this loss of taxation or is he simply going to cut back further on government expenditures to balance his budget at a lower level. **MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, what was announced in the Throne Speech ./

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, what was announced in the Throne Speech yesterday, for my honourable friend's benefit, was that a study would be undertaken with respect to the present system of liquor vending in Manitoba to see whether or not it would be in the public interest at this time to admit the private sector into further aspects of it. The private sector has already been, for my honourable friend's edification, in the vending of liquor through vendors in small communities for 22 years. I bring that to my honourable friend's attention however because it obviously escaped him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Given a supposed commitment of the government to ensure that the elderly do not pay school taxes, could the Minister tell us what steps the government is taking to ensure that the senior citizens

in the 12 personal care homes and senior citizens in the City of Winnipeg that are now being assessed for school taxes will not have to pay school taxes in this coming year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe the matter to which the member refers is with respect to a section of The Municipal Assessment Act that has been in force since 1966 and apparently the City of Winnipeg have overlooked that particular provision in the assessment of certain —(Interjection)— Well a question is asked and I ask, who was in power for the last eight years and if they were so concerned with this situation why didn't they make a change, Mr. Speaker, and they didn't.

Mr. Speaker, this particular provision relates to senior citizen homes that are funded through the Consolidated Fund or The Elderly and Infirm Persons' Housing Act and it does not apply to privately owned and operated citizens' housing. But apparently the assessment that has now been made by the City of Winnipeg, after having done nothing since 1966, amounts to an average increase per unit of 96-½ cents per month. Mr. Speaker, there may very well still be a problem with the interpretation of the section which I intend to continue to review with the Department, Mr. Speaker, but this section has been interpreted and applied in rural Manitoba since 1966 to lands owned by senior citizens, operations over two acres. So it has been applied in rural Manitoba but been overlooked in the City of Winnipeg since 1966.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. Since this tax is being levied for the first time in history for the senior citizens in Winnipeg, can the Minister ensure us that the government will amend The Municipal Assessment Act to ensure that grounds of these senior citizens, even if they exceed two acres, if they are used for purposes of the senior citizens, will not be assessed and taxed for school tax purposes. Can he give us that assurance?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, some day the member may become aware that decisions are made by Cabinet not by individual ministers and when Cabinet considers the matter and has made a decision on that point then I will be able to answer his question.

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

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Since this is a matter of I think grave concern and urgency to these senior citizens who are being squeezed in other ways in terms of their income, could the Minister ensure that he will take this matter to Cabinet immediately.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the member that his sense of urgency is greatly exaggerated as has become the custom apparently in some of the public statements he has made. An average increase of 96-½ cents per month is not an urgent matter but it will be considered. There has been a problem I suggest in the interpretation of this particular section and I will review that with the Department and be making a recommendation in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I recognize the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, may I bring to the honourable members' attention 25 students from Dugald School under the direction of Mrs. Hewko. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Springfield. On behalf of all the members we welcome you here this morning.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Speaker, as I don't know when the next issue of the new telephone book is going to the printers, I would like to request the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Telephone Corporation to indicate to the House whether there has been any instruction given to revoke back to the large print that we had a year ago and to ask the Manitoba Telephone System to print the names of the towns and cities on the edge of the book instead of in the center as it is now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Telephones.

HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, the suggestions that the Member for Lac du Bonnet presented in his question are ones that have come to my attention from other sources and while changes have been made in the telephone books as they were printed this year, they are again being reviewed and some of the matters to which he refers certainly are under active consideration.

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

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his reply. I wish to now ask the Minister of Health whether he could indicate to the House just what the percentage rate of increase that has been announced with respect to welfare recipients.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, if I understand the honourable member's question it's 6 percent if he's referring to social allowance recipients generally.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that it was announced that it was 6 percent about a month or two ago but I've also discovered that it does not apply to the total budget of the individual, that is the recipient, and so we have the situation where a totally handicapped individual has received an increase of \$2.40 for a month's income and that works out to about 1.6 percent, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I find that impossible. I'll certainly look into that with the honourable member. But what has happened is that rents and utilities are dealt with on the basis of their particular individual increasing levels and as they increase they are met, then the allowances that are paid for food, clothing and household effects are increased by 6 percent. But that particular individual's rent and utilities should already have been accommodated outside the 6 percent increase on the other component.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I find myself somewhat confused in that the information I have is that there has been no increase with respect to room and board, that the increase only applied to clothing and personal effects.

MR. SHERMAN: Well that's true, Mr. Speaker, in a sense. The increase only applies to food, clothing and household effects. That's correct because those rates can be calculated with some precision but rents and utilities are paid as they occur. As they increase those increases are met by our Income Security Branch. 15 6

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. SHERMAN: As a matter of fact, no. The total increase could well work out to something in excess of 12 percent.

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

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. In view of the fact of the impending review of the Public Insurance Corporation, can the Minister confirm that this is the reason for the continued staff freeze to lower their services to the public and make them dissatisfied with public insurance in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MPIC.

MR. MCGILL: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that your predecessor, the now Minister of Highways, informed this Legislature that the staff freeze would be lifted on the General Insurance Division, what impact — and that there was no staff freeze on the Auto Insurance Division — what impact has this had on his constituency home town of Brandon?

MR. MCGILL: Well, Mr. Speaker, the member will have to be more specific in relation to what impact, if any, it has had on the home town of Brandon — as he puts it — I'm not aware of any impact.

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

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. For what reason other than an attempt to pirate public corporations, has this government not allowed the Public Insurance Corporation to compete unaffected in the General Insurance field?

MR. Mcgill: Mr. Speaker, the General Insurance Division of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation is continuing to compete in the general insurance field.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. In light of the fact that recent concern has been shown in regard to Winnipeg Hydro storing poly-chlorinated bi-phenyls, or PCBs, can the Minister inform the House as to the quantity of PCBs that are currently being stored by both publicly and privately owned enterprise in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I don't have those figures at my fingertips but I'll certainly make them available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a supplementary.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is to the Minister responsible for the Norkplace Safety and Health Act. Can the Minister indicate what procedures have been drawn up by the Workplace, Safety and Health Division in reference to the protection of workers who are exposed, who have to work in the vicinity of an area where this very dangerous chemical PCB is being used or stored?

MR. SPEAR: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I think the answer to that should be given at the same time as the honourable minister that you directed the previous question to and then we can get you some details in reply to your question.

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

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable Ministers for their answers. I would just direct a question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro, perhaps to make their task a bit easier. Can the Minister indicate to the House if Manitoba Hydro is currently stocking poly-chlorinated bi-phenyls? And if so, can he inform the House as to the quantities being held in the conditions under which they are being stored?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources has taken the question as notice and I gather that was all-inclusive in the question which he took and I presume would be handled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. In view of the fact that the Manitoba Government has seen fit to claw back most of the increase that has been given to old-age pensioners in this province by increasing the fees to old-age pensioners living in senior citizens' homes by over \$1.50 in less than a year, will the Provincial Government be following the same procedure in terms of the money that will be coming by way of an increase to the other low income group in the province, namely the parents of young children who are getting an increase in the family allowance in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the second part of the question is that no decision has been made on that question yet. The answer to the first is, that there is no clawing back and there is no impairment of the disposal income left to pensioners in personal care homes; in fact it is improved substantially.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, just as a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not admit that the amount of money which has been charged the old-age pensioners living in personal care homes, represents a clawing back of over 50 percent of the increase that is coming to the old-age pensioners through increases from the Federal Government?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Minister admits that while the per diem, over the past six years, has increased by some 70 percent, the costs of operating the program will have increased calculating on the year we're coming into, something in excess of 140 percent. The per diems have always been raised since the inception of the program on a basis which is calculated to ensure that the residents are left ample and reasonable disposable incomes.

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

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Given that the Minister has seen fit to take this particular avenue to collect the moneys that are required to operate the senior citizen's home, would he give the House some indication of the investigation that he did within his department and within the government generally, through his operations as a Cabinet Minister in this government, whether or not he had looked at other areas of provincial funding to be able to finance the costs of senior citizens' homes rather than taking this money from the old-age pensioners who can ill afford to pay this extra increase of \$1.50 over the last twelve months?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, we are pursuing the same avenue at approximately the same speed as was established by the government to which my honourable friend belonged. There is no taking back of income insofar as the elderly pensioners are concerned, when one considers disposable income, which has to be the fundamental aspect that we're looking at. That has increased and improved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Is the Minister prepared to concur that in the years 1978-1979 that the increases in the per diem in each year were greater than the rate of increase of inflation each of those years, in contrast to an increase during the years, 1974-75-76 and '77, which were less than the rate of increase in inflation, in per diems in personal care homes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: That may be, I'd have to check that, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to tell the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that I'm also prepared to admit that after those increases are taken into account, after they're met, the increase in the disposable incomes for single pensioners is 33 percent and the increase in the disposable incomes for married individuals is 19 percent, as against eleven months ago.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Minister refers to increase in disposable income — and I refer him back to his information service release dealing with this matter — when he referred to 1973 greater now than in 1973, is the Minister prepared to make the same statement in respect to greater disposable income than 1974, '75, '76 and '77 as well as '73, which he had made reference to as an Information Service Release?

MR. SPEAR: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. PAWLEY: What about Hydro rates?

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN, Minister of Health and Community Services (Fort Garry):

MR. SHERMAN: As of April 1st . . . Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the Honourable Leader of the Opposition a categorical assurance that that is the fact. I am 99 percent certain that that's the case, Sir, and I will check it, but I'm 99 percent certain that that is the case. Yes the disposable income is higher now than it has been during any of those years, but I would ask the Honourable Leader of the Opposition the courtesy of one day to investigate it absolutely.

MR. CHERNIACK: Take all weekend.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development that well may apply to some other member of the front bench. In the Throne Speech, where it was indicated that initiatives are planned to rationalize programs in the core area of Winnipeg, can the Minister indicate whether that rationalization will include the elimination of certain programs, and will those eliminations or rationalizations affect only government programs or will they also take into account agencies or organizations in the private sector which may receive some form of public support?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the answers that my honourable friend seeks will be forthcoming during the course of the session. I can tell him, in brief, however, even though it is inappropriate for the question period, that what is intended is a rationalization of the various layers of programming, many of which appear to have been put into place on an uncoordinated basis, a rationalization of those programs to ensure, as much as possible, that every dollar of taxpayers' money that is going in is going more to recipients rather than being blotted up by a bureaucracy. I will not make any allegations at this stage about how that unfortunate set of circumstances came about, but that's what we intend to rationalize.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Considering the concern that's been raised since this announcement was made in the Throne Speech by many of those who are working or who are receiving programs in the core area, could the First Minister then indicate how this rationalization is coming about? Is it to be an in-House study; will it involve consultation with agencies and organizations working in the core area; will it provide in some form of public forum so that there is a degree of openness to it; or will it simply be announcements coming from the government without any prior discussion?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, it will be done with the government's usual and full acknowledgement of all of the factors that my honourable friend has mentioned, and I would hope that, as well, Mr. Speaker, it will be done with the effect in mind of making sure that where relief is granted to particular disadvantaged people in the core area or for that matter in any other part of Manitoba, that the aim of the program will be to get the money through to the people rather than be soaked up by a bunch of social engineers and bureaucrats in between.

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

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, it is the expectation that things would be conducted in the normal manner of this government that raises my concern, and therefore, I would ask the First Minister, could he indicate which of his colleagues is directly responsible for this rationalization, and which form of organization within the government itself will be undertaking this rationalization so we know who we can hold accountable for these decisions?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can understand my honourable friend's concern about the bureaucracy in the inner core because he is one who has done something to contribute to it, but I say to my honourable friend that the specific answer to his question is that the Community Services Committee of Cabinet will be doing the co-ordinating work on this project. I am sure that even my honourable friend, with his protective attitude toward bureaucracy, will be pleased with the results that come out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Health and Social Services advise this House why he, and his government, chose to discontinue the special need assistance to senior welfare recipients in the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: I believe that my statement to the press and the public fully covered that, Mr. Speaker. It was pointed out that a discrepancy had developed over the years between the amount of welfare assistance available to elderly persons applying for welfare, as against the rates paid to those under age 65. The discrepancy had reached a point where we were beyond, and substantially beyond, the parameters for federal cost-sharing established by Ottawa; it had been the subject of discussions at federal-provincial health ministers meetings since I had been minister; we decided the time was not only expedient but also reasonable to remove that discrepancy and that anomaly that found a 65-year old social allowance recipient in a position to receive much more assistance than a 64-year old.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington with a final question.

MR. CORRIN: Could the honourable minister advise this House how many people were involved in this special assistance; what sort of money was being expended on their behalf; and whether or not his government will be monitoring the impact of the discontinuance of these additional welfare benefits, and if so how?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I can give my honourable friend assurances that I will do all of those things, Mr. Speaker. I won't answer the specific questions this morning, we can deal with them in Estimates, but yes we will be monitoring. I would like to point out that the 642 elderly welfare recipients who were in the special category remain there, remain protected, nothing happens to them, there is no drop in income for anybody.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour for questions having expired we will proceed with the Orders of the Day, consideration of the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

ORDERS OF THE DAY — THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ROBERT ANDERSON (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I join with His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in recognizing the appointment of a native Manitoban, and a resident of Springfield, Edward Richard Schreyer as Governor-General of Canada. On behalf of the people of Springfield I extend good wishes to the Vice-Regal couple as they undertake their new duties in their high office.

I wish to extend sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on the resumption of the duties of your high office. I am sure you will continue in the fine manner you established during the first and second sessions of this thirty-first Legislature, preserving order and decorum during the deliberations of this Assembly with your customary dignity and impartiality.

I would also congratulate my colleague, the Member for Radisson, on the resumption of his duties as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and Deputy Speaker. His patience, wisdom and good humour serve this Assembly well during our many hours of committee work.

I would also congratulate the Member for Selkirk in his new position as acting leader of his party and Leader of the Opposition. I should inform members that the first job held by the Member for Selkirk was as a permit teacher in a one-room country school just a few short miles from my own home. His first experience as a legislator was as Minister of Health in the first session of the Springfield Boys Parliament in the same year. The Springfield parliament is still thriving and will hold its 25th session in two weeks. South Plimpton is now a farmer's granary. I leave it to honourable members to draw their own conclusions.

Mr. Speaker, I would, at this time, like to express my sincere thanks to the First Minister and his colleagues of the Executive Council for granting me this opportunity to move the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Since I have already described the constituency of Springfield in some detail in a previous Throne Speech debate, a short thumbnail sketch at this time will suffice to refresh the memories of members of this House.

The Constituency of Springfield borders the east side of the City of Winnipeg from the Red River

in the north to the Red River and beyond in the south.

Springfield then extends, Mr. Speaker, east to the Ontario boundary making the riding some 90 miles long, from east to west. Springfield is made up of five rural municipalities: East St. Paul, Ritchot, Springfield, Tache and Whitemouth.

In addition I represent part of the local government district of Reynolds and the lion's share of the Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Within those boundaries, Mr. Speaker, lies a cross section of Manitoba. It is an area rich in history, culture and people. Springfield is a zone of transition from city suburbs to rapidly growing dormitory communities to quiet rural villages to the sparsely populated eastern region. Springfield is a transition, Mr. Speaker, from the fertile Red River Valley, the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz, to the gravel eskers left by the ice age to the rugged reaches of the Canadian Shield.

Springfield encompasses varied industries from a small industrial base close to Winnipeg, agriculture, logging, trapping, to the rich recreational area of the Whiteshell. Long associated with agriculture, it is interesting to note that much of the first shipment of wheat to be exported from Manitoba came from the Springfield area.

Agriculture is the economic backbone of Springfield and we are proud of the market gardeners, the grain, livestock and poultry producers and especially the farmers who are doing wondrous things with the raw peat and virgin forest land in the valleys of the Birch and Whitemouth Rivers.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Springfield takes in two facets, two important facets, of Manitoba's economic well-being, agriculture and tourism. As I've said, Springfield is an area rich in history and culture from the Red River Valley where I understand we can still find buildings which were used as scratching posts by wandering buffalo to that fur-traders' highway, the Winnipeg River to the Dawson Trail that brought so many of our first settlers to Manitoba, to the mainline of the CPR.

Incorporated in 1873, one full year before the City of Winnipeg, the Rural Municipality of Springfield is the oldest active municipal corporation in western Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, it is not only Springfield's natural resources, variety of terrain and history / that makes this area unique, for the real essence, character and vitality of Springfield lies with its people. They are the descendants of the pioneers who came to the west to seek new lives for themselves in a land of freedom and opportunity.

The diligence and determination of the British and European people combined with the joie de vivre of the French-Canadians, the stoicism of the Hutterites and the quiet ways of the Holdeman people make Springfield a microcosm of Manitoba and of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I must tell you what a humbling experience it was for an aspiring, perspiring politician to approach a bearded, kindly Holdeman farmer only to be told, "I cannot vote for you, my son, but I will pray for you." I recognize the honour and privilege I have in representing all the people in Springfield and I intend to continue to work hard on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a good time for me to broaden my base of topic and allude to Manitoba as a whole and to what we, the government, have been doing over the last 16 months to help fulfill and needs and expectations of Manitobans. In order to be as subjective as possible in assessing our performance over the last 16 months I would refer briefly to an article that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press shortly after the 1977 election.

The story was headlined, "What the PCs Promised Us" and I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that we have not yet met all our promises but we have fulfilled 11 of the 14 and have started on the others and what's more well over 60 percent of the promises we made to the people of Manitoba before the election were fulfilled in less than five months after we assumed office. Commitments made, Mr. Speaker, commitments kept.

In the 16 months that this government has presided over Manitoba we have also proven that we are a sensible one, one that does not take for granted the hard work and aspirations of our people. In 16 months we have all but destroyed the legacy of eight years of mismanagement that we inherited and have restored common sense and control to the administration of public affairs in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I maintain, and I speak for the silent majority, that the positive direction in which this province is currently heading is largely due to the government's successful efforts to align its far-reaching policies and philosophies to best fit the individual needs and goals of each and every person in Manitoba.

We are not a government that believes in destroying individual initiative by continually increasing the weight and sprawl of government so that our taxpayers become confined by the burden of our operative debt. On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard and with measurable success over the last 16 months to reduce the weight and size of government so that we may in turn reduce taxes and return to the people of Manitoba the right to live and act freely according to the esteemed and honoured principles of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to review some of the highlights of our term to date. It is well known by my colleagues, by the opposition and by the public that when we first assumed office on October 24th, 1977 we found that the actual combined current and capital deficit of the province was projected at about \$214 million which ranked as the highest deficit in Manitoba's history. In 16 short months we have already reduced that massive deficit to \$129.8 million which represents a reduction of about 40 percent and we plan to reduce it further.

Not only have we succeeded in controlling the deficit and reducing government spending to a sensible level but in the process we have also lowered taxes. Our government took \$83 million less out of the pockets of Manitobans this year. That works out to a saving of \$83.00 for every man, woman and child in Manitoba.

During our first year in office we reduced the number of civil servants on the public payroll by 13 percent or just over 1,800. The great majority of these reductions were realized by attrition and did not in any affect the delivery of essential government services.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, Manitobans created about 13,000 new jobs in the province. This means that during our first year in office nearly three times as many jobs were created as were during the last three years under the previous administration. And the 13,000 jobs, Mr. Speaker, were not made work positions financed by tax dollars.

Although our unemployment situation is far from satisfactory we are still proud to have the third lowest rate in Canada.

It is generally accepted that one of the greatest causes of inflation is massive increases in government spending. That is why this government worked hard to hold the increase in provincial spending in 1978-79 to only 3 percent, the lowest of any government in Canada.

All of Canada needs a strong government, one that can lead our country in a definite, positive direction; one that can exercise financial prudence rationally without threatening the standards and availability of essential services and one that can work to relieve the burden of taxation. As Manitobans we are receiving this, as Canadians we are not.

Mr. Speaker, there were several significant bills passed and amendments to existing legislation made during the last session. Outstanding of these were the family law bills, The Cattle Producers' Association Act and significant amendments clarifying procedures for agreements between school boards and private and parochial schools throughout Manitoba. Also recognizing that it is difficult for young people to find summer jobs, our government implemented a highly successful job creation program by involving the private sector. The program provided nearly 4,900 summer jobs for young people throughout the province. Many Manitoba businessmen and farmers took advantage of the program to hire able and productive help for the summer months. Because of the overwhelming success of the 1978 program, a similar one will be run this year. And, Mr. Speaker, these jobs were in the competitive, disciplined, productive work situation which will be a most useful work experience for the young Manitobans involved.

Just over one month ago Premier Lyon was able to offer new assurance to western Canadian farmers by calling major representatives of the grain industry, governments and railroads together for two days of intensive discussions. The Grain Handling and Transportation Conference marked the beginning of a new awareness of the complex problems that hamper western Canada's grain industry from reaching its full potential. All participants in the conference agreed to exert their best efforts in the coming months to bring out real and effective improvements to the situation.

We were pleased yesterday to hear the Throne Speech read by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor which outlined a series of measures designed to strengthen Manitoba's economy and to continue our government's policy of fiscal responsibility and accountability and to further reduce the burden of government regulation and interference on the daily lives of Manitobans.

The continuation of this government's 1978 initiatives to stimulate economic growth through the private sector will be well received by the great majority of residents of Springfield and of Manitoba. They know that it is the real economic growth and the subsequent generation of wealth that will provide the funding for the social programs required by the less advantaged in our society.

The federal-provincial general development agreements provide more than \$100 million over the next five years to stimulate the private sector, particularly in the fields of industry, tourism and agriculture.

I will give you an example, Mr. Speaker, of a project of particular interest to my constituency. Drainage in the Cook's Creek watershed is to be developed over the next five years at a cost of \$2.5 million. This project will provide improved drainage to 125,000 acres of agricultural land and will improve crop yields by about 12 percent. A good investment for Manitoba's economy and for all Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave further discussion of the Throne Speech to others in the next eight

days of debate. Instead I will relate to you the reasons I became active in politics.

I believe that governments must provide a climate where hard work and ability and initiative are rewarded. I believe that governments have an obligation to help those who cannot help themselves and I believe that increased government intervention in our daily lives must be stopped. I believe that the individual is a far more efficient spender of his own money than any government, even our own, can ever be. I got into politics because I wanted Manitoba to have a government that followed the principles I have outlined. When I campaigned in Springfield I talked about these principles and the direction a government should take. I believe I was elected because the majority of the people of Springfield agree with me.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Throne Speech is a document that reflects these principles and will be well received by my constituency and by the people of this province.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Radisson, that An Humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, as follows:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address us at the Opening of the present session.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a great honour for me to second the Speech from the Throne. I would like to thank the First Minister and the Members of the Executive Council for this opportunity. Merci beaucoup. Je suis bilingual.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not extend my personal thank you to you, Sir, for the guidance and the help you have given me over the last year. In my capacity as Deputy Speaker I have been through a learning process which was made a lot easier particularly as I tried to maintain the high standards of your office.

May I, Mr. Speaker, extend a thank you also to my colleagues on the government side and to those members of the opposition who assisted me in carrying out my duties.

May I also congratulate the Honourable Member for Selkirk on having been chosen by his party to serve as Official Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, as I was preparing my remarks I was informed that you had entered hospital with a problem with some stones. At first I thought the stones made reference to were curling stones as we had just finished curling together at a bonspiel at Portage la Prairie. Knowing your skill at the game I quickly dispelled that theory from my mind and investigated further. I was told that your problem was kidney stones and nowhere near the forty-pound variety used in curling. As Asab the slave once related, a rolling stone gathers no moss but I daresay hurts a lot more when moving ever so slightly within the body. It is with great relief, Sir' that I look across the Chamber and see you sitting there in the Speaker's Chair.

I have been studying French at the Federal Language Training Center since September 8th last year. —(Interjection)— Merci.

I speak of it, of French, and I'd like to take advantage of all the opportunities that arise which permit me to put into practice what I've learned. Two months ago, when I'd go to a restaurant, the only thing that I could order would be a pepper steak, a baked potato and a salad, and a bottle of Chablis wine and a half a bottle of St. Emilion wine.

A MEMBER: Pretty expensive taste.

MR. KOVNATS: Oui. Now I can order calves brains with strawberries. And, furthermore, I have, in my repertoire, many statements, like: She doesn't have any stockings, which I can say in French.

I believe that my constituents deserve that I be able to speak with them in the language of their choice. Furthermore, there are many children learning French in both immersion and complete French programs in my area. The future of the province is in their hands, and my government encourages the two programs by allocating funds which help to maintain these programs that I consider beneficial to the education of the children.

I support the new pilot program of immersion Ukrainian at the Kindergarten and Grade 1 level. I hope that it will be as successful as the other programs.

Three or four years ago I was officiating at a football game in Calgary, I only knew a couple of French words and I decided I would use what I had learned. I said, "First down and ten" in

French and the Captain of the Calgary Stampeders asked me a few questions in French. I didn't understand anything he said, I told him that I spoke French but I didn't understand it.
—(Interjection)—

MR. KOVNATS: I should have. He was quite surprised, he must still think that I'm crazy.

Je suis etudiant de francais au centre linguistique du gouvernement federal depuis le 8 Septembre.—(Interjection)— Merci. Je parle un peu et j'aime profiter de toutes les occasions pour l'utiliser. Il y a 2 mois, quand j'allais au restaurant, tout ce que je pouvais dire au garçon etait: Je voudrais un steak au poivre avec une pomme de terre au four et une salade, avec le repas, une bouteille de chablis et une demi-bouteille de St. Emillion. Maintenant je peux commander de la cervelle de veau avec des fraises et en plus je peux dire: "Elle n'a pas de bas."

Je crois que les gens qui habitent dans ma circonscription meritent que je leur parle dans la langue de leur choix. En plus, il y a plusieurs enfants qui apprennent le francais dans un programme d'immersion ou dans un programme entierement francais: L'avenir de la province est entre leurs mains, et mon gouvernement encourage ces deux programmes en accordant des fonds qui aident a maintenir ces programmes que je considere valables. Ils sont importants pour l'education des enfants.

Je supporte le programme pilote d'immersion en Ukrainien au niveau de la maternelle et de la premiere annee, et j'espere qu'il reussit aussi bien que les deux autres programmes. Il y a 3 ou 4 ans, j'etais arbitre a un match de football entre Calgary et Edmonton. Je connaissais quelques mots de francais et j'ai decide d'utiliser ce que j'avais appris. J'ai dit: "Premier en bas et dix" et le capitaine des Stampeders m'a pose quelques questions en francais. Je n'ai rien compris. Je lui ai dit que je parlais francais, mais que je ne comprenais pas. Il etait tres surpris. Il doit encore penser que je suis fou.

Mr. Speaker . . .

A MEMBER: You can say that again.

MR. KOVNATS: With great difficulty. —(Interjection)— Even more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, it is the normal practice for a member of the Chamber to speak about his or her constituency during the Throne Speech Debate. Last year I dealt with my constituency of Radisson in some detail and my background, in as far as being associated with the constituency and the area that was St. Boniface. Having reached the age that allows me to curl in the seniors' competition I must take this opportunity to reminisce a bit and to point out a few things that contributed to my being here today. I don't think that there are any members in the Legislature who believe that they were elected because of their dynamic personalities or personal skills. Some people have the good looks. We were elected because of our leader, our party, being the persons that we are, but mainly being trusted to represent the people in our constituency. The people of my constituency are representative of all the people of Manitoba.

Something comes to mind, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, when I had the honour and privilege of having my father attend the opening ceremonies here, accompanied by my wife — and I see there's not many people in the gallery but my wife is one of them — my father spoke to me after and he said: "What happens Abe? I see things happening, I thought there would be a little bit more respect for the Lieutenant-Governor. I said: "Dad I think that they do respect the Lieutenant-Governor." And he says: "Well why wouldn't they listen to him, why wouldn't they pay attention? " And I felt that there were some members, and it wasn't a matter of rules, what is the procedure, I think it was just a matter of good taste and just honouring the office which he represents. And, I would just like to point out to the members who did participate in that disgraceful exhibition that I would hope that it wouldn't happen again.

My colleague, the Member for Crescentwood, —(Interjection)— I think the members that I made reference to are most aware of what I was talking about. If an explanation is required I've lost my point.

Next point. When I was serving on the Board of the Winnipeg Enterprises with my colleague the Member from Crescentwood, I'd taken my Dad down to see the Shrine Circus, and having the privilege of having a key for the back door we walked down before the circus opened — I bought tickets — we walked down where the elephants were being fed and treated and my Dad says to me: "Abe, don't those animals make an awful mess?" I said: "Yes, they do Dad, but we clean it up, it's all included in the price of the tickets." And he says: "Well, I guess that, you know, you find out that they make a mess and you don't let it happen each year." And I told him: "No, Dad!" I said, "we forget this mess happens every year and we keep picking it up and repeating on it." I said: "It's similar to the Legislature. We have replaced an administration that left us with a mess and we keep picking up and cleaning up after them all the time."

I would want the people of the Province of Manitoba to remember the mess that was left here and how my government is helping to clean it up.

I have some other French things here that I've learned. One of the other statements is "Tu me nerve." It means, you upset me somewhat. My constituency wanted the Government of Manitoba to cut out waste spending and control costs so they wouldn't be asked to pay higher taxes to cover excess government spending. My government has implemented a program of restraint to help correct that situation.

My constituency wanted a program in education that would allow young people attending school the best possible means to prepare for the future. What will happen tomorrow rests on the shoulders of these people and we must do everything in our power to see that they are prepared.

My government will be increasing financial assistance to all levels of education, schools, community colleges, universities, and the needs of the disabled and handicapped pupils. We are improving on the bilingual and multi-cultural aspect of our education system.

The people of Manitoba want a program of health and social services that would allow the elderly, the sick, and those who cannot take care of themselves, the benefits that they are entitled to.

My government will be investing in capital projects to cover hospital renovations and construction of personal care homes while upgrading laboratory and x-ray facilities. We will not turn our backs on the needy, nor accept the responsibilities to a greater burden to the taxpayer.

The people of Manitoba want a program to permit promote fitness and amateur sport. My government will continue to develop the policies and programs that will lead to healthier bodies and minds through sports. I believe fitness and sports contribute greatly to the cause of national unity. Look at Brandon and the Winter Games, a step forward to national unity, and it's happening in Manitoba.

May I just say a few more words before closing, and caution those who would condemn some of the policies brought forward. We are all working to make Manitoba a happy and prosperous province, we want to get along with our neighbours, our Canadian neighbours in the east and west, as well as our foreign neighbours to the south and north. May our contributions to the running of this province be made on an unselfish note so that our constituents will say, "Our representatives helped to make Manitoba the place we want to live and prosper."

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the content of the Throne Speech, even though I missed some of it because of the noise that was around me. It would give me a great deal of pleasure, Sir, to second the Resolution and the Reply to the Speech from the Throne which was ably delivered by the Member for Springfield. Thank you.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

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

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Monday afternoon.