



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

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

33 Elizabeth II

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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, Hon. Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Q.C., Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	IND
DOLIN, Hon. 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	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virden	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, Hon. 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, Hon. 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, Hon. 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

Thursday, 3 May, 1984.

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

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

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the First Report of the Committee on Economic Development.

MR. CLERK, W. Remnant: Your Committee met on Thursday, May 3, 1984 and appointed Mr. Santos as Chairman. Your committee has examined the Annual Reports of Channel Area Loggers Ltd., Moose Lake Loggers Ltd., and the Communities Economic Development Fund.

Mr. Bill Bennett, President and Chairman of the Board, Mr. G.P. Trithart, Secretary-Treasurer and Mr. G. Kemp, General Manager of Channel Area Loggers Ltd., provided such information as was required by Members of the Committee with respect to the Company.

Information with respect to all matters pertaining to the operations of Moose Lake Loggers Ltd. was provided by Mr. C. Jones, President and Chairman of the Board, Mr. R.J. Kivisto, General Manager and Mr. G.P. Trithart, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mrs. Bernice O'Connor, Chairman of the Board, Mr. Hugh Jones, General Manager and Mr. Alec Musgrove, Assistant General Manager and Treasurer provided such information as was required by Members of the Committee with respect to the Communities Economic Development Fund.

The fullest opportunity was accorded to all Members of the Committee to seek any information desired. The Annual Reports of Channel Area Loggers Ltd., Moose Lake Loggers Ltd. and the Communities Economic Development Fund were adopted for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1983.

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

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for River East, that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the interdepartmental review committee

investigating Western Equine Encephalitis with representation from my department, the Departments of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health, Government Services and Agriculture has now provided advice to Cabinet.

Today I am proceeding to act on the recommendations of this committee which call for a revised approach to surveillance, data interpretation and decision-making in dealing with Western Equine Encephalitis in the province. Also included in this approach will be provision for public information programs.

I would also like to indicate that my colleague the Honourable Minister of the Environment will be outlining, in a few moments, some of the proactive methods to be implemented as part of this approach.

Under the re-designed system, effective May 15, 1984, the functions of surveillance, data interpretation and decision-making will each be separate and clearly designated activities:

1. The Surveillance Function. The Manitoba Arbovirus Surveillance Committee will be disestablished and replaced by individual specialists, such as, an entomologist, a veterinarian, a virologist, and a meteorologist, who will closely monitor their respective areas and report directly to a senior official in the Manitoba Department of Health. These specialists will operate under standardized methods of data collection and will be able to address all of their efforts to surveillance with no responsibility for interpretation or decision-making functions.
2. Data Interpretation. The interpretation of surveillance data will be the responsibility of a senior official of the Manitoba Department of Health whose decisions regarding risk to public health will be based on established factor levels. These factors will include weather conditions, reported levels of disease-carrying *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes, viral activity in sentinel chicken flocks, viral isolations in mosquito pools as well as human and horse case monitoring.
3. Decision Making. The senior official of the Department of Health will report to a Committee of Deputy Ministers which includes representation from the Departments of Health, Environment, Workplace Safety and Health, Government Services, and Agriculture. This committee will be responsible for advising a Cabinet subcommittee of their Ministers regarding the potential need to declare a health emergency as well as control measures.
4. Public Information. The importance of a well-designed public information program was clearly demonstrated during the W.E.E. health emergency period in the summer of 1983. This year \$50,000 will be designated for the purpose of public information to promote the need for personal protection in avoiding exposure to disease-carrying mosquitoes.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and tireless efforts of the Manitoba Arbovirus Surveillance Committee for pioneering and maintaining an early warning system to detect risk conditions concerning Western Equine Encephalitis in the province. This committee now serves as a basis for the development of this re-designed surveillance system.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We on this side of the House thank the Minister for the information which he has tabled. It appears as though the government is changing the lines of authority and the structure and the responsibilities in reporting relationships of the various people who were formerly involved in the Arbovirus Surveillance Committee, but that the process in dealing with potential outbreaks of Western Equine Encephalitis and the manner in which they are responded to, perhaps isn't going to change in the matter of dealing with mosquitoes and outbreaks in this province.

So we look forward to following through with the Minister at his Estimates, in a discussion of just what improvements this will bring to the process, and whether or not we have new and better ways of combatting outbreaks of Western Equine Encephalitis, by virtue of the mosquitoes that are prevalent in Manitoba most years, and we will look forward to additional information on this matter.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague has just mentioned, the province is undertaking a revised approach to public information, surveillance, data interpretation and decision-making as it applies to Western Equine Encephalitis in Manitoba.

In keeping with this revised approach, I would like to announce that my department will be assisting Manitoba municipalities in mosquito mapping and larviciding programs this summer.

A \$200,000 fund has been established for the 16-week program, which is scheduled to begin on May 14. Manitoba reeves and mayors have been contacted about the program and there has been considerable interest so far. In fact, I have been told that over 30 communities have already registered.

This program is intended as an incentive to municipalities to establish extensive, long-term larviciding programs. It will provide the information necessary to establish these programs.

In closing, I would just like to add that establishment of larviciding programs is in line with recommendations of the 1982 Clean Environment Commission report on mosquito control programs. The report emphasized larviciding programs as an effective method of mosquito control and recommended them as a precondition to adulticiding programs in residential areas.

As a government, we wholeheartedly support this recommendation and we want to encourage implementation of effective larviciding programs.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health for his statement to the House, for carrying on a program that has been in existence for quite some time, as larviciding has been done for many years and by many other previous governments. I'm happy that the government is carrying on in a program that has been quite successful in the past and I thank the Honourable Minister for his statement, even though it comes a little late.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery. We have 16 students of Grade 12 standing from the River East Collegiate under the direction of Mrs. Redekop. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River East.

There are 75 students of Grade 9 standing from the Minnetonka School under the direction of Mr. Koskie. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Niakwa.

There are 23 students of Grade 5 standing from the Landmark School under the direction of Mr. Penner and Miss Vogt. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

McKenzie Seeds

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister responsible for McKenzie Seeds. The profit and loss analysis on Page 3 of the financial statements that were released last week by the Minister shows an annual loss for this past year's operations of \$1,262,529.00. In addition, there's a special notation, Note 2 on that page, which shows an adjustment for a prior period of a loss of \$1,566,389.00. To what is that adjustment attributed?

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, the officials of the corporation will be in attendance at committee next Tuesday morning. Certainly I wouldn't want to in any limit their questions related to policy during question period, but to ask the Minister detailed questions regarding the financial statements and the notes

appended thereto would not seem to be a productive use of question period when the committee meeting is going to be Tuesday morning. I would think that it would be more in order to reserve those kinds of questions for officials of the corporation and the Minister when that exchange can take place. The meeting is currently scheduled, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It is a question asking for a matter of some detail. The Minister may or may not choose to answer it.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the committee I believe will be meeting on the 8th of May, but if the member wants more specific information with respect to the causes of the previous write-downs, I'm sure that he's read the rest of the report and I would refer him to Page 6 of the report.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, with reference to that particular item, and that particular note, there are adjustments primarily for inventory in previous years and I want to know from the Minister then if, since that particular item is a special item that doesn't show up as part of the loss in the 1982 statement, or as part of the loss for the operations in 1983, whether or not that item should be added to the loss of 1983; and whether, in fact, the loss for the 1983 operations should be \$2.8 million rather than \$1.2 million as shown.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it may well be that the Leader of the Opposition wishes to disagree with the Provincial Auditor's report on the financial dealings of McKenzie Seeds, but the fact of the matter is that there has been a large increase in the deficit for the year which ended October 31, 1981. Maybe the member is sensitive about that. It happens to be a year for which they were responsible.

Now what the Provincial Auditor did was take a look at the inventory to determine whether that indeed was a reasonable amount to show as inventory and he determined that it was not and therefore he wrote it down for that particular year.

He said further that the 1982 numbers were overstated in terms of inventory and therefore there was a write-down of inventory for 1982, and therefore an increase in the deficit for '82, but surely the Leader of the Opposition is not saying that when under their administration the numbers came in incorrectly, that we should now for the year ending October 31, 1983 take the full responsibility for all of those changes.

You know, there are accounting changes that come in to all kinds of operations, and this is another one, and they will have to explain their losses. We're prepared to explain ours.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, then I wonder if the Minister could indicate, since he has said that the inventories were overstated last year and the year before, what the reasons given by the then management of McKenzie Seeds was for that overstatement of value of inventory.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, as I said, this matter will be before the committee on May 8th, and all of those detailed questions can be answered at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General also regarding McKenzie Seeds.

The RCMP has been conducting an investigation related to conflict of interest at McKenzie Seeds, that investigation has been going on for some time. Can the Attorney-General advise the House whether or not any charges have been laid?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: The investigation will be complete, I'm advised by senior officials of the RCMP, in or about the first week in June, perhaps the second week in June, and that report will then be placed in the hands of senior Crown with respect to possible criminal charges. But as of this date the investigation is not complete and no charges have as yet been laid.

Brandon General Hospital - waiting period

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. I wonder if the Minister of Health could advise the House as to the approximate waiting period for elective surgery at Brandon General Hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that as notice.

MR. B. RANSOM: Would the Minister, while he's taking that question as notice, also find out what the waiting period was two, three years ago?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I will.

Shoal Lake cottage development - access roads

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

I wonder if the Minister could inform the House of the results of a major meeting that was held on Tuesday by all the participants, the Federal Government, the province, city and the Shoal Lake Indian Band, to discuss the proposed cottage development on Shoal Lake?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to take that as notice as well.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister explain why the Chairman, Mr. Tom Owens, the Deputy Minister of Environment, did not attend this important meeting?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, I understand that this was a misunderstanding in terms of scheduling of the meeting.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Speaker, just one further question to the Minister. Did anyone from the province attend that meeting?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate to make sure that this is clear, there is no disagreement on this particular issue at this time. Negotiations are ongoing and there will be future meetings, regular meetings, and as far as I know there was no representative at this week's meeting.

Layoff notices - workplace safety

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health.

Can the Minister confirm that layoff notices have been sent to a number of employees under the Workplace Safety and Health Department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to confirm that as in all other departments, in accordance with the previously announced changes in the program delivery of priorities, three and not six - as mentioned in the article in today's paper that I have read as my colleague has - have received notice that the functions that they are now fulfilling will be discontinued as of September. There were no such things as layoff notices but simply that we would be making every effort to redeploy these within the department, or other departments of government.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. How does this government, who have made workplace safety a high priority, justify the reducing of staff?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, this in no way reflects in the delivery of the services which I believe - and the member will have an opportunity to review the details of the department's programs and delivery of services when we go through the Estimates - but in no way does this reflect in the reduction of the priority in this area or services in this area. In fact, if anything, the legislation introduced in the last Session, the regulations that have so far been introduced during the course of this year and some of those that are soon to be introduced, if anything reflects a greater degree of attention and concern for that area.

Mr. Speaker, the very fact that we have now provided through the legislation, the right to know, the right to participate in the workplace, is providing workers of Manitoba not with less, but a great deal more service from the department.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to provide Workplace Safety and Health inspectors for every workplace in Manitoba, even though we would quadruple the numbers of Workplace Safety and Health inspectors, we'd still be able to reach every workplace maybe once every three or four years and that, in essence, might not provide any service at all. What we need to do is to provide the technical support and the assistance to the members of the workplace.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I ask you to remind the Honourable Minister of our Rules with respect to not using the question period as a debating forum.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader to the same point.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the Honourable Member for Lakeside. I share the concern, Mr. Speaker. The difficulty that members on this side have is that questions are often asked which would be more directly dealt with during the Estimates review of that particular department, in which detailed examination of the Minister's management of that department can be examined by honourable members. Whether that, Sir, was with respect to a Crown Corporation report, which will be considered in detail in a Standing Committee, or the detailed Estimates of the department and the staffing and other management decision of that department are going to be examined in committee.

Mr. Speaker, if honourable members wish to use the question period for that detailed examination, they have that right, and I would not deny it for a minute. But for them to then insist that we can't provide the answers to those questions, Mr. Speaker, is a denial of the exchange which is supposed to take place in this House in question period.

Either we use Estimates and Standing Committees for what they're intended or we abuse question period. If members opposite want to abuse it we'll gladly provide them with the information they want.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If members ask very wide-open questions they must expect a very wide-ranging answer, and I ask members to restrict their questions to questions of facts, hopefully short and to the point.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, I take the question as information being sought and I think the question, Mr. Speaker - and I ask the House Leader of the Opposition to take that into consideration - that the question was seeking for broad information and as such I am replying.

To continue on and briefly complete my answer, Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate, that in providing that support to the joint committees in the workplace, the safety and health inspectors will be doing a great deal more effective job than simply proforma, going to visit workplaces as perhaps had been the practice traditionally in the past.

So I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that the workers in the workplace as well as the employers will be benefiting from a great deal better service from the Workplace Safety and Health inspectors through the change as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to direct my question so that I get either a yes or no answer rather than get into debate because the answer that was given to me . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question?

MR. A. KOVNATS: . . . Yes I do, Mr. Speaker, and I will speak right now.

In another newspaper article it reported that the Ministerial support staff in two government departments had been increased by \$156,200.00. Now the yes or no question, Mr. Speaker. Could this amount of moneys save the jobs of those people who received layoff notices?

HON. G. LECUYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not even sure the member is asking a question of me, but I assume that he was. I'm not even sure that I understood the whole of the question. But I want to repeat what I said a moment ago, that there are no workers who have received a layoff notice.

Fish-stocking program - cutback

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. A great deal of the sport fishing opportunity which is available in Manitoba is based upon lakes that are stocked with fish by the Fisheries Branch. My question to the Minister of Natural Resources is, why has that fish-stocking program been cut back?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, there will be ample opportunity come Monday — (Interjection) — Well, if honourable members want to deal with the operations, in a general way, of the Ministry of Natural Resources during question period, I will accommodate them. But, immediately I start to answer in some detail, the House Leader of the Opposition Party will stand in his place and say we are abusing the rules. This House knows . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Lakeside on a point of order.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, members on this side of the House are trying to ask straightforward questions. The question that was put by the Member for Turtle Mountain, is the fish-stocking program up or down? That's a straightforward question, we don't need a

lecture from the Honourable Minister. If he wants to refer it to his Estimates, fine, we'll accept it. If he doesn't even want to answer the question, that's fine, we understand the rules. But don't have him lecture us about the nature of our questions. The question by Turtle Mountain, as you, Sir, understood it, was a very straightforward one. Was the fish-stocking program cut back?

A MEMBER: Yes or no, AI.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader to the same point.

HON. A. ANSTETT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, to the same point of order raised by the Member for Lakeside. Once again, I concur with him and I will ask my colleagues on this side to accept his invitation to refer those questions which relate to Estimates and are asked during question period to the Estimates of their department in committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I'll try and phrase the question then, in terms of policy. The government has cut back on its fish-stocking program and the government also has cut back on the limit for fish taken from lakes in which the fish-stocking program has been cut back. Last year, the Minister increased the fishing licence fee by 66 percent; what is the substantiation for the government's policy of raising licence fees and cutting back on services?

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, given that the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources in a couple of days will be available for full response, I will not abuse the question period, I'll take the question as notice.

Careerstart

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Economic Security and Employment Services. It flows from his statement - I believe it was yesterday - about Careerstart money. Will this additional money that's allocated for Careerstart be allocated to employers who have already applied and been rejected?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Employment Services.

HON. L. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, we have been overwhelmed with applications this year. There will be many people who will be disappointed. We have tried to spread the money around as equitably as possible and prioritizing, to the best of our ability, and providing useful employment opportunities. We want to take a look, in particular, at areas of the province where unemployment is highest but, specifically, the amount

of money we have available we believe will enable us to provide more jobs than we had last year. In respect to this particular question — (Interjection) — I should take it as notice - that amount of money does not apply. I don't think it can provide a positive answer for your particular constituent.

MRS. C. OLESON: I'm not quite sure. I will try again and ask him what has been the criteria to this point for allocating the funds, and what will be the criteria for these new funds, this increase in funds.

HON. L. EVANS: There is no different criteria for the new funds. The fact is that we topped up the amount of money that we had originally allocated because of the large demand for this program.

MRS. C. OLESON: Will there be an extension of the deadline that was imposed for the applications because of the new money?

HON. L. EVANS: No, Mr. Speaker.

Legislative Library

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation or the Acting Minister. I wonder, now that the government has decided to take away the services that have been given to the public for many years by closing the Legislative Library to the public, I would ask the Minister if the Legislative Library will now cease to receive the documents from the Federal Government because, under the Federal Depository Act, a depository is only designated as such if it is open to the public. Will the Legislative Library lose the documents coming from the Federal Government because of this decision?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I think it should be clear that there are not, as reported, five full-time people that will be replaced. It will be approximately the equivalent of three. The intention is to curtail the duplication of services, not to close the facilities when it is the only place where the documents can be found. The Minister, on his return - he's away from the House on government business - will explain this position further.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: It will be interesting to know if our Legislative Library will still receive documents from the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if the service to the Members of the Legislature, because there is going to be a reduction of staff of five people - for example, we're informed that the reduction of staff of two people in the Reading Room will take place - will the Members of the Legislature have the same fast, efficient service we have enjoyed in the past, especially the opposition?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: In the years that I've been here, Mr. Speaker, the period of time that the Legislative

Library has been open has varied, and that is a possibility. I would like to remind the member that he's one of the same members that is talking about deficit and that we should do everything possible to curtail deficit; you've got to start somewhere.

A MEMBER: Oh, it is a cutback, sure it's a cutback.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Sure, it's a cutback. If you are going to try to stop the duplication, it is a cutback.

A MEMBER: Howard said that wouldn't happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.
The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the last answer, I would ask the First Minister this question. If he enjoys reading the expensive propaganda in the paper, rather than having five people working in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, first, I wish that the honourable member - maybe because of the noise from his side of the Chamber, I don't know - if he had listened he would have heard the Minister indicate three, and not five. Honourable members should realize, in fact, that to ensure that there be fiscal responsibility, that there be some control in respect to suspending of operations, that there has to be a redeployment of staff but at the same time avoiding the trimming or cutting of services that are vital and important to the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know where it is imagined - maybe it is Conservative philosophy, maybe it is, in fact the more I hear, the more I think it is - that some way or other, duplication of services are all right in certain areas even though it be government waste. This New Democratic Party Government will do all it can to eliminate the duplication of services.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would ask this question, they want to know my priorities. My priorities are Manitobans working rather than looking at lousy expensive propaganda put out by the Jobs Fund when they're supposed to have people working in this province. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the First Minister, is his priority to read his expensive propaganda rather than have people working in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't really know if that is a question, but it is the kind of question that is so general in nature it does provide me with an opportunity to elaborate and to expand for about 10 minutes. If that question is going to be permitted, questions of that nature, I reserve the right, Mr. Speaker, to respond in turn.

Mr. Speaker, the priorities of this government have been well itemized and have been well mentioned

repeatedly and this gives me an opportunity again, to deal with those priorities of this government.

No. 1, to ensure that the moneys that are available to the Province of Manitoba are spent in connection with development of long-term asset development in Manitoba, the creation and preservation of jobs in the Province of Manitoba.

No. 2, unlike what is existing in some Conservative provinces in this country, to ensure that there be a preservation and not an erosion of vitally important public services, including health care and day care in the Province of Manitoba.

No. 3, to ensure that in this process there be a reduction insofar as deficit is concerned, in order to ensure the responsible fiscal operations in the Province of Manitoba. We have accomplished those three.

Mr. Speaker, I am responding to a general question and I reserve the right to respond accordingly.

Freon - certificate for use of

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 1st, the Member for Roblin-Russell asked me a question with regard to certification of persons who are using Freon and ammonia. I have that answer for members opposite now, and it takes a bit of explanation. It's a short answer, but I think it's quite explanatory.

Freon is, as you know, a non-toxic, non-flammable gas. Single unit factory assembled Freon refrigeration plants under 100 tons capacity are exempt from The Power Engineers Act, they do not require operators. All refrigeration plants under 50 tons are exempt as well. Experience gained in operating a Freon refrigeration plant of under 100 tons, therefore, is not acceptable under the licensing requirements.

Ammonia, however, is a toxic gas; it is generally considered to be non-flammable, however. Most ammonia plants are field assembled and do not qualify for the exemption as factory assembled. They do require operators when over 50 tons. Experience gained in an ammonia plant over 50 tons, therefore, does count under the regulations.

A person holding a valid refrigeration certificate is entitled to work in both ammonia and Freon plants; but a person who has had experience only in Freon would not be licensed and, therefore, would not be able to operate an ammonia plant.

For the information of members opposite - this little lesson on ammonia and Freon - all of the people attending the course at Gimli that he mentions . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable First Minister on a point of order.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would be possible if there could be sufficient respect for the response, that at least those members that wish to hear the response would have an opportunity to really hear above the din across the Chamber . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. If the answer to the question is to be detailed or lengthy, perhaps the Honourable Minister would care to table it so that members can read it.

HON. M.B. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I have just one comment to make about the Gimli course, and that is the end of my statement.

The people attending the course at Gimli who passed the final course exam were all allowed to write the department examination - all of them who passed the course. As a matter of fact, however, none of the people who had only Freon experience were in fact able to pass the examination.

If the member wishes any further information I'll be happy to get it from our mechanical and engineering branch.

Ice storm - clean-up costs

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: My question is for the Minister of Government Services. Yesterday he indicated that certain compensation was available to communities to pay the clean-up costs caused by damage during the ice storm. Could the Minister indicate whether the municipalities and towns so involved have been notified of this program so that they can make application in a proper manner?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, the member is incorrect in his statement that I indicated that there was assistance available. I made no such statement. I said that any requests that we would receive for assistance would be reviewed and dealt with according to present policy.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, is the Minister indicating to, for instance, the Town of Morden and the Town of Carman, that they may not receive compensation, as discussed with EMO and the Disaster Assistance Board, and that a decision for compensation after the damage clean-up costs are paid will be a political decision made by this Minister and this government?

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, my staff is monitoring and getting in touch with all municipalities that were in the path of the recent storm and where damages occurred. That information is being tabulated now and the extent of the damage is being monitored and we will deal with those damages, as has been in the past. I don't know what else the member wants. There is a program in place at the present time and all applications for assistance will be dealt with in the usual manner.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Can the Minister then give the communities so involved in the clean-up operation and the costs thereof the assurance that he will stand by the word of the Chairman of EMO, and the Disaster Assistance Board, who have indicated to those communities that they will be supported on a funding formula for their clean-up costs, and that the Minister will not renege on the word given to those communities by staff in his department?

HON. A. ADAM: Well, Mr. Speaker, I know not what the member speaks of. He should perhaps elaborate

on what commitments have been made by staff. Mr. Speaker, perhaps he may be referring to seminars that have been held throughout the province to seek the input of municipalities on looking at different ways of formulating a new policy. There has been no policy as yet adopted and the member well knows that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Since the Minister wishes a clarification, I would ask the Minister to get in touch with the head of EMO who has visited Morden, and I understand Carman, and ask the head of the EMO, who is his employee, as to what kind of a commitment he made to those two communities; and furthermore, to tell the mayors of both those communities that he indeed will live up to that commitment.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly have to find out if the director of EMO has in fact made any statements. I would doubt very much whether there was any commitment made other than what the present policy indicates at the present time.

Legislative Library

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the First Minister.

As a graduate student at the University of Manitoba and as a curator at the Museum of Man and Nature, I had occasion to use the Provincial Library. Without trivializing or politicizing the questions of the Member for Sturgeon Creek, I wonder if the First Minister could assure this House that he will do everything possible to maintain the access by members of the academic community to documents held by the Provincial Library, which are not available at other locations in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do thank the honourable member for presenting that question because it does, I think, clarify what the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek was attempting to pose by way of question.

Mr. Speaker, where there in fact is no duplication of service, where the service can only be provided through the library, then it would be the intent on the part of the government to ensure the continuation of that particular service.

If indeed the service that's being requested is one that is being provided elsewhere, such as the Winnipeg Library or other quarters, it would not be the intention of the government to duplicate that service.

Brandon University

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would ask my question of the Minister of Education.

When is the Minister going to ask the Board of Governors at the Brandon University to stop throwing

away money - some \$20,000 in its last effort - on witch hunts, in attempting to find fiscal irresponsibility on behalf of the former president, Dr. Perkins?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that a board like the Board of Governors of a university has many responsibilities, and clearly one of the most important responsibilities that any of them hold - and that we are often asked questions by members of the opposition on matters like this because they know it so important - is the question of the accountability and the expenditures of public money. That is a tremendous trust that is given to people to have that responsibility and it is their job to make sure that the money that is spent can be accounted for; that it is spent in an appropriate and not an inappropriate way; and if they have any concerns that there are any questions about the expenditures of money that are meant for the university, then it is their responsibility to examine and to look into that to make sure there aren't any problems there. They are meeting their responsibilities, Mr. Speaker.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Speaker, this is the second special audit that has been requested by the university. How many more is the Department of Education going to sanction?

HON. M. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education does not sanction either the first one, the second one, or if they believe that it is necessary, the third one. It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to get whatever information they need to make sure that the money is being spent properly.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to first take this opportunity to commend the Minister of Finance and seize this opportunity to congratulate on the forward looking Budget that he introduced into this House last week. I think it was a Budget that was well accepted by the vast majority of Manitobans.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I don't intend this afternoon to spend too much time with comments uttered by honourable members across the way, because to be very blunt and very frank with you, there has been so little of substance that requires response and anyway, Mr. Speaker, I would sooner look forward than look back, as has been the case on the part of honourable members across the Chamber.

There is a comment though that was made last evening by the Member for Fort Garry that I believe requires some comment. Mr. Speaker, a comment to the effect that the New Democratic Party Government in Manitoba was at some way at odds with the principles

of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, even suggested that M.J. Coldwell and J.S. Woodsworth looking at this Budget, I assume, would be rolling over where they are presently residents.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I find those remarks to have been totally a misjudgment, a misunderstanding - wittingly or unwittingly - of the basic philosophy and principle of democratic socialism and of social democracy, ever since the initiation of the CCF in 1933 in Regina and the formation of the New Democratic Party in 1961.

Mr. Speaker, it may indeed be the case that honourable members with their thinking is static, rigid, dogmatic, and the inability to change with the times - I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that is conservatism - but the essence of social democracy is not to stand still, not to retain the status quo, but to be constantly prepared to examine circumstances that exist at any given time and be able to develop policies that are pragmatic, in order to relate to the circumstances of that time.

Mr. Speaker, the philosophy of social democracy is not a philosophy that is based upon - as is the case with honourable members of the Conservative Party - a ritualistic worshipping at the shrine of either private enterprise or public enterprise or co-operative enterprise. It's a recognition that what is best is what works, Mr. Speaker, at any given time. That's the essence of social democracy and what social democracy attempts to achieve and does achieve.

I think the record of social democracy throughout, whether it be in Canada or other parts of the world, is indeed a record of success. It's a record of responding to challenges. A record of indeed having the best economic performance wherever social democracy has been implemented, and need I only refer honourable members to the experiences in Sweden, in Denmark, in West Germany, and in other countries of the world where social democracy in fact has been the beacon of success.

Mr. Speaker, economic development, economic growth is not good enough insofar as itself is concerned. The essence and importance of social democracy is the fair distribution of the abundance of that which we produce, in order to ensure every man, woman and child has a fair opportunity to enjoy the fullness of life, the meaningful nature of life, and otherwise, Mr. Speaker, to improve the human condition of each and every individual.

When the Honourable Member for Fort Garry suggested some way or other that the philosophy of M.J. Coldwell and J.S. Woodsworth was collectivist, heavy taxation, in fact he demonstrated his ignorance of the thoughts, the philosophies, the ideas of the founders of this movement, Mr. Speaker, and I want to publicly here today, reject the unfair inference by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry and the ignorance that he displayed in this Chamber yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that the Conservative Party also changes over the years and they are very reluctant to change because by the very essence, the Conservative Party is a party of small "c" conservatism. But they change, Mr. Speaker. It must indeed have hurt honourable members across the way when they fought long, heavy, filibustered in this House - not bell-ringing - but at least they filibustered by way of speeches and they played it properly according to the rules; an

opposition to the institution of public automobile insurance in this province 1970-71.

They said, in fact, it would create wreckage in the automobile insurance industry; they said that employees massively would be laid off; they said agents would be bankrupted; it would have tremendous blow upon the economy of the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, 1977 and 1981 they ended up accepting public automobile insurance; they ended up accepting and endorsing public automobile insurance and, indeed, by so doing indicating that their position of eight years earlier was not an accurate one.

Mr. Speaker, I commend honourable members for that across the way, I commend them for the fact that it only took nine years for them to change on something as positive and excellent as public automobile insurance. At least honourable members, despite their small "c" conservatism after nine years were pragmatic enough to recognize that we can be proud of the institution of public automobile insurance in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also applaud the slow moving, yet happening, reaction of Conservatives across the way in respect to Medicare. In regard to Medicare, 1966-1967 the Provincial Government in this province were reluctant to enter into a comprehensive Medicare Program in the Province of Manitoba. But, Mr. Speaker, now we have their Federal Leader in Ottawa, that some honourable members across the way don't care too much for, but their Honourable Leader in Ottawa giving full-hearted support to the principles of the Canada Health Act, and bringing his federal caucus along with him in support of The Canadian Health Act and its provisions.

So, Mr. Speaker, honourable members across the way they change but it's a slow process. It's a slow process behind the movement toward greater understanding of the essence of society, the recognition that we can, by working as a community, improve the quality of life. We can improve the potentials of each individual so that each individual is able to maximize their contribution to the community as a whole. It takes a long time, Mr. Speaker, for honourable members to recognize that.

I just wish for once, Mr. Speaker, just for once, that honourable members could lead the way insofar as at least one piece of social reform is concerned, rather than being 10 years, 20 years behind the times insofar as the acceptance of social reform. Mr. Speaker, even if it means being a little ahead of our times, I would sooner be ahead of our times than be dragging my feet decades behind the times as honourable members and their political philosophy are across the way.

Mr. Speaker, what in fact I found to be of great interest this afternoon during the question period, we have heard from honourable members during the debate there should have been greater tax cuts in certain areas, we have heard from honourable members that spending has been too great. Yet, Mr. Speaker, in the space of what 10, 15 minutes, critical remarks from the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek because this government has the boldness and the courage to eliminate duplication in one area of public service.

Another honourable member, Mr. Speaker, and I think unfairly, tried to put words in the mouth of the Minister in respect to automatically responding for requests for

compensation on April 27th in the storm. Mr. Speaker, what we have across the way are April 27th socialists, socialism for April 27th, but not for April 26th, or April 28th; that's the kind of socialists we have across the way.

Mr. Speaker, the direction, the strategy of this government is deliberate; it is planned; it is direct, and I want to deal with that over the next period of time, Mr. Speaker, because I think it's important that it be outlined in some detail this afternoon, not for honourable members across the way necessarily, but for Manitobans in general so there is a clear understanding, Mr. Speaker, of the purposes and the objectives to which we seek.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned during the Question Period the three important objectives of this government: (1) jobs; (2) economic security and the preservation of vital public services; the preservation and enhancement of our health care system, our day care system, despite the fact that we are presently within a period of time that is difficult throughout Canada, and the western world; and (3) fiscal responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

I want to first say that I was somewhat embarrassed by comments that what we had was a conservative Budget. I want to demonstrate, Mr. Speaker, that indeed this is not a conservative Budget because I do not for a moment want to be labelled as a Conservative. I can't think of a greater insult, Mr. Speaker, than to be labelled a Conservative or be suggested in any quarter that this government has tabled a conservative document in this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Budget that the Minister of Finance has carefully designed in order to meet the economic circumstances of today in the Province of Manitoba. It has been a Budget that has been well reasoned with a deliberate intent in mind. Through our economic strategy we have worked to insure that Manitobans can shoulder-to-shoulder with other Manitobans, whether it be in the business community, the labour community, other levels of government, community organizations, work together in order to lay the foundations for Manitobas economic turnabout.

Mr. Speaker, we've gone through one stage of economic thrust since this government was elected in November 1981. You recall the initiation of the first stage was in response to what was a crushing international recession situation to, say the least, not a very good economic climate in this province that had been left for us as a result of the mismanagement of the economy by the previous Conservative Government in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, we had during that period of time to design a deliberate strategy in order to carry us through Stage 1. That was a deliberate strategy in order to ensure that there be job creation, and the emphasis was on job creation, not necessarily the development of long-term assets because we had the impact of the international and Canadian recession to deal with.

No. 2, Mr. Speaker, we had to ensure that during those tough, difficult times that we were able to ensure that residents of this province would not suffer as they have suffered from other jurisdictions in Canada by the erosion of health care and other services and programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain said yesterday, why can't we debate things

like extra billing, I believe, sales tax. I say let's debate them, I have no problem with debating them, but I want to, Mr. Speaker, make it very clear where this government stands. We're opposed to extra billing, we're opposed to premiums on Medicare, and there need be no doubt as to the position of this government in respect to those issues.

It was important, Mr. Speaker, that we ride out that recessionary storm without the eroding of our health services, and without the eroding of other important social programs and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, that we do what we could with our limited financial, and jurisdictional areas of responsibility to minimize the impact of the recession upon the unemployed, to minimize the number of unemployed that would be on welfare or unemployment insurance, but would still provide the unemployed an opportunity to contribute through various programs.

Mr. Speaker, we were able to do that during a time in which the economies of our neighbouring provinces unfortunately deteriorated, just as they did here, but deteriorated much more rapidly in other provinces because we had a deliberate strategy in place, Stage 1. I implemented that strategy.

Mr. Speaker, what we are prepared to recognize is that our unemployment levels in this province are still away too high, unacceptably high, particularly in the age group 18 to 30. And, Mr. Speaker, we don't easily toss around the phrase "blue skies." We believe there is a much better future and we should be striving, working to that future. But, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the fact that there's still altogether too much unemployment in the Province of Manitoba, despite the fact that we have the lowest rate of unemployment presently in Canada, in the Province of Manitoba. We are not going to neglect our responsibility as a government to combat those unacceptably high levels of unemployment in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, one of the soundest approaches that any government - I don't think a government has to be Liberal or Conservative or New Democratic to understand this - is the importance of ensuring that there not be idle hands, that idle hands be put to work so that we produce goods and services. The more goods and services that are produced in any country, any province, the better the quality of life.

In fact, you can't have economic base from the provision of social services. Mr. Speaker, that ties in with the importance of ensuring that no man, woman and child, wherever it is possible within the ability that we have available to us, sits idle as that man, woman, wants to contribute by way of dignity, and the dignity of work to the betterment of society. I'm surprised, Mr. Speaker, that that is a socialist philosophy. I would have thought that would be a Conservative philosophy. I thought a Conservative philosophy would be that people ought not to be idle, that men and women should be given the opportunity to work. But it appears, Mr. Speaker, that the attitude of honourable members across the way as displayed during the Throne Speech is that the best government is the government that does nothing. Mr. Speaker, we say that is not the case, the best government is a government that performs well and responds to its responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, there is a social obligation on the part of any government. Honourable members have spoken

in their own constituencies, I'm sure, to men and women, young people - many of our young people, 18, 19, 20 years of age in a period of despair and frustration, anxiety. There's nothing more unsettling than a youth not sure of his or her future because they're not given an opportunity to be employed and to contribute to the community. The despair and the frustration, the anxiety, unfortunately too frequently, Mr. Speaker, leading to an excessive instance of suicides, crime, alcoholism as a result of that. We cannot, we will not, sit idly by on this side, Mr. Speaker, and wait for the day when the private sector is going to pick up its area of responsibility whether youth that despair, and are being frustrated. This government intends to do all that it can within its limited resources to relieve that kind of situation.

Mr. Speaker, what we have to do: . . . I hear remarks, and I don't want to get sidetracked, but it reminds me a little bit of "Animal Farm." You remember in "Animal Farm" where the characters ran around a farm and they had slogans, seven and six, seven and six, seven and six. They couldn't think in terms of anything but slogans. Mr. Speaker, if I have seen endless and mindless rhetoric and sloganeering, it's been from honourable members across the way.

Mr. Speaker, we received it in lumps last night from the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. For once, I would like to avoid rhetoric and sloganeering, and deal with the sensible, practical world of what is confronting us as Manitobans and how we can best deal with those problems.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we have to work and develop our economy and here's where we come to Stage 2 of our strategy. To ensure that our economy is led in a positive direction and that we take an active role insofar as working in partnership with business and labour and community and municipal organizations and the Federal Government to restore economic health in the Province of Manitoba, and to eliminate, or to at least reduce the ravages of unemployment in our midst, and we are working deliberately towards that process.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, we are not - and I must put this on the record - I hope that we are not hindered in that process as we move into Stage 2 of our economic strategy, that we're not hindered by the outdated Conservative monetary theories that result in tight money and high interest rates that have had a crippling impact in the United States and in Canada, the rising bankruptcies, rising unemployment because of a senseless, monetary theory that some way are things that you must increase interest rates, increase unemployment to keep inflation down. Mr. Speaker, I find that kind of economic reasoning not only stupid, insane, but nearly criminal because of the impact it has.

Mr. Speaker, I am again going to just move a little bit off my intention here, to indicate that I wish that whoever forms the Government of Canada after the next election would do something about Governor Bouey and ensure that he would have appropriate opportunity to enjoy early vacation in Florida, because I find Governor Bouey reflects that kind of inhuman, ancient thinking at the highest levels of monetary policy in Canada. That's why I say, Mr. Speaker, and honourable members have not liked this, that there is much more basic agreement and similarity between

the Liberal and Conservative Parties, there always has been, than indeed they would like to acknowledge in this Chamber because I don't think honourable members would do anything about monetary policy being pursued by the Liberals.

They didn't do anything when they had a chance during nine months of Prime Minister Clark. I wouldn't anticipate they would do anything even with the Honourable Member for Fort Garry's possible inclusion in the caucus after the next election with a Prime Minister Mulroney Government. I hope Mr. Mulroney's relationship improves with honourable members across the way, that being the case, but I don't really anticipate that there'll be any change in that senseless, mindless monetary thrust.

About a year ago, my government introduced the Manitoba Jobs Fund to create jobs by working, as I said, together with the business community, the labour community, municipal community organizations, the Federal Government, and, Mr. Speaker, the success of the Jobs Fund has been demonstrated in the unemployment statistics. I'm again going to draw those statistics to honourable members across the way because I think we should take pride as Manitobans. I don't know why we can't take some pride that we started the first few feet, and only the first few feet, Mr. Speaker, towards economic recovery in Manitoba. I'm not claiming that we've reached economic recovery, but surely they take some pride that we're leading the country and we've taken those first few important steps towards economic recovery and a better future for Manitobans. Why can't we be proud that we're beginning that important accomplishment?

Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned before in this House that we've enjoyed the second lowest rate of unemployment of all provinces; March, the lowest rate of unemployment of all provinces. In addition, we have, through deliberate policy, ensured that temporary jobs are moved into permanent jobs.

Mr. Speaker, individuals, and I'm not going to nit-pick about numbers because I notice it had been brought up, nit-picking about whether it's 21,000 or a little less than 21,000 - maybe it was 21,002 or 20,098 - who knows? But what I do know is that thousands and thousands of Manitobans who would otherwise be drawing unemployment insurance and welfare were working in meaningful employment and were removed during that period of time from the frustration and despair of not knowing they were doing meaningful work and contributing to the community.

That's all that's important, Mr. Speaker, not the nit-picking but the fact that there was accomplishment, there was achievement. What we did did contribute to the comparatively better situation in Manitoba than in Conservative jurisdictions in this country. Mr. Speaker, this meant jobs for the unemployed; this meant jobs for students; this meant jobs for young people; this meant jobs for women; this meant jobs for those in our Native community, Northern Manitoba, that would not otherwise have been there, and that is important, Mr. Speaker. That cannot be minimized.

Also what this means by way of essence, Mr. Speaker - there's "Animal Farm" again.

A MEMBER: Seven and six.

HON. H. PAWLEY: What's seven and six, seven and six; one-and-a-half and one-and-a-half. Mr. Speaker, what also is important is the demonstration that co-operation does go a long way. Mr. Speaker, I suspect that this government, by confrontation for momentary political gains, it might be much more politically popular in some quarters, but it would be to the contrary interests of the Province of Manitoba and we will not bend to mindless confrontation with other levels of government that we happen to disagree with politically, that will hurt the future of Manitobans in this province; co-operation, not confrontation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to simply place on the record for honourable members because it is important that this be recognized, that 40 percent of the moneys from the Jobs Fund did not come from the Provincial Government, 40 percent of the money for the Jobs Fund projects came from the private sector, from municipal government, and from the federal government itself, and I believe that is important to demonstrate the ability of groups, organizations and different levels of government to co-operate together; about \$157 million in fact, in total, through that process of co-operation and working together.

But the Jobs Fund did much more than put people back to work, it left within this province long-lasting assets. I have received many letters from constituencies represented by honourable members across the way, in fact, I should have brought them into this House and read them in this House. Letters from mayors and secretary-treasurers in towns and villages represented by honourable members across the way, thanking us for the fact that we had the foresight and the initiative to institute a Jobs Fund in the Province of Manitoba; that we made some improvement in towns and villages in this province; that we created some long-lasting assets at the community level in this province. Mr. Speaker, whether it be sewer and water, whether it be the main streets of this province, by working together we achieved a great deal in difficult times.

Manitobans, I think, can be proud that indeed by their working together they have accomplished this as Manitobans. I am proud, Mr. Speaker, that this element of my government strategy has had a measure of success in the total operation, in the co-ordination and bringing together of these initiatives in the province.

But there are other successes that I would like to deal with by way of my government's economic strategy. It is clear that job creation in itself is not enough, and that job creation in itself is not enough to ensure long-term economic development and growth and strengthening of the economy, and I appreciate it. I want to commend the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain on what I thought was generally a thoughtful speech yesterday, identifying and analyzing the weaknesses within the Manitoba economy. And that has been very much in the forefront of this government's economic strategy, to ensure that we do have long-term economic development, to aid those industries that are the backbone of the Manitoba economy, and we took those steps, Mr. Speaker.

We approached the Government of Canada, as I mentioned a few days ago, with a list of projects that one could relate to the needs within the Manitoba economy, to strengthen the Manitoba economy. To ensure that through the approach of co-operative

federalism we would be able to benefit Manitobans, that we could provide funds in co-operation with the Federal Government because we can't obviously do all that funding ourselves, to contribute to the strengthening of the economic base of Manitoba.

Throughout the past year my government has, therefore, successfully negotiated a series of agreements, and I have not heard from the members across the way, except some shouts of porkbarreling by Mr. Axworthy, but I am not quite sure whether honourable members across the way concur with those kinds of agreements, or whether they would have permitted jurisdictional or party politics, to have blocked the opportunity to sign those agreements essential and important to the Province of Manitoba.

I would have enjoyed having the opportunity to listen to honourable members across the way talk about those joint agreements, to have indicated where they stand in respect to those joint agreements. Would they have signed, or would they not have signed? Would they have been able to put aside their political and partisan ideological blinkers and sat down with the appropriate federal ministers to sign those agreements? Or would they have turned their backs on that opportunity, and thus have turned their backs on Manitobans?

If we are to reflect upon the history of the honourable members across the way during this 1977-1981 period by way of their pattern, it might very well have been, Mr. Speaker, they would have turned their backs on the opportunity that was made available to Manitobans through joint co-operative federalism with the Federal Government in Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, to sign agreements with people that don't particularly share your political views you don't need to love them, but you can agree that you represent the same people, you have the same responsibility, the same obligation to the same voters.

These kind of agreements have provided to Manitobans long-term investment; they have provided an opportunity for joint investment in our key economic sectors - agriculture, forestry, mine exploration, housing, transportation. Through our work, Mr. Speaker, we have been able to sign agreements that have meant \$400 million of joint federal-provincial investment in the strength of this province, to build upon those strengths in order to ensure that we have a sounder, more viable economic future in Manitoba. \$400 million is not to be laughed at, Mr. Speaker, and I am simply amazed that honourable members have not addressed themselves at any length to the issue of these important agreements, what these agreements will do to the Province of Manitoba; and more importantly, I would like to have heard where honourable members stand in respect to those agreements. Do they support them? Do they disagree with them? What would they do if they were in office?

I believe the substance of those agreements and the projects that have been announced will bring nourishment to the Manitoba economy - and I am surprised to have heard some members, in fact, shouting from their seats, "nothing," Mr. Speaker - \$400 million of infrastructure, \$400 million of assistance to the forestry, to the mining, to the agricultural, to the transportation industry of this province is not nothing, Mr. Speaker, it is major accomplishment to Manitobans through joint federal co-operation.

Also, Mr. Speaker, an active approach is required and, once again, my government has pulled up its

bootstraps, went to work on developing long-term investment through major capital projects, proposals that we presented to the Federal Government - and I am happy to say that we are now realizing positive impact from those projects. We took the initiative and I am pleased to see, Mr. Speaker, that Manitobans are now reaping benefit from those proposals that we initiated. Yes, and even at the time we made those proposals, was there support from honourable members across the way, did honourable members get up and say that was a good thing? Honourable members dubbed it the "wish list"; they laughed, they scoffed, there was references to Vic in Wonderland. Your seatmate, the Member for Arthur, called "Vic in Wonderland" was the phrase that was used, Vic in Wonderland.

Mr. Speaker, I would think that by this time honourable members would be a little bit more careful insofar as the careless cynicism that they express out loud in this Chamber about the initiatives that this government has undertaken.

I believe that we are beginning to nurture this economy back to health. We're on the long road to economic recovery - a recovery that is renewing the hopes of Manitobans, renewing their optimism, and most important, Mr. Speaker, renewing their energies. What could be more optimistic in these times than the prospect of long-term economic development, initiatives, investment in our future, investment in our communities. We are hopeful as a government, and we are optimistic, and we have every reason to be.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again remind honourable members - I'm not talking about department store sales as honourable members do across the way - I'm talking about retail sales - exceeded the Canadian average, exceeded the increase in each of the four western provinces last year; housing starts that increased by three times the Canadian average; Manitobans being able to suffer fewer bankruptcies than other western provinces; our children, fellow Manitobans returning to this province after a number of years of exile in other provinces because of the economic mismanagement that occurred in this province, during the time that they had the opportunity - the pre-recession period of time - when they had the opportunity for our sons and daughters to have been sent into exile because of economic mismanagement of the previous Conservative administration in Manitoba.

The Conference Board of Canada, along with others, has forecast investment growth in Manitoba for 1984 to be the strongest growth rate for any province in Canada. During the same period, Mr. Speaker, our revenues increased by 1 percent, where our total budgetary requirements dropped by \$87 million.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, we reduced the estimated Budget deficit for 1983 without detracting from our commitment to the provision of public services: health care, education, day care, other vital services. What other jurisdictions in this country where Tories reign seized upon the recession as an excuse to slash public services? — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, you say I waxed eloquent. You need only travel to British Columbia, to Alberta, to New Brunswick any other Conservative jurisdiction, if you doubt that there's been a slashing of public services in those provinces.

The introduction of user fees, higher premiums, higher health insurance premiums for health care, or placing

those services in some areas in the private sector from the public sectors we've seen recently in the Province of Saskatchewan in the Department of Highways. Mr. Speaker, we enhanced those services. Manitobans have every right to anticipate and to expect that those vital services will be provided without being penalized by user fees, by excessive health insurance premiums, just because they use those services.

Mr. Speaker, my government has demonstrated in this Budget that we're going to ensure that health care and public services are maintained and they are preserved. They're vital to the well-being of our province.

Mr. Speaker, a Budget is often like a road map. It signifies direction, direction in which a government intends to proceed. It provides an indication of direction and of strategy, and through the Throne Speech, through the Budget Address, again honourable members have ignored this important area of initiative and, Sir, I wonder why. I wonder if it's just that they prefer to not discuss the important initiatives of this government because they worry. It's obvious here every day, in fact when we come into this House, that there is a great deal of worry across the way. It's obvious in the behaviour, the demeanour of honourable members across the way insofar as their reaction to honourable members on this side. Honourable members across the way seem to be uptight these days, I don't know. I've never seen honourable members as uptight as I have in the last two weeks in this Chamber.

I think it demonstrates a large measure of insecurity because honourable members are uneasy about debating with this government, the direction that this government is proceeding. They're concerned about debating the long-term development thrusts that this government intends to proceed with in Manitoba; a long-term development for jobs, for economic security, the intention to build a vibrant strong economy today for Manitoba's future and also for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that in the Budget Address there was reference to the second stage by way of economic policy that was being unfolded. In addition to containing the operating deficit and reducing it from last year's level, my government introduced measures that will further encourage the private sector in its economic development thrusts in Manitoba. It is vital to the Manitoba economic base that we not drag our feet insofar as ensuring that the business community in Manitoba is able to take opportunity of the new technological developments that are occurring in the province. In order to aid business in that - in strengthening the Manitoba economy - a manufacturing investment tax credit was introduced by the Honourable Minister of Finance. A tax credit that was designed to provide an additional incentive for investment and new production facilities, new buildings, machinery, equipment that are used in manufacturing in the processing business.

But the tax reductions contained in the Budget have also been designed to ensure that the fruits of a growing economy are shared by all Manitobans in a fair and equitable manner. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we provided for an exemption in respect to the post-secondary education and health levy under \$50,000 by way of payroll and for that small business segment of the economy. As the Minister of Finance pointed out,

another 2,000 will benefit from the \$75,000 ceiling in respect to reduced levy payments.

Furthermore, Manitobans who need it most will receive a further benefit and that is so far as those of low income are concerned. Some 60,000 will receive an average reduction insofar as their tax burden is concerned, of some \$55.00. Now honourable members may think that isn't a great deal and it's not nearly as much as anyone would like in this Chamber, but to someone on very low income, that is a significant and very important move and I think it's an important demonstration of this government's commitment to those of low income and fixed-income pensioners in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we've also given the Jobs Fund an expanded mandate, building on the spirit of co-operation which is characterized in the first year of the Jobs Fund activity when labour, business, governments worked together to provide employment and other economic stimulus. Our government has identified 12 sectors as essential to long-term viability and strength in the Manitoba economy. It is to those sectors that this government intends to provide its role with a catalyst in order to stimulate economic development and growth and employment. I want to list those 12 areas to you, Mr. Speaker.

Agriculture, recognizing that agriculture is a base of the Manitoba economy, that we must expand the value and the range of products and the quality of those products that lend themselves to further processing in Manitoba. Hydro energy development and the tremendous potential that this province has insofar as developing energy intensive industry in order to ensure that we be in the forefront of economic development in the 1990's, hydro energy is at the top of the list. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in the same way that timber is important to B.C., oil to Alberta, and potash to Saskatchewan, energy has the same potential to the economic betterment of the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the small-business community will be a target of economic assistance on the part of this government, to ensure that there is support to offset current deficiencies, to encourage growth in capital investment within the small-business community, employment opportunities, both in Manitoba and in traditional and non-traditional business areas.

Technology, probably one of the most important. We all have noted the rapid development and occupation of Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul particularly in the United States, is a capital of technology growth. I had an opportunity to visit Minneapolis about a month ago when I had a chance to meet with some of our people from Northern States Power and, at the same time, to discuss their technology developments in Minneapolis, and to see how they have been able to utilize the development of technology, to improve their industries and their manufacturing capacity in Minneapolis.

I believe that we can also adapt in Manitoba; we can utilize our existing technology. It's of critical importance to improving productivity, profitability, at the same time, recognizing the human factor that is going to be involved in that adaptive process, and we must be sensitive at all times to that.

Transportation, the importance of enhancing Manitoba's status as a transportation centre. And certainly the agreement that I referred to earlier has

been fundamental to strengthening and developing the transportation sector in the Province of Manitoba. Transportation has been keyed historically to the economic viability of the Province of Manitoba. We've been losing our position; I believe that we can regain that position with a deliberate strategic effort.

A MEMBER: Not with you guys.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, honourable members' saying, "not with you guys." Let me remind honourable members across the way that it was this government that signed the agreement for the improvement of the Port of Churchill; it was this government that provided for a dredging of the Port of Churchill; it was this government that signed an agreement pertaining to lightweight hopper cars in Transcona. What did they do, Mr. Speaker? As one of them said, we held a meeting in Dauphin, Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, they made sure the television was there; the Honourable Member for Arthur, the former Minister of Agriculture, I remember him there; I guess, the Honourable Member for Pembina. There was a meeting, there was lots of publicity but what was produced from that meeting, Mr. Speaker? Nothing. Publicity? No achievement, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, we will not be lectured by irresponsible statements from honourable members across the way, let me assure you. We intend to develop innovative approaches, such as, transportation equipment, manufacturing, to take an active role as I indicated in the development of the Port of Churchill.

Mr. Speaker, an area of the economy that is too frequently ignored, and also is a target of our economic thrust, will be co-operative development. Co-operative development has been an area that has gone through difficult times and we remember that the co-ops and the credit union movement in this province gave birth during the Thirties, during the depressed times of the 1930s. Mr. Speaker, it is our view that we must do much more by way of encouraging and developing the co-op movement in Manitoba. The co-op movement is truly a movement that has arisen in Western Canada. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we nourish the co-op movement; that we recognize, in addition to the private and to the public sector, there's an important third sector, and that's the co-operative movement.

Community assets. We'll be assisting non-profit community organizations; create lasting assets and also improving employment.

Forestry. Mr. Speaker, one of the areas that was too long neglected was the field of forestry. For years and years governments, whether it was Liberal, Conservative or even the administration of which I served under, did not do what it should have in order to reforest, to ensure that depleted forestry resources were replaced. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that we are able to target those timber resources, to maintain the economic health of the forestry industry and thus, Mr. Speaker, the signing of the important forestry agreement with the Federal Government.

Housing Urban Development. We intend to continue to support and to assist Manitobans to obtain affordable housing and provide stimulus to employment in the housing industry. I think that can be best demonstrated by the fact that in 1983 we were able to exceed the

Canada average by way of housing starts, 3-1, in this province. — (Interjection) — And the honourable member, again, kind of scoffs. Mr. Speaker, you would think for once that an honourable member across the way could express some feeling of pride over the fact that the house builders and residents of Manitoba were able to turn back five years of sluggishness in the housing industry, that we're able to lead Canada by way of increase in housing starts in this province.

Provincial Capital Assets. We intend to continue construction, renovate major capital projects, projects of a lasting value to Manitobans, to provide further stimulus, employment, in the construction industry.

Youth, job opportunities, and this is an area of particular concern because it's one of the most difficult challenges that face us all across Canada, with the high levels of youth unemployment that range anywhere from 20 percent to 30 percent, at least, in various parts of Canada, wherever a young person resides. I mentioned the frustration and despair earlier, I don't intend to repeat that, but it obviously is an area that must be of critical importance, and will be to this government, to provide employment, training opportunities, students, graduates, others, short-term, long-term projects in order to ensure that the youth of this province are able to receive the training and the skills, the development of their potential, so they can contribute their talents in the way that they see best.

Development agreements. The twelfth sector that I would like to refer to. We'll be working to formulate, through this, a concept to provide a tool for working with individual companies wishing to locate or to expand in Manitoba. Many of these target sectors are interrelated, may provide support for other sectors of the economy because our economy is interrelated and one sector certainly does not operate independent from the other. But together, in targeting these segments of our economy, we can develop a cohesive co-ordinated approach to long-term economic development in Manitoba.

They represent investments in Manitoba's future, some of which are repayable in the short-term, others will be repayable in the long-term, Mr. Speaker, but they will be developments that will benefit, not only this generation, but this generation's children and children's children. Mr. Speaker, we know that a skilled workplace and new expanding markets are essential components of any economic strategy and, during the next few months, it is the intention of my government to embark on new trade promotion programs that will particularly concentrate on those areas of the Manitoba economy that are important for the purposes of the export trade area, from selective sectors within the Manitoba economy, agriculture being one of them.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased last night that I had an opportunity to speak to the Chairman of the Hog Marketing Board at the reception at the Japanese Consulate, and he indicated to me the marked increase insofar as trade pork products with Japan. That's the sort of trade, the sort of selected areas that we can, in fact, increase trade and benefit the farmers of this province, indeed, they are benefitting from those deliberate policies.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, my government will concentrate on improving trade for specific firms in a number of other sectors that have high export potential;

ensure that we seize and take advantage of those opportunities that exist for those firms and for Manitobans, in general.

During the past few years our world and our environment has gone through some very drastic changes. I mentioned technology and the challenges that face us as a result of technology and how we must, indeed, keep ahead of those trends and developments. With the new technologies, the lives of Manitobans have also changed - their skills, their training, in too many instances, have become outdated. It's important for us to constantly review those programs that we provide to Manitobans, young Manitobans, to insure that which they are receiving, by way of instruction, meets the challenge of those new technologies, those new circumstances in today's profits

At points there is a sense of being caught, I know, and the feeling that we are, in some way or other, caught in a whirlwind not of our own making. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot stop the advance of technology and, indeed, we would not want to, I'm sure, anyone in this Chamber. What we must do, Mr. Speaker, is to wrestle the new technology to the ground, harness it so it can benefit all Manitobans, whether that technology can be a benefit in the workplace or in the fields of education.

In order to keep pace with the changing world, my government will be introducing a new information technology program to stimulate markets for technology advances affecting industry, education and the public sector. Part of these new initiatives in the field of technology will include Canada's first industry, government education technology centres.

Mr. Speaker, my government is taking an active role in harnessing all these new technology capacities and opportunities for the benefit of all Manitobans. One of the most significant areas where the technology development can be used is in the area of education in our community colleges. I'm sure honourable members were impressed with the announcement by the Minister of education last week in that regard. We live, Mr. Speaker, in a vast province, where Northern Manitobans can become easily isolated from the rest of the province. Post-secondary education is one example of where the North has been isolated for many years. But now, Mr. Speaker, my government is employing new distance education techniques to deliver programs to Manitobans, no matter where they live. I think it's exciting, there's a new time for education in this province.

My government, Mr. Speaker, is pioneering the use of this new technology, schools, so that all Manitobans may have the opportunity to job, to skill training. Through the next few months there is going to be announcements pertaining to increase in computer assisted learning to provide more individualized instruction. This means, Mr. Speaker, that students at Red River Community College will be using — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, it demonstrates the lack of interest, it seems, on the part of the Member for Minnedosa in how the technology can be used to advance. This means, Mr. Speaker, that students at Red River Community College will be using - well, Mr. Speaker, it demonstrates the lack of interest it seems on the part of the Member for Minnedosa in how the technology can be used to advance. . . - a \$1.2 million microcomputer training centre, while students attending

Assiniboine and Keewatin Community Colleges will be using smaller but similar facilities.

In addition, Mr. Speaker — (Interjection) — Well I'm surprised. The Honourable Member for Morris says they can't be critical of that, that's point 1. We've sat here for three weeks, that's been a major concession, that is the first item that I've heard from honourable members across the way that they're not critical of, by way of initiatives on this side. By the way, it's part of the deficit, too, the Honourable Member for Morris might note.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, \$200,000 has been provided to the University of Manitoba to redevelop undergraduate courses, so that they may be offered to Manitobans in outlying areas through the new distance education technique. Manitobans living in the North in the remote areas will no longer have to leave their communities. There can be no fair opportunity to insure that all Manitobans receive comparable access to education as long as those Manitobans that live in remote communities have to leave those communities, at great expense to themselves and to their families, in order to receive education. With these developments it will no longer be necessary that Manitobans in remote northern communities will have to leave their communities, their friends and their families, and sometimes their jobs, to obtain a post-secondary education. I think, Mr. Speaker, that probably is a very important milestone insofar as our residents of remote and northern communities. I'm sure the Honourable Member for The Pas and Rupertsland would certainly endorse that.

Access to education, to the skills and the training that it offers, is an important element in my government's economic strategy. Investing in people, Mr. Speaker, the abilities of people, the talents of people, insuring that individuals are given an opportunity to maximize their skills is a crucial element of my government's long-term economic strategy and direction. We can talk and discuss all we want about forestry, mines and energy, as I have, but without ensuring that the people are here in order to utilize those resources, and to develop those resources, and work in those resources, and contribute the resources, Mr. Speaker, we will not in fact succeed as a province. Well-trained, well-skilled labour force is not only critical to realizing economic potential for Manitoba, but it's crucial for the well-being of all Manitobans.

Throughout the past year my government has also worked with those in the farm community to develop programs to aid agriculture in this province. We recognize that agriculture indeed is the cornerstone of Manitoba economy, and through various expanded Jobs Fund projects strengthen the relationship between the agricultural production, processing will be strengthened.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, our budgetary commitment to agriculture has increased by more than double, double the rate of inflation since 1981, 1982, a clear indication that my government's commitment to the farming community to ensure that agriculture continues to be a vibrant, healthy component of the Manitoba economic development, an important segment of the total economic strategy.

The recent growth, the financial strength of our livestock producers, I believe, Mr. Speaker, despite the cynics, is a direct result of the effect and the success

of the Beef and Hog Stabilization Programs. This year the stability of the agricultural component will be bolstered by continued financial support for those initiatives. \$48 million dollars has been allocated for the Manitoba Hog and Beef Stabilization Programs and the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Strengthening agriculture in turn strengthens food processing, the transportation packing industry. What does that mean for Manitobans, Mr. Speaker, as a whole? It means jobs; jobs in the rural communities and cities of our province. My government's commitment to long-term economic development for Manitoba and its future has and will continue to produce real material results for all Manitobans to share.

Perhaps the best example of this commitment, our long-term economic development proposals, are the agreements that were announced by the Minister of Energy and Mines dealing with the Northern State Power and the Aluminum Company of America. Mr. Speaker, instead of putting all our eggs in one basket, as did honourable members across the way, we looked around, we entered into a series of discussions with a number of companies. My government made sure that we had agreements in hand before we made any announcements of deals to come, that we avoided the creation of any expectation that could not be realized, unlike I must say, quite frankly and quite candidly, the expectation that honourable members across the way tried to generate in 1981, within months of the provincial election, agreements that were being taken for granted before they had been finalized, an impression that was being deliberately left amongst Manitobans that the deals were sewn up and, "Don't Stop Us Now," I think was the slogan, wasn't it? Don't stop us now because we got all these things in place, said honourable members across the way, and we remember so very very well that theme. That was the theme of the Conservative Party's campaign in the November 1981 election. I must say I kind of enjoyed the theme, to be very candid with you. "Don't Stop Us Now." I think it was played to music, wasn't it? It was played to music on the radio stations and the television stations in the province. "Don't Stop Us Now." Mr. Speaker, Manitobans did stop them because of the severe damage that they were doing to the Province of Manitoba by way of their economic mismanagement under the leadership of the former Premier of this province.

My government made sure that we had agreements in hand before announcements were made, and that we avoid the rising of any false expectation or hope as was the case before. Manitobans had been led down the garden path enough by the Conservatives across the way in respect to mega projects. Their hopes were dashed, in fact, Mr. Speaker, sadly because hopes had been raised prematurely in the Province of Manitoba just months before the November 1981 election. In the interest of fairness to Manitobans my government took a prudent path waiting until the "i's" had been crossed, "i's" dotted before announcements were made. In other words, Mr. Speaker, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

Mr. Speaker, that letter of understanding with Alcoa will immediately launch a \$2 million a year study into the feasibility of building a 200 tonne smelter for operation in 1990. But if the feasibility studies are

favourable Alcoa, of course, will sign a smelter pact with Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, it's only a feasibility study; it may proceed, it may not proceed. We attempted to make that very very clear to honourable members across the way.

Manitoba however will pay, Mr. Speaker - and I think this is an important difference between our approach and their approach - the people of the Province of Manitoba will share 50 percent interest, approximately, in the equity of the smelter and, at the same time, the integrity of the Manitoba Hydro system will be maintained. Mr. Speaker, somehow or other they were going to slice up parts and pieces of the Manitoba Hydro system. The Hydro system in the Province of Manitoba is one integrated operation. You can't slice a little bit off here and leave the rest of the Hydro system in tact as a public operation, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, the Minister of Energy and Mines even brought into this House, I believe, a document indicating that honourable members across the way are prepared to slice off another little piece for Inco.

Mr. Speaker, we, throughout, prior to the November 1981 election, expressed support indeed for the Alcan project as long as the Alcan project was environmentally sound; and secondly, we would insure the integrity of the Manitoba Hydro system in the Province of Manitoba, something they were not prepared to do. In addition, 350 megawatts of power will be sold annually to Alcoa for their smelting operation if it should proceed. The construction of the smelter will create some 2,000 direct jobs. Its operation could mean 600 permanent jobs if the plant should proceed.

Mr. Speaker, if no — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, was some reference made about Americans. I must say, I've had a number of very fruitful, very important visits, a meeting with American officials south of the border. I have found them very reasonable. — (Interjection) — Yes, hard-headed but very reasonable, very sensible, very fair people to deal with. Mr. Speaker, if honourable members are trying to get some rise out of me in respect to our friends south of the border they will not succeed because, as far as I've been concerned, they've been reasonable and fair throughout, and certainly in all my discussions I've been more than satisfied with their genuine desire to be good neighbors with Canadians. Mr. Speaker, more important there, being prepared in this particular case to be a partner in the economic development of the Province of Manitoba, not expecting to be exclusively the developer of any project, but being prepared to be a partner with the entire provincial community. Perhaps, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have demonstrated that Manitoba can negotiate large agreements for the private sector, and we can still retain a strong public interest without detracting from the agreement at all. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the retention of Manitoba's interest in such agreements I think make those agreements much more attractive to the vast majority of Manitobans.

Honourable members will recall in our theme in 1981 the importance of Manitobans sharing in the resource development of the Province of Manitoba, that Manitobans ought to share in that resource development. I'm surprised at some of the comments from across the way because honourable members were prepared to contribute towards an equity share in

potash development out near McAuley. Mr. Speaker, if I recall correctly, honourable members on this side, when they sat where honourable members across the way are, applauded honourable members for accepting an equity interest in potash development near McAuley, Manitoba.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, Manitobans know and understand the value, the potential energy capacity in this province, and the importance of the contribution of Manitoba Hydro long-term development. They know that, in fact, we own our own Hydro company and that with the utilization of our own Hydro company as a Crown Corporation we can provide a tremendous launching pad towards further economic development in Manitoba. I believe where we can earn money for Manitoba, it's future, we can develop, we can invest in Manitoba, and those investments, those developments will be of a long-term and medium-term interest to Manitobans. Long-term economic planning development bears fruit. I think these projects, economic developers indicate that. We've taken up that responsibility, we're going to continue to build today for Manitoba's future.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to just, at the same time, commend the efforts of the Minister of Energy and Mines for the work that he's done, and not under the best of circumstances because I remember the former Leader of the Opposition shouting for the Minister of Energy's resignation a year ago in this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that I did not for a moment consider accepting the Leader of the Opposition's advice that the Minister of Energy be required to resign. I say thank God I didn't accept his advice, Mr. Speaker, thank God, because this province is going to be healthier, and stronger, and better because of the initiative and work on the part of the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Member for Transcona.

Mr. Speaker, we had to be pretty careful, and I warned my honourable members on this side to not be too naive about advice they receive from honourable members across the way. If honourable members on this side think that honourable members are trying to do them some sort of favour by providing advice, just wash it out of your minds very very quickly. The best example was that suggestion that came from honourable members across the way.

MR. L. SHERMAN: About the only advice requested you haven't taken in the last 10 months.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry I can't think of advice that we've accepted from honourable members, but maybe we have accepted some, because there may be some advice that we've accepted. Sometimes though you don't get much by way of advice across the way, usually its harping criticism and whining and complaining but, once in a while, out of all that chaff there does come a few good pieces.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell honourable members, I welcome honourable members to provide us with constructive advice, and ideas, and policies. You're going to find . . .

MR. L. HYDE: You won't listen.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie let me tell you you'll be surprised how prepared this government, this party is prepared to accept ideas and policy thrusts of a positive constructive nature from wherever they come, Mr. Speaker, because we're not going to be jealous as to partisan proposals. If you have some suggestions, make them, make them in your speech, but let's not give us "Animal Farm," seven and six, seven and six. Let's hear some lists of proposals from honourable members across the way.

I want to just comment. When I was first elected to this Chamber, 1969 to 1970, there were a number of members in your party who would stand up in their place, present very constructive speeches, provide some very constructive suggestions to the Government of the Day. Some of those we acted upon, Mr. Speaker. I must say, with all due regret, there was somewhat of a different bunch there in those years than presently and unfortunately inhabit the chairs across the way in the main. Now I hope there is some change, because I think we can all benefit from the sharing of information, by receiving advice, by implementing worthwhile suggestions. We'll be right there with you, so we'll be awaiting some constructive advice, but don't give us this sloganeering and rhetoric that we've been hearing so much about the last few days.

I must say this. The Member for Virden, was it? — (Interjection) — I did, I did. I found him to be fair, a genuine individual and he had his criticisms, but I say he never sat down without at least making some suggestions to honourable members across the way and usually those suggestions were not of a partisan, bickering nature. They were good, solid suggestions often coming out of his community, sincere, and I would like to suggest that the example of the Honourable Member for Virden might be one that some of the honourable members across the way might want to take up and follow.

Long-term economic planning bears fruit of these projects. Economic indicators testify to that. Governments do have a responsibility, in my view, to take an active part, a leading role in economic development and planning, so that our dreams can become reality. We're prepared to take up — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, I wish I hadn't raised the matter of the Honourable Member for Virden. I see I've generated some other controversy, unintended. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like that honourable members would share some of the enthusiasm that honourable members on this side of the Chamber feel in the future of this province, for the deliberate development of strategies to ensure that we do improve the economic health of this province.

Manitobans work together. Well, Mr. Speaker, it might have helped us indeed with some of our economic work if the honourable member across the way, when they were in government led by the Member for Charleswood - if he had resigned in 1980 or 1979, so we could have got on with the task a little easier - quicker and a little easier. We've embarked upon a path to recovery where long-term investment will secure for Manitoba a future for ourselves, for our neighbours, for our children. I think the best comment that I would like to refer to honourable members across the way and they couldn't

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: Order please, order please.

HON. H. PAWLEY: I would like to note a comment which I think fully and properly describes this Budget that was introduced. I'm happy to note that the Investment Dealers' Association of Canada has recognized Manitoba's potential and economic health and the Dealers' Association President described my government's Budget as, and I would quote to honourable members across the way so they could follow carefully the words of this distinguished gentleman: ". . . as an excellent one and appropriate one for Manitoba at this point." He said that our approach was that of a careful and prudent administration. He went on and said that it was an approach that was worthy of one that could be followed by other administrations in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when the President of the Investment Dealers' Association was asked, what about the reaction of the Conservatives? Do you know what his response was? Oh, that was just a conditioned reflex on the part of a political party in opposition. I am pleased that an independent, objective observer - certainly no Socialist, certainly no Bolshevik, certainly no Marxist, as the Honourable Member for Charleswood would be prone to describe and maybe he will describe him as a Marxist - fairly and properly described this Budget, fairly and properly described the comments by those that were in opposition to this Budget.

We are prepared to seize opportunities in Manitoba as they arise and we'll be seizing other opportunities. Let me advise honourable members that we have much more work to do. We've only started to do the work of economic development and achievement and we have much more, Mr. Speaker, that we will be unfolding and we'll be dealing with in the months that lie ahead. Honourable members may be rest assured of that because we have a strategy, we have a direction, we have a plan of action.

Long-term investment in our future means jobs. It means economic security, securing funds to maintain, to preserve, to enhance public services. When the economy is healthy, Mr. Speaker, the health and well-being of Manitobans is more secure and is freer.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, unemployment levels are unacceptably high, but we intend to continue our efforts. Honourable members across the way would tend to use the recession, the difficulties that confront us, as excuses for inaction. We do not. We accept the times as ones for challenge. We accept these times as not a time for inertia on the part of government, but as a time for movement, for a time for action, a time for positive development.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a time for cynicism on the part of political parties. It's a time for optimism and for hope. Mr. Speaker, it's not a time for weakness. It's a time for courage and for determination, Mr. Speaker. It's not a time for just carping, political bickering day after day. It's a time for positive, constructive suggestions, for we all can benefit from positive, constructive suggestions. It is not a time, Mr. Speaker, for negativism. It's a time for positive steps. Mr. Speaker, I didn't think that - and I'm not pointing or looking at anyone in particular when I talk about

cynicism or negativism or despair or negativism - I think honourable members across the way will know where the shoes fit, they wear them.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to make a few comments in respect to the Western Premiers' Conference that will be taking place next week in Kelowna, British Columbia. The important agenda item of course will be the economy. We'll be discussing the current economic situation, the outlook for the balance of this year, job creation, longer term economic development projects. We're also going to be reviewing the state of federal-provincial relations.

The main theme that Manitoba will be stressing at the Western Premiers' Conference is the need for greater co-operation, consultation among the provinces, the federal, the local governments, the private sector, in pursuing new economic development thrusts. This theme I know is not new, but surely it is very timely.

As we stressed in our Throne Speech, our Budget, we feel that improved co-operation is a prerequisite for sustained recovery, long-term economic development. That applies not only in Manitoba but across the west and throughout Canada as a whole. It's been 11 years, in fact, since the Economic Opportunities Conference was held in Calgary in July of 1973, and some progress has been made but on the other hand, too little progress has actually been made towards the objectives that were established by that conference. I think the impact of the recession has demonstrated, once again, the need for greater diversification in the economies of individual provinces, in regions, in the country as a whole, a shared goal of the western provinces for over a decade.

Now 11 years after that Calgary conference, we're seeking another renewal of interest. The question concerns the national level. In some ways that is encouraging. However, much of the emphasis has been on proposals for institutional reforms; reforms which, it is argued, would give the west a stronger voice in national institutions and agencies. That can be important but, more important, we think, is regular effective input by provincial governments in national and regional economic and fiscal policy-making, alongside the Federal Government at the appropriate times and opportunities.

At last year's Western Premiers' Conference at Swift Current, all four Premiers agreed on the importance of ensuring greater federal-provincial co-operation. Our communique stated, and I read, "All governments must work towards ensuring that their economic policies are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Premiers stressed that provinces have a significant economic responsibility, important contribution to make to national economic management."

I'm confident that we can affirm that kind of position in Kelowna this year. I'm also hopeful that we can agree to work more closely together to achieve common economic development objectives. Obviously there will be, because of different circumstances from province to province — (Interjection) — and different political philosophies, yes, as referred to by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa - there will be areas of disagreement, there will be areas where we will simply have to agree to disagree. But it would be unrealistic, Mr. Speaker, for example, to expect full agreement on questions dealing with budgetary policy, labour

management relations, user fees, extra billing, premiums in the health care field, but this is nothing new at a conference of this kind. There will be a great number of areas where we can come to agreement, however, and I'm sure we'll all be working hard to do so.

At the same time, I think we must also face the question of interprovincial economic competition, and there are many who have identified this as a major problem. Though it was discussed during the constitutional review in 1980, it hasn't been reviewed jointly in a detailed way by the western provinces for several years. Obviously, some areas of interprovincial competition is both natural and healthy, but there are serious questions about how far it can go before we get into a beggar-your-neighbour kind of situation which benefits no one.

I would like to, just for a moment, comment in respect to that. The previous administration properly rejected, this administration has rejected, policies that would build walls from province to province. Unfortunately, we are seeing the establishment of some of that now in the Province of Saskatchewan where they're preventing the Manitoba road-building companies from tendering and obtaining work in the Province of Saskatchewan. That will be one of the areas, Mr. Speaker, that I intend to deal with and to discuss at the Western Premiers' Conference.

On the other hand, we recognize that a lot of arguments in favour of more open Canadian economic union . . .

A MEMBER: Why don't you build some roads here and then they won't have to go over there?

HON. H. PAWLEY: . . . are little more, Mr. Speaker, than thinly disguised defences of the status quo; that is, economic domination by Bay Street, St. James Street.

I think it would be helpful, too, if the western provinces were to discuss our overall economic development priorities to determine where we can share information and reinforce each other's objectives within the context of a co-ordinated national development thrust. Manitoba was the first province to sign an ERDA Agreement with the Federal Government. Saskatchewan soon followed, and we expect Alberta, and perhaps B.C. to do so later this year. Many of our priorities under these agreements appear to be similar, and others are certainly complementary. Since these agreements involve a great deal of parallel delivery with the Federal Government, delivering some programs in provinces, it is all the more important that provincial governments consult with each other, their plans, their experiences. We have already had a good exchange of information at the official level; I think we can build on that in Kelowna.

We will also be discussing other common concerns, such as, international trade, co-operation. Mr. Speaker, I intend to be providing a further report to this House upon my return from the Conference, Wednesday, Thursday of next week.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, again, disappointment in respect to the level of contribution offered by honourable members across the way. There has been

a great deal of wind; a great deal of rhetoric; little by way of substance from honourable members across the way; a lot of negative comment; very little by way of positive contribution as to what honourable members across the way would do by way of economic and social development thrust.

But, Mr. Speaker, I suppose that is to be anticipated from honourable members across the way. We intend to continue doing what we are doing, building a stronger Manitoba today, and also ensuring that it's a stronger Manitoba for the future, not just for this generation but for future generations.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to participate in the annual Budget Debate. I hadn't realized that I would be speaking immediately after the First Minister but, having listened to the greater part of his speech, and not being one who ever shies away from rebuttal, I must say that I found very little that needs rebutting because very little that he said had any substance to it. I thought that he would know better, after some experience in this House, for trying to inflict upon this House and the people of Manitoba that peculiar and quaint kind of revisionist history so beloved by the left, when he was talking about major projects which were, in most cases, signed and sealed when his incompetent government came into office, and when he presumed to talk about how our government had raised expectations and then was unable to fulfill those expectations.

Mr. Speaker, we signed the agreements; the electorate in their wisdom left it to the NDP Government to fulfill the agreements, and they dropped every ball that was handed to them. They blew everything that was handed to them; they blew the potash agreement; they blew the Alcan agreement; they blew the Western Grid agreement and, Mr. Speaker, as I will say a little later on, that agreement will probably stay blown until this government's blown out of office, and then the Western Grid agreement can be resumed.

I notice that the First Minister is taking his seat now, having scuttled out of the House with his tail between his legs. I notice that the First Minister didn't mention anything about renewal of the Grid being on the agenda of the Western Premiers' meeting.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It is not proper to comment on the presence or the absence of other members.

The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, to the extent possible, I will adhere to your injunction. However, when I look at the First Minister of this House I'm reminded of the story that Churchill told about Attlee, when he said that on one occasion an empty taxi drove up to Westminster and the Leader of the Labour Party got out.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to participate in the debate because, unlike what the First Minister has just finished saying to us, I think a number of the criticisms that have been offered in the community, a number of the criticisms that have been offered in print, a number of

the criticisms that have been offered particularly from this side of the House are extremely germane to this Budget that has been brought in approximately a week ago.

I wish to make my observations, first of all, Sir, about this government. I think, in making any observation about this Throne Speech and the Budget Speech and this Session, which they've staggered into after one of the worst beatings that a government has ever had in its life, I think it's important to look at the background against which the people of Manitoba view this government; its tragic record of mismanagement and incompetence in practically everything that it has touched; its insensitivity to, and indeed its contempt for, the people of Manitoba as demonstrated as only this government could, by its creation of the French language debate in this province; its now futile attempt, Mr. Speaker, to regain some semblance of credibility, some semblance of integrity, to try to pull itself together, sort of like the drunk in the street, trying to pretend that it's a normal government by coming out with announcements about power sale renewal in 1993 to Northern State Power, one that has been under negotiation for a good number of years and was a renewal of an agreement already in place; and recently the feasibility study on Alcoa.

Mr. Speaker, we don't oppose proper developments for the future of Manitoba. In fact, when we get the facts on these agreements - and I must say that we haven't had any facts as yet - we will be in a better position to make an adjudication as to whether or not these agreements are in the long-term interests of the people of Manitoba. But, Mr. Speaker, they appear at this stage to be deals that were fashioned, I fear, more out of a desire to save this government's own political skin, rather than to enhance the economy and the long-term job opportunities of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the comment - and my honourable friends won't like it but it's true - most often heard on the street and it doesn't matter whether it's Selkirk Avenue or Portage Avenue or Main Street, in Flin Flon or in Morden, or wherever - the comment most often heard is, when can we get rid of this government? How long before we can get rid of this government?

Mr. Speaker, I say without any fear, without any fear of contradiction, that the people of Manitoba have lost all trust in this government. They sit in this House with 32 members by virtue of an election in November, 1981, in which they received 3 percent more of the popular vote than the then government, now the opposition. I don't make political prognostications, but I suggest, Sir, that when the next election is called this NDP government is going to suffer one of the most ignominious political defeats ever seen by any political party in the long history of this province, and they know it. No amount of prancing on the stage and pretending that things are otherwise is going to save them.

These incompetents, Mr. Speaker, stand up in the House with their First Minister and pretend to say that they have the ability to sign agreements. Do you know what the people of Manitoba say? Yes, we saw one of the agreements you signed, the one you signed with the Franco-Manitoban Society, that's the way you sign agreements. That's the kind of agreement they sign and that's the kind of preliminary information that they give to the people of Manitoba. That's the way they take Manitobans into their confidence.

What kind of balderdash were we listening to this afternoon from the First Minister, trying to pretend that that stumbling group of incompetents across the way, Mr. Speaker, represents, in any shape or form, a credible government?

Mr. Speaker, that question, that reputation of this government - and thank God, the reputation of this government doesn't spread to the province because they know we're capable of much better, they've seen much better - but that reputation, that lack of credibility, that lack of integrity, known about throughout the length and breadth of Manitoba, regrettably, is known among the sister governments of this country, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, when he accurately said that the NDP Pawley Government is the laughingstock of this country, and it is.

I regret to have to say that but its voice is not respected. His voice is not even listened to in the councils of federal and provincial arenas. It has become by its lacklustre leadership, by its sheer incompetence - there's no better word - by its sheer incompetence and its drift and by its rigid adherence to the kookie left-wing ideology from the 19th Century, which still impels most of its members, and by that kind of vindictive demonology that my honourable friends across the way - you can see them almost froth at the mouth when they talk about multinational corporations and Imperialism in America and all of that nonsense that causes Cabinet Ministers and others to parade in front of the American Consulate on an anti-American, pro-Marxist demonstration. It causes them to participate in that, that kind of silly, childish demonology of the left with which this government is so infected.

Mr. Speaker, the other governments across the country, including the National Government, know this and this government, as has been said before, has become a form of "Typhoid Mary" right across Canada. It's not respected; it's not wanted. The other governments want to get rid of it just as much as the people of Manitoba do because they can't deal with integrity with this government at all because there is no integrity to deal with.

So, Mr. Speaker, this NDP Government have succeeded in two years and a bit in making their name one that is customarily treated by its peers in government across Canada with a kind of patronizing contempt. Mr. Speaker, you're not going to get the premiers of the other provinces, you're not even going to get their friend, the Prime Minister, to come out and corroborate that, but I know and you know that it's true, a kind of patronizing contempt is the way with which this government is treated by others across the country.

At the federal table, Mr. Speaker, they are a craven, adherence and supporters of any scheme. It doesn't matter, if Mr. Trudeau says, sit, they sit. If he says, stand, they stand. Any scheme at all no matter how wrong-headed, if it is put forward by Mr. Trudeau and his gang, they say, ready? I ready. They're the first to stand in line and for all of that, Mr. Speaker, and for all of their bootlicking, they earn only the contempt of those whose boots they lick. I told them that two years ago. I told them that being a doormat to Ottawa was not a passport to good federal-provincial relations but they haven't learned that yet. They haven't learned that at all.

Their version, Mr. Speaker, of co-operative federalism is to agree to any federal initiative, good or bad, lest, as they say, they may put in jeopardy cost-shared programs. Oh heavens, they couldn't do that. Cost-shared programs which on the one hand - and we heard it just a few moments ago from the First Minister - they claimed to have enhanced since coming into office and God knows they have signed a few. Lloyd Axworthy is so anxious to bail himself out of trouble in his seat in Fort Garry, he'd sign an agreement with the devil, and of course signing with the Pawley Government, he's coming about as close on earth to that spectre as he perhaps could. Mr. Speaker, on the one hand they claimed to have enhanced these agreements, and they have in certain cases since coming to office, but on the other hand, when the Minister of Finance gets up to deliver his Budget speech, he starts the perennial whine about the Government of Manitoba being underfunded in their Budget, that's when they're trying to explain Manitoba's exorbitant, no longer competitive, tax rate, that's why when they're trying to explain Manitoba's equal exorbitant annual and cumulative deficits under this pack of incompetents.

Truly, Mr. Speaker, we have in this NDP Government the worst of all possible worlds, a government that is dead politically, a government that - if it would take the advice - the First Minister just said he would take the advice of the opposition. We give him the best advice he's ever been given - resign and call an election. That's the best advice that we can give you right now, because this government has no credibility left among the people of Manitoba. It has lost its mandate to govern from its own people. It is held in contempt right across this country by all other governments. It is laughed at by its fellow governments across the country, just as it's being laughed at in every coffee shop through the length and breadth of Manitoba and Winnipeg today.

Mr. Speaker, regrettably its odorous reputation even goes abroad where this government is known by the State Department of the United States, which took the most unusual and unprecedented step of sending a diplomatic note to Canada about the actions of senior members of this government in an anti-American demonstration in this very city. So its odour has gone even into the United States. Imagine the Government of the United States having to complain by a formal diplomatic note about the actions of left wing kooky Ministers in Manitoba with respect to pro-Marxist, anti-American demonstration in front of the U.S. Consulate in this province. They say that they have integrity!

They go and rattle their cup in New York, they go and rattle their cup when they need money. They go down and make craven deals when they need more money, but when it comes to the things that really count, the security of the country and defense, oh no, they're anti-American. That's the kind of hypocrisy that we see from across the way, and it's the kind of smelly odour that this government is giving off not only in Canada, but in the United States with our chief ally, a government some of whose Ministers have to have special clearance to pass into the United States. What have we come to? What have we come to?

Mr. Speaker, in only two-and-a-half-years this NDP Government have lost what little integrity they ever had, not only among our electorate, among the other governments of Canada, they're regarded by our closest

ally as a strange collection of left wing anti-American street demonstrators. Resign, call an election, let the people of Manitoba be honourably represented again in this Chamber by a government whose voice will be heard again with respect in the councils of this nation and will not become an embarrassment to the nation as this government has become in its two-and-a-half-years in office.

Mr. Speaker, I heard the House Leader, the best example of a third rate functionary achieving elective office that we've ever seen perhaps in this Chamber. I heard the House Leader saying something. He will have his opportunity, if he hasn't already, to participate in the debate and he will get, Mr. Speaker, from me and from others in Manitoba, particularly from Springfield constituency, that degree of respect which his actions have earned him during his brief elective career in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the First Minister doesn't like realism. I know that he likes to do revisionist history. I know that he's not one who likes to talk about polls, but I merely mention because I'm not a great believer in Gallup or these other polls, but I merely mention to my honourable friends opposite what we have known for two years, that this government has been running a minimum of 10 points behind the opposition almost since it first came into office. It's now running at least 20 points behind. This didn't come, Mr. Speaker, from some Tory-financed polling group, this came from a polling group at the University of Manitoba whose sympathies, if anything, would tend to side - in fact one of the chief pollsters was making apologies right away for the fact that the NDP were 20, was it 20 or was it 30 points behind? Who knows, they're out of sight.

But, Mr. Speaker, there we are, a government that is totally discredited at home, discredited in our nation, has an odour in the United States that is not healthy, and it sits here pretending to be functional against this background of ignominy, and there is no other word that I can think of for a government that insists on perpetrating itself and the people when it's no longer wanted.

We retreated to a Throne Speech which I suggest, Sir, was the greatest piece of unedited party trumpery that I've ever heard. Every self-serving bromide that was ever dredged up by a second-rate hack writer was in that speech. With all of the expensive hacks that they brought on board, even with Mr. Scotton - my God, Mr. Scotton's still on board and he's now Cliff Scotton, the former National Secretary of the NDP, now in the Premier's office looking after PR, speech writing, things like that; the man who couldn't find his way to Portage la Prairie without a road map working for the people of Manitoba. Even with Mr. Scotton's brilliance contributing no doubt to the Throne Speech and so on, it was badly done. I suggest, Sir, it was an embarrassment to those citizens and members of the House who were forced to listen to it. It was even an insult to the Queen's representative, the Administrator, who is required to read it. It was a disaster, just a complete trumped up, cheap, political disaster. It said nothing.

But now, Mr. Speaker, we come to the Budget Speech, perhaps the most blatantly partisan speech of a budgetary nature that I have ever heard, full of

misleading statistics, full of non-germane graphs. They've got graphs that relate to things. I don't know why they didn't put in the price of eggs in Timbuktu as related to the price of eggs at Morden. That might have had some relationship. That's perhaps the only graph they didn't put in. Non-germane, misleading, misrepresenting statistics, graphs, all of which I suggest, Sir, accurately reflects the integrity of this government which is zero, absolutely zero. Mr. Speaker, this was a document hardly calculated to impress either the voters who want to get rid of this government, or the hard-headed economists, and financial institutions in front of whom this government rattles its tin cup all the time. The government has borrowed more money in the last two years and five months, borrowed more money abroad, and borrowed more money in the financial market than any government in the history of this province heretofore since 1870. They'll rattle their cup, they'll lick a boot in Tokyo, in Hong Kong, in London, in Zurich, anywhere at all because . . .

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Except Moscow.

HON. S. LYON: Except Moscow says the Member for St. Johns. Well, he knows about Moscow because one of Moscow's representatives tried to get the nomination from him and he succeeded, and we've got his comments on record although they were given in Polish as to what he thought about the Attorney-General of Manitoba at that time.

So, Mr. Speaker, we know that this government, which rattles its tin cup in every financial house in the world in order to get more borrowed money to try to carry out some of its misbegotten schemes and to run still a deficit of .5 billion, this government then has the effrontery to come before the people of Manitoba and say this is a Budget of restraint. My God, this is a Budget of restraint! Restraint!

Mr. Speaker, in our second Budget in 1978-79 we restricted spending increases to about 2.9 percent and we came in with a \$44 million deficit. That's restraint. You don't come in with .5 billion deficit and say, after having two successive years of 16 percent to 19 percent expenditure increases, running up cumulatively one of the biggest deficits in the history of our province, and say now we believe in restraint. The public of Manitoba don't believe.

Do you blame the public of Manitoba if they don't believe this government on anything? They criticized restraint when we were enforcing proper restraint at the right time in Manitoba. They criticized it, got away with it, propped up by the Free Press and some of their left-wing helpers out in the community and the media. They got away with it and now, Mr. Speaker, they're trying to pretend that they know something about restraint or administration. Not at all, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, expenditure control is what this government needs, not an institutionalized deficit of .5 billion a year; not one of the worst form of taxation that's ever been saddled on the people of Manitoba, the payroll tax; not the kind of soaring, ballooning debt well beyond the capacity of this province to carry for any extended period, and yet they have the effrontery to stand before the people of Manitoba and say this is good management.

Well, Mr. Speaker, ask the civil servants in the Provincial Library if it's good management to cut \$68,000 off their Budget and to take five - is it four or five people - out of the Provincial Library. Ask the professors at the University of Manitoba, a good number of whom I dare say probably voted for this bunch of incompetents, what they think about a government whose priorities are so fouled up that they will try to save \$68,000 by restricting or cutting off public access to one of the main libraries of this province, which we would never have done. Any government with its head screwed on properly would not do that. Ask them, Mr. Speaker, where their priorities are when they'll do that and then turn around and hire just one of their hacks, whether its Scotton or whom else, for about \$55,000 or \$60,000, which would have kept that library open. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, given a choice between having an NDP hack on the public payroll in Manitoba, or firing him and keeping the Library of Manitoba open for the students and the people of this province, it's an easy choice to make. Why doesn't the NDP make that choice? Why don't they take \$68,000 out of some of the cheap sleazy ads that they were running after the Budget? Out of a Budget ad, Mr. Speaker, to try to make a Budget that was a disaster into something that is respectable. A million dollars-plus, Mr. Speaker, spent on advertising for the Jobs Fund, but they haven't got \$68,000 for the Library. What kind of a government is this? This isn't a government. Mr. Speaker, this is a collection of incompetents occupying the seats of government for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, the kind of venal political hirings that this government has engaged in, of barely competent people in many cases for the last two-and-half years, is a national disgrace and this government knows it. I mention as well in that context, Mr. Speaker, how this government of incompetents seems to attract people of incompetency. I don't know why it is. I suppose birds of a feather fly together.

Mr. Speaker, their appointments to boards are now beginning to reflect negatively on the public interest in Manitoba. I ask you to consider, for instance, Sir, just in passing, the Workers Compensation Board. The old board members were fired immediately this government came into office and they installed some of their own people over there, proceeded to fire senior civil servants who had been on staff for a long time, administering the funds over there properly so that they would be available for genuinely injured people who seek, properly, compensation under that legislation.

The board was removed, the new board came in. The charges on industry within a year-and-a-half of the new board coming in were threatened at 50 percent. They only cut them off at what? 20 percent. They bankrupted the fund of the board right away, by paying out awards - we were told - to people who had been on the list for 20 years - up to 20 years - do they not know anything about statutes of limitations? Do they not realize that the money they are administering is not their money? Do they not realize the harm they're doing to the whole concept of workers compensation, making it a kind of a slush pot for any whiner who comes along to pick up money from and live that way? They think they're going to buy a few votes. That's the extent of the integrity of this government.

The McKenzie Seeds Board is another great example of the administrative talents and the venal political

patronage of this government. They could hardly wait, once they got into office, to fire representative businessmen from the Brandon area, from the Minnedosa area, and so on, who were on that board doing a good job; cleared them out of the road; put a bunch of their own left wing kooks on, and sure enough, sure enough, under that brilliant general manager who ran for the NDP federally, whom they subsequently had to fire when they were goaded into it by the Member for Turtle Mountain - only after they were goaded into it, forced to - that company now turns out a balance sheet that would make Dome Petroleum look good.

Mr. Speaker, the company is in disorganization. The first chairman they appointed resigned because he realized finally, even though his mentors didn't, that it was beyond his competence to do what had to be done. Is that the kind of example of NDP appointees that builds up the support of the people of Manitoba and say, these people know what they're doing? No. McKenzie Seeds is in deep troubles because of these people and largely because of their incompetent appointments to the board.

Just go a few blocks down the street in the same community, the University of Brandon. Take a look at the beauties they appointed to that board. They made an underhanded conspiratorial deal with some of the left-wingers on the campus at the University of Brandon to get rid of the president; and the people of Manitoba and the people of Canada have seen that nefarious deal carried out. Do you know what the slogan of that board and of this government is? To hell with the University of Brandon, our people know best. To hell with the President of Brandon University, we don't care what it does for fund-raising in that community, our hacks know better. That's the kind of administration we're getting from this government.

You didn't hear the First Minister talking about that when he was talking about the great future, the hopes and the visions that he has for Manitoba because it's rotting under his feet and under his administration. The most venal collection of incompetents, political hacks, who have ever tried to administer the public affairs of Manitoba . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. It has been ruled in this House in the past that the word "venal" is an unparliamentary term and should not be used by members.

The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

HON. S. LYON: If it offends you, Mr. Speaker, happy to withdraw it. My honourable friends know what I mean and so do the people of Manitoba.

The Budget, Mr. Speaker, is best typified by the payroll tax fiasco, a \$6 million to \$7 million reduction off the payroll tax takes two-thirds of the small employers off the list - two-thirds. Now doesn't that show you the degree of care and concern and compassion that this government has for small business.

Do you remember how the Minister of Finance sashayed into the House two years ago and brought forward this new tax and was laughing gleefully about the great coup that he had pulled on the people of Manitoba? Well, now, Mr. Speaker, he's finally been

forced by us and by the people of Manitoba - not by common sense because he lacks that - he's been forced by the political necessities to acknowledge that the tax he brought in was a gargantuan disaster; and he's giving \$6 to \$7 million of amelioration from that tax, which will still bring in about \$108 to \$112 million this year. He's giving less than 5 percent - 5 percent amelioration.

My honourable friend, the Minister of Finance, talks about losing elections. He'd better start looking for a job right now because he's gone, he's wasted, he's dead. He can go back to the Small Debts Court in Beauséjour, where the Peter Principle was well exemplified by his participation there.

Mr. Speaker, a government that can in one fell swoop by a 5 percent reduction in the take of a tax impost, take two-thirds of the people off the tax filing list. That kind of a government doesn't deserve to be in office, not at all, Mr. Speaker. It shows the incompetence of the government who put the tax on in the first place. And then they stand up in the House and expect to get credit for it - expect to get credit for it, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance will get no kudos from me; and no kudos from the small employers in Manitoba; and no kudos from the others who are still groaning under that tax that should be removed completely.

Mr. Speaker, now the two announcements that we have been talking about before. We in the Conservative Party, who represent the majority of the people of Manitoba - make no mistake about that - we want the utilization of the hydro resources in this province. I think it's clear to everyone except my honourable friends opposite that the priorities that are established in all sane jurisdictions are to utilize that resource first of all to build jobs to build opportunities in your own province, if that's possible. That's what an Alcan and Alcoa can do, any power-intensive industry.

Secondly, the scheme that we worked out with the other western provinces of a grid, that's the second best that you can get but it's still good; you could build Limestone. You could build Limestone and have the cost amortized. You're building a network of power distribution in this country that's good for the security of the company at the same time. I know that that's not a factor that troubles too many of my honourable friends on the opposite side, but it is good for the security of the country.

The third one, Mr. Speaker, the third choice and you don't negative it, you get money from it if you can. You drive as hard a deal as you can as to export power, out of the country, into the United States, but make a tough deal because you're dealing with something that very few other jurisdictions have. It's a precious resource. You've got a diamond here. It's better than coal, so be careful when you make deals outside of the province, be prudent, be very careful about the deals. That's why we want to see the deal that's been made with Northern State Power. We want to see the deals that are being negotiated with Alcoa.

Domestically, Mr. Speaker, the power increase for Manitoba is relatively flat; Hydro have told us that for the last two years. They've also, in the Utilities Committee, demonstrated to us that there would be no need for any great capital cash flow - and I'm quoting now, Mr. Speaker, from Hansard, Standing Committee on Public Utilities on Thursday, 28th of April, from Page

42 - the table that was appended there - showing that the cash flow for the construction of Limestone to meet the requirements of Manitoba would not be started until about 1988-89 with power coming on about 1992. That was the last word that was given to us by the Chairman of Hydro. In fact on Page 35 of that same Hansard, you'll see him saying, "and the next generating plant will be 1992 based on our present load forecasts. Other than that we're not advancing any projects for any reasons." That was just a year ago on the 28th of April. We look forward to hearing what the Chairman and the General Manager of Hydro have to say when they appear before the committee in a short time.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government which has really been a disaster for Hydro since its first emanation when the Schreyer Government came into office - this government has to give a guarantee that the power rate increases to the ratepayers in Manitoba, as a result of these putative or projected sales, that the power increases are going to be relatively flat or not at all, or otherwise why make the deal?

We know what this government thinks of Hydro rate freezes. We put on a Hydro rate freeze for five years to help the people in Manitoba who need help most, the people on low income, the senior citizens and so on, to help demonstrate as well that Manitoba had something to sell and we were able to take that Hydro rate freeze and go to different companies in the world and say, look we need power-intensive industry in Manitoba. We want you to be interested in coming into Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the Member for Inkster, laughingly known over here as "Nicaragua Nick," is trying to say from his perch over there, but if he wants to crow, let him crow on his own time, and let him go burn a flag somewhere, which seems to be a habit that he's getting into.

Mr. Speaker, when the Schreyer Government was in office and over-built as demonstrated by the Tritschler Commission, they inflicted on the people of Manitoba a 150 percent cumulative rate increase in the middle '70s. We don't want or need that anymore and the people of Manitoba and we are entitled to say, what are you inflicting on us now? You abandoned the rate freeze after only four years. You wouldn't let it go to the fifth and you've put about 16 to 17 percent increase on in the two years that you've been in office. For God's sake, what are you planning now?

So we want some guarantees, the ratepayers of Manitoba want some guarantees that as, with the original Alcan arrangement, as with the original Grid arrangement, there would be some stabilization of rate increases for Manitobans till the turn of the century, so that these plants could be built and amortized at the cost of the people using the power. It's a very simple proposition, one that I know eludes my honourable friends in their panic across the way, to sign any deal, to lick any boot, anywhere, to get anything that appears to be moving, going in the province.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that's one test we're going to be looking for. How much of the costs, if any, are the people of Manitoba going to have to pay through rate increases, to see Limestone start? I don't want to see, the people of Manitoba don't want to see a replay of the '70s, where we would be relying on trumped-up demand to trigger premature construction of Limestone.

We want Limestone to start tomorrow if it's justified economically. We had the justification in 1981; we were tooled up to start Limestone construction, based on the Alcan arrangement, based on the Western Power Grid, both of which were going ahead.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let this government demonstrate that it's got an economic justification to start Limestone before 1988. If they have, there will be hallelujahs on all sides of the House and I dare say the people of Manitoba will be happy to see some justification, if indeed they can believe anything this government says, but that is the test.

Mr. Speaker, Hydro construction shouldn't start until there's economic justification for it. The deal with Northern State Power doesn't click in till 1993. These people and their odorous memory will be long gone from the scene by 1993. Let's make sure this government that signed such a wonderful deal with SFM doesn't sign the same kind of a deal with Northern State Power. They're not trusted to sign any better deal right now. These are the questions that have to be asked, Mr. Speaker. Where will the justification be? - and these are the questions we intend to ask Hydro.

Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid, because you've got some of the same faces still in this government who were there in the '70s, that it will fall into its same negligent ways of the '70s - build for the sake of building. That temptation is there. They did it once before and it cost the people of Manitoba hundreds and millions of dollars. Every time you pay your Hydro bill, you're paying for the luxury of having had a Socialist Government for eight years in the '70s. The burler from the front seat, who pretends to be a Minister of Finance, says the lowest rates in Canada and even he, I think, Mr. Speaker, with his limited intelligence, is capable of grasping the idea that the rates could have been monumentally lower, if they hadn't fouled up the whole process in the '70s.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member's time has expired. Does the honourable member have leave? Leave has not been granted.

The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, it's almost a positive pleasure to follow the comic relief that we've just listened to for the last period of time. It must be funny, particularly on the part of members of the opposition, to listen to this one-term wonder lecture the House on ethics and memory, when he can't remember - he talked about crawling to Japan and so on - on his last crawl to Zurich whether or not he signed a particular document with that international thief, Alexander Kasser, and to lecture this House about ethics, when he can't remember or couldn't remember in 1975 where \$3,000 a month was coming from. It's that kind of hypocrisy . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. R. PENNER: Well, no not hypocrisy - we can't talk about hypocrisy - that kind of comic relief which occasionally lightens the load in this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity that I've had since the beginning of this Session, Sir, to speak and I want to take this occasion, Sir, to wish you well, to

wish you health through this Session and beyond. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Member for Wolsley and the Member for Rupertsland, who respectively moved and seconded the Address on the Speech from the Throne.

I would also like to take this occasion to congratulate - albeit too briefly, I'll have occasion to do so again - the Deputy Attorney-General, Gordon Pilkey, who retired on Monday after serving this province so well for so many years. I must say this, he served at least five Attorneys-General, all of whom are members of this present Legislature, two of whom in fact became First Ministers, two of whom - the Member for St. Norbert and myself have no such aspirations. I haven't talked to the Member for St. James recently.

I had occasion, in speaking about Mr. Pilkey on his retirement, to say and I'd like to say it again for the record here, that the administration of justice in this province is virtually synonymous with two persons after the Second World War, Brig. O.M.M. Kay and Gordon Pilkey and synonymous through them with the notion of integrity. He served this province well.

I would also like to place on the record our debt of gratitude to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Gil Goodman, who was deservedly appointed to the Family Division of the Court of Queen's Bench just a few weeks ago. Mr. Goodman was a primary leader in the development of family law through three administrations and helped, indeed led Manitoba as a senior official in this province, becoming a leader in Canada, indeed I think in North America in family law, for example in the enforcement of maintenance judgments. We were all proud, those of us who had occasion to watch *The Journal* just the other night when Manitoba was identified as the best in the country with respect to the way in which it assisted separated spouses, particularly women of course. In collecting maintenance judgments. We were proud to watch the head of our Family Division, Robyn Diamond. We were proud to watch the Chief Legal Enforcement Officer, Catherine Everett, both of whom had been brought up virtually in a system pioneered and developed by Gil Goodman.

Mr. Speaker, although the drastic effects of a savage recession, symptomatic let me say of the long-term decline of the so-called free market system, have caused us to prioritize expenditures on a very strict basis, we have been especially mindful not only generally to leave the social safety net intact, and that we've done, but particularly to prioritize with health services and with family services. A special effort to maintain the family services which are offered through several departments has been and is a continuing source of pride to myself. I point with respect to family services, not only to day care in which again, to a very considerable extent through the efforts of the Member for Wolsley, we lead the country, but in my own area of responsibility, Sir, the development of Family Court services. We will soon formally launch - indeed before the end of June - the Family Division of the Court of Queen's Bench.

I mentioned a few moments ago that Mr. Goodman had been appointed to that division which will be the finest, unified family court in the country with its combination of competent, judicial services and conciliation services to try and bring some measure of relief to this sorely troubled area of the law.

In this connection, I am proud as well of what has been done through the Department of the Attorney-

General and other departments in the area of wife abuse, and here again we lead the country; with respect to child abuse, and here again we lead the country.

I'm making this point that, as difficult as it was for us because of the savage effects of the recession to have to prioritize and hold tight, we made sure that these basic and essential services have been left intact, indeed have been expanded. Our sense of priorities are human in their context, and human in their ideas.

In mentioning these accomplishments, Sir, I am led to comment on the complete negativism of the opposition. I have had occasion before in speaking to this House to remark on what I consider to be or considered before I came here to be the true role of an opposition. An opposition should, I would have thought - one can find examples of it in parliamentary history - be constructive, try to bring ideas of where this country, where this province should be going. But the complete, as I say, negativism of that bunch of losers is something that is a wonder to behold.

They are positively paranoiac about our accomplishments, forgetting that they are the accomplishments, not of a political party but of the duly-elected government of the Province of Manitoba. They are the accomplishments, and we have said it, of the collective will and energy and imagination and determination of the people of Manitoba, and we've said it. Somehow or other, they take them as a personal affront.

Every time the Minister of Energy rises in his place, they blanch. I've heard them say, what's it going to be this time? I am going to let them in on a little secret. We have got the Minister of Energy programmed to rise in his place every second day so that they keep their stock of nervous pills handy.

A MEMBER: The problem is they take ugly pills instead.

HON. R. PENNER: You know, there was a passage. There unfortunately remains on the record a passage from the speech from the Leader of the Opposition that I quote, not because it deserves quotation for any other purpose than to underline this complete negativism, and I would like in quoting it to go on and make a couple of points.

He said, Hansard, April 26th, Page 242, "We see waste, we see continuing mismanagement, flam-flam advertising with taxpayers' dollars by a government whose only objective is to save its own skin, save its own skin, Mr. Speaker. They are willing to spend any amount of taxpayers' dollars to do so. It is morally bankrupt, it's bankrupt of ideas, lacking in the courage of its convictions, and lacking any competence to do anything worthwhile for the people of Manitoba." That's the kind of complete negativism.

You know, talking about advertising, let me just produce one example of Tory advertising, "1979, Manitoba Flood." First of all, note the colours right on every page, the Tory colours at taxpayers' expense. What have you got in this glossy piece of photographs with about one line of text? Well there is more than one line of text on one of the pages. It starts out very ambitiously, Mr. Speaker, "Causes of the flood." You read down four points. It's moisture - causes of the flood, too much moisture, red and blue. Then you have

this marvellous picture. Look at some of these pictures that tell us a world of ideas, of conceptual thoughts, "Flooded farm at sunset." Look at that. I was sure if you turned another page, you get the same picture, "Flooded farm at dawn," "Flooded farm at high noon."

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

A MEMBER: What year was that?

HON. R. PENNER: 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

HON. R. PENNER: Here's another beauty. Look at the marvellous ideas that are conveyed at taxpayers' expense, but always the red and blue. Oh how subtle, oh how wonderful from the one-term hucksters.

Here is a picture of a flooded Tory picnic with a smoking pot. Here, I love this one. "A few homes on high ground escaped the flood damage." So just in case you missed the point, they've got a picture of two homes on high ground with no water on them. You know, that's what happens when you put a home on - what was funny, Mr. Speaker . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek on a point of order.

HON. R. PENNER: In due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, this is an example of the kind of huckstering which conveyed no information, because there is a legitimate role for government advertising, to convey information to the people of Manitoba about programs. So blatant was the huckstering of that group when it formed government that it led us, and they accuse us of huckstering, to introduce an amendment to The Election Finance Act, soon to be proclaimed. Section 56(l) of The Election Finance Act says, "Restriction on government advertising. No department of the Government of Manitoba and no Crown agency shall, during an election period for a general election, publish or advertise in any manner or during an election period for a by-election in any electoral division publish or advertise in any manner any information concerning the programs or activities of the department or Crown agency."

We did that because of a particular mischief. What was the mischief that we addressed with that piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker? It was ". . . the flam-flam advertising with taxpayers' money . . .," if I can use that same quote from the Leader of the Opposition, by a desperately mismanaged, one-term Tory administration that had plunged this province into a recession three years before the recession hit anywhere else in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in that same passage, the Leader of the Opposition said that we were bankrupt of ideas.

Well, I want to place on the record here again some, and only a few - I went through the list of legislation in the first two Sessions and I want to place on the record some of the accomplishments of this government, because that kind of innuendo, that kind of cheap putdown will not wash.

First of all, and I take them in the order in which they appear to some extent on the list of legislation, we introduced the best piece of rent control legislation in this country. We did it because of the bankruptcy of the rent regulations which the Leader of the Opposition introduced and defended when he was the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It had brought the tenants of the central part of the city, of the suburbs and of Brandon to the verge of ruin by unconscionably high rents which the rent regulation scheme of that administration could not deal with.

Day care, the best in the country. The Jobs Fund Act and program - and, Mr. Speaker, I don't care, they can yell and they can scream and they can put down, and they can yell "Job Fraud" all they want, the fact of the matter is that we have the lowest unemployment in the country and it's because of the way in which we organized capital and infused it in a directed and focused way through the Jobs Fund.

I heard the clone of the Leader of the Opposition, the flower child, talk about Workers Compensation. The fact of the matter is that our Workers Compensation legislation again, now, with what we have done with respect to the plight of injured workers, what we have done with respect to workers advisors leads the country in defending the rights of injured workers. Injured workers are only one of the many casualties of the capitalist system that they defend and at least we attempt to redistributively bring some measure of relief through legislation of that kind and when all you can get from people like the Member for Charleswood is to look at the fact that some people lost their jobs through a reorganization of a system which was no longer working at the time we took office, that's all you can get, rather than an evaluation of the positive effects of that program.

So I go on, with respect to farmlands ownership. The Farmlands Ownership Act, which they said would bring gloom and doom to the future of farming is the basis upon which the family farm will be safeguarded in this province.

We brought in seat belt legislation and I'm proud of that fact. Yes, because it demonstrated and demonstrates that we are not afraid of tough issues. We are a party of principle and not a party of political opportunism.

So too, Mr. Speaker, with Workplace Safety and Health, with the transportation of dangerous goods, with pension benefits, where, as noted in the Free Press just two days ago, we're the first in this country with respect to pension benefits. We're proud of that.

With first contract legislation we lead this country with respect to industrial relations. Look at the sordid mess in B.C. B.C. is their model.

With respect to family law, child custody enforcement, family maintenance, marital property, The Marriage Act, we strengthened all of them. We strengthened The Vital Statistics Act in terms of the rights of married people and in respect to the rights of women.

So, too, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the administration of justice, the amalgamation of the two

senior courts, the Family Division, about which I have spoken. Here with respect to the Family Division, where we will lead the country when it's proclaimed in a few weeks time and has led to the appointment, incidentally by the Federal Government, of five outstanding persons to be judges of that court and note the sordid mess in Saskatchewan where that government has played politics with the administration of justice and the organized bar of the Province of Saskatchewan has had to rise in protest at this meddling by the Tory Government of Saskatchewan with the administration of justice. They dare accuse me of meddling in the justice system. Look to Saskatchewan and you'll see what meddling in the justice system is really all about.

So, too, Sir, with respect to the administration of justice, The Law Enforcement Review Act, The Jury Act, the conflict-of-interest legislation, The Provincial Court Act, consumer protection legislation. So, too, one can look at our law reform package where we have again led the country, indeed the Commonwealth, in terms of this kind of legislation. How dare the Leader of the Opposition or his mentor lecture us about bankruptcy of ideas, lacking courage of convictions, lacking competence to do anything worthwhile.

I say again, rent control, labour legislation and safety legislation for workers and safety legislation for the people of this province and all of these things, a proud accomplishment and we will trumpet our pride in those accomplishments from now on. — (Interjection) — Well, the one-time wonder, the loser of all times says, "call an election, call an election." They are going to sit there and watch these accomplishments for a minimum of two years, Mr. Speaker, and we watch their misery as they sit there in opposition where they belong, and we will watch it for another five years past that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. R. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Budget. A budget, Mr. Speaker, reflects the direction, the philosophy, the policy of a government and what has been conspicuously lacking in or of a party, conspicuously lacking in the critiques of the members opposite has been any sense of direction, any sense of policy, any sense of philosophy. They cannot relate their petty little annoyances, that's all it comes across as. They cannot relate it to what would be if they had an alternative policy, a suitable alternative policy for the people of Manitoba.

When we next meet after adjournment, Mr. Speaker, I'll have occasion to go on with my thoughts about the Budget.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. When this matter is next before the House, the Honourable Member will have 19 minutes remaining.

The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

HANSARD CORRECTION

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, a correction in Hansard on Page 383, the left-hand column, about three-quarters of the way down, there's a figure \$6,072 in interest costs. The figure is \$672.00.

MR. SPEAKER: The time being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return this evening at 8:00 p.m.