

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, 12 December, 1980

Time — 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed with Orders of the Day I should like to, at this time, introduce two distinguished guests in the loge to my right, the Honourable John Munro, Minister of Northern Affairs and Northern Development; and the Honourable Richard Nerysoo, Minister of Renewable Resources and Minister of Energy for the Northwest Territories. On behalf of all members, we welcome you here today.

At the same time, departing from tradition somewhat, I would like to introduce to the House, the new Assistant Clerk to the Clerk of our Legislature, Mr. Gordon Mackintosh.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

Before I call for Oral Questions, I should like to table for Members of the Assembly certain correspondence that I have received, and some that I have directed on your behalf since the House last met. I think it is of sufficient concern that I should table it for all members. We will now proceed with Oral Questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HAROLD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister, yesterday's Speech from the Throne makes reference to a number of feasibility studies, either being in process or having been completed. My question to the First Minister is whether or not a feasibility study pertaining to hydrogen production has indeed been completed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can address that question. There have been a number of hydrogen-production studies done over the years but there has not been one done in reference to the application mentioned in the Throne Speech.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: If I may interrupt the Honourable Member, I would like to introduce the Honourable Jerry Smith, Minister of Northern Affairs for the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, then an additional supplementary to the First Minister. On March 1 of

this year, a study was tabled pertaining to the Western Power Grid, can the First Minister advise whether or not any additional studies have been completed pertaining to the Western Power Grid since March 1 of this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding which the Minister of Energy can confirm, that final feasibility studies on matters relating to the Western Power Grid either are in the course of completion or have been completed and will be discussed shortly by the Ministers of the three provinces affected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, then further by way of supplementary, can the First Minister advise when those additional feasibility studies pertaining to the Western Power Grid, when they will be tabled in the Legislature?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I would imagine that would occur only after the participating governments had had an opportunity to study them, and some decision had been made by those governments with respect to the report, which is a joint venture by all three governments.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the potash development proposed at St. Lazarre, I ask the First Minister whether or not an agreement has been completed and executed between IMC and the Province of Manitoba?

MR. LYON: The original letter of intent that was discussed last year, or I should say earlier this year, at our preceeding session, is the only agreement at the present time. There should be, I think, some interesting announcements fairly shortly, I'm sure, that will please the Honourable, the Leader of the Opposition as much as it will please the government and all of the people of Manitoba, however.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the First Minister's hypersensitivity to the fact there has been no further agreement executed, and all we witness is a further continuation of a letter of intent that we were told about last session. Can the First Minister then advise whether or not we are indeed going to have tabled the letter of intent that was announced in the past session in this Chamber?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I expect that that and other documentation and other excellent announcements will be forthcoming to the point where even my honourable friend will be forced to smile and to acknowledge that this is good for Manitoba.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the First Minister advise whether or not an agreement has been signed with the Aluminum Company of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, there will be statements with respect to that in due course and if my honourable friend will refresh his memory, look at the Throne Speech of yesterday, he will see that we expect that there will be developments taking place during the course of this session which will be equally good for the people of Manitoba, and even my honourable friend, Mr. Speaker, will acknowledge that what results from that will be good for the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wish to apologize to the Honourable Minister from Saskatchewan. His name is Mr. Hammersmith. I believe I introduced him as Mr. Smith. I apologize to you, sir.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I didn't ask the First Minister whether or not there would be further statements uttered by him, I'm sure there will be, I asked the First Minister whether or not there had been any agreement signed between the Province of Manitoba and the Aluminum Company of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, as and when there are further developments of that sort we will be pleased to advise the House and the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I realize that it's somewhat difficult but perhaps at the beginning of the session I should ask the co-operation of all members. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has had seven questions now; I've noticed some members who are wishing to ask questions.

I do realize the Leader of the Opposition has a very special place in the House but I would hope that everything works to the co-operation of all members.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, without wishing to cast any disrespect in your office, let me assure you I have some further questions which I intend to pose to the First Minister this morning.

Can the First Minister advise whether or not any agreements have been executed with Trans-Canada Pipelines pertaining to the announcements made yesterday in the Throne Speech?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, there have been no agreements. I doubt if there would be the need for any agreements with respect to the discussions that have been going on with Trans-Canada Pipelines for the extension of services in the province of Manitoba. We will be, of course, supporting that company in any applications that it makes to the federal authority for such extensions.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the Churchill Forest Industry Enquiry Commission Report we received information that financial relationships would be kept confidential and that assurances had been given to that effect. Can the First Minister assure the Chamber that there has been no such assurances as had been given during the Churchill Forest Industry negotiations that financial relationships would be

kept confidential pertaining to any of the companies that references are made to in the Throne Speech?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to plumb the kind of cynicism that I see issuing forth from the Leader of the Opposition. I can merely indicate to him, Mr. Speaker, that as and when any agreements to which the government of Manitoba or its agencies are party, that after they have been signed and sealed and delivered in the usual legal way, they will be made available to the House. And, Mr. Speaker, that's the only full assurance I can give, which is an assurance that I would expect would be carried out as soon as it is possible to do so in the public interest.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. One of the record statistics which my learned friends modestly left out of the Throne Speech was the fact that there is a record number of foreclosures in the province of Manitoba and it continues. I wonder whether it has been made known to the Kent Commission that by virtue of compulsory legal advertising and by virtue of the fact that there's only one newspaper, and by virtue of the fact that that newspaper never had it before, that there will be windfall profits to The Winnipeg Free Press as a result of these foreclosures of over 100,000 a year, and that the rates of advertising will likely go up by virtue of there being only one newspaper and that these profits will even increase from that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the government has made any representations to the Kent Commission.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these costs are compulsory and are legal, that they are required, and given the fact that if they were written in English instead of being written in legalese, that the cost could be reduced to approximately one-fifth of what is being now paid, thereby saving the people who happen to be foreclosed against or the public in any event, some 80,000 a year, would the Minister consider making the ad, that is required to be purchased for foreclosure advertisement, more simple than it presently is?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, having obtained that accommodation by the Minister, which I respect, would the Minister consider an ad that I have prepared which is one-fifth in size and much more easy to understand than the ads that are presently being published which give an unnecessary — and I'm sure that The Winnipeg Free Press would not want the wasted expenditure of moneys when it could be done so much more simpler and cheaper — would the Minister consider as one of the proposals an ad which I give to him and which he can look at?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs. In view of the statement in the Throne Speech yesterday to the effect that the government will be entering into agreements relative to the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative, would the Minister please tell the House how much money the provincial government is prepared to commit to that initiative?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the government is prepared to commit along the lines of the proposed agreement 32.4 million. I add one caution, we are continuing those negotiations and discussions with the city and the federal government and both the city commitment and the the provincial government's commitment is subject to the signing of the final agreements. But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I'm optimistic that we can overcome some of the curtailment of federal government spending programs in the province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg in the Community Services Program, I hope through this agreement.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, will the minister be urging, encouraging or requiring the City of Winnipeg to prepare a development plan, or other land use plan, providing incentives and guidance to the private sector to participate in the core area initiative?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe the City of Winnipeg are at the position where council, the elected members of council, will very shortly be considering the Greater Winnipeg development plan in the review that has been under way for some number of years in that plan. I certainly look in the core area initiative a very important component of that program, providing incentives to the private sector to construct and participate in the core area initiative, and I think that is something that has been agreed upon by the federal government and the city council and by ourselves.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister is considering forming an inter-governmental committee between the city and the province with representation perhaps on the province's part from inner city MLAs to enable them to properly represent their constituents in the development of the plan.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, we have an Inter-Governmental Committee in that the federal minister, the mayor and myself have been meeting for some time on a regular basis and, in fact, have a further meeting scheduled this afternoon in the Mayor's office to discuss the progress of the work that has undergone so far. We have invited submissions from the public and we will be considering, in the next month or so and today, further avenues of public participation in the development of the five-year program.

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

MRS. WESTBURY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I, of course, was aware of the committee to which the minister

referred, however, I was wondering if there would be a smaller more grassroots type committee with representation from this House involved and including inner city MLAs.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Fort Rouge is having difficulty obtaining access to the federal minister I would welcome her suggestions in my office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister with respect to the Throne Speech. Why in a Throne Speech containing everything from probabilities to possibilities and hopes and glimmers, why was there no reference made to the recent oil find in western Manitoba by the Saskatchewan government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I dare say, after listening to the opening questions this morning, if there had been any mention they would want to know whether agreements had been signed or whether it was true or anything of that nature. But my honourable friends have yet to learn to take the unvarnished truth as it is and in due course, if we have anything to report, I'm sure that the Minister of Resources, the Minister of Mines and Energy, will be happy to give a full report on not only that particular well that we've heard a bit about in the paper but another development that is taking place in Manitoba at the present time giving us one of the highest levels of mineral and oil exploration that we've ever had in our history.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A further question to the First Minister, further to his answer to my first question and to his answer to my Leader's last question, in view of the fact that he's indicating that we are now going to receive these contracts and we don't have to worry like the opposition had reason to worry in the 1960s about CFI, can he now have the Minister of Energy table the Letter of Intent that was signed last year between the government and IMC, a document that we've been trying to get for a year? I'm sure he will release that this morning.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, to reiterate what I said earlier, in due course any documentation that relates to matters, the negotiations on which have completed, will be filed in the House in the usual way.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the oil find in western Manitoba, could the First Minister indicate whether we are going to have an equity position or will it only be the people of Saskatchewan who will benefit from the oil in western Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the member should address his question to somebody from the Saskatchewan Legislature to see if he can buy into

their interests. (Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, for the member's information, the Minister of Agriculture is trying to give him from his position that he could have asked the question in 1952. There wasn't anything terribly unusual about the find that he refers to except I think there was a by-election on in Estevan at the time his announcement was made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Attorney-General and in light of announcements being received recently by LGDs and municipalities that notice has been given that they are going to suffer increased costs for RCMP services, can the Minister inform the House as to the status of the ongoing negotiations between the provincial government and the federal government which are being conducted in order to determine the cost-sharing procedures for the provision of RCMP services to Manitoba communities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for asking that question. Officials from my department and the seven other contracting provinces for RCMP services met with officials of the Solicitor General a week or so ago to obtain some further information with respect to the costing formula proposed by the Solicitor General.

As a result of those meetings I believe there is still further information that has been requested from the Solicitor General. The ministers of the eight contracting provinces hope to review that information as soon as it's received and will be meeting sometime early in the new year with the Solicitor General, to review his proposal which is, Mr. Speaker, if it is followed through with and is not softened by the Solicitor General, is going to impose an intolerable burden on municipalities who enter into municipal contracts as well as the province of Manitoba in our costs of the RCMP contract.

MR. COWAN: Yes, a supplementary to the Minister, Mr. Speaker. Well, as the notices have already been received by some LGDs and municipalities and as they are creating serious concern, I'd ask the Minister if the province is prepared to take any action to ameliorate some of the effects, some of the severe hardships that are going to be created by this increased cost, if the province fails to negotiate a better agreement with the federal government.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, we are in the process, as a result of the meetings we've had last week with the Solicitor General's department, of writing to all the municipalities who contract or enter into municipal contracts with the RCMP for services, to give them the most up-to-date information. Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that as a result of the meetings that we had with the Solicitor General in the early part of the new year, that they will soften their stand. Certainly the offer that they have made is just not acceptable to me and to the Government of Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the Minister that that offer is not acceptable to the

municipalities and the LGDs either. I'd ask the Minister if he has indicated to the federal government that in the event of a failure to negotiate a reasonable contract that the province will undertake ways and means of examining different potentialities for providing policing services to communities, so that we are not locked into a contract which will be unacceptable, as the Minister says, to the province as a whole and to the municipalities and LGDs which are going to be affected by that contract?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have in no way indicated that we would, in Manitoba, use any other police force other than the RCMP.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege because I've just had an opportunity to look at the correspondence which earlier you indicated you sent on behalf of the members. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that I accept the fact that anything that you do is done on behalf of the members but I would not want any silence or acquiescence on my part, you having made that statement, to let it be somehow interpreted that I, and I can only speak for myself, but since this ruling was not made in the House, I wish the Speaker to be made aware that I do not accept the fact that the Government of Canada, Parliament of Canada, can set rules as to who shall sit in a provincial legislature, and I merely wish to make . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. I wonder if the honourable member could leave the matter at least until we have completed the question period. Would that be agreeable?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that I am supposed to rise on a matter of privilege at the first opportunity and it's because you used those words, that it was sent on the members' behalf, that I rise to tell you that I don't wish my silence to indicate that I believe that the federal government has any right to pass laws as to who shall sit in a provincial legislature. That applies to any member of this House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and ask him whether he could indicate the extent of provincial funding for the Four Nations Confederacy, formerly the MIB.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I don't have any funding coming through the Department of Northern Affairs for the MIB.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the Minister whether this was the case previously in the last few years and I'm particularly requesting whether the Minister has any information concerning the misuse

and misappropriation of funds by the MIB, which was dealt with at some length on the national television program last weekend, on W5.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I would like to volunteer to the House to reply to the question. The numbers of dollars that are paid to the Four Nations Confederacy are through my department and they amount to 130,800.00.

I have been in conversation with the reporter that was doing the program and indicated to him if there was any indication whatsoever of any misuse of public funds that I would like to know about them and we would sit down with the Provincial Auditor to review them and, if there was any misuse of funds, that we would refer it to the Attorney-General. The report in question has not come back to me.

With regard to what the funds are used for. They are used as a general grant in the same manner that the former administration had given the grant out to the MIB and in addition to that it is used for the administration costs of the office, the rent of the office, office supply and basic administration duties.

I might say, Mr. Speaker, that funds were not issued this year until we had an audited statement from the MIB.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, in view of two particularly serious allegations that were made, (1) that there were unaudited advances of some 4,000 in one month to one vice-president and that a normal house in Winnipeg was used to receive some either 17,000 or 30,000 and then the money was simply passed out for totally different purposes, or kicked back. In view of the seriousness and the fact that there was an individual from Winnipeg who testified and freely admitted that he had served this purpose, dark purpose in my estimate, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister or the Attorney-General be calling for an inquiry concerning these serious allegations?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, that particular area of expenditure which the honourable member is referring to, I believe, comes under the federal grant system and does not constitute moneys that we provide to the MIB. I would suggest that if the honourable member is that concerned he should contact his local MP to raise the situation with him so he in turn can make notices to the federal government.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister whether he is seriously suggesting that the funds which come from two sources; that the funds that appear to have been misspent, or misallocated, or misused, or misappropriated, that those funds are obviously federal funds and couldn't possibly be provincial funds. How does he know that? How does he know that it is only the federal government moneys which are misused whereas his are properly spent if he hasn't made an inquiry, or is he refusing to do so?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Elmwood has seen the audited statement for last year's operations of the MIB, he would see very clearly the way that the statement is presented that the amounts for covering of administration lists in detail what the expenditures cover. They are laid out in that manner for each particular grant for different programs and it is my opinion that the grants we give are under administration and are fully indicated within the audited statement that we received. We obviously would be concerned if provincial funds were involved in anything that would appear to be misuse. In our opinion at this time that has not occurred.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister responsible for the Northlands Agreement or his second, if he's not here. I would like to ask, when can we expect the negotiations to be completed which are under way to produce a new northern development agreement which is mentioned in the Throne Speech?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Northern Affairs, in reply to the question, they are under negotiation as the Member for Rupertsland is probably aware. The beginning date is the next fiscal year, '81-'82. We expect the negotiations to be completed in ample time for the assumption of normal programming for that year.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister on a topic of energy, regarding the discussions which have been held with the Trans-Canada Pipelines with respect to feasibility providing natural gas to other areas of Manitoba than which are now presently served, can the Minister indicate if there are any specific feasibility studies under way or is it simply discussions that are taking place between officials at this point?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, there have been feasibility studies undertaken and they have been undertaken primarily by the companies involved and principally, the Trans-Canada Pipelines. Those will be presented ultimately, we trust, to the National Energy Board in an application. We have been in consultation with them and been part of their considerations along the way and are supportive of their efforts. At this point in time they have done what we believe is a sufficient amount of feasibility work, that along with the incentive programs that appear to be emerging from the federal government, that there is some chance of there being some action taken in 1981.

The program which would lead to the construction of what would be the major connection into northern Manitoba, a line almost 500 miles long, is part of a program that is being examined across Canada for lateral extensions into now areas that are not served by natural gas. We're hopeful that along with the assistance programs that are available through the federal government, that we can find justification for this connection to northern Manitoba.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate if his government is in possession of these feasibility studies and if so, can he make these available to the House that we can have a better understanding of this issue and know more directly whether or not this is really a feasible project, or if it simply is something which the government is using in its hopeful way in which they seem to be presenting issues to the Legislature in this session?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, the appropriate time for that would be when the company makes its application to the National Energy Board. At that time all the documentation will be available to the public in general.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs. I want to know what action, if any, the government intends to take with respect to the recent decision by the City of Winnipeg Council allowing the rezoning and development of what was regarded as prime rail relocation land in East St. Paul for a very large housing development in that municipality. Is it the intent of the government to take any action with respect to that decision by the city?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe with respect to that decision that that is a decision to be made by City Council and under the legislation cannot be interfered with by the provincial government.

MR. CORRIN: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister indicate whether the government will entertain the passage of an Act, a special Act of this Legislature, invalidating any such rezoning and development by-law which has passed by the City of Winnipeg Council? Will they take that initiative if it proves necessary to protect the rail relocation plan, Mr. Speaker?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that is anticipated. We have decided as a government that as much as possible the City of Winnipeg Council should be master of its own fate and these are decisions, planning decisions, which should be made by City Council. We can only build respect and responsibility in a municipal organization like that and others as they are given responsibility. We have rejected, Mr. Speaker, the interfering big-brother attitude towards the City of Winnipeg that was so evidenced by the previous government.

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

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Since rail relocation is of imminent importance to all residents of the City of Winnipeg and since the provincial government indeed has seen fit to continue an Urban Affairs Department — albeit, Mr. Speaker, they have reduced it to only some three employees — I would ask whether the provincial government, now after over a year, has established a policy with respect to rail relocation for the city of Winnipeg. Have they done that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. MERCIER: First, Mr. Speaker, let me correct the inaccuracies and the premise to the question by the member. There is no lack of staff available to myself as Minister of Urban Affairs within the provincial government. Mr. Speaker, we, with respect to the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass, supported the decision of the city of Winnipeg some time ago to make application for the construction of that particular project. That decision and that policy, I think, was in evidence at that time. As I understand it now, the mayor of the City of Winnipeg, they intended to hold a seminar for members of the council and the public in January of the coming year on the subject of the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass, but the policy of the City of Winnipeg has been to support the construction of that particular project. On the basis of that decision by City Council in the past, we supported that project and will continue to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education respecting Assiniboine College. Reports have been circulating in the media in Brandon that the tenders on the Assiniboine College extension have come in about 2 million higher than the budgeted amount. Can the honourable minister advise the House by just how much higher the bids have come in over this budgeted amount?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice to ascertain the exact figures in this particular matter.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could advise us whether the policy will be to make more funds available to the college for that particular expansion or whether he will direct the authorities in the college to reduce the size of the proposed expansion.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the honourable member any determination on that matter at this time, we're looking at several different aspects.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Honourable Minister advise the House then whether there will be any undue or unnecessary delay in the construction scheduling, the date of construction, because of this particular relatively high bidding that has occurred now for the expansion of the college?

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly hope not. It's our intention to proceed with the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the Minister of Economic Development. Could he advise the House as to what intercessions were made by him or his department with Monarch Wear in order to attempt to stop them from leaving Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, the department was very aware of the circumstances at Monarch Wear, the circumstances at Monarch Wear have not been something that was created immediately, they were circumstances that built up over the years and we do not have any program to move in to take over a business that has faltered because it becomes a situation of possibly throwing good money after bad, but we are very aware of the situation at Monarch Wear.

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the minister is aware of the situation. My question, however, was did he contact them? What did he do to try to keep them in Manitoba? All of us are sad to see another one go. It's getting to the point where we should probably start sessions of the Legislature with a moment of silence for all the companies that have left between sessions. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know is what the minister did in order to attempt to prevent another company from leaving?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we did have discussions with Monarch Wear, they made a decision which was a corporate decision of their own, and you know we do not have barriers around the Province of Manitoba and never will we have any intention to, Mr. Speaker, any more than we stopped Canada Wire and Cable from starting a 2 million project to build fibre optic cable in Manitoba last year.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister reporting for Manitoba Telephone System. The question has to do with the loan made a few months ago to a company, I believe it was called Inter Disc Comp Systems of some .5 million. Is the minister now in a position to advise the House who the beneficial owners of this company are?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that information has always been freely available. I don't have it with me at my fingertips but I will undertake to make it available. Mr. Speaker, if the honourable members want the answer, as indeed if the Provincial Auditor wanted the answer, all he had to do was ask.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister has advised the Provincial Auditor as to this information. He seemed to have had some difficulty in ascertaining this information.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour for question period having expired.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this time I should like to introduce to the honourable members 30 students of Grade 12 standing from Teulon Collegiate, under the direction of Mr. Close. This school is in the

constituency of the Honourable Minister of Education.

We also have Grade 11 students from Minnetonka School under the direction of Mr. Palson. They're from the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Finance.

And we have 25 students of Grade 4 standing from Salisbury East under the direction of Mr. Peckey. These come from the constituency of the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

On behalf of all honourable members we welcome you here today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Consideration of the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I firstly would like to congratulate the Premier for extending me the privilege of making this Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. It's an honour for me, Mr. Speaker, and for the people I represent in the Constituency of Minnedosa.

I would like also, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate the First Minister on the leadership that he has shown in the several conferences recently held in Ottawa and for the direction he has shown in directing the affairs of this province. Mr. Speaker, I think we have one of the most capable premiers in Canada today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you once again on assuming the position of Speaker of the House. You've consistently carried out your duties with the fairness and balance of judgment which the position demands and I'm sure your reputation will continue through this Session as being a first-class Speaker of this House.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne should be welcomed by all the members of the House as a positive document, a fulfillment of the sound policies pursued by our government and that expresses justified optimism about the future of Manitoba in spite of real and perceived problems in this great country of ours.

Over the past few months the debate over the Constitution has spawned controversy and continues to be of concern to all Canadians. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the idea of bringing The British North America Act to Canada complete with an amending formula approved by the provinces, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I feel I must condemn the unilateral and arrogant actions taken by the federal government, and I must say, aided and abetted by the Ottawa colleagues of my friends opposite, Mr. Speaker. I think it's time the power brokers of the empire of the St. Lawrence realized that the outer regions of this country have legitimate concerns which must be faced to preserve our provincial authority, Mr. Speaker. We will fight to preserve our provincial authority, and in so doing make Canada and the Province of Manitoba a better place to live.

In the resolution, we are expressing our firm commitment to a united Canada and when presented to this House, Mr. Speaker, I will be one of its strongest supporters. But I think it has been evident to those of us in the meetings that have taken place recently in Western Canada that there is an

indication of unrest and disappointment that is felt by people in the west, and I'm sure the federal authorities will be taking just cognizance of that fact.

I think another major concern has been the economic recession throughout the world, Mr. Speaker, a recession that is threatening the prudent policies followed by the government. In its effort to facilitate economic recovery, our government has carefully laid a groundwork to overcome the disastrous slide to oblivion that was laid by the former members in the early 1970s. Our policies, prudently cultivated, are bearing fruit and will continue to do so.

We are faced, as we all know, with outside factors that we can do little about here and just only this morning the increase of the interest rate to 17 percent prime, is something that we're all extremely concerned with and it's something we have little clout in the provincial level to remedy, Mr. Speaker.

But if we just look at the record, Mr. Speaker, since this government came to office, there's been 30,000 new jobs created. These are new jobs, Mr. Speaker, they're not civil service jobs, they're jobs that have been created in the private sector that do not place the burden on the taxpayers; they're solid jobs and this government has succeeded in re-establishing a pattern of civility and reason in negotiations between government and other groups in our society, Mr. Speaker. There was a sad and sorry parade of confrontations which marked the years of the previous administration and this is being replaced by harmony and negotiations with the teachers, the doctors and the business community and the dedicated men and women who make up Manitoba's public service.

Our government moved quickly to correct punitive measures brought on by the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, succession duties and the mineral acreage tax have been abolished; the income tax is reduced and we adopted a rational approach to resource taxation. The results have been most gratifying, Mr. Speaker, because mining activity and exploration is now at record levels in northern Manitoba and oil exploration activity is at its highest in the history of this province. This has been brought about, Mr. Speaker, by placing Manitoba back in a more competitive position with the other provinces and is due, in large measure if not totally, to the policies pursued by this government since we came to office in 1977.

I know this certainly upsets the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, because they enjoyed the headlines that appeared on December 2, I think, Bankruptcies Were Up 65 Percent, I believe it was. The opposition loves headlines like that, Mr. Speaker, but we look here in the headline and it said there's a Minnedosa accountancy firm that is one of these statistics that increases the rate to 65 percent. I come from Minnedosa, Mr. Speaker, and we have been unable to find the chartered accountancy firm in Minnedosa that went bankrupt. If they are going bankrupt the country's in real trouble. But these statistics, a great number of them, Mr. Speaker, are lone one-person firms and we don't like to see anyone go bankrupt, but it's headlines like this that the opposition love to grab onto and say, look what's happening to the Province of Manitoba. They're doing a bit of a disservice, I think, because the headlines, while they

might scream at the average person on the street, really don't tell the true story.

We all know that there's financial problems in the country today and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition, how many bankruptcies there are in Saskatchewan and Ontario and Alberta. Manitoba is not the only place where bankruptcy is occurring. — (Interjection)— We all know what high interest is doing and you'll be paying 22 or 23 percent for your loans and I don't see how very many small businesses can survive that for too long a period. But you very well know that it's not a very simple little measure for the Province of Manitoba to knock interest rates back down to 10 percent. The Leader of the Opposition knows that very well. There's no point in wailing and moaning and groaning when policies that will result in good things for Manitoba come from this side and they'll be coming for years to come, for many years to come.

The Throne Speech will naturally increase their gloom considerably, Mr. Speaker, because some of the major projects are already underway and the mining sector, as the Member for Flin Flon will confirm, the Granges, Trout Lake and HBM&S operation is now well underway and will be providing some more good solid jobs in that particular area. We're excited in western Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, with the developments that are taking place there. We are on the verge of major developments in the potash as was mentioned in the Throne Speech. That is exciting news for western Manitoba particularly, Mr. Speaker, because that development will not only bring a vast infusion of capital into the province, but it's going to create several hundred jobs.

Now that is a significant development that has been brought about by this government, Mr. Speaker, and the announcement of the aluminum in conjunction with the Alcan, the investigations of the viability of a half-a-billion-dollar aluminum refinery — that will mean more jobs for Manitobans. This is exciting news, Mr. Speaker, and we can't help but be enthused and while the final agreement may not be completed as yet, there's enough evidence there to create that enthusiasm and bring Manitoba back into a healthy economic position.

The studies that have been going on with the Western Power Grid, Mr. Speaker, are indeed encouraging, and I know that the Leader of the Opposition is not completely out of touch with the Premier of Saskatchewan. I would urge him to use his good offices, Mr. Speaker, to help complete the negotiations in bringing this particular study into completion. We are following a rational quality towards the development of our hydro-electric potential, Mr. Speaker, and we don't want to have a repeat of the hit-and-miss scatter-gun approach that was so fondly embraced by the members on the other side of the House, because we know what that has cost the taxpayers and the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of these large projects will affect all aspects of our economy and I am pleased with the decision of my colleagues to establish an industrial benefits group which will report to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Development. This, Mr. Speaker, will ensure the development, so that the greatest benefits from it will accrue to our economy and will particularly benefit the small businesses of Manitoba, because our government

knows how important the small businesses are to our economy and we've acted to ensure that this sector progresses.

As an example of that, Mr. Speaker, we have revised the corporation capital tax, that's been removed, to take a burden that was almost entirely from small business, it has almost entirely removed; there may be one or two still paying. Under the Enterprise Manitoba program, Mr. Speaker, we have established two new technological centres to help Manitoba's firms develop their full capabilities. There's one of those located in western Manitoba, just south of my constituency and we're happy to see that thrust of the government develop in western Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, as a rural MLA I realize the importance of small businesses and of agriculture to the province's economy. Both of these have been affected this past year by natural disasters, the flood of '79 and the drought of 1980 and we've come through those trials, Mr. Speaker, I think because of the spirit of individual optimism of our farmers and the businessmen in the areas affected. We've come through them very well and I'm proud of the manner in which the government has acted so efficiently and effectively to support the people and to minimize the effect of these disastrous occurrences and there's no question of the continued support that the farmers in this province will get, Mr. Speaker, because this government realizes how important agriculture is to our economy.

I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, of accompanying the Minister of Agriculture up into the Interlake area that was particularly hard hit by drought to start with, and then when there was some relief with the low lying areas drying up — they were able to put up some hay — before they were able to get it to high ground and to safety they experienced unusually heavy rains and lost whatever forage crops they had by way of flood. The ranchers were optimistic that with the government programs that they could get in sufficient feed to winter their herds over and every effort is being made to minimize the disastrous situation that they faced last fall.

Mr. Speaker, there are several other developments that I am compelled to mention which will be of assistance to our farm community. Firstly, there's the multi-million dollar rapeseed crushing facility to be built in Harrowby, Manitoba, which is still in western Manitoba. Secondly, there's the ethanol plant in my home constituency of Minnedosa, the first project of its nature in Canada today, Mr. Speaker, and while there has been one or two negative thinkers on that particular project of using grain for the production of alcohol, it has to be pointed out that there's only a portion taken out of that. The starch is removed, the protein remains in the product, Mr. Speaker, and can be used in underdeveloped countries or for animal feed or whatever it should be used for. But the development of that plant, Mr. Speaker, is going to take a production of some million bushels of barley from western Manitoba, and that has to be good news for the farmers in that area. I would add, Mr. Speaker, the fact that that plant is being developed or established in my particular area is a direct result of the policies of this government in removing some of the obstacles in . . .

Both of these projects, Mr. Speaker, are consistent with our governments overall aim of diversifying the

agriculture sector and stimulating the processing industry in Manitoba. The production of gasohol, as we all know, in the United States has become a major industry down there. There was an announcement the other day of a new plant in Minnesota that will produce 15 million gallons of alcohol to be used, an ethylene product to be used in gasohol. Our plant will maybe produce a million and a half to two million gallons at the most. So that's just some indication of the potential of that market in an energy starved world, Mr. Speaker.

But I think more important than these developments, it will help to ensure that the family farm remains a viable unit in our society, and the government believes strongly in preserving the family farm, and we have acted and are acting to preserve it. Now this is far more than can be said, Mr. Speaker, for the urban cowboys across the way. We are going to take further action, Mr. Speaker, to protect the family farm by plugging alleged loopholes in The Farmlands Protection Act. Now we all know when you bring in a new piece of legislation that there are immediately a battery of legal beagles that work to find loopholes in it, the former Minister of Agriculture will confirm that and attest to that because he experienced the same problems. We felt that we had plugged them all but there apparently is some left and the minister will be taking whatever steps are necessary to shore that legislation up, because I mentioned earlier that agriculture is still the most important sector in our economy and this government will continue its progressive policies to ensure that it remains in a primary position.

I want to return now to an aspect of our policies, Mr. Speaker, which I am particularly proud of. Our record of maintaining and improving the level of services to the people of Manitoba. We are one of the best, most compassionate and comprehensive systems of services in the world. And, Mr. Speaker, this didn't stop the members across the way who know this is true from throwing up a smoke screen not too long ago, claiming that federal funds were being diverted to God knows what uses, highways and everything else. And there was none other, Mr. Speaker, than the eminent Supreme Court Justice, Emmett Hall, who stated that they were wrong in their charges, indeed he described our health care services as one of the very best in the world. That must have come as a shock to the critics across the way, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to further improve our services, Mr. Speaker, by implementing recommendations put forth by the Council on Aging, a committee set up by this government, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased and happy to say that the chairman of it is a lady from my constituency. There will be increased construction on personal care homes, replacement of nursing homes, there will be continued construction of hospitals, the development and improvement of health care centres and the addition of psychiatric care beds.

We have also taken major steps, Mr. Speaker, to give more help to the people who need it most through the White Paper reforms which were introduced during the last session. The new Manitoba supplement for pensioners doubled the benefits available to the elderly as well as extending the benefits to Manitobans between the ages of 55

and 65. The Shelter Allowance for elderly renters, Mr. Speaker, was increased and it too, was extended to pensioners between the ages of 55 and 65. It expanded to include low income families also. Single parent families, Mr. Speaker, were not forgotten. The CRISP Program, the Child Related Income Support Program will provide extra income at the rate of 30.00 per month per child.

And we mustn't forget the increased property tax credits — 100.00 more in both minimum and maximum credits with additional benefits to senior citizens in regard to school taxes.

I do not need to elaborate, Mr. Speaker, on the expanded day care programs. We are all well aware of the new noon and after school programs, and the addition not only of funds but also of 3,300 new day care places.

The measures I have outlined, Mr. Speaker, are a positive proof of the policy and efforts of this government to maintain and improve the services to the people. I know from the uncomfortable feelings of the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, that they hate to admit that the things we're doing right and the things we intend to pursue in our course of fulfilling the needs of this province will give them undue concern.

Mr. Speaker, on the Throne Speech I could pick our numbers one to gosh knows how many, 10 or 12 of items that are going to benefit the people of this province. There's twinning of Highways 75 and there's additional twinning of the No. 1 Highway west of Brandon to the Saskatchewan border. This has been done with no federal assistance. Mr. Speaker, we're well ahead of the wealthy cousins we have to the west of us in the province of Saskatchewan and the province of Alberta, who are miles ahead of us in resource development and income, are way behind us in the double-laning of their Trans-Canada Highway.

This is planned progress, Mr. Speaker. It's not a hit-and-miss program. The program is announced and thought out and planned well ahead of time. We know how difficult it is to keep ahead with the road system today because my own constituency has experienced a loss of rail lines that have placed a heavy heavy burden on our highways with the requirement of semi-trailers to move our produce to market for the farmers. I must say the Highways Minister has been doing his best to provide the people of my area with upgraded road facilities and for the amount of progress we've made to date, I want to say that the people of Minnedosa constituency are appreciative.

The provincial tax credit system, Mr. Speaker, mentioned by some members opposite, that would aid the interest plight that we're facing today would only be a bandaid treatment I think for the real problem of high interest rates. I think a serious federal program is necessary before it provides any real relief. By the sound of the latest Auditor-General's report that's been announced, there is a great deal they can do down there to cut out some of their waste and maybe they could provide it in some form of assistance to cover the high interest rates.

Mr. Speaker, with the items contained in the Throne Speech Debate — and I go from highways to development of energy sources and the study of the

further development of petro chemical industry — these are items, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite are going to vote against. (Interjection)— They will be voting against them, Mr. Speaker. We'll categorically list them one by one and let them vote against them because they will have to answer to the voters, Mr. Speaker, when it's brought up that all of these progressive measures for the development of industry in this province which will provide the thousands of jobs that are going to be necessary in the future, these are the things that they will be voting against and they will have to be accountable for their actions, Mr. Speaker.

So in closing, it's my pleasure to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that a 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 the 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.

I would now, Mr. Speaker, forward it to you post haste with the page. Thank you very much.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ROBERT ANDERSON (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to participate in the Throne Speech Debate in this, the Fifth Session of the 31st Legislature. First, I wish to add to the congratulations extended to you by my colleague, the Member for Minnedosa, on your resumption of the duties of your high office. I know that you will continue to preside over our proceedings with your usual impartiality, good humour and dignity.

I also express my appreciation to the First Minister and his colleagues on the Executive Council for giving me the privilege of seconding the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, this particular Throne Speech represents a realistic vision for Manitoba, something which we in Manitoba have lacked for a number of years. Our predecessors had great visions of state-owned enterprises with compulsory government involvement branching out to almost every sector of our economy. It is refreshing now to see the broad interest being paid by the private sector to our province which has created employment and stability which has given a renewed confidence to our future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the First Minister and his Cabinet colleagues who have worked so diligently on behalf of the people of Manitoba in bringing in a Throne Speech with such optimism. The optimism expressed in the mining sector with the development of the Trout Lake ore body; the exploratory work being done at St. Lazare for a potash mine; the work being done towards a Western Power Grid; the potential establishment of an aluminum production plant are all impressive ideas which will have a major impact on the economy of this province.

Manitobans are a proud and resourceful lot and traditionally have not been inspired by the ideology

associated with my friends opposite. The spirit and determination of people who are born here or attracted here is characterized by individual initiative. It is the human resource that we have in this province that has made the difference in the past and will continue to make the difference in the future. You do not tame or sublimate the kind of human resource that exists in Manitoba.

This is what a previous government attempted to do. It attempted to sublimate the great spirit that exists amongst our people. It attempted to say, we the government, had all the answers; that we the government, will provide for all your needs. This is not the nature of our people. Our people want to do things for themselves and that has been the characteristic of this government, to allow people the opportunity to do things for themselves, to have choices, to make decisions, to build the kind of world that they want for themselves and their families. This is the basic difference between this government and the one that sat and was tested for the first years of the '70s. They failed. They failed because they were not representative of the spirit of Manitoba; the spirit in 1979 that responded to the pressures and demands of fighting a flood; the spirit that responded to the courage and dedication of a Terry Fox in 1980.

This government has demonstrated its sensitivity to people on many occasions, through the White Paper Tax Reforms, in time of drought, in time of economic difficulty, in time of national interest, and in time of making tough decisions. Generally, this government has responded to our people and their needs. This is what my friends opposite failed to do. They failed because they started to interfere in the daily lives of people who basically know what's best for themselves in the first place. They failed because they surrounded themselves with a group of bureaucrats and theoreticians who told them how people should live, where people should live and what people should have. They failed because they didn't understand that Manitoba has great and proud traditions associated with its people. Just, as an example, one of those traditions has been the idea of owning your own land. This is very important to people who live in Manitoba and people must never forget the alternative offered by the previous administration. People haven't forgotten about state farms. People shouldn't forget about the planning and priorities group of a previous Cabinet that was making decisions and implementing regulations, imposing constraints on freedoms that we assume to be ours and that legislators would never attempt to take away.

We see a renewed interest in our province from outside during the last three years. We see an interest by businessmen to come here to invest in resource development, in manufacturing, in exploration for minerals, potash, oil and many other sectors of our economy. Why? Because this government is not taking taxpayers' money to invest in places where governments should not be. We have seen instead private capital being used to create jobs, to invest in capital projects, to invest in the future of Manitoba and all that goes with it.

We have a vision for this province and a lot of that vision is contained in the Throne Speech, read yesterday to this House. The doom and gloomers,

and unfortunately there are some that are elected representatives, didn't like what they heard yesterday. They heard words that were saying, good things are happening in Manitoba. They heard that this government is doing things for people who need help. They heard words that were saying, this government is a government that offers opportunity for growth. They heard that we are going to continue to prosper in this province. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the province suffers when the doom and gloomers across, paint their drab, dreary pictures, pictures that are painted for their own political gain. Members on this side have rather more pride in Manitoba than that.

These are not the best of economic times. Manitoba does not sit in isolation from the rest of the world, or the rest of North America, or the rest of Canada but its performance, given the circumstances, is commendable. In spite of eight years of Socialist government in the '70s, Manitoba is developing against the grain, or the trend of the North American economy. Three years of Progressive Conservative government is succeeding in creating the environment where the private sector can invest and develop, to the greater good of all of us, without the fear of the restrictions and the bondage placed by a Socialist government.

People are first with this government. Through listening to people and allowing people some elbow room a lot has happened. We have made taxes in Manitoba more competitive by abolishing succession duties and the mineral acreage tax, by reducing personal income taxes and reducing resource taxes so that mining exploration has recovered and is now at record levels. Through these efforts we have helped our economy to recover its ability to create the jobs that Manitobans need.

For instance, in the three years we have been in office, according to federal statistics for the month ending November 30 of this year, the Manitoba economy has created a total of 30,000 new jobs, three times the job creation rate achieved in the last three years of the NDP government.

As a government we have increased expenditures where necessary and trimmed where needed. For example, in the 1980 budget, health care expenditures were increased by 65 million or 12.5 percent over 1979. And then in response to budgetary pressures arising from recent wage settlements and increases in the cost of supplies, the provincial funds available to Manitoba hospitals and personal care homes were increased by another 1.5 percent, to ensure that the quality of health care in our province remains among the best in Canada. The Hall Report has proven that fact to be true. In fact the share of total provincial budget allocated to health services has never been higher than it is under our administration.

Publicly funded educational institutions received increased support of some 30 million, up 8 percent to a total of almost 400 million, in spite of declining enrolments. On a per student basis, our government support for public school education this year increased some 18 percent, a fact rarely mentioned by the opposition or others.

Recognizing the needs of the elderly, we enriched the level of support to senior citizens in the province. Increases in the level of benefits available through

the SAFER program, the Manitoba Property Tax Credit program, the Pensioner's School Tax program, the Manitoba Supplement for Pensioners will go a long way to help those senior citizens on fixed incomes in their fight against inflation.

Substantially increased assistance to working parents through an expanded day care program now available, a program which in the past three years has increased 300 percent from 3 million to 9 million. This year, for the first time in Manitoba, public support will be allotted to noon and after school care in addition to the expansion of day care facilities for preschool children.

Mr. Speaker, in my remarks to this point I have tried to indicate the efforts of my government over the past three years to enhance the quality of life enjoyed by Manitobans and to put right the economic climate of this province. All this has laid the foundation for the Throne Speech we heard yesterday.

The continuation of the White Paper Reforms provides assistance to those genuinely in need. The assistance is being provided in a targeted approach rather than the shotgun approach of universal programs. That theme continues with the ongoing program of construction and replacement of personal care homes and on expansions and new construction in the hospital field. The measures dealing with the development of our province's mental health centres to provide additional psychiatric care beds and increased funding for occupational activity centres for the mentally retarded, provide care to those Manitobans who require that assistance. Mr. Speaker, the emphasis in the Throne Speech on a number of major projects either under way or in the planning stages, indicate the actions of my government over the past three years, are now bearing fruit.

The three principles detailed in the Throne Speech relating to the development of Manitoba Hydro, should be called to your attention once more, Mr. Speaker. Any future development of generating capacity will be done: (1) only on the basis of identified markets; (2) major components will be purchased as far as possible from Manitoba and Canadian companies; and (3) the electric power generated shall be used as much as possible within Manitoba to create our industrial development. These principles give Manitoba Hydro a sense of form and direction that will ensure that a prime Manitoba resource gives maximum benefits to Manitobans.

On the subject of energy, the prospects of natural gas service to the north and to areas of southern Manitoba not now served with that fuel will be well received by all Manitobans. In my own constituency, four villages received gas service in 1979. It has proven a very efficient fuel for heating homes and community buildings and gives rural towns an opportunity for additional industrial development. Natural gas service to primary agricultural producers assists them in keeping down the cost of intensive livestock production and grain drying. Gas service in the north will provide our northern residents with a source of fuel which is subject to a price-regulating body, namely our own Public Utilities Board.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave more detailed consideration of the Throne Speech to others. I

believe that my government's actions over the past three years have created the climate that encouraged the exciting developments listed in it. I believe that Manitoba is on the brink of an era of expansion in the '80s that it should have had in the '70s, but was denied it by the eight-year administration of my friends opposite. I believe that this Throne Speech is a document that will be well received by all Manitobans.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to second the motion so ably placed before us by my colleague the Member for Minnedosa.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

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

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Government Services that this House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is accordingly adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m., Monday, 15 December, 1980.