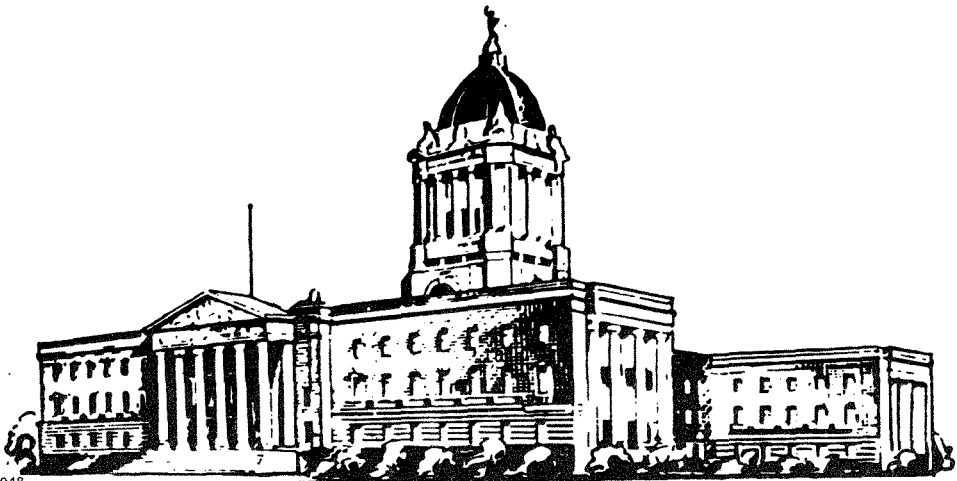




Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable D. James Walding
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Ccncordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Viriden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 6 December, 1982

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have a Ministerial Statement that I would like to introduce. It is being prepared at this moment; it should be here within about five or ten minutes. I would like permission of the House to present it at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. A. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, since the Government is following this Session in the same course of action that it followed in the last, not being able to organize the affairs of Government properly, we will agree to return to Ministerial Statements.

MR. SPEAKER: So agreed by the House. Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. R. PENNER introduced Bill No. 2, The Law Enforcement Review Act - La loi sur les enquêtes relatives à l'application de la loi. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor).

HON. B. URUSKI introduced Bill No. 3, The Farm Lands Ownership Act - La loi sur la propriété agricole (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor); and Bill No. 7, An Act to amend The Dairy Act.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK introduced Bill No. 8, An Act to amend The Corporations Act; and Bill No. 9, An Act to amend The Partnership Act.

HON. R. PENNER introduced Bill No. 11, An Act to amend The Registry Act.

HON. A. MACKLING introduced Bill No. 12, The Water Rights Act - Loi sur les droits d'utilisation de l'eau.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister have a message to accompany the introduction of that bill?

HON. A. MACKLING: No.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M. DOLIN: I would ask leave to introduce the Ministerial Statement that I mentioned earlier. (Agreed)

I am pleased to announce that the Governments of Canada and Manitoba today signed a Letter of Understanding which will lead to joint federal-provincial funding of \$24 million to create several thousand additional jobs in Manitoba. The details of this arrangements are expected to be finalized within a week.

This joint program, called The New Employment Expansion and Development Program, or NEED, will provide a contribution towards wages as well as administrative and overhead costs. Projects may cover a wide range of activities and be located anywhere in the province. They must contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province and must involve the creation of additional jobs.

Both Governments have agreed that priority will be given to those projects which are labour intensive and supportive of the two Governments' employment strategies. These projects will enhance the creation of ongoing employment and will position employers, communities and participants to take advantage of this province's economic recovery.

I am pleased to note that the federal-provincial projects funded under the NEED program are in addition to the provincial job creation initiatives being planned or already in progress. These provincial initiatives include:

The Department of Labour and Manpower's Northern Employment Programs and the Manitoba Employment Action Program, which will provide \$3.1 million for the creation of some 1,120 jobs;

The Department of Northern Affairs, Northern Job Creation Programs, which will provide \$1.9 million for the creation of approximately 615 jobs;

The Department of Urban Affairs, City of Winnipeg Sewer and Watermain Renewal Program is projecting expenditures of 2.5 million for the creation of up to 515 jobs;

The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation's activities include a program for accelerated repair of rural public housing with a budget of \$1 million and expecting to employ up to 600 people; the Critical Home Repair Program, with a \$3 million budget, is already employing 1,000 contractors; the Homes in Manitoba Program, with a budget of 50 million, is projected to employ 2,000 people from the end of August, 1982 to the end of 1983;

The Department of Energy and Mines Retrofit Program will employ in this fiscal year a projected 200 people at a cost of \$200,000;

Temporary job creation in the mining sector will have resulted in employment for more than 550 people in short term jobs through the co-operation of the Departments of Energy and Mines, Labour and Manpower, and the Federal Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

The Department of Government Services will spend approximately \$3.7 million by accelerating more than 70 projects involving public capital works projects this winter. This will employ several hundred people in the hard-hit construction industry.

I am also pleased to mention that our initiatives in

the area of youth and student employment this past summer assisted in the creation of over 6,800 jobs. Similar initiatives are being planned for next summer.

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, with the depressing, appalling, discouraging job situation, which was made public in Manitoba last Friday, the Opposition welcomes any announcement that will create jobs for some of the 52,000 unemployed persons in Manitoba, particularly at a time when the Manitoba rate has risen so much higher than the national rate and when Manitoba is leading the increase in unemployment statistics across this country. We wonder at the necessity of including in this Ministerial Statement a summary of what this Government has been doing and has announced over the past year on a number of occasions. Fully three-quarters of this announcement has already been previously announced. What the Minister, I would have hoped would have said, Mr. Speaker, was that she was going to withdraw the payroll tax so that tax, which is creating unemployment in Manitoba and which is reducing the wages of people working in Manitoba, would be withdrawn and that would create more additional employment opportunities in Manitoba.

I would have hoped, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister would have announced a change in attitude towards investment and towards the private sector in Manitoba. Rather than announcing ManOil and a public life insurance company, Mr. Speaker, some announcements that would indicate that Manitoba was open for business, perhaps like Saskatchewan is under a Progressive Conservative Government, now private sector and private investment would be welcomed in Manitoba. We would not have the need to create make-work projects, Mr. Speaker. We would be creating permanent jobs in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, by leave I am advised by the Clerk that a message was required for Bill No. 12 and I so advise the House that Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has been advised of the contents of this bill and recommends it to the House.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we reach Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 46 students of Grade II standing from the West Kildonan Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Butler and Mrs. Bailey. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

There are 52 students of Grades 8 and 9 standing from Richer School under the direction of Mr. DeGagne and Mrs. Bekeris. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

I'd also like to note that Mr. Ed Whelan, a former MLA and Cabinet Minister from Saskatchewan, is also present this afternoon.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

Homes in Manitoba Program - housing starts

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister responsible for Housing and I would like to begin by welcoming him to his new responsibilities on the Treasury Bench. My question, Sir, is how many housing starts have occurred in Manitoba under funding by the highly publicized Homes in Manitoba Program that was announced some three-and-a-half months ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. J. STORIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the Member for Tuxedo for his congratulations. To date, the housing starts that have been approved under the HIMP program in the individual homeowner component represents about 120 units. We're projecting from that to the end of the year and we now have every assurance that there will be upwards of 600 units built under the program. In fact, I received word this morning that one builder alone has pre-sold 100 units under the program and expects to contribute 170 units to the program by year's end.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister continues to be optimistic because he continues to reannounce things that never materialize; but in view of the fact that interest rates have dropped dramatically during the past year, can the Minister explain why the housing starts in Winnipeg have dropped to only 402 for the first nine months of this year as compared to 1,612 for the first nine months of last year despite the Government's so-called magnificent efforts in housing?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, as everyone is aware, the housing starts have not only dropped in the province, but have dropped across Canada. The fact is that in Manitoba in October the housing starts have increased 160 percent. We're at 200 for the month of October and that represents a significant increase, 160 percent. When you compare that to what's happening in some other provinces, we're doing quite well.

In addition, although the housing program was slow in getting going in some respects, the fact is that the housing starts will be there. The fact is, if you talk to the Homebuilders Association who are doing the building, that the units will be built. The jobs will be created in the housing industry and, particularly, the Homebuilders Association have said on many occasions that this is a good program. It's an imaginative program and that has been said by everyone associated with it.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, before the Minister has his colleagues gather around him and serenade him with a rousing chorus of "How Great Thou Art," I think

that I'd like to know how much money the Government has committed for advertising and publicity thus far for the celebrated Homes in Manitoba Program and, in particular, what was the cost of the eight-page supplement in the November 20th issue of The Winnipeg Free Press covering all the MHRC housing programs?

HON. J. STORIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that this program has got under way with a minimum of development costs and advertising costs. We expect that overall the implementation costs are going to represent about 1.4, 1.5 percent of this program. I should say, specifically with respect to the supplement, I would like and am proud to say that the cost to the province on that supplement represented \$2,500.00. I will tell you that it cost that much because, like in all other aspects, this Government has worked with the homebuilders to work together co-operatively to make sure that this program is a success.

Twenty-five hundred dollars for an eight-page supplement as an insert is an incredible bargain and it was also something that has been commented on very favourably by everyone who read it.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I am sure we would all prefer housing starts to favourable comments. In view of the fact that there have been approximately 120 housing starts, according to the Minister, or applications approved for 120 under the Government's highly publicized Homes in Manitoba Program compared to the projection of 650 by December 31st, 1982, and in view of the fact that total single family housing starts in Manitoba are down 75 percent for the first nine months of this year compared to last year, will the Minister now admit that his Government's housing initiatives have been a total failure and a waste of taxpayers' dollars?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, no, I won't admit that. I think that when the final tally is in and we have seen a 100 percent increase in the housing starts over the three months that the program has been operative, we'll be able to say that definitively.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister can inform the House and the citizens of Manitoba why the conversion of rental units to condominiums in Winnipeg for the first nine months of 1982 has increased 256 percent over the same period last year, from 1,236 to 3,168.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, I could not give any definitive reason for that. I would indicate that there is a difference between condominiums that have actually been converted and those that have been registered as condominiums.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, we're talking actual conversions, 256 more conversions. That's what we are talking about and I am sure the Minister is not aware of it. Perhaps he doesn't think it's important, but I think it is significant to the rental housing sector.

I would like the Minister, Mr. Speaker, to indicate whether or not he can confirm that his Rent Regula-

tion Review staff are many, many months behind and are processing more than 10,000 rental unit appeals waiting for decisions with respect to protests under the rent control legislation.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, the Rent Regulation Bureau, as the honourable member will be aware, has announced that they anticipate to be able to get through the backlog of applications for increase as of the end of the year. The Bureau and the staff are working extremely hard to make sure that happens and I'm sure that everyone understands that the Rent Regulations Officers were not able to begin their task actually until October 1st and to date have processed approximately through 3,000 units and are working quite effectively. I anticipate that they will be done by then.

MR. G. FILMON: As usual, Mr. Speaker, there has been very little planning going into the Government's programs, so nobody is on staff to anticipate the needs.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask the Minister this question because his Rent Regulation Review Office has been unable to clarify the problem on behalf of tenants at the Courts of St. James where, the Minister will know of course, after many, many months of review a decision was finally rendered approximately three months ago to —(Interjection)— Yes, for the Minister of Natural Resources, there is indeed a question.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be sure that the Minister understands the problem, so I'll go over it carefully. The decision was rendered for an 11.3 percent increase on that complex of some 657 suites. Because of an appeal by a few tenants in that particular complex, that decision has now been placed in limbo. Tenants at that complex are interested to know whether or not they ought to be paying at the present time the rent that was asked for by the landlord, the 11.3 percent that was arrived at by the Rent Regulation Review Panel, or the 9 percent that is called for under the Act. The tenants have asked and they have not been able to get an answer from the Rent Regulation Review Bureau. I wonder what the Minister has to say.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, I would hesitate to give a definitive answer on that. My assumption is that they would pay the 9 percent, but I will check and get an answer for the honourable member.

Beef Income Assurance Program

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister of Agriculture confirm that he has written off some \$400,000 under the old Beef Income Assurance Program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that we are no longer pursuing the collection of, from approx-

imately 122 producers, monies that were purportedly owed as calculated by the former administration after they politically tinkered with the Beef Income Assurance Plan.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, if I understood the Minister correctly, he said there were some 120 some producers who are not being asked to repay the funds. Under what authority, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister acting? Under what legal documentation does he have to back up that decision that was taken by he and his Cabinet?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Arthur should know that these producers who have resisted in making the payments were also under legal advice. Mr. Speaker, there is an opinion as well that if those cases went to court that there may be the likelihood that we would have to recompense the \$2 million that were collected up until now.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, if I understand the Minister correctly, he's saying that there were some \$2 million collected or approximately. How many producers would there be that had honoured the contracts that were written during his prior term or his colleague's prior term in office? How many producers have paid back that \$2 million?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, there were so many changes made to that program by the former administration, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should know that there were approximately 6,000 producers who joined the plan originally in 1975. In 1980 there were further changes made to producers telling them that if they opted out of the plan, they would be forgiven some additional payments that they might or might not have owed. That reduced the number of producers in the program to 200. In the intervening months, between 1981-82, some producers went bankrupt; there were other problems with the program leaving a net balance of 122 on the program.

The precise amount of how many producers lived up to the terms, Mr. Speaker, only the Honourable Member for Arthur can answer that, because no mathematician can answer that kind of a question with all the hocus-pokery that went on with that program while they were in Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is saying that only I can answer that question. Is the Minister then prepared to provide all the names of those contract holders who, at the different stages, paid the funds back to the province and in fact lived up to their commitment? I would speculate, Mr. Speaker, if he wants me to answer the question, seeing as he has asked it of me, possibly there would be several hundreds of people that lived up to their commitment.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Agriculture be prepared to provide the names of those people who are not now going to be forced to pay the money back to the province? Will he provide the names to the people of Manitoba and to this Assembly?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, when that Order is tabled by the Minister of Finance, those names will be made public.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, The Minister of Finance, as he is well aware, is somewhat reluctant to table any information so that we are able to capably debate in an objective way the affairs of the Province of Manitoba and give them some direction which is necessary.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Agriculture assure us that document will be tabled within the next 24 hours in this Assembly?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot assure him of that. The fact of the matter is the instrument is a financial instrument that is to be brought in. If the honourable member doesn't realize what the instrument is, it's a financial instrument. It has to be passed by the Minister of Finance. When that is done, all the names attached to it will be made public.

Headingley Jail - study re conditions

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Corrections. I wonder if he can confirm, Mr. Speaker, that he has established a secret Commission of Inquiry into conditions at Headingley Jail.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the question from the honourable member who I know has a great interest in the correctional system in Manitoba. I can advise him that we're in the process of establishing - I wouldn't call it a task force or a broad investigation or anything like that - a study. When we have completed the details, the parameters, etc., the honourable member would be advised of that information.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his information. Can he confirm that this secret Commission of Inquiry into Headingley Jail is already in place and under way under the chairmanship of Professor Len Kaminski of the Department of Social Work of the University of Winnipeg?

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we are hoping that we will get certain individuals who will help us on this study but we have not officially and formally established the study yet.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Can the Minister confirm that he established this inquiry as a result of correspondence that he has had with me during the past three months arising out of a very serious escape attempt at Headingley Jail last August involving two very dangerous offenders, one Neil Baptiste and one Roy Hoffman, and the incredible and chaotic circumstances that came to light surrounding that escape attempt?

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that but I can advise the honourable member that I spent a great deal of this summer visiting all of our correctional institutions including Headingley, including the Remand Centre at Winnipeg and that I've had a great deal of conversation with staff, senior and middle management and rank and file staff. I've had many many hours and days of discussions with various people in the correctional system and it has brought us to the conclusion that we should have a comprehensive study.

I appreciate getting a letter from the honourable member but I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that was not the reason that prompted us to do anything in the way of a study.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, one final supplementary on this subject for today, Sir. Is the Minister denying that Professor Len Kaminski has been ordered to report to him on the situation at Headingley Jail, internal, related to security, safety and administration "as quickly as possible?"

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, the individual the honourable member refers to is a citizen of Manitoba and I am in no position, as indeed nor would he be if he were in my position, to order an individual citizen in Manitoba to do this, that or anything. So I'm not ordering any individual, but as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions with an individual to engage in a study and that has not been finalized or formalized. When it has, I'll be very pleased to give the details to the honourable member.

McKenzie Seeds - hirings

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. R. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister in charge of McKenzie Seeds and would ask him, in light of the Minister's interference in hiring practice at the Brandon Work Activities Project and now appears to have had some influence with regard to the staffing at the Westman Media Co-operative, I wonder if the Minister could inform the House as to what pressures or contact he has had with the McKenzie Seed Board to hire a friend of his, Mick Burke, who resigned at the Brandon Work Activity Centre. What pressure or contact has he had with the McKenzie Board to hire him at that establishment?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure whether I follow the question. The question was very confused and I'm not sure what the honourable gentleman is referring to.

I have prided myself over the years, Mr. Speaker, when I've had association with that company that the board and management of that company runs the company in the best interests of the company, that they are responsible for hiring and firing and it's not the responsibility of the Minister. That's the way it has been and that's the way it is today and any innuendo

or allegations made by my honourable friend are totally out of order. They're innuendo and nothing more than a smear tactic, nothing more than smear tactics.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel for an Address to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to her Speech at the opening of this Session, standing in the name of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. S. LYON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to take part, Sir, in what I have counted as being, I think, the 19th Throne Speech Debate that I've had the pleasure of participating in this House - 19 or 20 - because sometimes there have been two Throne Speeches in a year. I enjoy the honour and the privilege, Sir, of being able to participate in this Throne Speech Debate in 1982, leading us into the Session of 1983.

I, first of all, Sir, wish to congratulate you on the evident full restoration of your good health after the problems which you suffered from last year and all of the House rejoice, Sir, in seeing you restored to full health. Although it may not always appear to be the case, we on this side of the House are mindful of the difficult position to which you have been elected by the members of the Chamber and while from time to time the job of the Opposition is to make the job of the Government difficult, we are never openly trying to make your job difficult even though that may sometimes escape your attention, Sir.

We would hope - and this is not by way of gratuitous advice, but rather by way of a continuation of the rich tradition of our parliamentary system, that when difficult decisions must be made by you, as they indeed must from time to time, that you would tend to err, as I think your instinct would lead you to, on the side of freedom of debate because Parliament, as many others Speakers have put it, is a place in which the elected representatives of the people talk; and when decisions are made by the Chair with respect to the different procedural arguments that arise from time to time, it seems to me over the years as I have observed this debate and other debates in this House that a Speaker from whatever side of the House who errs on the side of freedom of debate is being consistent with that rich parliamentary tradition of which we are all so proud.

Sir, I wish to congratulate as well the new appointments of Deputy Speaker and Chairmen of Committees. We wish them well as they undertake their subsidiary responsibilities under your guidance in the House, and we look forward to working with them during the continuation of the Session in 1983.

We congratulate as well the new Ministers appointed since last we met. The numbers are somewhat staggering for a Government that said it was going to operate with a much smaller Cabinet, but we on a personal basis wish them good health, satisfaction in their jobs and a continuation of service to the public interest, which is why we are all here. Service to the

narrow partisan interest which seems to motivate some of my honourable friends opposite is not good enough. Service to all of the people of Manitoba, service to the public interest is why we are here. No particular creed or narrow partisan philosophy such as that espoused by my honourable friends opposite is sufficient in itself to justify the origination and initiation of public policy. What serves the public interest is what should initiate the public policy in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I was somewhat concerned when I read in the Throne Speech the mention that two new departments of Government would be formed during the course of this Legislative Session. I hope that doesn't mean that there will be two new Ministers in this already overburdened Government; that is overburdened in terms of executive numbers. Two new Ministers are not needed at the present time.

We all know, Sir, that while sometimes an increase in quantity improves quality, I must say, and any fair observer must say, that looking at the resources across the way one would find it difficult to think that any increase in the quantitative size of the Cabinet across the way would add much in terms of quality, given the fact that most of the - what was it that was referred to by some of the newspapers critics at the time my honourable friends were elected? That great reservoir of talent - as we look across the way now, Mr. Speaker, at these extinct volcanoes, at these dry wells, we wonder where that great reservoir of talent is that at one stage so benumbed some of the newspaper commentators as they looked at the stable - if I may use that term not in a way meant to demean - when they looked at the stable that was brought to this arena by the First Minister. —(Interjection)— I have nothing against horses, Mr. Speaker, or stables.

Mr. Speaker, I wish as well, not only in the traditional sense but sincerely, to congratulate the Mover and the Seconder. The honour that was done to them by the First Minister in selecting them to move and to second the Speech is a long treasured one in our system and I must say that their partisan approach aside, they acquitted their jobs reasonably well - the Member for Riel, the Member for Thompson. I felt rather sorry for them, Sir, because they were asked to make the best of what we all have come to understand was a very poor Speech. Someone was heard to say that it was a Speech that was characterized more by the presence of wind and rabbit tracks and that is a statement, Sir, to which I fully subscribe. Sir, it had about as much sustenance to it for the unemployed, for those who are facing economic duress in this province, it had about as much sustenance to it as that thin Dickensian gruel that we have come to expect from the socialist members opposite when they dispense - as I mentioned to the First Minister the other day - that equality of misery for which they ideologically exist.

Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate in the Throne Speech, I remind you, Sir, and I remind the people of Manitoba that we on this side of the House offer to forgo a goodly portion of this debate in order that the Government of Manitoba might have the opportunity to remedy some of its deficiencies over the past year and might try to bring some order out of the chaos which they are apparently administering under the guise of government in this province and to bring in a

new Budget Speech at this time relative to the expenditures for this year, 1982 and 1983, up to March 31st of 1983, because it is apparent to any fair observer that this Government has in many respects lost control over the public purse in this province and is really unable, without the help of the Opposition, to give to the people of Manitoba that kind of prudent management of their public affairs, which the people of Manitoba thought they were going to be getting last November 17th when they gave them the honour, albeit temporarily, to act as trustee for their public affairs in this province. So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that offer still stands.

If this Government can get its act together long enough to bring in a new Budget within the next week or two, we will forgo days of the Throne Speech Debate in order to permit the Government to bring it in.

What is the purpose of the new Budget? Well, the purpose was stated very concisely and clearly by my colleague, the Opposition House Leader, our Finance critic, the Member for Turtle Mountain, when he said on the 18th of November, "The new Budget should repeal, first of all, the 1.5 percent payroll tax introduced in May of 1982." That's No. 1, and I think most in this House - except a few on that side of the House who privately are supportive of that but publicly have to tow the line - most people in Manitoba would certainly support that.

No. 2: Provide the public, the citizens of Manitoba, with a detailed updating of the province's revenue projections and borrowing requirements. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Finance critic on Friday brought to the attention of the House the fact that the Second Quarterly Report which traditionally is in the hands of all members of the Legislature, and in the hands of the people of Manitoba more importantly, well in advance of this date has so far not been produced by the Government opposite for reasons that I'm going to go into I suggest a little bit later on, reasons of manipulation of the debate in this House.

So we need a Budget statement in order that they can give us not only the Quarterly Statement, but that they can tell us how they are planning to handle the balance of the expenditures and revenue situation for this fiscal year.

No. 3: They should be providing the public with a detailed accounting of savings achieved through their much publicized Repriorization Program. We didn't hear anything in the Throne Speech about repriorization. We didn't hear about how this Government is responding to its fundamental mandate which is to prudently attend to the fiscal affairs of the province, not a word - worse than that, Mr. Speaker, a failure to bring in the Quarterly Report. Now we know what my honourable friends opposite think about accountability; they don't like it. Mr. Speaker, whether they like it or not, we're going to make good legislators out of them, and they're going to like it. If we have to rub their noses, so to speak, in Quarterly Reports, that's what we'll do.

I tell you this, Mr. Speaker, that if my honourable friends don't clean up their act, their manipulative act, with respect to the timing of information that should be in the hands of the public, then we, Sir, intend to introduce resolutions and/or statutory amendments

into this House which will cause this Government to say to the people of Manitoba, yes, we believe in accountability or no, we will vote against measures that are meant to put a time limit on when we must fess up, when we must account to the people of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, they're great people for talking about freedom of information.

In the Throne Speech we heard the other day, this beleaguered bunch of extinct volcanoes across the way talked about a Freedom of Information Act. They were going to be in the forefront of giving information to the people of Manitoba. Well, Mr. Speaker, we're beginning to find that the only information they want to give to the people of Manitoba is very selective information, their own propaganda and things of that sort. But when the accounts of the people of Manitoba to which they are entitled by precedent and practice that we initiated in this Legislature, when those are brought before their executive group, their Cabinet group, the Cabinet group start to play games and say, "Aren't we cute. We're going to deny the Leader of the Opposition the right to hit us over the head with that Second Quarterly Report. We'll just keep that Quarterly Report for a day or two more."

Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba can see through that kind of cheap ruse, and that's what it is. It's a cheap ruse. I would think, Mr. Speaker, that a Government of Manitoba that professes as this one does in all of its party literature, which by implication I detect they may now want the public of Manitoba to pay for - and we'll get to that a later bit later on - I suspect that this Government which wants to talk about Freedom of Information and which wants to talk about all of the things that it would like to see done in the interests of civil liberty in Manitoba is really acting as a hypocritical bunch, because when they are faced with the obligation of presenting information to the people of Manitoba they refuse to give that information to this House.

Mr. Speaker, the other reason we wanted a Budget was to present the Government's economic strategy for both the immediate future and the long term. I suggest to you, Sir, there was not a tittle of information in the Throne Speech at all that would give any farmer, that would give any mine worker - and there aren't too many mine workers in Manitoba who are working nowadays, Mr. Speaker - that would give any labouring person in Manitoba, that would give any small businessman, that would give any person at all who is trying to make a living in this province, give them some idea as to the kind of leadership that this Government is prepared to offer. The Throne Speech was bereft of that kind of leadership at all. Totally bereft of it, Mr. Speaker, because for the very simple reason that none of that kind of initiative, none of that kind of drive, none of that kind of ability to put together meaningful programs in consultation with the private sector exists among the honourable members opposite.

Propelled as they are by that doctrine of envy which seems to fire up their spirits every morning and which seems to at the same time decrease at 2 o'clock every afternoon to the point when the House adjourns, they look like a bunch of tottering old men when they leave the House. Propelled by that when they get up in the morning, and then at the end of the day after they have

been faced with having to answer truthfully about their mandate, about the manner in which they are husbanding the affairs of the province, then we see, Mr. Speaker, the kind of material out of which these people are made. They have no leadership; the only aim they have is to grasp for power. They have no plan for the people of Manitoba. They haven't one meaningful project in the Throne Speech that will create one long-term meaningful job for the people of Manitoba.

Last year they were able initially to perpetuate the mystic idea, which by that time had become a mystic idea, that they were still working on the three major development projects for Manitoba; namely, the Western Power Grid, the Potash Mine, the Alcan Smelter, and yes, Mr. Speaker, the multimillion dollar addition to the Manfor complex at The Pas. When they mentioned it last year, it was only half-heartedly because they knew by that time, although they didn't - they weren't forthright enough to tell the House - they knew at that time that they had frittered them all away, and in this Speech, Mr. Speaker, no mention of them at all because they're gone. They're gone, Mr. Speaker, gone from the hope that Manitobans might have had for some kind of economic leadership and some kind of ability to carry through on reasonable negotiations.

Here, Mr. Speaker, in the House today sits the discredited Minister of Mines and Energy, still somehow or other allowed to hold that post to the absolute disgust of the people of Manitoba, and his equally discredited Deputy Minister - that itinerant gypsy who came in here from Ed Broadbent's office, and back to Ed Broadbent's office he should be dispatched where he can do less harm. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we are sitting with a Government of incompetent people, when the most incompetent is still allowed to sit in the Cabinet. He should be consigned to the back bench somewhere and let some of the others, some of this additional reservoir of talent move forward so that they could carry on negotiations in an upright manner on behalf of the people of Manitoba and not, Mr. Speaker, through their funny ideas about advertising by Alcan and so on, drive private enterprise out of the province that would have created thousands of jobs for our people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak then, full of the knowledge that we are prepared to forego the balance of some debate on this Throne Speech in order to permit my honourable friends opposite to bring in something meaningful in terms of a new Budget; but on Friday last the First Minister said no, we're not going to do that at all. We're not going to do that at all. The main consideration, Mr. Speaker, of all of us in this House at the present time, I suggest, should be the 24,000 more people unemployed in this province from the time that these incompetent people first took office. That should be the main consideration of this House today; not the kind of fritty nonsense that we heard in the Throne Speech about federal-provincial tax dollars for make-work, part-time, half-baked jobs. Nobody is saying that a band-aid isn't of some help, Mr. Speaker, from time to time, but when you're hemorrhaging to death a band-aid is not what you're looking for. You're looking for proper attention, proper leadership by the Government to provide that kind of a tourniquet to provide a turnaround in the economy that my honourable

friends professed to be able to do only about a year ago.

So, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that as we engage in this Debate, the main consideration of all of us should be what can we do to help create meaningful, new long-term private sector jobs in this province? What kind of assurance, what kind of confidence can we give to the business community here - small, medium and large - to the farming community, to the service community and so on, to ensure that those jobs will be created, that there will be a restoration of confidence rather than the dithering that we have seen from across the way - the handholding, the concerned looks and all of the talk about activist Government which is so much froth.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba can't exist much longer on socialist froth and that's what they've been getting during the past period of time from the First Minister, from all that other odd collection of people that he has in his Cabinet, just froth - froth and excuses and a failure to perform - an inability to perform, Mr. Speaker, which is even worse, and we're going to be getting into that. We're going to be getting into that, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP, Mr. Speaker, did talk in their Throne Speech about what? They talked about that conference that they had at Portage la Prairie to which they invited quite a broad selection of the labour leadership in Manitoba, their only constituency, and to which they invited good representation from the Chambers of Commerce and so on, and from which they excluded, Mr. Speaker, the people who were elected to represent 44 percent of the public of Manitoba; namely, the members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, not one invitation extended to the Members of the Opposition to be present at their so-called summit.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to suggest that if we'd been there it would have been a two-headed summit. I'm suggesting that if we had been there, at least there would have been one head working on the problems of the people of Manitoba instead of the rather half-baked nostrums that we heard issuing forth from the First Minister, who feels that when he strikes a posture of concern that he is thereby doing something meaningful for the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployed can't eat a "posture of concern." The unemployed are looking for real jobs in Manitoba. When the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Speaker, as I know they did at a recent meeting that they had with the Government of Manitoba, tell the Government of Manitoba that their tax policy in this province is crazy, that their tax policy with respect to the employment tax or the payroll tax - whatever name you wish to apply to this rather invidious piece of chicanery that they made part of the taxation regime of the Province of Manitoba - how carefully and how concerned do my honourable friends opposite listen to what the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce say to them?

Mr. Speaker, let me for the sake of emphasis read to my honourable friends opposite just what the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce said to them just a few weeks ago when they, representing small business in Manitoba, medium business, large business, all of the things that my honourable friends across the way

pretend to like - although secretly they really don't like business at all unless they run it - what did they say, what was the response, I would like to know, of the Minister of Finance when the presentation to the Premier of Manitoba and Cabinet representatives on behalf of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce on the 1.5 percent Health and Education payroll tax was brought in? I'm not going to read the whole document that was presented because we received it the other evening and I must say it was well thought out, it was a good critique of how this tax is a disaster, a disaster for employment in Manitoba at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, on Page 6 of the first submission, because there were two submissions by the Manitoba Chamber, here is what they said to this Government across the way - this pseudo-Government across the way: "The 1.5 percent payroll tax could not have been introduced at a worse time for business in general. For labour-intensive businesses the imposition of this tax at this point in time is a devastating blow. Overall economic activity as reflected in gross national product figures, both federally and provincially, are static or diminishing, leaving many businesses in a fight for survival. The majority of businesses, particularly those tied to the agricultural economy in Manitoba, have nowhere to turn to earn the extra income which will be required to pay this tax." And on and on it goes, Mr. Speaker, driving in spikes of common sense to the froth of NDP chicanery when they introduced this ill-conceived tax but, oh, they thought they were so smart when they brought it in last year. It was only, you know, Mr. Speaker, in the last week or two that they landed onto this to finance their overburdened expenditures that they knew they were going to inflict on the people of Manitoba. They thought they were so clever when they brought it in. Wasn't this going to be smart? They were going to get back some of the money that Ottawa was not going to give them. Weren't they clever?

Mr. Speaker, they weren't too clever by half; they're just not half clever enough. That's their problem. They are not half clever enough, Mr. Speaker, to understand some of the basics of this federal democracy in which we live, namely, that you don't play games with the federal authority, notwithstanding the fact that they profess to be a government that believes in what? In co-operative federalism. Mr. Speaker, before their term of office expires or they're kicked out of office, which will be within three years, they are going to have to work with the Federal Government of a different political stripe other than the Liberal-Socialist one that we have in Ottawa right now. We are going to soon find out, Mr. Speaker, whether their idea of co-operative federalism, toadying up to Mr. Trudeau and the likes of that, really will extend to Mr. Clark and the Conservative Government that is going to take office. We are going to find out, Mr. Speaker, just how well all of this posturing and all of this profession of co-operative federalism, how deep it really goes with my honourable friends opposite.

Mr. Speaker, what did the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce continue to say to this ill-advised Government when they gave them their brief on the 1.5 percent payroll tax a few weeks ago? On Page 8 of the first submission, "In summary, the Province of Manitoba," and I'm quoting, "is faced with a completely new

tax which is inequitable, discriminatory, hidden in nature, punitive in effect, ill-timed, complex, misunderstood, and very unwelcomed by those it will affect." Now, Mr. Speaker, that was not some wild-eyed group of right-wing people as they would be wont to categorize people on this side of the House. That was the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Speaker, with whom the First Minister went into his so-called Summit Conference at Portage la Prairie a week or two later.

I am very much interested to learn about the moderate response that was given to this statement by the Minister of Finance. Was it a moderate response or did he fly to pieces in the face of some hard reckoning by the Chambers of Commerce who were telling him that he had imposed a stupid tax upon the people of Manitoba? How did he react? I would be interested to hear the First Minister's version of how he reacted. I have heard the Manitoba Chambers' version of how the Minister reacted. The Minister embarrassed himself and the members of the Chamber of Commerce by his reaction, Mr. Speaker. He fumed and fussed and, yes, he prevaricated the way he does in this House regularly with respect to this tax and with respect to other matters. We'll be talking more about that later on too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, because my honourable friends opposite are probably on some kind of an interdicted reading list, probably provided by the Minister of Culture or somebody of that intellectual sweep, perhaps I should read some other quotes from the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce about the tax which we suggest should be withdrawn and withdrawn right now. Mr. Speaker, I quote from the second submission that was made by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce on the Manitoba payroll tax to the Executive Branch of Government. I hope the members of the backbench will listen because I know that you may not have received these documents in your reading box. If you did, why, you know, coming from the Chamber of Commerce, you'd be more than likely inclined to throw them into the wastepaper box because, notwithstanding what your Leader postures about with respect to the Chamber of Commerce from time to time, you really don't care very much about them because you want to control all business in Manitoba. That's where you come from.

Mr. Speaker, before the terribly rattled Minister of Mines and Energy wants to fuss around and make some response to that, let me say this, that we always listen very carefully to the Manitoba Federation of Labour. We listened to them when they were right; we listened to them when they were outrageously wrong. We listened to them carefully and we answered them as fairly and as honestly as we could. I would like to know what kind of fair and honest answer the First Minister and his colleagues gave to the Chamber when they talked in this way about the provincial payroll tax. Let me read this quote for the benefit primarily of the members of the backbench: "What the Manitoba business community needs from the Provincial Government is to be stimulated with a feeling of confidence. What it has actually received is another kick in the face in the form of a new payroll tax. Because of past, present and projected deficits, the Provincial Government felt it necessary to raise significant addi-

tional tax revenue. Why wasn't the alternative solution considered to be more important, that is, reduce government spending? Businesses throughout this province are fighting to maintain revenues, let alone increases, and have been forced to cut expenses back dramatically in order to survive," and on and on it goes, driving the spikes of common sense into the coffin of stupidity of the tax that was raised by these incompetent people opposite at a time when they presided over the greatest growth in unemployment in the province since the Depression. Here they are putting on a tax that increases unemployment.

Then they have a new Minister who today announces that she has entered into, on behalf of the Province of Manitoba, a new job creation program all funded with tax dollars, all adding to the \$25 billion federal deficit, all adding to the \$400, to the \$500-million deficit here in Manitoba and pretending thereby that some road to salvation is being opened up for the unemployed in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, no one wants to deny the unemployed people of Manitoba the best shot that they can get in terms of jobs, in terms of job opportunities, but those who would try to pretend that tax financed make-work type jobs such as were announced by the Minister today are the answer to the problem, those people are misleading the public of Manitoba. Those people are misleading people of ordinary common sense who know that salvation does not lie in that direction at all. Well, Mr. Speaker, on and on it could go with respect to the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and what they have been saying to my honourable friends opposite.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to go into any great detail in my remarks today. —(Interjection)— Somebody across the way, one of the louder mouths who didn't make it into the Cabinet, who has an echo chamber on top of his mouth is saying sit down. Well, Mr. Speaker, we haven't yet reached the new Jerusalem of socialism yet. We don't have to sit down. In this Legislature at the behest of any left-winger and we never will, pray God.

If my honourable friend would feel more at home, Mr. Speaker, as I have a suspicion he would, in a rather more controlled democracy, why doesn't he go there? Why doesn't he go there and thereby do all of us a service in this country and in this Legislature?

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, the critics and the deputy critics are going to be commenting in some considerable detail upon the errors of omission and commission of this Government and they are legion. I want to say to you, Sir, as I've made reference at the beginning of my remarks to the fact that this was about the 19th or 20th Throne Speech in which I have participated, only a few from the Opposition side of the House. Let me say that I have never seen a broader or a bigger target than the one that this Government presents through its incompetence, its maladroitness, its inability to carry out the fundamental function for which it was elected; namely, to give good government to the people of Manitoba. These people, Mr. Speaker, give bad government to the people of Manitoba day after day after day and we will document chapter, line and verse every day of this Session and it's going to be a long Session. Mr. Speaker, we're going to document chapter, line and verse the kind of incompetence that these people are visiting upon the

people of Manitoba at a time when our economy, when our province is going through an extremely grueling period and that grueling period is being aided and abetted by the kind of willful incompetence that we see being generated from across the way by people who, in large measure, are unfit to govern; unfit to govern by background, by philosophy and so on.

Mr. Speaker, one of the jobs of the Opposition when you run across total incompetence, one of the jobs of the Opposition - and we did it well last Session; I guess we'll have to continue doing it this Session - is to tell them how to do their job. If that is necessary, we'll do that as well because obviously there's a failure of performance and when the First Minister has the unbridled gall to retain in his Cabinet people such as the Minister of Mines and Energy whose incompetence has been demonstrated across this province from one end to the other - indeed right across Western Canada - to retain him in his Cabinet after losing the power grid in the negligent way that he did, that shows, Mr. Speaker, the level of incompetence that is permissible in this Government and for which the people of Manitoba will have to suffer for awhile.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could give my honourable friend some advice openly as to how he might start rehabilitating his Government, but I don't think he has the intestinal fortitude to do it, let alone to take the advice. One of the first things he's got to do, Mr. Speaker, is to sack failures because the people of Manitoba can't afford to wear failures around their neck like albatrosses for the full period of this one-term Government.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a general overview of what this Government has been doing to Manitoba for the last year, a Government that was elected on a great promise of a great future for Manitoba. I must have that document somewhere, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)— "A Clear Choice for Manitobans," it says, "Policies of the Manitoba New Democratic Party." Did you notice, Mr. Speaker, that in the excuse document that they turned out after they were quietly celebrating one year of survival in Government - it certainly wasn't a celebration of anything else - that in that excuse document they tried to say, oh well, some of these things that were in here were policies and others weren't policies. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I got lost in all of this meandering of words that my honourable friends tried to say; well, we didn't quite promise that and maybe we did promise that. What do they want? Do they want their policies backed up by resolutions such as the ones that we read to them last Session that were debated at their annual conclave when the looney fringe takes over and talk about expropriating Imperial Oil and all of those nice things for which Manitobans have become rather accustomed? Is that what they mean by policy, if they have a resolution that is debated and whether it's passed or not passed, is that policy? When the looney fringe of their party come in, which is so far left that they're somewhere east of Moscow, when the looney fringe come in and talk about expropriating Imperial Oil and expropriating the mining companies in Manitoba, doesn't that do a lot, Mr. Speaker, to encourage the establishment and enhancement of jobs for Manitobans when the honourable members permit that kind of radical nonsense to be debated at their resolution and then have

to run around the country, as the Minister of Mines and Energy did unsuccessfully, trying to say, really, don't pay any attention to that stuff because that's not what we in government believe, that's just what we have to put up with coming from the corner that we do in the political spectrum.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta know what they have to put up with from the Minister of Mines and Energy and they've long since written him off; they've long since written him off whether it's on energy, oil, gas or anything else. That's why he's no longer fit to speak for the people of Manitoba on those topics which are of crucial importance to our economy and to the future of our province.

So, Mr. Speaker, what about the statements that were contained in here and what about the performance in the last year? The first expression of policy and promise that always catches the ear of every Manitoban, I'm sure, is, and I quote and here is the picture of the First Minister with his signature underneath it. Isn't he looking delightfully stern and promising and concerned about the people of Manitoba? Here's what he said at that time: "We can turn around the harsh economic circumstances of the past four years." Well I know 24,000 people who would love to have the harsh economic circumstances of just a year ago when they had jobs; but he was promising that he could turn around, he and his little socialist flotilla, could turn around the harsh economic circumstances in Manitoba. What kind of a misleading statement was that, Mr. Speaker? Turn around indeed; turn around and go backwards, yes, because that's what he's done.

Mr. Speaker, this document will long live in the political annals of this province as being one of the most misleading electoral documents ever put into the hands of free citizens in Western Canada. I just wonder how proud my honourable friends opposite can be of this document. What do they say when they go to Thompson now where there's no miners working in Thompson today? What would they say, Mr. Speaker, if one of the miners said to them, what about this promise of yours that you can turn around the harsh economic circumstances of the past four years? There were 2,200 people employed up there, and more over the last four years, Mr. Speaker, what kind of a turnaround have they been able to achieve on behalf of the miners of Thompson? On and on we could go - at one stage, Mr. Speaker, 5,000 mining employees unemployed.

I say to my honourable friends, as I said last Session, nobody can blame them, no one with a reasonable mind can blame them for the international price of metals. God knows they can't look after the things they have charge of here. So thank heaven they're not looking after the international price of metals. But, Mr. Speaker, what happens is this. They pretended to the people of Manitoba that they could somehow or other prevent mines from laying off people when the international price of metals went down. It was through that deception, through that kind of willful misleading of the people of Manitoba that they sort of stretched themselves into office.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a little message for them - this also comes from being in political life in this pro-

vince since 1958 - that you can't mislead the people of this province, you can't lie, and you can't otherwise deceive them and expect either short-term, medium-term, or long-term political success. That's what they're living under today, Mr. Speaker. They're living under the presence, in the hands of many many people - as a matter of fact I would like to see the Conservative Party turn out many copies of this and send it throughout Manitoba, make sure it gets full distribution among the people of Manitoba, so that this tissue of deceit can be in every household in Manitoba so that they can then judge, Mr. Speaker, how this bunch of people keep their promises to the people of Manitoba.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we can turn around, said they, the harsh economic circumstances of the last four years. Those words are going to be engraved in stone on whatever socialist icon remains undisturbed in this province for generations to come. Twenty-four thousand more people unemployed; a fumbling away of the Western Power Grid through the incompetence of the Minister and his Deputy Minister primarily; the fumbling away of thousands of jobs in Manitoba. This is the record of the last year, not turning around the harsh economic circumstances; losses of thousands of jobs in our province; a deficit that is moving toward doubling, moving toward doubling from the one that was reported for the last fiscal year; a Civil Service that is growing by leaps and bounds. There were 500 new jobs provided in last year's Estimates and God knows how many extra contract people and so on this Government has been providing for and how many relatives, friends, political hangers-on and so on are now on the dole of the public payroll in Manitoba. God knows how many, but we're going to find out, Mr. Speaker, and I hope we can get honest answers. We're going to find out.

That's why the Order Paper at the beginning of this Session has a large number of Orders for Return questions. I remind, Mr. Speaker, the House Leader that a number of the questions that were put in the last Session have still not been answered, and we need that information. We want accountability from these people, because they're going to give accountability to the people of Manitoba whether they want to or not. We put them on notice right now that accountable they will be, or this House will sit here for a long long time until we teach them what their job is, and that is, to give prudent government to the people of Manitoba.

Well, Mr. Speaker, parties elected to government, as I've said before, on the basis of misleading statements are doomed both in the short term and the long term, but a party, Mr. Speaker, whose Leader apparently - according to a recent news report - draws some titillation from the fact that this party in the ordinary course of events is going to having a leadership convention within a period of time, who draws some strength from that kind of an external fact, who draws some pseudo-courage and strength from that fact that we're going to be having a leadership convention. That kind of leadership, Mr. Speaker, betrays not only the weakness and the spinelessness of the Leader, but also the hopeless kind of an outlook that kind of leadership can offer not only to the party, but to the province - to say nothing of the thousands of unemployed people in our province at the present time. No, Mr. Speaker,

postures of concern, hand-holding and so on are no substitute for real government leadership and action at this time.

This same Leader, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister, made a speech in Vancouver recently. He was out there telling Mr. Barrett and the assembled socialists of British Columbia how to win an election. Well, Mr. Speaker, it was very interesting to read what he had to say, and given of course as we all must, that there could be some change from what he actually said to what appeared in the paper, because we're all subject to having things appear in the paper that don't come out exactly the way they were said and so on. I read, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister from a Canadian Press story that appeared Monday, November 29, 1982, in the Winnipeg Free Press. The quote, in the final paragraph, after he was giving all of this great free advice to the assembled socialists out there about how they could beat Bill Bennett and the Social Credit, he said he was not prepared to predict the outcome of an election in B.C.; however, he noted that in Manitoba his party demonstrated "that if a party is organized effectively, develops the proper issues and involves people in a significant way that elections can be won."

Mr. Speaker, I think I'll send a copy of "A Clear Choice for Manitobans" out to Mr. Barrett and to his followers and say that in the course of making these remarks to you and your supporters, to the press in British Columbia, he sort of overlooked telling you about the deceitful message that he had to give which caused him to win the election more than anything else, the misinformation that he had to peddle around Manitoba as truth in order that he could scramble into office. That, Mr. Speaker, is the missing part of the lecture that the First Minister was giving to his fellow socialists out in British Columbia.

I think that as a service to Mr. Barrett, we'll send him a copy of this and say, Mr. Pawley overlooked sending this to you. We would like you to read it. We would like you to be the judge as to whether or not a party which promises that we can turn around the harsh economic circumstances of the past four years, a year after the fact, can hold its head high or presume to lecture anybody anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, political parties from time to time all have diverged from electoral platforms that they have made, all have sometimes changed them, but all, by and large, try to be accountable for them and say, well, you know, if we can't do such-and-such this year, we've certainly got it on the agenda for next year in terms of this program or that program.

I want to ask the First Minister whether, when he was giving this gratuitous advice to the socialists of British Columbia, did he tell them that he was going to order, as he did in this document, the immediate start-up of construction on Limestone? Is he still holding that out, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Manitoba? Because that's what he promised the people of Northern Manitoba, and I expect that fair-minded citizens, whether they're of the Federation of Labour, of the Chamber of Commerce, of the Conservative Party and so on, are asking the question in Northern Manitoba of unemployed miners, of unemployed workers of various sorts in the various trades that are up there, of people who don't have jobs in the shopping centre

who used to have jobs, of Indian people who are looking for salvation. Our Native citizens were promised salvation by the socialists opposite. I wonder if they aren't now beginning to ask the question of these people opposite, Mr. Speaker - what about these jobs that you offered? What about this Limestone that you were going to build immediately? - because that's what you promised in here.

Then you let your Minister of Energy and Mines and his incompetent Deputy fumble the ball. Because that could have been under way right now, Mr. Speaker, if this Government hadn't fumbled its way out of one of the best deals that the province could have had.

On in that connection, Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister of Mines, while he's still in that office, particularly to listen, because we've got an Order for Return on the Order Paper and it deals with the production of position papers that this Government - this fumbling Government - put before its sister Governments in Saskatchewan and Alberta in July.

We want to see the document of the final position of the Government of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Grid. We want to find out just how fundamentally different this great negotiating done by the Minister of Mines and Energy was from that which had been negotiated by its predecessor Government. We want to find that out.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we've got an Order for Return, an Address for Papers, that we want filled by this Government and none of the manipulating about timing or anything. We just want them to come forward; these are public documents.

Apparently the Minister of Mines and Energy as he was getting a bit more desperate - after he was telling the House things were still going well but he was getting desperate privately, because he knew that things had bottomed out and were lost - commissioned a separate study with respect to the Alcan development, Mr. Speaker, a special study with respect to Alcan. In the course of that study we are told by the press that the special study told this Minister and his incompetent colleagues that their big hang-up about Hydro ownership and about Alcan ownership of a part of the Limestone Plant was "a red herring."

So we want to see that document, Mr. Speaker, in order that we can begin to judge even more acutely the credibility, the competence of this Government that owes so much to the people of Northern Manitoba because it promised so much - the immediate startup of Limestone - and yet through its own thick-headedness, through its own insensitivity, through its own inability to understand what a negotiated deal is between Governments, was able to fritter away some of the greatest opportunities that this province had in this century. That, Mr. Speaker, largely in the hands of a man who still sits on the front bench of this Government. How long will he continue to sit there as a testament to the incompetence of these people?

Well, Mr. Speaker, one year later, what do we find? Instead of turning around the economy as promised so solemnly and so sternly by the First Minister, what was the headline in the Free Press last Friday? "Helping The Hardest Hit Is All We Can Do." That was the direct quote from the First Minister last Friday from his press conference, which very few apparently can understand, when he was talking about how many

jobs he and his Government were going to create with tax dollars. "Helping The Hardest Hit Is All We Can Do." Mr. Speaker, what a comedown! What a comedown in a year, from "We can turn around the harsh economic circumstances of the past four years" - that's November, 1981, December 3rd 1982, "Helping The Hardest Hit Is All We Can Do." Well, Mr. Speaker, if that doesn't write volumes about the credibility of this Government, then I don't know what does, "Helping the hardest hit."

They didn't promise the people of Manitoba there were going to be 24,000 more unemployed, did they? They didn't promise the people of Manitoba in this document that they were going to put on an employment tax which would act as a keen deterrent to employing more people. They didn't tell them that, did they, Mr. Speaker? They didn't tell the people of Manitoba that they were going to move toward doubling - and we don't know because we haven't the document because they're hiding it - in the Second Quarterly Report they're moving toward doubling last year's deficit. They didn't tell them that, did they? They didn't tell the people of Manitoba that contrary to what we did in our first year in office, which was a 3 percent increase in expenditures, that they were going to increase expenditures out of the public purse by 16 to 20 percent. We don't know the figure, Mr. Speaker, because they won't give it to us, and this is the Government that talks about freedom of information. We don't know; we're going to find out, but we don't know now.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we have a Government that uses this kind of chicanery to oil its way into office, then we have to call the shots as we see them and as tens of thousands of Manitobans are beginning to see them now - chicanery, deception, misleading of the people of Manitoba. Reduced to saying, we're going to help the hardest hit and that's all we can do.

So, Mr. Speaker, in the Second Quarterly Statement being withheld by this Government should have been in our hands last week, week before last, or whenever. I'm not saying it's going to tell us the whole story, it's only an interim statement, it's an unaudited statement. It'll give us some direction as to where this Government is taking us. But in the absence, Mr. Speaker, of a Budget, it's that kind of a statement that we all need to know, the quality of the husbandry - if I may misuse that word - that these people are giving to the people of Manitoba.

Well, I've seen a lot of things happen in this Legislature since 1958, off and on, Mr. Speaker. I've never seen such a crude or crass and deliberate attempt to manipulate debate, however, as I saw on Friday last when this First Minister and this Government sat pat and allowed the Minister of Finance to pull this kind of a shady trick on this Legislature. I've never seen anything that would quite match that in terms of open attempts at manipulation.

Mr. Speaker, keeping the bad news, or whatever the news may be, until after the Leader of the Opposition speaks, as I've said before that's a ruse that isn't going to work and it's going to lash back at them. It raises questions unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, as to how that statement is being prepared. If they're so concerned about the timing of the statement, my God what kind of concern are they putting into its content? I, for one,

Mr. Speaker, am not one who would ever suggest that the permanent career Civil Service of this Government is anything but the best or anything but the most honest; they are. I fervently hope that it is the professional career permanent civil servants of this Government who are preparing that statement, not some of the itinerant left-wingers that they bring in and hire at big salaries for the short term while they are in office, not those people, but the permanent career civil servants who have a dedication to this province, not a dedication just to socialism.

So, Mr. Speaker, I trust that this Statement is being left in the hands of the professional career civil servants to turn out. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, we deem there to be a need for a resolution or for a statute to be brought forward settling once and for all and making the Government honest with respect to when it files such reports, then we'll bring it forward. We will ask this Government to vote against it if they want to perpetuate the kind of manipulation that we've all been a party to for the last 72 hours in this House.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about manipulation, I can't help but remember the response given by the First Minister of this province when I asked him if the President of Manitoba Hydro could be called before the Public Utilities Committee of the Legislature, if that Committee were called into Session now while this House is meeting to discuss the Throne Speech. There is nothing unusual about that, Mr. Speaker. It could be called into Session now, the Committee, on any morning and Mr. Blachford, who is still the President of Manitoba Hydro, could be asked to give his summary of his responsibilities over the past three years. His contract has not been renewed for reasons that we have not been told, other than the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro telling the press when they asked the question very simply that they were conducting yellow journalism. That was the response of the present Chairman of Manitoba Hydro, the noted former Member for St. Johns, their political friend, whom they appointed to that important position.

So, Mr. Speaker, why would the First Minister deny this Legislature the opportunity to hear from Mr. Blachford why he is leaving Hydro, what he sees as the future responsibility of Manitoba Hydro and so on? Is that an unfair thing? No, not at all. Instead, we were treated to some rhetorical device which was about a Grade 11 level, from the First Minister saying, "Oh, you don't have any faith in the new President." Well, that's a lot of nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend, I don't know what level of intelligence he speaks to at his party gatherings, but I want to tell him that he has to turn up the gauge a bit when he comes into this House. If he can get away with that kind of nonsense before some of his party meetings, I want him to understand clearly that there is a slightly higher level of performance required, first of all, by any self-respecting First Minister and, secondly, by any leader of a party when he comes to answer legitimate questions in this House.

Why, I say today, is the Public Utilities Committee not being called now in order to hear Mr. Blachford? What's wrong with that? Anything wrong with that at all? No, not a thing, and from a Government that says, no, we won't do it, we'll call it at the regular time. So then I said, "Well, if you call it at the regular time,

which is second best, Mr. Blachford's going to be out of the province, maybe even out of the country, who knows, will you support a request by the Committee to have Mr. Blachford subpoenaed to appear before the Committee? "No," said the First Minister, he wouldn't do that, no, and he's the Leader of a Government, so-called, that says they believe in freedom of information, Mr. Speaker.

So, what do we have to do now? Do we have to introduce a resolution to ask that the present President, the Chief Executive Officer, of our biggest Crown corporation be called before the Committee in order to give the evidence that anyone would expect he should give? What's happening, Mr. Speaker, in this province, after only one year, with respect to accountability? I don't know what's happened across the way. One would have to be deeply cynical to think that my honourable friends are in such deep trouble that they don't even betray to their own members why Mr. Blachford is leaving. The Chairman of Hydro has to come out and use language such as "yellow journalism" when he's asked a very simple question by the press. Who do these people think they are? Mr. Speaker, these people are accountable to the citizens of Manitoba. We haven't yet reached that great socialist utopia where they can tell the public, in effect as they are doing on the Quarterly Report and on the calling of the President of Manitoba Hydro, to go to hell. That's what they are doing.

I say, Mr. Speaker, from the depths of my being that we have not reached that stage after just one year's relapse into socialism in Manitoba. If they think we have, they have another very strong think coming.

Mr. Speaker, let them be forthright, let them be honest, let them not practise deception and misleading the people of Manitoba any more as they did in this document. Let them call the Public Utilities Committee. What have they got to lose? Have Mr. Blachford appear before the Committee. He's still on staff as the President. What's wrong with that? The Committee can then adjourn and be recalled again in 1983 in the ordinary course and the members of the Legislature will feel that they've had the opportunity properly to ask Mr. Blachford about any questions they have concerning his period of time as Chief Executive Officer. Anything untoward about that? Anything that a normal government would find bad about that? No, but this Government finds something bad about it, Mr. Speaker. What are they hiding? What are they trying to hide? Are they afraid Mr. Blachford might answer the questions about the agreement that was finally offered in July of 1982 to Saskatchewan and Alberta being practically the same as the agreement we had negotiated successfully over three years? Are they afraid he might let that truth out of the box? I wonder, because there seems to be a great deal of sensitivity about having Mr. Blachford appear.

We read in the paper the other day, "Wilson Parasik's Concern For Accuracy." We all read that, didn't we, Mr. Speaker, yes. Well, Mr. Speaker, that appeared in the Free Press within the last three days and so on. It gives us a very nice indication of the degree of credibility that can be attached to the person in question. So he doesn't even have to wait, Mr. Speaker; if he considers that his credibility is under some form of attack, he doesn't even have to wait for the Order for

Return. Why doesn't he table in the House tomorrow the final negotiating document that the Province of Manitoba offered to the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan? Why doesn't he table it tomorrow? Then there won't be any question about whether Mr. Cleverley or the Free Press was taking unfair advantage of the current Minister of Mines and Energy. There wouldn't be any question about that at all. Why doesn't he do that, Mr. Speaker? Is that an unusual thing to ask of a Minister? I think not.

Well, that leads me to credibility. We started with the election promises and I haven't, Mr. Speaker, begun to go through all of the election promises. I only dealt with Page 1 where they were going to turn around the economy. I mentioned in passing they promised to start Limestone immediately. Oh, and then there was going to be the immediate Emergency Interest Rate Assistance Program that got under way - what? - two months ago or so. Then there were going to be, oh, energy development, immediate orderly development of our hydro-electric resources. Yes, we've touched on that. They weren't going to give Alcan any share of the ability to pay for the up-front capital cost of Limestone. That was pretty clear in here and that drove Alcan out of the province pretty fast. We all know about that, Mr. Speaker.

We know about agriculture and farms, all the things they were going to do for the farm community. Did you notice, Mr. Speaker, how precious little there was about farming or agriculture in the Throne Speech that was read by Her Honour the other day? Very little at all. These people don't understand agriculture in Manitoba.

They understand manipulation though, Mr. Speaker, because the First Minister carries around, I'm told, in his vest pocket the latest copy of the Conference Board anticipatory results for the current fiscal year. I don't know if he keeps it in plain brown wrapping paper or what, Mr. Speaker, whether from time to time he flashes it at people or what; but he's trying to tell the people of Manitoba, aren't we lucky that we're less worse off than anybody else? And what does he call as evidence in corroboration of that rather dubious statement? He calls as evidence a speculative kind of a projection report by the Conference Board of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I think the Conference Board, the Royal Bank and the other financial houses and the Economic Council of Canada, all of these people, who from time to time make projections about economic performance of a province, engage in a great deal of interesting speculation and sometimes rare fun. We found over the years that if you put them all together into a hopper and did an average of them, you might come out somewhere near what the actual performance was going to be.

But my honourable friend, the First Minister, Mr. Speaker, seems to have tied himself, lashed himself - if I may use the term - to the mast in saying this is it; this is the word from on high. I don't know how high socialists pray. Sometimes it doesn't go very high, but it's high enough in any case for this breed across the way. This is the word from on high; we're not doing so badly, look at the other provinces.

In that same report as I am informed, Mr. Speaker, and as I've seen the document, there is a projection for next year as well. I understand that next year's projec-

tion shows that Manitoba is going to be fifth in performance, and I haven't heard the First Minister say anything about that. I don't know if he's bothered turning over the page. He was obviously so titillated by the first page, he didn't want to break the spell and turn over the second page, but that's what the second page of the Conference Board report seems to say.

Mr. Speaker, I, for one, am willing to treat those as good-measured guesses. That's about all they are. I don't think it adds any hope to the unemployed to be told that the Province of Manitoba is doing better than most other provinces in Canada when we've got 24,000 more people unemployed in our province today, but if my honourable friend, the First Minister, wants to derive some stroking satisfaction from that, let him go; let him have it. But I really wish that he wouldn't clutter up the air waves of Manitoba with that kind of twaddle and nonsense when really the people of Manitoba want to know, never mind the projections, what are you doing about starting Limestone, getting real and meaningful jobs going? What are you doing about recouping your mishandling and fumbling of Alcan? What are you going to do about getting it going again in Manitoba? What are you doing about meaningful negotiations with IMC? What are you doing about that? How are you progressing with the negotiations to add to the plant at Manfor when it's economically viable to do so? How are those negotiations proceeding or are you too preoccupied with laying off everybody at Manfor, which is the job now left delightfully to the Minister of Mines and Energy and he deserves it, to lay off the people at Manfor when he was one of the foremost who told them that he and his colleagues would turn the economy around?

Is he having any heart-to-heart meetings at Manfor these days? Does he dare to go up to Manfor now? Does he dare go into Manfor and say, here's what's happening; here's what we promised. We promised we were going to turn around the economy, but I guess we can't keep our promise. Is he saying that to the people of Manfor? I rather doubt it, given his record of credibility in and out of this House.

Well, Mr. Speaker, starting with the election promises, starting with the failure of the mega projects, starting with something that was small and in which they didn't have to prevaricate, starting with statements by the Minister of Finance and the Attorney-General last year about whether the Federal Government - a very simple question - constitutionally had to pay the employment tax in Manitoba, do you remember that series of questions that was put? And do you remember the bluster and the storm and the sheer prevarication, the misleading and the deceit we got in terms of answers, Mr. Speaker? Because in the event - and I'm sorry that the Minister isn't here today - the Minister has forgotten, we haven't. We haven't forgotten, Mr. Speaker, and I just want to refresh the memories of my honourable friends opposite about the kind of concern that they give to answers that they give in this House as contrasted against subsequent facts as they come out.

Mr. Speaker, here was a question on May 25th, I believe it is, in Hansard and I'm reading from a photographed copy of it, quoting myself. Here's the quote, Mr. Speaker: "Is the Minister of Finance telling this House that before embarking upon this new form of

taxation in Manitoba, he did not secure a written legal opinion as to the constitutionality of the tax, is that what he is trying to tell the House?" Then the Minister of Finance responded, Mr. Speaker. He started with the words: "The Leader of the Opposition is again mumbling from his seat after he has asked his question for the fourth time." I put that in so my honourable friends will know. I don't want to read all of this clap-trap and nonsense into Hansard again, but I want, Mr. Speaker, to read in these words. Here's what the Minister of Finance, this icon of credibility, said to the House last year, this socialist who can be trusted so supremely by the people of Manitoba: "Employers in the province are paying their fair share. The Federal Government has already indicated that it is prepared to pay it. They are not prepared to go to court to fight us on it, so I believe that the question is thoroughly hypothetical." Now that's what the Minister of Finance was telling us on the 25th of May last year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's turn to the Free Press of Saturday, October 30, 1982, and what does the story by Michael Doyle out of Ottawa have to say about whether the Federal Government had been asked to pay? Well, Ottawa, it's datelined, "The Federal Government is not paying Manitoba's 1.5 percent payroll tax because Manitoba has not made a request, senior officials in the Finance Department said yesterday. The 1.5 percent payroll tax introduced with the provincial Budget applies to all employers and was to have raised 70 million this year from the federal payroll in Manitoba and 110 million next year. Former Finance Minister Allan MacEachen said earlier this year that the Federal Government has always taken the view that it is not liable to pay the provincial taxes. Officials said, if Manitoba does get around to asking for the cash, action here would only follow a Cabinet decision. The Manitoba request would have to be recommended to Cabinet by Finance Minister Marc Lalonde. "The starting point is a request from the province, the Federal official said. The Manitoba Budget more or less assumed the Government would pay the new tax without a request. That's not the way it happens."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about credibility. When I'm talking about credibility, I'm talking about governments giving honest answers in the House. Mr. Speaker, and I'm sorry he's not here, but at the earliest opportunity, I want this incompetent Minister of Finance to be able to stand before the House and tell us why he gave this answer on the 25th of May which, in accordance with what we hear from the Free Press from Ottawa, just doesn't pass muster for the truth. I think that not only this House, but the people of Manitoba have the right to expect truthful answers and the question, and it's a very serious question, Mr. Speaker, is whether we're getting truthful answers from this collection of people temporarily in the Executive Branch of Government across the way. Are we getting the truth from them on anything? People who hide Quarterly Reports; people who won't call the President of Manitoba Hydro because it doesn't suit them; people who would sooner talk about freedom of information than do anything about it when they have a responsibility to this House to give that information to this House and to the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, there are other petty details, but I'm

going to bring one to the attention of the First Minister because I gave him some personal advice a few years ago when our positions were reversed in the House and when I saw this unfortunate tendency on his part, on different occasions, to colour the truth or to give it a certain meaning that he knew it didn't apply to.

Within a matter of months, we've had the First Minister of this House saying to the press when the Opposition wasn't around, "Oh, aren't we a good bunch. We didn't reduce, but we didn't take as big an increase in the salary of the Cabinet this year. It's only a 6 percent increase that the Cabinet are getting." I went to a press conference quite openly and said, "How long are you going to let the First Minister practice this kind of prevarication?" The Cabinet hasn't got any salary increase this year at all, but all of the Members of the House got a 10 or 11 percent increase. What he's conveniently doing to try to make his people look better is to say that they denied themselves an increase as Members of Cabinet. That isn't true. All Members of the House took the increase as Members of the House, but why would he try to pass it off as though the Cabinet had only taken a 6 percent increase? Why? That kind of petty prevarication is demeaning to the Office of Premier and it shouldn't be practiced. I warned him two or three years ago that he had this bit of a flaw and that he shouldn't try to practice it as Leader of the Opposition. I warn him again, Mr. Speaker, that it demeans the Office when he practices that kind of shading of the truth and then when he's caught up in it, stops doing it. Well we're going to catch him up in it every time. We'll catch him up and, Mr. Speaker, I'm the first to admit it's a small matter but I suggest it's a bothersome matter when people try to pretend that something is that isn't.

Mr. Speaker, chalked up against the record of credibility of this Government, we need more and we need better. We're in tough times, Mr. Speaker. We've got a lot of people out there suffering and they need honest answers from a Government and they need the information quickly, and the Opposition, if it's going to work with the Government, needs the information quickly too. It doesn't deserve, Mr. Speaker, in our parliamentary system, to be treated with the kind of casual abuse that this Socialist Government feels that it can treat the Opposition in Manitoba: (a) we won't permit it, we won't tolerate it; (b) it's bad for the system; and (c) they're going to dig themselves into a hole out of which they'll never get.

So, Mr. Speaker, I talk about credibility regrettably because we have to talk about credibility to this Government at this time, faced with the kind of record that this Government is faced with in terms of what it promised to the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, this penchant for selective memory about facts is something we're going to watch very, very carefully during this Session, long as it may last, and for the remaining years of this Government's life which will be about two-and-a-half or three.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy on the Grid negotiations, you remember how he used to stand up in the House; and we'll be going into this later, I can assure him. We'll be going into it in great detail, so I want him to be aware of it right now that when he stood up in this House and talked about the Grid negotiations, all was going well; all was going

swimmingly; nothing to worry about at all. We're going to begin to find out, Mr. Speaker, just when the crucial breakdown on those negotiations took place. We've got a pretty fair idea right now and we're going to start comparing his statements to this House and statements he made to the Public Utilities Committee with the facts. I hope, for his sake, that the facts coincide. I hope for the sake of the House they coincide, but given his record of credibility I'm going to reserve it as an open question until we finish our review, and review it we are doing at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I've already told them, let us see that final offer that he made to the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta and we'll settle one question of credibility right away, whether Fred Cleverley's article with respect to the hashed-up negotiations of the Grid and the final embarrassing recoup of this Government back to the position which we had left them with, whether that's true or whether the statements made publicly by the Minister of Mines and Energy are true. A simple answer - all he's got to do is file the document. We can all be the judges once we've seen the document.

Mr. Speaker, the final matter I'd like to deal with today comes under the heading of competence and I have been dealing with that in some measure all the way through my remarks, about a Government that has practiced deceit, a Government whose credibility is very much in doubt, and now we come to the final matter of competence.

Let's talk a little bit about competence of a Government. Can there be any reasonable question about the large projects? They were fumbled away and probably fumbled away, Mr. Speaker, give or take a few weeks or months, in the early months of the administration of these people opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it's generally known or not and I don't feel that I'm telling any tales out of school, but I want the record to show, and the First Minister testified to this fact shortly after the changeover in Government took place, we had arrangements that were confirmed by letter and by action in some cases, whereby all outgoing Ministers of the Conservative administration offered to brief their incoming successors. That took place in a number of instances; incoming Ministers met with the outgoing Ministers, and in the interests of continuity and to support the public interest, that kind of civil arrangement is customarily made between retiring governments and incoming governments.

The present Minister of Resources will recall back in 1969 he was sworn as Attorney-General under the Schreyer Government, and he and I had a long visit one afternoon in the Attorney-General's office and went over a number of the files, a number of the matters that were going to be carried on. That kind of civility was offered again in 1981 but, Mr. Speaker, unless my information is incorrect - and I stand to be corrected by the Minister of Mines and Energy, although I've heard from the other source - never once did he seek any guidance, never once did he seek any advice from the former Minister, the Member for Riel, Don Craik, about the most important and crucial negotiations that had been carried on in this province in this century. Never sought one bit of advice at all, Mr. Speaker.

All I want to say, Mr. Speaker, is that if that kind of bullheadedness and if that kind of conceit, if that kind of arrogance is what was motivating that Minister and his incompetent Deputy during the negotiations when they attempted to pick up the strings of negotiations of deals - in most cases they said they shouldn't have even been going on - then we know where the responsibility lies for the loss of these thousands of jobs today to Manitobans; then the Natives of Northern Manitoba who should be clearing today land for the new Limestone site, then the retrained people from the mines who could be working on bulldozers and some of the other equipment at that site today, they'll know where to lay that blame, Mr. Speaker - on this Government, but particularly on that Minister. Then the unemployed craft people in southern Manitoba, the carpenters, the cement workers - what about the 70 laid off people at Canada Cement? What about them? If Limestone were starting in construction today as it should be, they would have jobs at Canada Cement today. That's what I call doing something meaningful about unemployment, getting something going in this province; and Limestone could be going if it hadn't been fumbled away by the sheer incompetence of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I would hate to have to answer to my conscience if I were the Leader of this Government or if I were any member of the front bench for that kind of gross criminal negligence in the handling of public affairs of our province. I wouldn't want to have to answer to my conscience for the rest of my life. I wouldn't want to walk anywhere near an unemployment insurance line in this province today. I would go and hide my face if I were the Minister of Mines and the Premier or any of the other members of this Government and say we failed in our job. We failed in the mandate that you gave us and because we failed you haven't got a job today, and that can't be said about all of them, no, but it can be said about several thousand Manitobans presently drawing UIC cheques who should be working for Canada Cement, who should be working for Manitoba Hydro, who should be working for general contractors in the Gillam area; that's what can be said.

When those people come to knock on the Minister's door or on the First Minister's door, are they going to turn them away? What are they going to say to them? What excuse can they offer? Can they say, as they say in this House, we're doing not as bad as most other provinces, is that the kind of thin gruel they're going to offer them? How are they going to explain to them that they lost it, that they lost the opportunity for this province to be building northern Hydro projects till the turn of this century? How are they going to explain that, not only to the unemployed; how are they going to explain that to the million plus citizens of this province? In one year, can you imagine it, Mr. Speaker? In one year to have committed that kind of gross omission of responsibility and of mandate. Then, Mr. Speaker, I don't know how this Government can face the unemployed, let alone face this House with that kind of a checkered record behind them.

Competence - we'll spend the rest of this Session probably talking about competence because there isn't much of it on the other side. Large projects gone, and if competence is gone, is there any room for

principle in a Government? And that's what we've been talking about in terms of credibility and all of these other matters, Mr. Speaker.

The Attorney-General of this province countenances a Human Rights Commission which is chaired by a law school colleague of his who is also of the same political stripe. What were those words that the Attorney-General used when he announced the appointment of Mr. Gibson? He said he wanted someone who thought the same way he did or words to that effect, something like that.

Well, I noticed, Mr. Speaker, and there'll be ample opportunity later in the Session to ask questions about this, I noticed that Human Rights Commission of its own motion initiated inquiries into statements that were made by a Justice of the Court of Appeal when there is already a tribunal that is charged with that kind of responsibility. I noticed that commission, under the brilliant leadership of this friend, colleague and fellow socialist of the Attorney-General, started an investigation of its own motion almost immediately after a Member of Parliament was alleged by newspapers to be making statements that the commission thought might have a racist overtone to them - of their own motion. They charged in where fools would dare to tread, but they did it in two cases.

If the Attorney-General were here I would be asking him today: Has his political friend and law school colleague, that great pervading legal mind, has he charged in already, as we would expect based on those two precedents? Has he charged into the cartoon that appeared in *La Liberté* the other day? Are they going to conduct a separate investigation or is that a selective kind of initiative that they use in the Human Rights Commission under this benighted leadership of his colleague and socialist friend from the University of Manitoba Law Faculty.

I ask it as an open question, Mr. Speaker. Are we going to see a Human Rights Commission prostituted into a form of Star Chamber at the whim of some law school appointee who happens to be a left wing political friend of the Attorney-General? Is that what we are faced with now?

I'm asking these questions because I think they deserve serious answers. I read, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of concern - and there'll be ample opportunity in the Attorney-General's Estimates to debate this and debated it will be - I read with a great deal of concern the kind of arrogant from on high "deliberation" that was made by the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission with respect to the comments of a Justice of the Court of Appeal. I read that and I wondered, am I living in Manitoba and in Canada in 1982? What kind of a Star Chamber procedure is this?

I think it's about time the people opposite, Mr. Speaker, started to rein in some of their socialist friends over there who don't care as much about freedom as most of us. Individual freedom is something we cherish a great deal in this province. I merely say, without getting into the substance of this kind of debate at all, that individual freedom will be protected and it will be applied equally in this province. If Human Rights Commissions, notwithstanding, feel that they can go on some kind of a night riding escapade and invade the individual freedoms and liberties of others, they too have another think coming and amendments

can and will be made to their legislation and to their legislative authority so that Manitobans will not be subject to this kind of one-sided, selective approach that appears to be the hallmark of this Commission under the chairmanship of the political friend of the current Attorney-General.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am talking still about credibility. I am talking about a Government that says it believes in freedom of information, that it believes in individual freedom. Mr. Speaker, we are going to be chalking up the activities of this Government against all of those pious hopes and posturings as we proceed in this Session.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in general summary with respect to the overview of this Government, I must say that it is a Government that in one short year in office is reeking, and I use the verb advisedly. It reeks of deceit; it reeks of misleading the public; it reeks of manipulation; it reeks of a lack of credibility; it reeks, Mr. Speaker, of incompetence of a degree and kind seldom, if ever, seen in the history of our province.

They can sit, Mr. Speaker, as contentedly as they wish, knowing that they don't have to go to the electorate for another two-and-a-half or three years, but go to the electorate sooner or later they will. The tarnished record that they present to the people of Manitoba based on the first year alone is enough to deny them and their left-wing followers office in this province for a generation. Losing the Grid alone was enough, but couple that with all of the other nonsense that's been going on; the financial affairs of the province in disarray, the spending of this province literally out of control, people who talk about repriorization and haven't the guts, Mr. Speaker, to do anything about it; people who see the Civil Service grow by 500 or more in a year when everybody else, the ones who are paying the bills, people are being laid off in this province, the taxpayers, and these people think that it's proper to be hiring more people and put them on the public dole, particularly their friends, particularly the ones from out of province, particularly the Saskatchewanites who were turfed out of office in Saskatchewan, their socialist paladins, the ones who move about the country working only for socialist Governments and to hell with the public interest.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, we have a number of Orders for Return asking about some of these itinerant gypsies who move about the country and who are nestling comfortably now in the only socialist oasis in the country, save the federal Civil Service which is pretty well infested with them as well under their friend, the one that they prop and keep into office, Mr. Trudeau.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I haven't even begun to start to talk about the economy. I haven't even begun to talk about the fiscal state, but there will be an opportunity. I haven't begun to do these things because, Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that need to be talked about at this time and I am content that my colleagues will be able to carry on and to give, as I have said before, chapter, line and verse, an indictment in those cases where it is deserved of incompetence, lack of credibility, deceit, misleading and manipulation in each and every department of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I merely say to the First Minister what I

said to the Chamber of Commerce not too long ago. The Chamber of Commerce apparently said that they would like to have a trade mission headed up by members of this Government to go over to Europe and try to attract business to Manitoba. I suggested, Mr. Speaker, and I say it here as well, that I don't think that is a very good idea to send any of these people across the way in the Government outside of the province anywhere to try to tell anybody else about Manitoba. When they are questioned about what they're doing to the fiscal circumstances of the Province of Manitoba, it occurred to me, and I'm sure it occurs to tens of thousands of others, that these fiscal typhoid Marys that we have in office at the present time are hardly the ambassadors that we should be sending abroad to try to attract any investor to Manitoba or to try to loan any money to government in Manitoba.

These people, Mr. Speaker, who can't even look after the affairs of Manitobans; these who have a Leader who goes to British Columbia and tells the people of British Columbia that economic policy madness is what's wrong with the country. Here's what he said in that famous speech to Dave Barrett's socialists. "Canada's federal economic policies are nothing short of economic madness and the impact they have had upon North Americans has been little short of criminal," Howard Pawley said Saturday. He said he doubts there will be much change until a New Democratic Party Government is elected at the federal level.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell my honourable friend, the Leader of the House here, that he had better not hold his breath waiting for a federal NDP Government to be elected in Ottawa or he'll be blue in the face and six feet under. He'd better save his breath to cool his porridge because the NDP, Mr. Speaker, if the truth be known, it is because Governments such as the Trudeau Government have been following the philosophy of the NDP that we're in the kind of trouble that we are in this country today.

Mr. Speaker, aside from this rather interesting preoccupation of the First Minister to go outside of the province and offer gratuitous advice is something that we're finding very interesting indeed. I guess some of the 24,000 unemployed would wish that he would maybe stay home and pay attention to things of a governmental nature here, rather than talking to a bunch of left-wingers in B.C. or at some labour union meeting in New Jersey or wherever he goes. — (Interjection)— The distant voice, Mr. Speaker, from Scottville up there, the one whose voice hasn't been heard and probably never will be heard in the Cabinet room, says, "What was I doing at a Reagan Convention?" I went down, Mr. Speaker, as an interested Canadian citizen to watch the democratic process in the United States as practiced by the Republican Party to see how they went about nominating a leader who later became the President of the United States. Now, my honourable friend, he can go to all of the nominating conventions for the NDP from now till the turn of the century and he'll never go to one where a Leader of the NDP will subsequently be elected Prime Minister of Canada. I can guarantee him that today. So I believe in going to successful political conventions. He can continue going to the left-wing failures if he wants. Noticing, Mr. Speaker, that the Attorney-

General is back, I'm sure he could give us some illumination on other conventions that he's attended over the years that would be even more exciting than some of the tame ones that the Member for Inkster goes to.

Well, Mr. Speaker — (Interjection)— yes. My honourable friend says he went to the IODE Convention and I suppose he still hasn't asked himself the question as to why they put the defumigator on him before he went on the roof.

Mr. Speaker, I come back to what I said at the outset of my remarks, that the main consideration of this House at this time has to be the faltering economy of this province, has to be the 24,000 more unemployed along with their brothers and their sisters who were unemployed at the beginning of the term, the 50-some-odd thousand people in Manitoba unemployed today, the highest rate since the Second World War in an economy where, with agriculture still the centrepiece - something that is not well understood by my honourable friends opposite - in an economy where they try to derive some satisfaction from the fact that the agricultural statistics that appear in the gross provincial product column are ones that are very, very much subject, as we all know, to conditions of drought, to conditions of flood and to other conditions or acts of God over which no government has any control. For them to try to draw any comfort from the fact, as they apparently do in the Conference Board statistics with that large component being made up of agricultural production in the province, that that somehow or other indicates that their mandate in office has been successfully carried out, that, Mr. Speaker, is the greatest misapprehension of all and to try to mislead the people of Manitoba into believing that they have some responsibility and some direct control over that is probably one of the greatest deceptions of all.

Because the one element of our economy, Mr. Speaker, and the biggest element that is the furthest removed philosophically from what my honourable friends practise and believe in in their envy ridden little minds, the one element in our economy that is so far removed from that is the agricultural community; the people who know about individual land ownership and its value, the people who cherish individual freedom, the people who want a minimum of government interference in their activities and so on, the people who want the right to sell land to fellow Canadians even though socialists may try to prohibit that from time to time. So, Mr. Speaker, when they try to derive some satisfaction from the fact that the agricultural community is producing and producing well in this fiscal year in Manitoba, then I say congratulations to the farmers, but no thanks to this stumbling Government opposite. Congratulations to the farmers and to the basic producers because they know what they're doing.

Mr. Speaker, time does not permit any discussion of the core area fiasco that is being perpetrated by these people opposite, the unwarranted intrusion by the Minister of Urban Affairs into the affairs of the City of Winnipeg. He's trying with his NDP candidate Deputy Minister whose term in office will be very short as well; he's trying with that fellow, that person, to run the City of Winnipeg from his desk over here. You can't do it that way. It is antidemocratic to try to do it that way. It

can't be done that way and, Mr. Speaker, it won't be done that way. So I put him on notice that he will be having to answer to this House for the kind of arrogant interdisposition that he is putting in place between the duly elected councillors of the City of Winnipeg and their constituents. The centralization of the control of the City of Winnipeg decision-making is not something that should be run from over here; it can best be run from the elected councillors of the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, we looked in the Throne Speech, without any answer, as to what is going to be the policy of this government with respect to the Hydro rate freeze. You remember last year they tried to scuttle it and then, at the last minute the First Minister was reminded that he had made another one of his "solemn" promises to the people of Manitoba in the Steinbach paper that he would not touch the rate freeze. Mr. Speaker, we all know what motivates a change in the rate freeze. A change in the rate freeze is motivated primarily because of the nature of the Chairman that has just been appointed by them of Manitoba Hydro. The same Chairman, Saul Cherniack, who was Minister of Finance back in the '70s who made the improvident loans on behalf of Manitoba Hydro in Swiss francs, in Japanese yen, in all of the other currencies which permitted him to travel about like Marco Polo. Then, when we had to come to pay for the devalued Canadian dollar against those currencies, one of the things that we were able to do to bring about the rate freeze was to presume that all of those exotic loans, largely engineered by Mr. Cherniack et al, had been taken out in Canada. If they'd been taken out in Canada, there wouldn't have been the loss. So the taxpayers of Manitoba, year by year, have been paying over to Manitoba Hydro the difference between what they lost in foreign exchange from Mr. Cherniack and Mr. Miller's loans and the Canadian rate if they'd taken them out in the home market at the time and that's what brought about the rate freeze.

One reason they're so anxious to get rid of the rate freeze, Mr. Speaker, is this, because the rate freeze stands as a visible monument to their financial incompetence, circa 1970 decade. Now, we've got lots of things standing to their financial incompetence, 1981 to 1982, but they want to get rid of that last icon from the '70s because that's a big embarrassment to have the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro having to subscribe to a policy, Mr. Speaker, the need for which was largely brought about by his own incompetent borrowings. That's why you've got a lot of concern on behalf of this Government and the Chairman of Hydro, because they don't want that monument to their incompetence to remain in place.

I know how their thinking goes, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't matter particularly if this is good for the people of Manitoba. In a period of high inflation, it was the only thing in Manitoba that was frozen, the only thing that didn't rise; so the senior citizens, the people who are on welfare, all of the others for whom they claim to have such a special compassionate part in their heart, all of those people were helped by that rate freeze and the province was encouraged in economic development by being able to go outside of the province and outside of the country and say, hey, we've got electric rates in Manitoba that are competitive with practi-

cally any place in the world. That was a good thing, but that, Mr. Speaker, is all for naught with our narrow-gauged thinkers across the way, all for naught, because they don't want any testaments to their financial incompetence left kicking around. So what are they going to do? Are they going to burn the Tritschler Reports that were left? Are they going to do that? Have they moved into the libraries yet to take those out of the libraries? Are they going to burn them all just as they withhold quarterly reports? Are they going to keep the president of Hydro from coming before the Public Utilities Committee, all of these little ruses and manipulative things they do? Well, Mr. Speaker, that kind of tiresome activity on their behalf is just not in accordance with good public policy and we simply won't tolerate it. We will tell the people of Manitoba what they are up to.

We didn't hear a word, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech about the Assessment Review Commission. They are great at making statements about what they are doing or not doing for educational financing. You remember the statement of the Minister of Education. She said, we're giving a 10.2 percent increase in grants this year. Where did the policy come from, Mr. Speaker? She said that as though this was some new beneficence that was being conferred upon the people of Manitoba out of the generosity of a socialist heart. Not so; it's part of a three-year policy that we brought in two years ago. —(Interjection)— Yeah, not so and, Mr. Speaker, it makes me wonder, when they come to deal with the Assessment Review Commission, why they haven't gotten on with some action with them. That matter was studied for three or four years. Every municipal person in Manitoba knows action has to be taken. There is a resolution from the Union of Municipalities saying to this Government, for God's sake do something. Do something, move. The Union of Municipalities has to put up a stick to see the Minister move. He's not doing anything. Now I say to the First Minister, if that is another Minister who can't function, get rid of him but, for God's sake, don't let the public interest of this province suffer anymore. Get on with the Assessment Review because that affects educational grants. It affects the whole system of municipal taxation in Manitoba and it is too important to be left to the flim flammings and so on of the Member for Ste. Rose or other members of this discredited front bench.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned finally about the Throne Speech in terms of a number of things that are not in it and the number of things that should be in it. There is nothing in the Throne Speech about easing property tax burden; nothing, as I've said, dealing with assessment; nothing about offsetting the 1.5 percent employment tax for municipalities; no lending program for young farmers as Saskatchewan has done; no commitment to wage settlements that taxpayers can afford; no strategy; no hope for the future; no economic development plan; no talk about the finances of the provinces and the kind of trouble they're getting us into with respect to credit ratings and things of that sort, nothing like that at all.

No, Mr. Speaker, but there are some warning signs in that Throne Speech and the warning signs are these: equity investments in private companies through venture capital. Watch out. Are we going to be getting

more Chinese food companies, more Saunders Aircraft? At a time when we've got 50,000 to 60,000 people unemployed in Manitoba, we don't need a Manitoba Oil and Gas Exploration Company, Mr. Speaker. We need the socialists across the way to stay out of the oil fields in Manitoba, to renew the royalty taxation and keep their grubby hands out of an otherwise good development that's going on there.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need MPIC in life insurance and pension management. We sure don't need that. We're one of the few provinces in Western Canada that has life insurance companies head-officed here. What are you doing, giving them a free ticket to move out? Because, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of that lone loon voice from the far reaches, the life insurance companies in Manitoba are big service employers and there are several thousand people employed in Manitoba by the life insurance companies today. By this indication in the Throne Speech that the Government is going to get into competition in the life insurance business, it's saying to those head office companies, hey, we are going to get into competition with you and given their track record with Autopac, with the general insurance business, where they caused school divisions, municipalities, farmers who took loans to deal only with their little Crown corporation, given that track record, I would think that the insurance and the pension management people in Manitoba would be very, very concerned about any intrusion by this group of incompetents, this group of people who can't even look after the mandate they've got to give good Government. My God, they're going to get into the life insurance business. That's frightening, Mr. Speaker.

So, if they could clean up their own act, if they could carry out the statutory responsibilities for which they presently have a mandate, that would be fine. They can't even do that; but to add insult to injury, they now say they're going to get into pension management and into the life insurance business. Well, Mr. Speaker, we'll wait and see. That may just be a sop to the hard left of the party, to the loony fringe which is becoming more prominent judging by some of the interjections we hear in the House.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, about farmland ownership and we are going to fight to ensure that Canadians can still buy farmland in Manitoba because the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce want that. The Manitoba Farm Bureau wants that and if this is the Government that truly believes in listening to the people of Manitoba, they will listen not only to us, but to the other groups in Manitoba who will be giving them good advice. I know they're listening to the Manitoba Farmers Union, but the Manitoba Farmers Union does not represent the farmers of Manitoba. It represents the New Democratic farmers of Manitoba and there aren't many of them.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I am concerned about two new departments of Government. I'm concerned about increased planning activity by this Government. They can't look after their own activities, let alone plan for somebody else. I am concerned about improvements to The City of Winnipeg Act. What kind of improvements? What kind of consultation? Did Mr. Kostyra talk to his Deputy Minister? Was that the consultation that took place? I think so. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, about talks for improve-

ments for MLAs, for talk about constituency offices. At a time when the taxpayers of Manitoba are going through one of the toughest economic periods in their history, this is no time for socialists to try to make things comfy in their own private little constituency offices paid for by the taxpayer and we won't permit it. Mr. Speaker, somebody in this House is going to look after the taxpayers. We know it isn't going to be the people opposite, so we are going to have to do it.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the talk in the Throne Speech about public financing of elections and there will be ample opportunity to talk about that. Can you imagine anything more perverse? At a time when they are presiding over one of the worst economies this province has ever seen, that they would have the gall and the nerve to suggest that the taxpayer should take the further burden and finance their propaganda garbage. Oh, come on, Mr. Speaker, surely they have to be fooling. We won't permit that either, and if it's brought in, they'll be faced with the kind of a fight that the Attorney-General has never even thought could happen in a Legislature. So, Mr. Speaker, that kind of crass and insensitive statutory change will not be permitted by the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, all political parties want to get out and raise money from the general public and all political parties want to have that money given to them voluntarily. I don't know how somebody like the Member for St. Boniface or the Member for St. James can sit in a party which would say that they would compulsorily take tax dollars away from unwilling citizens of Manitoba to confer it in turn on the NDP, the Conservatives, the Liberals, the Communists, yes, on people who qualify as electoral parties in Manitoba. Can't you just see it? The Communist Party of Manitoba would nominate 57 candidates and thereby perhaps line itself up so it could get taxpayers' dollars. Are we going to be funding subversion in this province, Mr. Speaker? They seem to be at home with some of the former members of that party but asking, Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers of this province to fund that kind of subversive activity is another thing. It won't wash; it's insensitive, it's crass and it won't be permitted.

Mr. Speaker, I close by thanking you for the opportunity to participate in this Debate, for the opportunity to bring to your attention only a few of the vast array of omissions that this Government has been responsible for in only one year in office. I say, Mr. Speaker, that no Government in my recollection in this province has ever - I said this last year - frittered away its mandate more quickly than has this Government.

They're a Government, as I've said, Sir, which practices deceit and willful deceit in misleading of this House and of the people of Manitoba. They're a Government that has lost credibility among the people of Manitoba. They're a Government by and large of incompetence, Mr. Speaker, demonstrated incompetence, whether you want to look at the Power Grid, at the employment tax or some of the other perverse matters that they have inflicted upon the people of Manitoba in their short term in office.

So, Sir, it is my duty and my responsibility to move, seconded by the Member for Fort Garry, that the motion be amended by adding to it the following words:

"But that this House regrets that the Government by

misleading the people of Manitoba, by its lack of credibility and by its incompetence, all of which has contributed to the suffering of our people brought about by the highest unemployment and worse economic conditions since World War II has thereby lost the confidence of the citizens of Manitoba."

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, let me first indicate my pleasure at seeing you so comfortably located, good health, and that we wish to continue. We look forward to your judicious intervention in debate to make sure that all sides of the House respond to reasonableness.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also congratulate the Deputy Speaker and the Chairmen of Committees, the Mover and Seconder of the Address, for the excellence of their contributions in this Debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intent to comment briefly upon the words of the Leader of the Opposition. After all, I cannot comment on all of his words because as usual there were many. I will leave a good many of the nonsensical statements to be rebutted by my colleagues, but I can't resist dealing with some.

Following that, it's my intent, Mr. Speaker, to allude briefly to one major policy thrust that will be coming forward by my department and which was alluded to in the Speech from the Throne. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to indicate my concern for the irrational, destructive attack on regulation in society.

Turning first to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, I confess that for some time prior to today I looked in the annals of this House to reflect on what the Leader of the Opposition has said in the past. Much to my amazement I found that many of the words he used today were used by him before. He used the same kind of cliches and I suggest that perhaps for the Budget Speech that he get a new speech writer.

You know the expression about the thin gruel has been used in almost every speech the honourable member has made in the last several years but there has been an improvement, Mr. Speaker. This time it's McKenzie gruel. This indicates the negative, carping attack of that former First Minister on McKenzie Seeds. That's the kind of innuendo, Mr. Speaker, for which the former Premier of this province is famous for. He trots out those tired cliches about temporary trustees and so on. He knows how temporary was his trusteeship in office.

Mr. Speaker, if I were to summarize the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition I would say it was a good workmanlike, earthy speech but it was far too muddy for this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, there was a concern for accounting. Well, the people of this province did that accounting on November 17th, and the honourable member is smarting from it since. He lectured us, Mr. Speaker, on accounting. I would like him and his former colleagues to account on the debacle of the Churchill Forest Industries. That was a mega project of another

era. When members of the New Democratic Party sitting in this House demanded information, Mr. Speaker, about that mega project, there wasn't a word to be said, because after all they couldn't even disclose the principles that we were dealing with. We could lend them millions of dollars but we couldn't tell Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition or the citizens of Manitoba who we were dealing with. That's the kind of accounting and freedom of information that the honourable members practised when they were in Government.

Now they deem to lecture us about accounting because they are not here and they can't order the Government to introduce documents when they want them, and they're frustrated, angry, petulant and silly in their comments.

Mr. Speaker, the honourable member talks like he's playing football. You know, we fumbled the ball. We fumbled what ball? They didn't have a ball. Thank goodness, Mr. Speaker, they went to the people in time and we didn't have to pick up a deflated bladder because that's all there was. They didn't have a set of signed documents.

As a matter of fact, my colleague, the Minister of Mines and Energy, found that a shredder had been busy. It wasn't just mice; it wasn't a trained series of animals that the former Minister had in his office. It was a very effective shredder. Talk about consultation, talk about leaving documentation - what documentation? There'll be much more to be said by my honourable colleague about that. Talk about responsible government, talk about dealing frankly with the affairs of state, what my honourable friends do is shred it, Mr. Speaker. That's how they deal with those problems.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition talks about socialist froth and all that sort of thing. You would think that by now he would have invented some new language to use in this House. No. Then the Honourable Leader talks about post-secondary education and health levy, and he decries it and he reads from the Chamber of Commerce treaty. Well, let's just ask, Mr. Speaker, what would he do with the deficit that he left? What tax would you impose? Oh, no, they won't come up with any responsible answer, Mr. Speaker, because all they want to do is criticize in a most negative way.

Mr. Speaker, it's less than a year ago that we were in this Chamber, and we were in the committee room, and how many of his colleagues in their remarks during Estimates, my Estimates, said what about spending here? What about spending there? How about more of this? How about more of that? They talk, Mr. Speaker, about accounting; they have the gall to talk about deficits. My word, Mr. Speaker, we'd be much deeper in deficits if we accepted the kind of constructive advice they give across the way.

You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the most troublesome things though in listening to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition speak is the kind of illness and innuendo that's in his language. He questions the background and the philosophy of the members opposite. Is there something wrong with my background? I am proud of the fact that my parents lived here and came here. My father came from the old country and I'm proud of them; I'm proud of my back-

ground. For any innuendo or smear about the background of people in this party is unbecoming of the Leader of the Opposition.

He talks, Mr. Speaker, about the looney fringe at conventions. Mr. Speaker, you know, I think the honourable members should reflect on some of the members in their party. I won't talk about members that are no longer with them. They can reflect on that, but I won't call members of a political party looney. I respect those in society who stand up and take political action whether they be Liberals, Conservatives, Communists or New Democrats. I respect political action. I don't decry political action as the honourable members there do. They're afraid of political action and democracy. They very seldom have conventions, Mr. Speaker; they only have them when they desperately need some new leader. —(Interjection)— That's right.

Mr. Speaker, then the Honourable Leader of the Opposition almost with, well, hidden glee talks about the desperate times and talks about the argument that was made to the Manitoba people at the time of the last election when we indicated that we could turn the economy around. Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba had witnessed four years of a Government that deliberately turned off investment in this province. —(Interjection)— Oh, well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable members profess ignorance of that. They know the kind of slashing they did in the Civil Service; they know the kind of turnoff they made of the economy in this province. They know what happened.

Mr. Speaker, when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition talks about the situation we face today and the loss of jobs, it's as if time has stood still in that political party, and I suggest that's really what has happened. You know, in the late 1950s there was a breath of fresh air in the Progressive Conservative Party. There was a Leader and they were called Red Tories, but they've disappeared. Ever since Duff Roblin left the scene there has been a stale, acrid, really stereotype form of thinking in the Progressive Conservative Party. They have lost all progressivity. So when they reflect on the condition of the times, it's as if nothing has happened since November 17th. Yes, there's been a change of Government, but all throughout the world economies are down. It's not just that the mines are closed in Manitoba. They're closed in Sudbury; they're closed all over the world. —(Interjection)— This yammering member opposite must know, Mr. Speaker, that the world economy is in disarray.

Mr. Speaker, when they went to the people in 1977, they said they were going to fire up the engines of private enterprise in the economy. Everything was going to grow in Manitoba. We know what happened—the worst three or four years in this province's history, and the people left Manitoba to go elsewhere to find jobs. —(Interjection)— Yes, they're coming back now, they're coming back now because here is an honest open Government that does consult with the people.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has a guilty mind. He always imputes motives that there hasn't been a document placed before the Assembly, that something sleazy is going on. That's an indication of a guilty mind, Mr. Speaker, and the Honourable Leader of the

Opposition exposes his thinking when he suggests that.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I find the most regrettable thing of all is when the honourable member comments upon the lives and attitudes of people who are not in this Chamber and cannot therefore defend or attack his submissions. Particularly is it discomfiting to me, Mr. Speaker, when he talks about civil servants as if they're creatures coming from another planet, that they're not invited here, that there is something wrong with them. Mr. Speaker, I will never in this Chamber criticize any civil servant no matter where he comes from if he is doing his job here and he's loyal to this province. So for those members opposite to indulge in that, I think, is just terrible.

To suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have not engaged people from other jurisdictions - I don't want to name names - but we have - well, let's just comment for a minute. What happened to their colleague, Mr. Craik? Where is he? Should I condemn his involvement in Saskatchewan? Should I condemn the involvement of Derek Bedson in Saskatchewan? I won't, Mr. Speaker. If they have something to contribute in that province, good luck to them, but for the Leader of the Opposition, and I hope none of his colleagues emulate that, to stand in this Chamber and condemn people who are employed in the Civil Service in this Chamber, let them do it outside if they will, but don't enunciate that crap in here. —(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, there is much in what the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has said that will provoke the attack of my colleagues and a deserving attack on what I think was uncalled for vitriolic misleading debate, aspersions of character that I think are unbecoming of someone in this Chamber.

Let me now, Mr. Speaker, therefore turn to another matter much more positive in my mind and that is you'll recall that in the first Session of this Legislature, I alluded to my concern in respect to the preservation of the quality of water in this province, a resource that is so essential to life. Although, Mr. Speaker, we are rather comfortable in the plentitude of this resource in Manitoba, we must nonetheless ensure the continued protection of clean and good water. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, at this Session, I will be introducing a Water Rights Act, the purpose of which will be to provide reasonable regulation of this essential resource in order to ensure its protection.

Mr. Speaker, you will note my emphasis on reasonable regulation. While the evaluation of reasonableness is highly subjective, surely it should be possible for all who evaluate to agree that any regulation should be in clear, concise, simple language directed and focussed sharply to provide readily ascertainable limits to the activity being defined and be recognized by the majority of the electorate in a democratic society as being useful. Regulations which are designed to be helpful and protective of the common good must be recognized and accepted as reasonable if they are to be effective and worthwhile. There can be no quarrel by anyone, anywhere, anytime, about the ongoing concern to review and test the continuing need for any given law or regulation in society.

So it was, Mr. Speaker, that a New Democratic Party Government in this province established the Law

Reform Commission. What troubles me today about regulation in our society is that some demagogues, who to me at least appear to be 19th century economic retreats, believe that it is not only popular but acceptable to heap blanket criticism on the extent and role of regulation in our society. If there is a regulation of Government that a critic within or outside Parliament or this Legislature can identify and establish as having outlived its usefulness, that is one thing. However, some would-be right-wing stars of the national political league are making considerable noise in declamation that we are overregulated and condemn all manner of regulation in society and imply that a return to freer, unfettered business endeavours would, like yeast, leaven the loaf of commerce.

The truth, Mr. Speaker, is that from the beginnings of the so-called industrial revolution in the 1800s, it became essential for government to legislate and regulate greater justice in the workplace and in the marketplace. In recent years in the United States, it had become popular to talk about deregulating transportation and the first industrial victim was the U.S. air industry. The consequences, Mr. Speaker, of broad ax regulation change in the U.S. air industry has not occasioned just a little bloodletting, but rather has resulted in massive dislocations and failures. Deregulation of the airline and trucking industries in the U.S. is following a predictable pattern of result. First, the small and middle-sized companies collapsed because of predatory price wars. Small towns of low volume activity lose the services of a carrier. Then a further consolidation brings down more of the larger companies. The price war stops. A few large, powerful companies have been enabled to ride out the storm. Smaller centres lose economic viability because of reduced transportation and so the horror story continues. Survival of the fittest? Maybe. Maybe only the fittest financially.

I would like to quote, Mr. Speaker, from an editorial entitled "Law Versus Theory" in the July 5, 1982 edition of the Transport Topics, the national newspaper of the trucking industry. Here is the quotation, "Take, for example, the case of Hemingway Transport which closed its doors June 19th because of a strike. The major reason why the company could not meet the union's national contract was deregulation according to the company's president. Hemingway had outstanding productivity, low maintenance costs because of new equipment, a low claims ratio and had increased its freight hauling during the recession. The company, however, could not survive the rampant rate cutting sweeping the industry and closed its doors. So much for survival of the fittest." There's the end of the quote.

Mr. Speaker, I know that some Tories in Government are uncomfortable with any regulation of the economy. Some of our friends opposite are of that view. They find minimum wage controls distasteful and regulation of the private sector generally offensive to their 19th century laissez-faire economic thinking. I recall, Mr. Speaker, that it was a New Democratic Party Government that, through a change in the law of regulation, made the payment of wages the highest priority in the event of a business failure. In the brief time our friends opposite were Government, Mr. Speaker, they weakened that priority. Now, we will restore it in legislation that my colleague, the Minister

of Labour, will be bringing forth at this Session.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the old saying, "actions speak louder than words," is appropriate in reference to that change in priorities of that cold callous group over there. Having said that, however, I must admit to being an eternal optimist. I still believe that our friends opposite can be persuaded to move back into the 20th century in their thinking. There's no doubt in my mind that given the difficult financial times in which we live, it will be more difficult for our Government to launch new programs, but we will.

The role that can be played by a responsive alert Opposition is to provide specific criticism as to where they see program changes required. While I doubt that our friends opposite will heed my advice, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the electorate will give them higher marks if they provide specific constructive advice rather than retreating into blanket ill-defined criticisms.

I, therefore, Mr. Speaker, appeal to them through you that given the near disaster state of the world economy, given the need for all people of goodwill to unite to help each other in difficult times, I appeal to them to be constructive in their criticism.

Mr. Speaker, the test of the worth of any endeavour of humankind is not when the going is easy; rather it is when the going is hard. The social democratic or democratic socialist movement in Canada had its beginnings at another time when capitalist society was reeling. It is or can be a propitious time for dedicated people to move courageously forward to a more just, a fair, more egalitarian society, a society more equal, a society more compassionate, a society more loving, a society of greater dignity and justice. These are our goals. Undeterred by the slings and arrows of unthinking or uncaring foes, we carry on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the Honourable Member of Natural Resources, that the House be now adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday).