

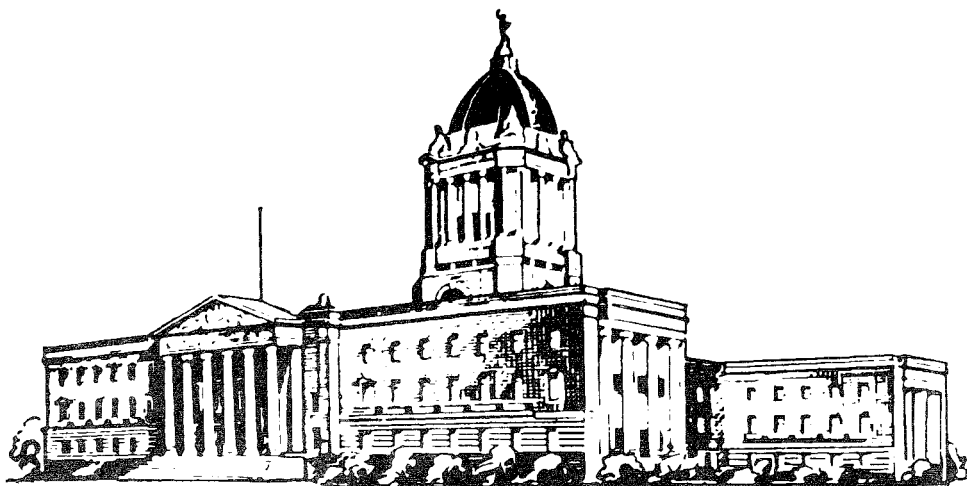


First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
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CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virden	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
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MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
McCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
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MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
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PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
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STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, July 25, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 2, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'enregistrement des noms commerciaux.

MOTION presented.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, I promise to keep my remarks as short as possible today.

This bill comes about because of the recent situation involving Brick's Fine Furniture, and of course Mr. Fred Brick is an obvious victim of a system that needs some improvement. In fact, Mr. Brick cannot be here today because he is back in his store taking care of business.

He has been a small businessperson for 19 years. In fact, he started in 1969. On his birthday, September 11, 1987, when he was 52 years old, he received a letter from Brick Warehouse of Calgary ordering him to quit using his name, a name that he had been using in his business for 19 years. Brick Warehouse started this federal action in Alberta.

Mr. Brick was forced to, at considerable expense, defend this action in the Province of Alberta. Now \$65,000 later, there is still no end in sight to Mr. Brick's problem. Brick Warehouse has only been using this name since 1976. They are still not registered in the Province of Manitoba and, as such, they are flaunting our current law. Brick Warehouse opened their doors in Manitoba on April 14, 1988, at which time they have a 30-day requirement in which to register. They still have not registered as of this date.

* (1335)

In the meantime, they have proceeded to inundate the province with essentially saturation advertising. Brick Warehouse took our local Brick's Furniture to court to stop him from using his own name. That is his own family name. Brick Warehouse in Alberta, that is just a name, I believe, a name of a building in Alberta a number of years ago. It is not the name of a family out there. This case is still before Federal Court. No date has been set to deal with this, and I am told that in fact Brick Warehouse can delay this process for up to two years. They are using up to seven lawyers at each of these hearings, and it is certainly a very difficult process.

I just have a couple more comments and I will cease and desist on the second Bill, Mr. Minister. I would like to ask whether or not Manitoba firms, all Manitoba firms, in order to protect themselves, should now go

out and apply for a federal trademark because that seems to be a possible answer for all Manitoba firms to prevent this situation happening from them. Imagine the chaos that would happen in this province and, of course, not to mention all the work for lawyers if this were the case.

We are not trying to shut down Brick Warehouse and that has been a misconception out there in the public. Brick's Fine Furniture is in no way trying to stop them from doing business; they just want to stop them from using their name in Manitoba. Brick Warehouse owns 30 stores in California called Furnishings 2000, and there is really no reason why they could not operate in the Province of Manitoba, only the Province of Manitoba, under that name. The consumers of this province at the current time are supporting a non-registered company who are essentially flaunting the Manitoba law.

I also wanted to end by reading to you a letter from Advance TV that was written to the federal Minister back on May 9, just to demonstrate to you that this is not a problem peculiar to Brick's of Manitoba. When the Chamber of Commerce sent out letters to businesses in Manitoba asking for support, what came back was half a dozen other businesses who were in similar situations.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway). According to our Rule 85, the Honourable Member for Elmwood had a few minutes in which to help the House understand the purport of the Bill.

Thank you.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

Mr. Maloway introduced, by leave, Bill No. 3, The Corporations Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les corporations.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Child Care Funding

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and it concerns the announcement today that the Bill on child care will be introduced in the federal House.

I ask the Minister: Has the Minister now prepared a Manitoba position in order that we can sign a cost-sharing agreement with the federal Government as soon as the legislation is passed?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question.

Yes, I am happy that the federal Minister has tabled the Bill in the House today. That will allow us to begin

negotiations on exactly what day care funding we will receive from the federal Government.

* (1340)

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the same Minister.

In his July 13, 1988, statement, Mr. Epp announced a "top-up benefit to help provinces with less developed systems of child care to approach national levels."

Will this Minister tell us what her Government intends to do to end this blatant discrimination against Manitoba?

Mrs. Oleson: This Government will do everything they can to get as many dollars as we can from the federal Government program. Negotiations, as I say, will begin shortly. It is a priority of this Government to have as many accessible affordable day care spaces as we can in this province.

Emergency Rural Child Care

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Will the same Minister please inform the House what emergency plans her department has put into place in order to provide rural child care spaces in this year of crisis when many rural families will be forced off the farm to find outside employment and will therefore require emergency day care?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): One of the priorities of this Government and my department is to find out what we can do for the rural areas. People in my constituency have come to me with this problem. I am very well aware of it. So we will be working as soon as possible to put everything in place with negotiations with the federal Government, with ongoing plans of the department. We have policies in place that will be implemented as soon as possible.

Boating Accident - Jurisdictional river control

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a question to the First Minister.

Mr. Speaker, today, I am sure I am joined by all Members of this House to express condolences to the family who lost someone dear to them in a boating accident on the Red River. This tragedy begs of solution and has begged of a solution for some time and is caused by the constant squabbles over jurisdictional control.

Will the First Minister inform the House the plans of his Government to end this jurisdictional hassle in order to prevent such tragedies in the future?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I appreciate the question of the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I can assure her that my colleagues and I share the concern and indeed share the feelings for the family who has lost someone as a result of the accident which took

place on the river this weekend. That is an area that we have been concerned about for some time. As a result, my Minister of Urban Affairs has initiated discussions with the city with respect to jurisdiction over the river. As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, it involves three levels of Government in their responsibility and indeed we are concerned for the boating safety on the river, the increased use on the river.

As somebody who lives on the river, I am aware of the fact that there is an ever-increasing danger there as a result of inexperienced boaters, inexperienced people utilizing that river, and my Ministers and I will be working to ensure that we bring to an end the concerns about safety on the river by working cooperatively with the other levels of Government to ensure that safety, first and foremost, is pursued on the rivers of Winnipeg.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

Is the province prepared to provide emergency funding for additional policing of the Red River for the remainder of this summer in order that we can have the avoidance of tragedies like we had this weekend and until this jurisdictional squabble is cleared?

* (1345)

Mr. Filmon: That is something we are prepared to look at. I am not sure that funding is the only concern that has to be dealt with. But if it is a question of funding, we will certainly talk with the other levels of Government and be prepared to do our part.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Manitobans know that the Speech from the Throne was long on rhetoric and short on action. Certainly we are very concerned on the whole issue, as all Manitobans are, in the whole area, crime prevention and action in the crime area. There has been no specific action to date on commitments the Government has made on special procedures for dealing with violent and repeat offenders. There is absolutely no action to date on drunk-driving promises and no specific action in terms of the backlog in the courts. We all agree that these are priority items for Manitobans. I would like to have the First Minister tell Manitobans, and indeed this House, why there has been no action to date on these very important items.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): If I were this Leader of the N.D. Party, I would be embarrassed to stand up and ask that question because the entire history of his NDP administration over six-and-a-half years was that it was long on rhetoric and short on action. That is all we ever got from them. Every one of those concerns that he raises to public attention right now are concerns that exist as a result of the rhetoric and the inaction of his former administration. So I can tell him that every one of those commitments in the Throne Speech will be backed up by action and backed up by commitments that every one of my Ministers is working to fulfill.

Mr. Doer: Could the First Minister please table his implementation plan to fulfill those promises on every one of those items, the violent crime and the procedures that he has promised, and we have had no action for three months; the procedures on drunk driving that he has promised and he has had no action for three months? Could the First Minister table the implementation plan for Manitobans and give us specific action in terms of those commitments that his Government has made?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, again I have to say that I cannot believe the words of the Leader of the N.D. Party (Mr. Doer) saying that we have not brought action on these serious matters in three months, when they, the NDP in Government, did not bring action on these matters for six-and-a-half years — six-and-a-half long years — in which they sat back and told us all of those wonderful words about all the wonderful work they were doing for Manitoba, but no action to address any of those matters.

I can assure him that we made the commitments because we believe that those commitments are necessary and because we believe they are in the best interests of the people of Manitoba. We will carry through our commitments and we will bring forward not only the implementation plan, but in fact the firm results of what we are going to do to address those serious concerns. As soon as my Ministers are in a position to bring them before the House he will know, and he will know that we will have done it in a lot less time than his former Government had to do the job.

Mr. Doer: Again I would ask the First Minister — when would these plans be initiated, developed and be available for Manitobans? It has been three months. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has made statements before about the priority of the Attorney-General's Department. Here we have a situation where the priority of the Attorney-General is to deal with Co-op affairs and some bureaucratic changes rather than dealing with the real changes that are important to Manitobans. We have had no action in terms of those promises; we have had no action in terms of the backlog in the courts; we have had no action in terms of the violent criminals in our system; we have had no action, indeed, in appointing a Judge whose resignation came due March 16; and the First Minister has no action in any of these areas.

Mr. Filmon: Madam . . . or Mr. Speaker — it is catching; it is catching!

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, you are going to have to get a haircut.

I cannot believe that this Leader of the New Democratic Party could go on with that kind of rhetoric and harangue about all of these urgent and vital things that have to be done in the justice system in Manitoba. We believe that and that is why we made those commitments during the election campaign.

In response to his question, they have been initiated, they are being developed, and they will be announced in due course.

* (1350)

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Concordia with a final supplementary.

Mr. Doer: Yes, I would ask the First Minister again to table the plan and explain to the people of Manitoba why it has not been a priority of his Government to have a plan ready to be announced to Manitobans in the Speech from the Throne and, indeed, to Manitobans. They are vitally concerned about these issues.

I would point out to the First Minister that the education system and schools start in three or four weeks. He, too, promised education programs for drinking and driving which we applaud. Where is the plan? There has been no action taken to date and the First Minister knows it.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, this Leader of the New Democratic Party as a member of the former NDP administration sat in this House when they brought forth Throne Speech after Throne Speech that referred to review and review and review. Eleven times in one Throne Speech they had the word, or a derivative thereof, "review." So he knows better than anybody the Throne Speeches provide the direction and the commitments and, indeed, we have made in that Throne Speech the commitment to action. That action will be forthcoming and my Ministers will be announcing it in due course.

Psychiatrists Shortage

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

In 1988, a report from the Manitoba Medical Association on psychiatric manpower revealed that Manitoba needs an additional 48 psychiatrists while over the last 14 months we have lost 20 psychiatrists. They have left Manitoba with the compounding and already severe shortage. We have a crisis on our hands and this Government has only recruited two psychiatrists for the last three months.

Will this Minister tell this House and tell Manitobans what step he is going to take to correct this serious situation? Thank you.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), for that question because clearly he has pointed out in the short period of time that we have been Government that we have been reversing the trend from loss of psychiatrists under the previous administration to now recruitment of psychiatrists to the Province of Manitoba. That does not belie the very serious situation that we face in this province with a shortage of professionally trained psychiatrists. That problem is a growing problem to the Province of Manitoba compounded by a number of conflicting reasons which are both monetary, workload, fee schedule payment and absolute shortage

of graduate psychiatrists not only in the Province of Manitoba but indeed across Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can simply assure my honourable friend that our recruitment efforts and some of the initiatives we have taken to bring cooperation back to delivery of mental health in the Province of Manitoba is working because we have indeed reversed the trend of loss and indeed are now seeing new psychiatrists coming to the Province of Manitoba. With continued good cooperation between the teaching hospitals, the community hospitals, the Department of Health, the delivery of mental health will be improved by the addition of psychiatrists to the Province of Manitoba.

Mental Health Care

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my first supplementary again to the Minister of Health.

Lack of psychiatrists means that our only few psychogeriatric programs in Manitoba are at risk. Will the Minister tell this House what he is going to do to prevent further erosion of our mental health care system for the elderly because our population above the age of 85 is growing and by '90-91 we will have the majority of the seniors above the age of 80?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend, being a graduate of the discipline of medicine, will be fully aware that the speciality of psychogeriatric training among psychiatrists is a new and not well-attended or practised discipline within the Department of Psychiatry. As psychiatrists recognize the need as students in training, I am led to believe that new graduates will indeed focus upon the very needed discipline of psychogeriatric care to take care of many of our elderly population who in their latter years do not have the retention of their full mental capabilities and indeed often suffer from such debilitating diseases as Alzheimers and require the need of psychogeriatric care. I believe as our population needs grow, so will the addressing of that growing need be made by the faculty of psychiatry not only in the Province of Manitoba but across this country.

Mr. Cheema: Mr Speaker, my final supplementary again to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

Would the Minister tell what steps will the Government take to correct the appalling lack of mental health services available to the physically handicapped people? Is he aware of that in Winnipeg and possibly in Manitoba that the mental health services for the physically handicapped there are no group homes built yet accessible and there are no psychiatric day programs for the handicapped people. Will he tell the House when he is going to take the step or is he just going to have some plans but no action?

* (1355)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) has addressed a number of issues which are impacting upon the delivery of mental health in the Province of Manitoba. I look forward to the opportunity

to discuss those issues as we approach Estimates to inform my honourable friend from Kildonan as Health critic and indeed my honourable friends in the previous administration as to just how serious the crisis has grown in our mental health system in Manitoba over the last number of years. The system is in need of repair and no one argues that fact, not even the previous administration.

A number of initiatives are currently under way within the Department of Health to coordinate our efforts to deliver quality mental health services not only to the handicapped but indeed to the vast number of Manitobans who can not readily access service in the community. That has been a problem identified for years and years and years that the Manitoba system of mental health delivery has been concentrated in our institutional care mode to the detriment of community-based programs and community-delivered programs.

Mr. Speaker, I can simply ask the patience of my honourable friend so that when we reach Estimates, we can have a full debate on mental health and the directions it will take under a Progressive Conservative Government that has the true well-being of Manitobans in need of mental health services to be fully aware of the programs that will be put in place.

Psychiatric Care - Inmates

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) of this province.

Recently in this province, a 15-year-old girl with psychiatric problems had to be sent to the Portage Centre for Women, in spite of her being a youth. She was warehoused in isolation in that institution until she could be sent to Toronto for treatment.

My question is: Will the Attorney-General please tell the House what plan he has to ensure that this situation does not happen again?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Member for the question, and agree with him that it is a very serious matter. The matter is very much under consideration by my department.

The Honourable Member may — I am anticipating his question. His next question is probably "when," as it has been earlier today. But I have to remind the Honourable Member that with regard to some of the issues we have been discussing, we have also had of necessity to deal with some rather pressing problems that have been left to us. I refer, for example — and this gets back to the question put earlier by the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) — to the matter of rural policing in this province, which was a subject of attack by the previous Government. I refer also to matters of the Land Titles Office here in Winnipeg, which were allowed to become so bad that rather early action had to be taken on my part as Attorney-General of this province. I also refer to the changes to the Law Reform Commission which had taken that well-respected Commission beyond the realm of independence and changed it to a political body.

All those matters have been very much the subject of discussion in my department, as has the problem raised by the Honourable Member. As soon as I have an announcement to make in that regard, I will be getting back to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, while I am sure we all eagerly await those announcements, I am sure that "when" will be merited many many times in the course of this Government.

My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is again for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), and I would ask what plan does he have to improve the fragmentary and ineffective approach to the psychiatric care of inmates in this province, an approach that so far has drawn the ire of judges consistently in this province, as they have repeatedly criticized the Attorney-General's Department and, in the past, the Community Services Department for their inept handling of inmates that need psychiatric care.

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member is right on the mark when he identifies this as a serious problem facing the justice system in Manitoba. For that reason, I am very glad to say also that, since this new Government has taken over, in all but name the amalgamation of Corrections into the Department of Attorney-General has already taken place. So in terms of getting something done, that has been done.

With regard to facilities of the type that are required for people who are the subject of Lieutenant-Governor's warrants, for example, that is a matter that is under discussion with the federal Department of the Solicitor-General with regard to the building of new facilities to handle people who find themselves in that particular circumstance.

I tell the Honourable Member, on some of these things, you cannot build a building overnight. You cannot even lay the plans overnight to build such a building. We are not here, Mr. Speaker, to tell you that, prior to the passage of three months, every problem ever created by all Governments in the past in this province are going to be solved in the space of two and a half to three months. To suggest that we should is pretty unreasonable and, quite frankly, irresponsible.

Headingley Institute Staff Protection

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, again for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

I would remind the Attorney-General that in fact some problems are crises and do demand immediate action. In particular, I would ask the Attorney-General to please tell this House what security measures are going to be in place or are in place at Headingley Institution to protect the guards and inmates from mentally disturbed inmates, given that approximately 30 inmates are presently under psychiatric care, yet the maximum psychiatric care beds at that institution are 11.

* (1400)

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): One of the first things I did as Attorney-General and Minister of

Corrections, Mr. Speaker, was to tour not only the Remand Centre here in Winnipeg but also the Headingley Correctional Institute at Headingley. I was able to see first hand the facilities that are there for the types of prisoners referred to by the Honourable Member. The best possible situation is all that we can provide at this moment, and that is what there is at Headingley.

Regarding the safety of the guards, we also moved very quickly on the order of Workplace Safety and Health regarding range bars, something that was put off for some time by the previous Government. This is another thing to add to the protection for the staff of our department, staff we value very highly.

With regard to incidents involving the people who are there on the Lieutenant-Governor's warrants, I would ask the Honourable Member to check some of the recent incidents and let me know if his information is better than mine regarding the involvement of those types of inmates in that institution.

Free Trade - Hydro Rate Setting

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I was asking the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) whether the Free Trade Agreement would limit the ability of Manitoba Hydro, the provincial Government to establish policy with respect to incentive rates for industrial development in the province. The Minister rather surprisingly indicated, and I quote: ". . . but if he is asking whether or not we can use energy or hydro as a source for encouraging businesses to locate in Manitoba, that is a matter for Government policy in subsidies and other encouragements."

In light of the fact that every analysis and in fact the rhetoric of the Free Trade Agreement makes it very clear that Canada is not going to be allowed, the provinces are not going to be allowed to use their own natural resources, their own energy resources to establish industrial policy, could the Minister please table with the House from whom or from what analysis he drew that conclusion?

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines): Mr. Speaker, I do believe, if the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) reads the Free Trade Agreement, it will tell him that Manitoba Hydro can sell its hydro for whatever price it can negotiate in the open market.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, it is becoming more evident moment-by-moment that not only has the First Minister not read the agreement, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) has not read the agreement and not read the portions that relate to energy and the protection of our sovereignty in terms of energy.

The Free Trade Agreement, the concern of the Americans over subsidization, the concern of the Americans over the fact that we have an energy advantage makes it very clear in the document, in the Free Trade Agreement, that they will not allow subsidization. They will not allow a two-price system.

My question is to the First Minister. Can the First Minister provide assurances to this House that

notwithstanding the Free Trade Agreement, we as Manitobans are going to maintain control over our hydro resources, that we in Manitoba are going to be able to use that resource in the most beneficial way for Manitobans, and if that means providing subsidies, if that means providing industrial incentives using lower energy rates, are we going to be able to do that and maintain our sovereignty as a province?

Mr. Neufeld: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) to understand that as far as energy and hydro is concerned, I have read the agreement.

It is my view and it is the view of the people that have advised me that we can set our rates at whatever amount we like. Whether or not we can use our hydro rates to encourage industry is quite another matter, and that he should address to the Minister of Industry.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, with a final supplementary.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, the concern lies in the final few words of the Minister in which he acknowledges that in fact we have lost sovereignty. We cannot use hydro to provide incentive rates.

My further question is will the Minister table his own department's report which reflects negatively on the energy provisions of the Free Trade Agreement? Will he table any legal opinion which would provide evidence to Manitobans that our interests are protected? Will he table also the questions which frame that legal opinion so that Manitobans might know what questions were asked, what the responses were, and if, as I believe and many Manitobans believe, this energy agreement is fundamentally undermining our ability as a province to direct economic development?

Mr. Neufeld: I do wish that the Member would address the Trade Agreement and not address the items that are left out of the Trade Agreement. The Trade Agreement does not say that we cannot; the Trade Agreement does not say that we can.

The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) spoke at length about a critique that was written by his department. It was not written by my department. I know I am certain that I do not agree with the things that were in that report.

Tabling Request - Financial Statements

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): My question is for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

In light of the Speech from the Throne's assurances of a renewed spirit of openness and belief in the rights of the people of Manitoba and the Members of this House, will the Minister now table the province's financial statements for the period ending March 31, 1988?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I welcome this first question from the Opposition Finance Critic and the MLA for Transcona.

Mr. Speaker, I can remember asking that same question many times when I sat on the other side of the House, but I had to make a choice. I had to decide whether to release an unaudited version of the year-end financial reports put out by my own department, put out in essence by myself, or whether to allow the Provincial Auditor to put out the first view of that. The decision was not very difficult. I have decided that the first opportunity that Manitobans will have to look at the financial standing for the year '87-88 will be presented at the time of the Budget. It will be given some passage, some acceptance or at least a passage and review by the outside audit that we have indicated is going on right now.

Mr. Kozak: A supplementary for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

Is the Minister asserting to this House that he is preparing the Provincial Budget without the benefit of having seen audited financial statements for the fiscal year . . .

Mr. Manness: Let me give the chronology that usually happens within the province.

The Provincial Auditor usually brings down his report as to the year-end statement some time in December. That is the first time that usually in the past any Government has had an opportunity to see an audited statement of the year's books previous. This year the Provincial Auditor tells me he is going to try and bring it forward several months sooner. Of course, we heartily endorse that as a Party.

So at no time has any Provincial Government in preparing a Budget for the next fiscal year ever had audited statements for the year previous.

* (1410)

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Transcona, with a final supplementary.

Mr. Kozak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A final supplementary for the Minister of Finance.

The Speech from the Throne assures us that a review of our foreign debt position is now under way. Can the Minister now state to this House that speculation on foreign currency markets is an improper use of the taxpayers' money, and that the Government will immediately take steps to eliminate or hedge its foreign indebtedness?

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, speculation is always bad when you are on the wrong side of the market. That is a given. If you speculate and of course things go well, then you have made a right move. The former Government, of course, speculated and they were on the wrong side of the market, and we lost billions because of it.

But let us say, I am hopeful that once the audit team reports back, they will address the exposure side of it and will give some clear direction as to whether or not, firstly, we should continue to find ourselves in

foreign currencies and, if we do, what protection should be afforded the liabilities thereon. That may be hedging and, of course, there could be a number of variations of hedging, and we will look at that.

Free Trade - Energy Resources Protection

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the First Minister following upon my questions to the Minister of Energy.

Given the rather unsatisfactory answers by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) in response to questions, I would ask the First Minister whether he is prepared to direct staff in the Department of Energy to conduct specific reviews of the Free Trade Agreement and to give Manitobans the full details — the full story, not the Mulroney rhetoric — about the impact of free trade on our ability as a province to govern our own energy resources. Will he direct that department to undertake those studies and to make those studies public so that Manitobans can be assured that our energy future is not being sold down the tubes?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Member for Flin Flon that we on this side are very, very concerned to ensure that Manitoba Hydro operates on its mandate of providing service at the least possible cost to the people of Manitoba, of ensuring that our hydro-electric energy potential is developed for the best use of the people of Manitoba to ensure that, when we sell it, we sell it at a price that is favourable to us, that provides us with an income and indeed a profit for the future. So it is a valuable resource, not one to be squandered, not one to be sold to the United States on a deal that involves it being tied into the price of coal, a deal that could conceivably result in us selling it for less than we get for it. We will not be doing any of those things.

The Department of Energy and Mines, under our Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), is indeed providing analyses of the Free Trade Agreement. They believe that the Free Trade Agreement does not inhibit our ability to sell our energy at the best possible price to the Americans, and that it can indeed be used as we conceive it to be used, as a long-term benefit and a heritage for the people of Manitoba, not the way it was squandered and sold in the hands of the former NDP administration.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the First Minister.

What we have is the pollyanna rhetoric or Mulroneysms, if you will, from the First Minister. The question was: In light of the opening remarks in the Throne Speech that Manitobans are going to be treated to a new openness in Government, will the First Minister require the Department of Energy to do studies to indicate to Manitobans whether or not our concern and the concerns of many Manitobans are upheld, that this agreement is going to limit our ability to direct energy policy in Manitoba? It is going to severely impede the ability of the federal Government to direct national

energy policy. Will he undertake to have those studies done and tabled?

Why is the First Minister so reluctant to share with Manitobans the information that his Department of Energy already has with respect to the agreement and apparently the legal opinion supporting the Government's position? If they are so supportive, Mr. Speaker, then I ask the First Minister to table them.

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Filmon: I can assure you that we will have the Department of Energy and Mines do the ongoing analyses. They have done many analyses. We will ensure that they have studies available, material available that will show the true story of what the energy portions of the Free Trade Agreement mean to Manitobans — not the false, politically distorted story which that Storie put forward and ordered his department to do when he was the Minister responsible for Energy; not the twisted, manipulated version of what the NDP wanted to be shown out of the Free Trade Agreement, but the true story, the real facts about the benefits of the Free Trade Agreement to the energy sector of Manitoba.

Indeed, that study, those analyses will be done, and they will be utilized over the next while for the future benefit of Manitobans in the development of their energy resources.

Mr. Storie: My final supplementary is that despite Mr. Filmon's theatrical display — I am sorry, Mr. Speaker — despite the First Minister's theatrical display, he did not answer the question. He is not committed to Manitobans to be public and open about this process so that we might know what the Free Trade Agreement is going to do to Manitoba.

My question is: What is the First Minister's timetable for releasing the information that is developed by the Department of Energy? What is the First Minister's timetable to assure Manitobans that we know the facts about Free Trade, not his rhetoric or the rhetoric of anyone in the Department of Energy.

Mr. Filmon: I need take no instruction from this Member (Mr. Storie) of the former failed discredited Government, who sat on the Freedom of Information Act for over three years and did not proclaim it. We are going to proclaim the Freedom of Information Act on September 30th of this year, only a matter of months after taking office. We are not going to be sitting on information. We are not going to be hiding information. We are going to ensure that the public knows and understands what the Free Trade Agreement means to Manitobans. We will make sure that they know and understand that we have control of our energy resources, and that we can utilize our energy resources to ensure that Manitobans have a bright future.

Mr. Speaker: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY
THRONE SPEECH DEBATE**

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), standing in the name of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs).

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): C'est avec plaisir, Monsieur le Président, que je vous ai accompagné à votre siège jeudi passé et aidé à vous revêtir de votre robe de cérémonie. Mon caucus et moi sommes heureux de vous accueillir comme président de cette chambre, et cela est dû en grande partie au fait que vous pouvez communiquer dans les deux langues officielles de notre pays. Ayant été le seul membre de mon caucus qui ait déjà siégé ici avec vous, je peux aussi témoigner auprès d'eux de votre chaleur et de votre bienveillance. Ils se joignent à moi pour vous souhaiter de rendre de sages décisions.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, I very much enjoyed escorting you to your seat on Thursday and helping you to don your ceremonial robes. Our pleasure as a caucus in welcoming you as the presiding officer of this House is due in no small part to your ability to speak both of Canada's official languages. In addition, although I am the only member from my caucus who has sat with you in this House, I have informed them of your warmth and cordiality and I know they all join me in wishing you good rulings.

Mr. Speaker, the former Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, on September 12, 1968, said of the Speaker, "He will require a formidable array of qualities. He must enjoy our respect without losing our affection. He must be firm yet sensitive, a master of language and a good listener, able to interpret the law and to understand human nature. He must be prepared to cite a precedent and to know when to distinguish it. It will be helpful if he has a good sense of humour in both official languages and if he can be equally witty. He needs the skill of a judge and a diplomat. He should combine the talents of a tightrope walker, a juggler, and occasionally a lion tamer. In short, he must be a born parliamentarian."

All in my caucus wish you very well indeed.

* (1420)

Mr. Speaker, there are many people who we, on this side of the House, in the Liberal Party, must thank today. First of all, of course, we must express our deep thanks to the electorate of the Province of Manitoba who, in responding to the tune of some 35.6 percent in favor of the Liberal Party, increased our majority by some 21.7 percent. The 20 Members who are here in this House now and who enjoy Official Opposition status are here because of the people of this province, and we are here dedicated to service to them.

I must obviously personally thank the residents of River Heights who returned me to this Chamber, one in which I now have a great sense of personal warmth

when I enter the rooms and much of the nervousness of my first year in 1986 has now vacated. It has been replaced of course in the hearts and the souls of 19 other Members.

I want to also give a very special thanks to all in this building who have helped in the settling-in process. Because of the newness of our caucus and because of the transition which was taking place, they went well beyond the call of duty in going that extra mile. It was not only housekeeping or security or the telephone services that provided that additional aid and assistance. It was everyone who worked within this building, and we are indeed grateful.

Mr. Speaker, there are some firsts in our caucus, and I think it is appropriate to make reference to them. Our caucus is comprised of one-fifth female Members. That is, to my knowledge, the largest percentage in any caucus in this House and, to the best of my investigative abilities, any caucus anywhere in Canada, including the House of Commons. Regrettably, it is still not sufficient and we will work towards achieving an even higher percentage the next time that we meet in this House for the first time.

I would also like to make reference to, of course, a very special Member of our caucus, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema). He has only been in our country for some nine years, a new immigrant originally from India, now very much one of us, and we welcome him.

We are composed, Mr. Speaker, of the young and the old. Our Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson) is 69; our Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) is 26. Our Member for Radisson is now entering his third career whereas our Member from Inkster is really beginning his first, and yet between them and joined by us, some 46 years of living experience is expressed.

I have to say also that we are a caucus which is fairly brimming with life, and I say that in the practical sense because within the next few months the Members for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux), Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), and Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) will all add to their families. We know they will be joined by the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) and the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik). We wish all of them, of course, the best of luck on those particular occasions because after all it is families that we are here to serve no matter what our political affiliation.

How are we to better serve these families whether the families be found in the traditional mold of mother, father, two children or whether they are members of single-parent families or whether indeed they are members of second families? I was delighted with the remarks of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) on Friday when he spoke of the need for all of us to represent all of the needs of Manitoba and to not become narrow in our interests and only represent the geographic unit to which we have been elected. We are indeed all here to provide aid and assistance to all Manitobans whether they live in rural Manitoba, whether they live in northern Manitoba or whether they live in our urban areas throughout Manitoba.

I have addressed that issue since the election on the 26th of April, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to serving

with all of us in order to provide better service to all Manitobans.

On Thursday, we had the presentation of the first Speech from the Throne from this Government; but I recall a Speech from the Throne on February of 1988 in reply to which the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) said — that is the now the First Minister — quote: "We do have a vision for Manitoba. It is not clouded by uncertainty and not hampered by doubt."

Why then do we require so many studies? Are they not yet ready to govern? Can they not yet find their way? The Speech from the Throne last week was filled with general phrases like "enhance," but what we need now is some action. How will our families be better served by this administration?

My speech today will concentrate on the specifics. Most could be put into effect immediately. The path is clear. The studies have been done — in some cases over and over and over. It is now time to perform. This Government said that among its first initiatives will be prudent and effective management. Surely, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko), prudent and effective management also means accountable management. Yet what was one of the very first up-front actions of this Government? It was a non-tendered contract for an audit.

Yet this very same First Minister (Mr. Filmon) on November 1, 1986, said with all righteous indignation, quote: "I am absolutely outraged. It is unacceptable for Governments of any political stripe to interfere in the normal tendering process and award the contract on purely political considerations."

I ask: How can the First Minister say that in November of 1986 and, yes, in June of 1988, give an untendered contract to people with very close political ties to his political Party? Perhaps he could have used the excuse that it had to be done quickly. But it was not done quickly. They did not do it for two months after they had assumed office. What was the Finance Minister doing in those first two months when his campaign promises indicated that it would be immediate? Where are the financial statements for March 31, 1988?

* (1430)

Oh, yes, I heard the baffle-gab today from the Minister who indicated that he had to have an audited statement, but in order to get that, it is his audited statement from his chosen accountant that we are going to get. I would prefer to have the statements as they were promised to us immediately upon delivery. They were available in May, and as the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) himself said in his comments today, he certainly had found himself on this side of the House asking over and over and over again for financial statements.

I remember, for example, in 1986 when the first sitting of the House took place after the 1986, the admissions of horror on the part of the Progressive Conservatives that the NDP had kept financial statements hidden during the election campaign. Now, of course, he and

his Government are doing the self same thing. Release them today, if you wish to be believed as an open Government, an accountable Government. On February 15 in 1988, our Premier of today again said, "Get out of foreign borrowings." Last Thursday we were informed that a review was going to be done. We want action, Mr. Premier, not promises of reviews and studies. Finances are important because without our financial house in order — in this we are in full agreement with the Government — we cannot provide services that are so much needed in the Province of Manitoba.

All Manitobans, Mr. Speaker, share in common a respect for the principles of our health care system. How can we deliver it more effectively? How can it be "enhanced" — to use the Premier's word — and not just preserved so that families faced with health care needs on a daily basis, as they are indeed faced with those health care needs, will have those health care needs addressed? Nothing in this province has been more studied, more poked, more probed, more turned on its side, more turned on its head than the health care needs of the people of the Province of Manitoba. Yet once again we are told we are going to get more study. What we need is some concrete steps to make sure that the health care system of this province is performing.

Let us begin right off the top with the administration of the department. Mr. Speaker, the administration of the department is already in a state of chaos. We do not have a full Deputy Minister; we have an Acting Deputy Minister. The individual who had been conducting all of the studies, Mr. Kaufman, was fired on the 30th of June, the day before he was to take on the new job of being Deputy Minister of that department. He is the one who has gathered information which is essential to the reform of this health care system. He was an asset to all Manitobans and we have lost this asset, and that is deeply regrettable.

Now before we can go into reforms we must concentrate the Minister's efforts on establishing positions within his own department. How regrettable that is when it is our seniors who are in such desperate need for help and assistance from this Government in this province. We know that 15 to 20 percent of all acute care beds in Manitoba are being used in inappropriate ways. They are being used for the care of senior citizens suffering from chronic illness. We need to build personal care homes to get those people out of our acute care beds, so those beds can be freed.

We have others who are receiving 24-hour service in our communities through continuing care because there is not a placement for them. It is neither cost efficient, nor is it in the best interests of those individuals. Meanwhile, those in desperate need of cancer treatment have that treatment postponed. Others who require elective surgery are having the same delays, and we are not talking about elective surgery that might be of a minor nature. We are talking about elective surgery in which the individuals are in pain 24 hours a day, and yet they wait six months, eight months to have that needed back surgery.

We have an overabuse of our emergency rooms, because doctors are so frustrated at getting their

patients into elective surgery that they tell them to go to the emergency room in the hope that they will get admitted that way. All that does is leave hundreds of patients who have legitimately waited their time on the list yet once again bumped to make room for someone else. This is a tragic use of our resources.

Our personal care home situation has indeed improved in Manitoba. We have, in many cases, better facilities than we had some years ago. But there are tremendous inequities. We need constant monitoring, and I was never able to persuade the previous Government that residential control licensing was absolutely imperative. You do not tell a nursing home that you are coming to inspect them on Friday and not expect that nursing home to look spiffy. If you are going to monitor these homes in an effective way, you must do so by arriving without notice, and then you will find the exact care being given on a daily basis.

Our continuing care services in the Province of Manitoba are terribly overburdened. Case coordinators are carrying client loads of some 140 patients. They cannot possibly deliver services at an adequate level with that kind of a client load.

We know that homemakers, home care workers, orderlies are put into homes before they are provided with any training at all and, even when they are provided with training, that training is woefully inadequate. So they are sent out to look after an individual who is hooked to a respirator, but they are never trained in the care of that respirator. That is the kind of critical problem that needs immediate attention from this Government. The Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) and the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) made reference today to the problems of psychiatry in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, six out of ten families will at some point in their lives have an experience with some form of mental illness. In this past year, for example, through the unfortunate early death of Sheila Kantor, the children with schizophrenia of this province lost an incredible lobbyist. She was there to bang heads in Government whenever she was given the opportunity to do so. She is no longer with us. We say, what will happen tragically to those children now who do not have Dr. Kantor as their advocate.

* (1440)

We have problems throughout Manitoba. Brandon patients are there far too long simply because we do not have adequate psychiatric staff. In Winnipeg, we have seen bed closures at St. Boniface, at Victoria General, at the Grace and now probably Seven Oaks. We cannot keep psychiatrists in the hospitals in this province. Why cannot we? We cannot because day after day after day they spend their time trying to find a bed for a patient instead of treating that patient. Can you imagine taking a doctor who is in his residency in psychiatry who has had at that date 11 years of training and you put him on a phone for six hours to find a bed? That is a daily occurrence at the Health Sciences Centre.

I was at the Misericordia Hospital one Saturday night in June with my accident-prone younger daughter and

once again met by a psychiatrist who said to me I have a suicidal patient and I cannot find a bed. That happens nightly, it happens daily and it happens, unfortunately, most often on the weekends.

In addition, because of the lack of psychiatrists and because so many of those psychiatrists are refusing to practise in hospitals, Mr. Speaker, we are in danger of losing our accreditation for psychiatry, because when you do not have staff members at the senior level in psychiatry you cannot offer training to young psychiatrists.

So when the Health Minister (Mr. Orchard) indicates today that he knows of the problem and the limited number of young people entering psychiatry, I would say to him he is going to have fewer and fewer enter psychiatry because they are not going to go to a hospital which is not accredited. If we cannot get First-Class talent at our hospital, it is not going to be accredited in the very near future. The whole issue of psychogeriatric care is one that is escalating at a very fast rate.

We need solutions now. We need to have research dollars redirected into the particular problem area of the aged mentally ill. We need to have interfacing between continuing care and community mental health services something which is not there at the present time. We need, Mr. Speaker, a coordination of mental health services in this province. We must stop what has been allowed to occur under the previous administration where some of it was in Community Services, some of it was in Health and neither knew what the other one was doing.

This Government has noted the need to consolidate departments and to consolidate parts of departments, and there is nothing that requires that consolidation more than in the whole field of mental health in the Province of Manitoba.

In the election just passed, this Government promised that there would be additional treatment facilities and special units for cancer patients in the Province of Manitoba. We heard not a thing of that in the Speech from the Throne, unfortunately. Imagine what these wonderfully trained oncologists have to put up with.

Dr. Israel's last fight, for example, was to stop a "mac attack" on the cancer treatment centre because the Health Sciences Centre wanted to move a MacDonalds onto the site at the entrance to his cancer treatment area. He knew that the smells and the cooking odors would be deleterious to the well-being of his cancer patients. This is not something that a doctor should have to fight and yet if you have concern for your patients you indeed do that.

This Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), Mr. Speaker, sat by and watched the in-vitro fertilization program close in this province and he did nothing about it, and he could have done something about it. The previous Government refused to do anything about it, refused to fund it — they would rather grandstand about the issue. But this Government does have the choice. They can provide funding for the continuation of that program, and it is limited funding indeed that will be required.

Mr. Speaker, too many Manitobans must leave this province for necessary medical attention. One percent of our population and two percent of our men over 55 suffer from sleep-related respiratory disorders. Patients with suspected sleep disorders in Manitoba are frequently sent by their physicians to the Mayo Clinic. When they return from the Mayo Clinic, they submit a bill to the Manitoba Health Services Commission and part of that bill is paid.

Meanwhile, we have a sleep lab located at the St. Boniface Hospital which receives no MHSC funding whatsoever. It is a world-class sleep disorder clinic. We have patients who come from many other provinces to attend at that clinic. But we do not recognize the strength of that clinic and we fail to support it, nor do we pay for the diagnosis and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, we have serious problems in Pharmacare. On my desk since the election have come numerous letters from senior citizens indicating that the wait is 8 to 10 weeks, in order for them to get the return of the cheque from the provincial Government. We offered in the last campaign a simple solution. We welcome the Government accepting that solution. Once a senior citizen pays their 20 percent, give them a card; henceforth, they would pay only their 20 percent when they attended at the pharmacy, and the pharmacy would bill the Government of Manitoba. We could streamline the process, but much more important, we could provide money immediately into the hands of the senior citizens of this province, who deny themselves either the food they require or the drugs they require and, Mr. Speaker, that is not acceptable in health care in this province.

In the Speech from the Throne — and I commend the Premier — he made reference to the need for a broadened AIDS Education Program in the Province of Manitoba. Considering past statements by members of his Party, I think they have taken a giant leap forward.

But the problem is one of unifying the programs offered by the Department of Health and the Department of Education. For example, in this province the Family Life Education Program, which is not compulsory, can indeed present a full range of birth control options to young people. The AIDS Education Program which is compulsory is not allowed to do that, and yet we know that if a young person is sexually active and if that young person is going to maintain that sexual activity, he or she must act in a responsible manner. The only way they will act in a responsible manner is if we give them the information.

So if the information can be given to them via one curriculum, which may not be taught, why is it not given to them in the other curriculum? These are young lives we are talking about. Let us not be ostriches, let us not live with our heads in the sand. It does not matter where the statistics are conducted — young people are sexually active. Let us give them the information they need to protect their life because that is what we are asking them to protect.

Mr. Speaker, we know of the incredible need to get young and old doctors into rural Manitoba, female as well as male doctors into rural Manitoba. But it is going to be difficult to attract those young doctors, be they

male or female, into rural Manitoba unless we meet some specific conditions. We must provide more continuing education in our local hospitals. Why should doctors and nurses always have to come into Winnipeg or come into Brandon? Why cannot those courses be taken out either, in some cases, in person or by the use of new technologies?

We must look into a system whereby we would forgive student loans in order to encourage more doctors into rural Manitoba. Above all, we must provide those doctors with consultative services. When you are out in rural Manitoba practising medicine all by yourself, perhaps your greatest fear is that you will misdiagnose. That lack of comfort level is what persuades many of them to leave the rural environment and move into the city.

Ontario has developed an excellent computer network whereby doctors can, via computer, get in touch with specialists in their fields in order that diagnoses can be shared with other physicians. That comfort level is one which is important to provide to those who we would persuade to go to rural Manitoba.

We have watched with dismay the abuse of walk-in clinics by several doctors. We must put controls into place that do not allow that to continue. There must be no sweetheart deals with regard to outside X-ray labs or labs for testing of blood and chemistry. There must be no abuse through the overuse of testing, because it costs all of us far too much money. The medical society itself has acted quickly, but it may well need legislation from the Minister of Health in order to put in those tough controls which will guarantee that our system is not wasted and abused.

Those are some of the things which the Minister of Health must give immediate priority to in the next few months of office. But that is not the only department, Mr. Speaker, that requires our immediate attention.

The Speech from the Throne made reference to the disadvantaged in our society. The disadvantaged fall primarily under one department, and that is the Department of Community Services — the mentally handicapped, the mentally ill, children who have been sexually or physically abused. All have suffered from a lack of direction, from a lack of training, from a lack of proper case study models.

The previous Government launched on a Welcome Home initiative. No one would argue in the negative that, if we can provide service to the mentally handicapped in our community at the same level or better level than we can provide in an institution, that we should welcome them into the community. But we never received from the previous Government the kind of monitoring, the kind of training that was absolutely essential if such a program was indeed to provide better service to these disadvantaged in our society.

* (1450)

The care givers rarely have sufficient training. They rarely are sufficiently staffed. We watched through that hearing on the death of Russell Smith. Over and over and over again it became patently obvious that he died

for one reason and one reason only. He was left to take a bath unattended.

Here was a young man with a history of seizures, a history of seizures in the bathtub. It also became apparent that this young man probably never should have been put into that group home. That decision was not made by the group home; that decision was made by the Department of Community Services. If the parents had been told that Mr. Smith was not going to receive supervision, they would never have agreed to allowing their son to leave the institution, and if Russell Smith had not left MDC, Russell Smith, I have no doubt, would still be alive today.

Let us not have the tragedy of Russell Smith become the tragedies of others within our society, and let us not fool ourselves about the costs. So often when we compare institutionalized costs with group home costs, we take into consideration only the operation of the group home.

What we do not take into consideration are the additional services that that individual was receiving in the institution. In some cases, daily physiotherapy; in many cases, daily speech therapy; in some cases, education classes. Those costs are frequently not included and regrettably, because they are not included, it sometimes appears that it is less expensive to have them in the community than it was to have them in the institution. I challenge the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) to examine that in some detail to make sure that we are providing better services, not less-valued service.

We must examine the day programs that we are offering in terms of the workshops. There are those who would say: Do not put them into sheltered workshops. But many of the mentally handicapped are much happier in a sheltered workshop environment. They feel more secure. I am concerned that those who do not have mental handicaps frequently believe that they know best about the needs of the individual with a mental handicap and they certainly seem to feel they need and know more than the parents of that physically handicapped individual — the parent who frequently has lived with that individual 24 hours a day for decades and decades.

There is no more disadvantaged in our society, Mr. Speaker, than the child who enters foster care. Why does a child enter foster care? Why is a child taken from his or her parents and put in the care of other parents? Well, frequently it is because of abuse — physical abuse, sexual abuse, sometimes the failure to feed them and clothe them, but it is not their fault that they are in care. The child in foster care is there because it has been determined that his own family is unable to meet his or her needs. And yet we know through study and evaluation that child will receive the best care in a situation which most mirrors his own family life. So foster care has been identified as the very best care available.

Yet what do we do in this province? We pay up to \$25 a day through subsidies and actual given to parents of \$13.20 a day, and maintenance grants and salary enhancement grants, but about \$25 a day to put a

child in a day care for eight hours a day. We pay a foster parent less than \$10 a day to provide 24-hour-a-day care to provide food, clothing, shelter, school supplies, and we wonder why these parents say they are not going to accept any additional children after September 1, and yet these foster parents are acting in an incredibly responsible manner. Listen to what they are saying. They are not saying they are going to give up the children that they presently have in care. What they are saying is they will not take additional children as of September 1.

What are the alternatives? We can put them in a motel room. That will only cost us \$47.50 a day on an average, but we cannot leave them in a hotel room by themselves so we will provide them with a homemaker, and that will cost us only \$15 an hour. Then we can give them special needs rates — and that is the way many foster children are now dealt with — and they can get from \$9.25 a day to \$97 a day with an average rate of about \$40 a day.

Meanwhile, the parent who has been providing foster care year after year after year is dipping into their own savings, their own weekly income in order to provide for these children in their care, and they cannot continue to do so. They simply cannot afford it. We must provide them with additional resources because it is the only way to deal effectively with these young people. We are talking about young people who, if they are not appropriately placed at two and three and four and five when they require foster care, will find themselves down the line in an incredible set of problems which are far more costly to treat than the foster care cost would be, if provided at the appropriate time.

I was not very reassured by the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) today that this Government really knows what it wants to do in the whole day care field. We should be the very first province in line for day care. If anything this previous Government did well — the previous Government — it was day care, and I am loathe to give them too many credits, but I will give them that one. I had some difficulties with their total unwillingness to fund private day care, particularly when there was not another space available in a public day care space, and I could not understand why a doctor's child, where a doctor was earning some \$150,000 a year would get a subsidized space of \$13.20 a day when a garment worker's child could not get a subsidized space and was forced to pay some \$25.00. That kind of economics I never could understand, but let us give them credit.

We have per capita second only to Alberta, the second highest rate of day care spaces in all of Canada, and we have the national Minister of Health who is going to penalize this province because this province has taken an initiative to put money into the care of our children. How can we as Manitobans sit back and allow that atrocity to occur? We must not.

* (1500)

The Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) must inform the Hon. Mr. Epp immediately that we will not allow provinces far more well off than ourselves,

provinces like Ontario, provinces like British Columbia, simply because they have fallen short in producing day care spaces will end up getting more money from this program per capita than we will in the Province of Manitoba, and it is absolutely unacceptable.

We must protect the families. That is our motivation. The need that families have for day care is one which is urgent even in this province where day care spaces are more abundant than others.

We on this side of the House congratulate the Government on its promise of additional funding for the Child Protection Centre. But that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our social workers in this province still do not have training or resources in dealing with the victims of sexual or physical abuse. Frequently our social workers were denied the opportunity to go to conferences even when speakers were here in Manitoba. The Government would not free them up in order to attend those sessions. Our social workers must be given immediate training. They must be able to deal with those victims without any delay.

Children who have been victimized will suffer from a lifetime legacy of poor self image and inability to cope as well as family tragedy in second and third generations if we do not treat them immediately. A six-month wait while a young person receives counselling, a young person who has been sexually abused, is not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, during the last Session and during the election campaign, we heard the need to make our Crown corporations more accountable, more efficient. This was to be high on this Government's list of priorities.

Again, let us listen to their First Minister (Mr. Filmon) on February 15, 1988, when he said, "We will replace the politicians and political hacks on the Board of Directors." Now I must ask the First Minister is he now suggesting that the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), the Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz) are not politicians? If they are politicians what are they doing in this House? One presumes they are politicians and yet the First Minister said we will replace the politicians on the Board of Directors. You promised to remove political interference from Crowns and your first move was to appoint MLAs to the Crown corporations.

Members of this Chamber have no business on the boards of Crown corporations required to report to this Legislature. It is a clear conflict of interest. The Premier appeared to recognize that only five months ago. Why not today?

While we are delighted to learn that MPIC and Manitoba Hydro will be required to go before the Public Utility Board, what we do not know and what I would urgently ask the First Minister to address is will the PUB have the final say in the setting of rates or will the Cabinet maintain an override?

We regret also that MPIC has not introduced the management changes so desperately needed. A new

president is needed. A little streamlining in administration is required. It was difficult to tell from the Speech from the Throne what will happen to the general insurance industry. It would appear from the general statement that public policy needs will be addressed. It might give some families some assurance that they will be able to get house insurance if they live in the north or they live in the inner city of the City of Winnipeg. But we do not know for sure because the Government has not yet released their plans about what to do about MPIC, despite the fact that it was the major issue of the election campaign, and they indicated they had a strategy.

Mr. Speaker, we are getting very mixed messages about the Civil Service in this province. Are we going to encourage professionalism? Are we going to keep people in the Civil Service on the basis of their functions, on the basis of their ability to perform, or are we going to get rid of them, as we have over the last few weeks, in order to achieve the Government's political agenda?

On February 15, 1988, yet once again the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) promised us legislation on ethics, "... government contracts, and insiders dealing with governments constitutes a clear conflict of interest." Well, we certainly agree with that and we think we need that kind of ethics in Government. Therefore we would ask: Why does the Premier have on his staff a member of a school division, a member who will be subject to receiving Government insider information? He does not appear to have the same rules in Government that he had when he was in Opposition.

There is within our province the need to educate our children to maximize their abilities, but we did not find very much about education in the Speech from the Throne, other than we were going to enhance it. I think it is important today, Mr. Speaker, to let this Government know that there are very specific ways they could enhance education immediately. For example, they could announce that there would be immediately a beefed-up review of education finances that would provide equity, so long promised but not yet attained.

They could announce that there was a policy being immediately implemented for children with challenging needs. For example, by a simple stroke of the pen, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) could announce tomorrow that the International Baccalaureate Program was to be removed from pilot status and to be placed on regular status in the Province of Manitoba, a simple decision.

We have children in this province graduating from that program who leave this province every single year. They go to McGill, they go to Harvard, they go to Princeton, they go to Queens and, when they go there, they get advanced placement. When they apply to the University of Manitoba, they get nothing. They get nothing at the University of Manitoba because the University of Manitoba says, the Government does not recognize it as an official program. So these gifted, talented young people, children who have carried an incredible academic load for three years of high school, do not stay in our province. They leave.

* (15 10)

Those who stay in our province regrettably many drop out. They drop out because when they get to our university they are bored because they have been so incredibly challenged in their high school curriculum that they are set adrift at the university and that is deeply regrettable. With a simple signature, the Minister could change that policy and at the same time he could make it possible for children who come not from well-off families but from poor families to enter that program because there are children now, in Transcona for example, who are forced to pay \$1,100 a year to go to a public school because this Government, as the previous Government, will not recognize this program and remove its pilot status. That is just one of the inequities. There are many others.

The Minister must make major decisions about mainstreaming. If he is going to continue the mainstreaming philosophy of the previous Government, then far more in the way of funding is going to have to be provided. Far more in the way of training our teachers is going to have to be provided. You cannot expect a teacher who has had no experience in dealing with a mentally handicapped child to cope with that child in his or her classroom, in addition to 28 other children in that class. It is not going to happen.

We need to institute immediately a boundary review of school divisions in the Province of Manitoba. We have a Government over here who talks about immediately reducing City Council from 29 down to 23. They are going to cut off six without so much as a "by your leave" and no discussion. But we have 78 school trustees representing exactly the same area, 78 of them. That is the kind of legitimate review that is required in the Province of Manitoba because, unlike all the studies that have been ordered on that side in which other studies are available, this is one in which no study has ever been conducted.

In terms of our universities, Mr. Speaker, we again congratulate -(Interjection)- if they do not want to be congratulated, Mr. Speaker, I will not congratulate them. But we were pleased on this side of the House that the dentistry school will receive funding. It was much needed. The dental college was in danger of losing its accreditation, and yet it is one of the few dental colleges in Canada that has an outreach program, particularly an outreach program to our Native communities. It is a very positive program and, through this additional funding, that kind of outreach will be continued.

But dentistry is simply one program that is in danger of losing its accreditation. I have also already mentioned this afternoon the problems with psychiatry, but internal medicine has problems. We have problems because we have lost our Department of Ophthalmology. We have problems in our engineering faculties. We have problems in our libraries in every single faculty at all universities in the Province of Manitoba. Again, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) must look carefully at our community colleges, and provide those community colleges with some level of autonomy, and not allow them to remain the political footballs that they were under the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, the environment was not an issue that received much notice last Thursday, and it is an issue

upon which this province consistently scores low. Many of the things which we could institute are not costly. For example, we have in this province no recycling legislation, the only province in this country that does not. Our reforestation program is a joke and is regarded as a joke by all national committees on forest in this country. The world has become a mountain of garbage.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Carstairs: We know that there are again positive programs being implemented in other provinces with minimal costs, in some cases no costs at all, with regard to separating of garbage which does indeed solve some of the problem, not all of the problem by any stretch of the imagination, but some of it is solved. Even a minor positive move in this direction would benefit not only this province but indeed our country and the world.

We have a responsibility to our children and our children's children to provide them with clean water, with clean air, with natural beauty. We also have a duty to protect industries based on our natural resources, not just for now but for the future, industries which received not a word last Thursday. Our Native people traditionally were our great conservators.

An Honourable Member: Conservatives.

Mrs. Carstairs: Our conservators. Never have they been conservative. It was the white people who came along, who taught them to pillage the land and its animals and its wildlife. Their traditional rights to hunt and to trap and to fish must not only be protected in our province.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

The Honourable Member for River Heights now has the floor and I am sure we all appreciate the fact that we have two ears and one mouth, and I am trying to use the two of mine to hear. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Carstairs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The traditional rights of our Native people, be they rights to hunt or to trap or to fish, must not only be protected but they must be promoted and we must work with them towards positive solutions.

Agriculture, of course, is an issue which this year, in particular, must rate high on the agenda of all of us. Our farmers are not just the source of economic activity but like the rest of us they are moms and they are dads and they are the children of this province. The drought has created great hardship in rural Manitoba, but it is in 1989 that we will see the real lack of farm income; that is when the real toll will be taken.

We must increase our research commitment, something this Government have failed to do from the period of 1981. We must increase that part of our commitment to the University of Manitoba in order that

they can study more viable alternatives available to farmers in this province. We must work immediately on the establishment of rural day cares because so many of the men and women are going to be forced off the farm. They are going to be forced to find that second job and they will not be available for the care of their children. Those plans must be put into place immediately.

* (1520)

Let us not negotiate soil and water conservation strategies. Let us begin them. We need programs which will ensure viability and, at the same time, provide employment. If we listened carefully to the once-an-hour promises made in the Lac St. Jean by-election, we know that when Governments go into the election they are prepared to make many promises and many commitments. I think that it is incumbent upon all of us, no matter what our political stripe, to get out there and make sure that all of our political Parties understand what is happening on the farms of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and Alberta, and to get some justice for the farmers of this province and other provinces.

But there is something again that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) can do immediately. Student loans and student bursaries are based on an acid test. That acid test will not be potentially capable of allowing young people in rural Manitoba to go to post-secondary institutions this year. They will not be able to get student loans because if you consider the farm land, yes, it could be considered that this farmer indeed had potentially some money but that will not be the case, Mr. Speaker. The case will be that they will be incredibly cash poor. I would ask the Minister of Education to enter into negotiations immediately with his federal counterpart in order to waive that for this year and for succeeding years in order that no farm child is denied a post-secondary education this year because they do not qualify for student loans.

The Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, muses long on the need for a streamlined justice system in this province but let us deal with the practical realities. There is a low morale in the Criminal Prosecutions Branch, and it has been there following Ticketgate. There is a need for immediate action through better court docket organization and through the management of this branch.

We urge the Minister to move on that immediately, but we hope his movement in that direction does not result in the same type of thing that happened when he entered the Land Titles Office. When he started in the Land Titles Office, we had about a six-week wait. Now, because of his interference and his help, we now have an eight-week wait. That is obviously not good enough.

Mr. Speaker, we desperately need to speed up that process. Land Titles makes money for this province. It is not a losing item. It is not something that has to come out of another department. It pays for itself and then some. So let us take all those revenues and let us put them into the servicing of those people who are now unable to get their title registered. We now have

citizens of this province who, when they entered the sale, were getting an 11.5 percent mortgage and now are being forced to get an 11.75 percent mortgage because the Land Titles Office cannot deliver them their title. That is not acceptable in the Province of Manitoba.

We have the slowest Land Titles turnover of any province in this country. Some provinces turn them over in a day or a day-and-a-half. We need to put personnel in that department immediately in order that those families are not forced to pay hundreds and hundreds of dollars more because of the inefficiency of Government; not through any failure of their own but simply because Government has not responded to their immediate need. The Commissioner Inquiry, I noted today, is going to get a massive increase of funding — from \$3.25 million to some \$1.5 million, and I congratulate the Government because now they will be able to get the research staff they require in order to have a proper review done of Native justice in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, let us make sure that study understands and moves in the direction of the legitimate aspirations of self-government of our Native people in the Province of Manitoba.

The Urban Affairs Department has been an interesting spectacle since the new Government took office. I say "spectacle" because we had two former Ministers of this Government, the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and the Minister of Trade (Mr. Ernst), who were very angry several years ago; angry because they, then city councillors, were not consulted about the provincial Government of the Day about a review of City Council and the way in which it operates in the City of Winnipeg. One of them, indeed, was so angry he refused to even prepare a submission. That incidentally was the same gentleman who is now the Minister of Urban Affairs who told the councillors there would be no change made in the number of seats represented by Winnipeg in the next civic election, that it would remain at 29. Then one week later, with no consultation, announced that, indeed, it would only be 23. How quickly they forget their previous ideas, how quickly they move away from earlier promises and guarantees! It has only been two-and-one-half months, Mr. Speaker. One shakes to think how many failed promises there will be.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with a clarification.

Where someone made an announcement that there would not be a change in numbers, it is definitely not true. I would like it stricken from the record. There is absolutely no truth that anywhere did I say there would no change to the number of councillors and a week later changed it.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs does not have a point of order.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, we also asked the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) to investigate the needs expressed so openly by the City of Brandon for inclusion in Urban Affairs and not Municipal Affairs.

We had mentioned to us in the Speech from the Throne some comments with regard to trade. The Speech from the Throne indicated that this Government was in favour of bilateral trade and multilateral trade. So too are all Canadians. We all favour bilateral trade, we all favour multilateral trade. What we do not favour is the present Canada-U.S. trade deal, because we believe that it is not a good deal and it is not in the best interests of this province.

But that is not our concern in this House. Our concern in this House is specific legislation in Manitoba that is required to protect us from this agreement. We need to know and Manitobans need to know that their water is protected. We need to know that American blood clinics will not establish themselves on corners in this province and sell products and purchase products at \$25 a pint. How will the integrity of the Red Cross in Manitoba be protected if blood is purchased by others within this province? Yet that is a possibility expressed by the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) who shares the same political aspirations as the Government opposite. It can happen, and we want assurance that legislation which we can pass to protect ourselves will indeed be passed so that we will be afforded that protection.

But of all the wording in the Speech from the Throne that I found most disturbing, it was the wording focussed on the Constitutional Accord. The Speech from the Throne said that, as a result of the 1987 Constitutional Accord, we would be a stronger, more united Canada. Nothing, Mr. Speaker, could be further from the truth. We will not be a stronger, more united Canada. How can we be when one province will be told it is a distinct society and the rest of us will not be distinct societies. Yes, it is a distinctive society, but there is a big difference between those two words.

* (1530)

In 1774 in the Quebec Act, yes, they were given the rights to their French language; yes, they were given the rights to practise their religion; yes, they were given the rights to their own code of laws. They still have those laws and they still have that language. Many of them choose not to practise it, but they still have that religion. Nothing anywhere in any constitution ever drafted has done nothing but applaud their rights in that initiative. But when you say they are a distinct society, you also imply that they are a separate society. I for one will not agree to willingly sign a document which makes possible the opting out of Canada of the Province of Quebec.

In the definition do they make any mention of our multicultural heritage? No they do not. We are indeed a bilingual nation, but we are a multicultural nation, and that is the strength of this nation. The strength of that nation as a multicultural nation must be important enough to put in the definition.

In terms of the rights of women, how can we have a stronger nation when 52 percent of them may lose rights under this document, rights they were guaranteed in the Charter but rights which may be lost to them under the Meech Lake Accord. How will that make for a stronger, more united Canada? How will we have a

stronger or more united Canada if we can have 10 immigration policies in this country? Yet that is what we can have.

I am sure some of my colleagues in this House read with interest the story in the Globe and Mail several weeks ago in which if you could not pass the immigration requirements in Hong Kong in terms of Canada, you walked across the street and you went to the Quebec office. If they were not to meet those requirements, would you like them now to go to a Manitoba office and an Ontario office and B.C. office? Are people immigrating to this country or are we emigrating to provinces? I believe that we are coming to this country and I do not want 10 immigration policies in Canada. I want one immigration policy for all Canadians with equity for all those who want to come into this country.

How will we have a stronger or a more united Canada if provinces instead of the federal Government are going to appoint judges and appoint Senators across this nation? Surely if you are on a federal court or in a federal House you must have a national perspective not a provincial one. How will we by prohibiting the entry of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories without unanimous consent, how will we make those people feel they are a part of a stronger more united country? Perhaps it is the unanimity clause which I think works to make this such a dead document.

Constitutions are supposed to be living and breathing documents, but when you say that certain parts of them can only be amended by unanimous consent, something which Mr. Bourassa himself on CJOB Radio said of course was very very hard to achieve, how are we going to get a stronger more united Canada if we have Constitution blockage? That is what we will have. We will certainly not have Senate reform because we will never get all 10 provinces to agree to an elected equal and effective Senate.

And the nonsense about the fact that you have to have Quebec in the Constitution is simply rubbish. Quebec has always been in the Constitution. I would suggest to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) if they were not in the Constitution, why were they at Meech Lake? Why were they at Langevin? If they had not been in the Constitution, of course they would not have been invited. They were in the Constitution because they never left the Constitution.

The dreams of Sir John A. Macdonald, the dreams of John Diefenbaker, the dreams of Laurier, King, St. Laurent, Pearson and Trudeau have been forsaken by the nightmares of Clark and Mulroney. I do not and I never will agree to deux nations. This is one country, one Canada. Yet Meech Lake paves the way for a deux nations understanding of this country that I do not believe is acceptable to the vast majority of Canadians.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I announced earlier to the media, we will not be introducing a Non-Confidence Motion. It is not in my personality nor in that of my caucus to play games. When we introduce a non-confidence motion, you can be assured that all 20 of us will vote with the motion and we will accept the consequences of our actions.

We do believe you deserve a chance to govern, but we regret your lack of vision. In your desire to cover

all of the bases in the Speech from the Throne, you lack specifics, and we provided you with some today. We will monitor your actions, we will monitor your responses to the needs of the people of this province no matter where they live. You will be judged by your openness, your accountability and your commitment to past promises.

We, like you, are here to serve the people and the families of this province. Should you let them down, we will find you wanting. Mackenzie King said in 1927, a nation, like an individual, to find itself must lose itself in the service of others. If this deaf Government does not find its way in the service of others, we will try to help you as we did today by sharing our concerns with you. Should you chose not to listen, not to serve, we will so inform the people of this province and hold you accountable. Thank you.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I hope I can remember to continue to call you, Mr. Speaker. I know we all get into such a rut.

This is a proud day in my life; proud yes, but not arrogant. We are a Government of 25 women and men making decisions that will affect the lives of over one million people. It is a sobering feeling and I am committed to doing the best effort that I can for the people of Manitoba, for the people who put their faith in us as a Party and to equally represent all those of a different political persuasion. I would also like to thank the constituents of Portage la Prairie who returned me to this Legislature.

* (1540)

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on being selected the Speaker for this Legislature. I think that being the first Francophone Manitoban to be there is a distinguished honour for you, and I know that you are going to do the job in an excellent way. You, I think, will bring to the Speaker's Chair an understanding of fair play and equality to all Members of this House. I want to wish you well in your deliberations during the Session, and I know that you will represent our province with respect and pride at the many functions you attend throughout the year.

I also want to congratulate all of the Members of this Legislature that were elected in the last general election, and I think that the 24 new Members that were elected are facing at this time a very moment of pride, I would hope, and maybe some trepidation as they will be getting up to make their first speech. I know that I was very nervous the first time I spoke in this Legislature and I still am, so what is the difference? I guess it does not matter how much you have spoken before, your first speech in this Legislature is one that you remember for a long time -(Interjection)- some longer than others, we hope — that is right.

I also want to congratulate the Premier for being elected to lead this province and to lead it out of a mess that the previous Government left it. Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have a person that is dedicated to the people of Manitoba, a person that I have the utmost respect in, and I know that this Chamber will

respect his competency as he leads our Party to cleaning up a province that we are proud of, even though the Leader of the Opposition wants to call it a garbage pile. I think Manitoba and Canada is a wonderful place to live.

I think what I am proud of the most is the kind of election that the Premier and our Party ran. It was a campaign based on honesty, integrity, based on the concerns of the people of Manitoba, and our Party did not have to rely on innuendo and half-truth to get elected. Many times during the campaign we saw the Opposition mislead the people on many issues. We saw the letter that went out on the aerospace industry that another industry was lost to Manitoba and to Winnipeg delivered the day before the election which probably got people elected to the Legislature who should not have. Now when we see that that aerospace industry is going to be located in Winnipeg, they have the audacity to get up and say we got it here. This is the innuendo and half-truth that we have learned to see over the years in my campaigns against Liberals that I disrespect.

We also saw the letter that the Rentalsman would be abolished, and that came from the other Opposition Party, and that was not an accurate statement also, but let us be truthful. It is only federal Conservative Governments that brought aerospace contracts to Winnipeg and Manitoba, the only Party that has brought them in. Who took away the Air Canada maintenance depot in Winnipeg? The Liberals, under Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who those people support so strongly right now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier for the opportunity that he has given me to perform as a Cabinet Minister. When I look at the portfolio and I get more familiar with it, I realize the responsibility and the confidence that he has placed in me, and I am going to do my darnedest to do a good job for the Party and for the people of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the Members from Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) and Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) for moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne. The calibre of our backbenchers, the people who are part of this Government, I think is there. We are proud of all 25 Members of this Legislature, and while some may not be in Cabinet today you can be assured that the calibre to be there on another day is sitting there with us, and working with us as we do our job as Ministers.

Our Party recognizes the monumental task of rebuilding this province. It will not be easy nor will it happen overnight, like the Leader of the Opposition thinks it can happen. That just indicates her lack of experience in trying to get something done. I do not think there has been any experience in running a business. The Government is the biggest business in this province and she does not understand how it functions. She would want to be jumping in and making a lot of snap decisions and then finding out after that: Oh, my gosh, we made a mistake. Our Government is determined to be an open Government and, as you know, it has already been mentioned that we will be having the Freedom of Information proclaimed on September 30.

Mr. Speaker, our office, the office of Labour, Environment and Workplace Safety and Health, Workers Compensation, is an open office. It is an office — I think you could almost say it has got a revolving door. Everybody is equally welcome in our office, whether it be labour or management or individuals who have a personal concern. Our office greets all people equally and listens to them. I think that is the key; not just to welcome people into your office as we have seen many people do in the past, but you welcome them in, you listen to them, and take into account what they have suggested because a lot of it is very good information. The feeling is that the pendulum with the previous Government was away to the left. I can assure this House, Mr. Speaker, that the pendulum is not going to be away to the right. The pendulum of our office and of this Government is going to be one of fairness for all people and will stop in the middle, and this Government and our department will work very strongly to that end.

We are looking at reorganization and we see one Minister doing the job. I think that there was a very good reason for that because the portfolios that we have are those of labour-management relations, and by putting them all together in one department I am able to ensure that departments work well together. That is very important. In the past, sometimes we saw one department refusing to cooperate with another and could not get the information flow, so forth, to work.

Mr. Speaker, as has been reported, there have been some changes contemplated in our department and at the appropriate time the First Minister will make the proper statements as to what is going to happen. But, as you know, the two deputies are no longer with us, and I was very disappointed in the Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) when he would even suggest that a Minister was let go because he opposed a condominium in St. Boniface. Of course, that is the sort of rhetoric we have been used to seeing and I guess now with 20 Members we are going to see a lot more of it.

I had really expected the Member for Wolseley to come forth and be objective because he is one of the critics for Environment that I will be working with and I thought we would have a good working relationship.

We invited the Opposition in to brief them on our department. I was there when we briefed on the environment, gave them an opportunity to ask questions so that they could better do their job in Opposition. We are not afraid of Opposition. We think a good Opposition will help us govern. But it has got to be an honest Opposition with good intentions.

Mr. Speaker, Workers Compensation comes under our portfolio and Workers Compensation, as Members of this House know, in the previous Government was politicized and was allowed to be absolutely debt-ridden. We are not sure just how far debt-ridden we are and, of course, this infamous review — the financial review that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is doing — will indicate to the people of Manitoba the accurate debt that this Workers Compensation Board is experiencing.

The previous Government used the Workers Compensation Board as a safety net for people's health

problems, putting a lot of the health care costs on the backs of the business community. But we must remember — and I take exception to the Minister of the Second Opposition Party (Mr. Doer), to the N.D. Party, when he said during the election, "the Conservatives were going to take off the backs of business \$200 million." Let us not fool the people of Manitoba and the consumers of Manitoba because eventually all costs to business gets passed on to the consumers. It might be an initial saving for them but eventually you and I pay all the costs of any tax that is imposed on the business community, so that tax is eventually paid by the consumers of Manitoba.

* (1550)

Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of rebuilding Workers Compensation. We now have in place a CEO who will be taking office officially on August 1 and he was with the MPIC. So we look forward to the beginning of the rebuilding. We have many other departments. The Department of Finance is rudderless yet, the Department of Rehab. is in a mess, and we will be working to improve that. We will make sure that we have a team together that will make sure that injured workers — and I would not laugh. We see the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) laughing because injured employees have had to wait up to 18 months to go to Rehab. The Member for St. Norbert should realize that injured workers are not somebody to laugh at. I take that very seriously and it is regrettable that he would do that. We are working very hard to ensure that injured workers are looked after fairly and quickly so they can get back into meaningful jobs. Being on Workers Compensation is not what most people want to be on.

I look forward to working with the Opposition in doing briefings later on and we will continue that. I honestly feel very strongly that Workers Compensation has to be taken out of the political arena. I am prepared to consult with you and listen to your comments. We are working with the implementation team in discussing with the labour movement, with management to make sure that we have in place the best legislation that we can. You people will also, when we have it written, have an opportunity to peruse it. We will bring in our briefs so that you can understand it and ask questions. I think this department is too important to play games with.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labour falls under our portfolio. This is probably the one area and I will make some comments about the lack of concern that the Leader of the Opposition had in dealing with labour, but the labour-management atmosphere in Manitoba has to be improved. We have seen the labour-management atmosphere deteriorate over the last six years. When we see strikes like we had at Westfair Foods, this is not the climate that Manitoba wants. It is not a climate that is healthy for the business market and it is not healthy — just because the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) wants to be vulgar, I refuse to get into a mud-slinging debate with the Member for Flin Flon. If he wants to, then that is his prerogative. I would not do that.

Mr. Speaker, the business community is anxious, as well as the labour community, to sit down and to develop

a better relationship. We will be working with them with a lot of effort to make this come to fruition. We have to. The bottom line is that we have to create jobs. We have over 30,000 Manitobans who are today unemployed. During the Sterling Lyon years, the highest that number ever was was 20,000. So we know that as a party we understand the business community, we understand the labour community. We will work with them to develop a business atmosphere that will create meaningful jobs, not band-aid jobs like the previous Government put in.

Mr. Speaker, we also have under our department many different portfolios, or different little departments, and one of them that we are looking at is The Apprenticeship and Trades Act. This is an opportunity where we can train individuals to find meaningful jobs when they finish their training. It is an opportunity for them to work in a business and have that training at the same time, and we are working with the business community to identify those areas that we need to develop new trades. One of them that is just new is the parts trade and of course as you know the service industry is becoming one of our bigger industries and the parts service is one that is coming along.

So we are continuing to review these areas to ensure that we are moving in the right way and while we are acting, we are continuing to review — and review is not a dirty word in my mind. Anybody who thinks they quit reviewing is somebody who has quit implementing some improvement. We will continue to review as we take action. One of the things was developing a video so we could go around to the schools and show them what the Trades Department really was all about, to encourage people to take trades and find meaningful jobs.

To ensure, Mr. Speaker, that employees are treated fairly, our department is writing a labour code that encompasses four existing acts: The Employment Standards Act, The Vacations With Pay Act, The Minimum Wage Act and The Payment of Wages Act. We feel that this sector really governs those people who are outside of collective agreements, and we are working to bring in a Labour Code that is fair to the business community and is fair to the workers of Manitoba. I look forward to also consultation with the Opposition when we have this review ready to be presented to them, and it is not going to be too long before we will be able to enter some consultations - (Interjection)- If it is a waste of time, unfortunate, but we will make that effort and allow them to give us decent criticism.

It is the desire of our department to work with and encourage the Labour Management Review Committee. This committee meets to discuss situations where they can improve labour-management relations, especially in the emergency area. They have worked out with hospitals what action should be taking place in the time of a strike to ensure that delivery of services is made to those important areas during a strike of that nature.

We look forward to working with the business community, with the labour unions of Manitoba. We have had probably more labour unions and labour leaders in our office than we have had business. But

that is not an apology, that is the way our office is working. They have asked to meet and we have met with them.

There was very brief mention of the environment by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I think it is unfortunate that she did not delve into it a little bit further, because the environment is a lot more important than what she was indicating. It is very important. This country is not a garbage pile. It is a very beautiful country that has some minor problems that we are looking at. As you know, Manitoba proclaimed on March 30 the new Environment Act. It is quite a severe act, but it is put forth to protect our environment.

In 1987, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Premier of Norway and a woman of great stature, made a report to the U.N. on the world environment. Canada took a lead role in working towards developing a Task Force on the Environment and the Economy. Canada was one of the first countries to jump in and seize upon the report of Brundtland. Manitoba took a lead role in doing this, and I will give credit to Gerard Lecuyer who was the Minister at that time. Because of that impetus, Manitoba became the chair for the task force which, I assume with being appointed Minister, I am the chairman of that task force. We are very well aware as a Party of the importance of the environment.

Manitoba has also decided they will go along with a round table. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition does not know what a round table is, but that is a consultative process where we will make sure that the environmental issues are brought to the floor and then acted upon. The announcement of the round table composition will come forth reasonably soon.

For those of you who are not aware, there is the final report to CREM which is the Canadian Committee on Resource Environment Management. It is in Winnipeg in October, and we will be making the final report of the task force at that time.

We are also attempting to achieve the establishment here of a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development. Because we are in the centre of Canada and played a lead role in the task force, we hope that we will be successful in obtaining that Centre of Excellence to be here in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of workers in the workplace falls under our review, and it is our goal to work very strenuously towards reducing injury and illness. Cure is not a good alternative; prevention is the alternative that we want. Having somebody injured, sure we can heal them and we can put them through compensation, whatever, but the goal of our department — and this is why it is so good when they are all under one roof — is that it is an incentive for our department to prevent those injuries because we are going to save money on Workers Compensation.

We are also committed as a Government to do some studies — and once again it is a study but it was not done — on illness and injury in the workplace. There are many carcinogens around. We want to make sure that our health standards are such that workers are

protected. We do not want to have them on compensation because we have got some illness that cannot be cured, or even if it is only for short period of time.

* (1600)

Mr. Speaker, we discussed in the Throne Speech the plight of agriculture. I was very disappointed in the comments of the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) because she just glossed over the plight of agriculture and that, yes, there were problems and there are a few problems amongst those who were wanting to go on to secondary education. I thought she could have spent a lot more time on the issues in agriculture.

That will happen through the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) who will indicate to you a lot more of the programs that he has but I thought, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), she would have had a lot stronger presentation, but what can you expect? She is a Liberal. And what did the Liberals do under Trudeau? You know what Trudeau said? "Sell your own wheat." When it came to bailing out the farmers who were bankrupt, what did Trudeau do? Absolutely nothing. We saw what the Conservatives under Brian Mulroney have done for the farmers of Manitoba. Billions of dollars have come into western Canada and you should be ashamed that your own federal Party was not prepared. We also have an emergency program in place for cattle. We will see more money coming again, and I am very proud of what he has done for Manitoba.

I am very proud of the Minister of Agriculture on our side provincially in the way he reacted with other Ministers to make sure there was a drought program in place to help out those people in their time of emergency, and he did that. What is the Leader of the Opposition doing? Making friends with Jean Chretien who wants to deprive Winnipeg or make Winnipeg pay for a heck of a pile of water up at Shoal Lake, and those are the facts. The facts are that you do not like what you hear, but we sat and listened to the Leader of the Opposition give us a lot of bunk.

Mr. Speaker, regional development is a major thrust for our Party. The Leader of the Opposition once again neglected to discuss regional development, but you can understand that they are an urban party with no -(Interjection)- that is probably going to be it. But there is no interest in the rural area on that side, in the Official Opposition, because there is nobody from the rural area and they do not understand the rural area or do not care about it. Their votes are urban. All the issues discussed were basically of an urban nature.

Mr. Speaker, our Party is responsible for all of the people of Manitoba, whether they are urban or rural, whether they are farmers or employees in the rural area. We are concerned about all of them. We are going to be beefing up, as we mentioned, the regional corporations so that they will be able to assist in bringing industry to the rural area. As we see the farm community suffering and young farmers and sons of farmers not having a job on the farm, wanting to stay in the rural area, they should have an opportunity to get a job

within their own little town. That is a goal that we are working towards.

The previous Government was trying to centralize everything out of rural Manitoba, and we had the opportunity just in the last couple of weeks to stop at least one job that was going to be brought into Winnipeg again and cut one out of the rural areas. We will work with all rural areas to try to ensure as many people as possible stay there because, as you see the numbers of people within a small town drop, services from the hospital drop, education drops, all of these services become weaker and the whole country goes down. We are going to be working very hard to ensure the rural area has a viable economy and the best amenities that they should have.

Mr. Speaker, there are three local issues that I am concerned about of major significance in the constituency of Portage la Prairie. The first problem is — while Portage maybe has the most severe problem, it is not unique to Portage — and that is the problem with sewage lagoons. There are some seven or nine towns and cities that have a concern. Brandon is the No. 2. I think it is Teulon, Morden, major cities and towns that have a sewage lagoon problem, probably in the area of \$60 million to \$100 million to cure it. We are working with the federal Government to find out where we can get money for this, and we think that this will be coming, hopefully, before this winter. We have been having ongoing talks with Mr. Jake Epp and other people in their department to find out how we can access this amount of money. Without it, the small towns are stagnant, they cannot move. Portage cannot bring in any more industry, and no other housing developments can establish because there is no capacity for sewage disposal.

The Manitoba Developmental Centre highlighted very strongly the mentally retarded in Manitoba by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). It is a rural area one. I almost thought there for a while this afternoon that she had read my speeches over the last two years that I made in this Legislature on behalf of the mentally handicapped people.

But we are concerned that we improve the conditions at the MDC. The residents there are of course almost prisoners of their own and cannot do anything for themselves. The obligation is upon us to ensure that we give them the best facilities we can. We know that the Welcome Home Program is in trouble because we were telling the Government — and I, for the last two years — that they were not funding it properly and they did not know what they were doing; they were just helter-skelter putting people into the community. Now we are paying for that with debts and injuries for people to whom it should not happen.

We also look forward to the possibility of establishing a board of directors at the MDC. I think if we can do it, it could have some very beneficial effects. We see how St. Amant is run. I think concerned people in the community could do a better job for the facility. They will go out and raise money so they will have extra money over their per diems to try to enhance their lifestyle at that facility.

Mr. Speaker, being in Opposition for two years, for me, was not my forte. Having to be a critic is not

something I have done in my life, and it is not something that I overly enjoyed. But I did it with vigour and I did it with a lot of enthusiasm. But now, being in Government, is the role that I have enjoyed all of my life, and that is one of building and doing. I can assure you that the Leader of the Opposition is not going to bulldoze me or hurry me into making erratic and careless decisions. We will make proper decisions when we have reviewed them and do them properly.

The Leader of the Opposition said I was too confrontationist to be the Minister of Labour.

An Honourable Member: Who, you?

Mr. Connery: Yes, I am just such a pussy cat, as you know.-(Interjection)- That is right and what the Leader of the Opposition has to know, there are two distinct roles. In Opposition you throw the bricks and in Government you somewhat duck them. But we will not duck are the issues. We may duck your ridiculous bricks, but we will not duck the issues.

We are concerned about reducing the deficit and the Leader of the Opposition has been concerned about reducing the deficit. All I heard this afternoon was spend money, spend money, spend money. It was a great thing. We are going to cure everybody's ills, give everybody their wish list, spend all kinds of money. Where is it going to come from? The Leader of the Opposition virtually ignored the business community, business development, job creation. Where does she think this money is going to come from? It comes out of taxation. We have to have an atmosphere in this province that will encourage business, that will provide the jobs that Manitobans need, want and deserve. As a Party, we are going to work very hard towards that end.

Other Members want to speak, and I hope that all the new Members of this Legislature have an opportunity to speak in the Throne Speech. I want to say thank you for your attention. The odd little barb is good and I do not mind that; I do the odd one myself. Working with you, I think, is the challenge. Because we are a minority Government, we are going to try to work with you to bring the best Government to Manitoba that we can.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): I want it noted on the record, Mr. Speaker, that applause was spontaneous. I certainly would want posterity to know that.

I am not worried about Members on my own side applauding. I would prefer that Members opposite applaud, and the people of Manitoba.

* (1610)

I would like to begin by saying that my Leader, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), will be making his Throne Speech Address tomorrow, but to make certain that all Members, including Members of my caucus get a chance to put their thoughts on the record, I have been given this opportunity and I appreciate it very much.

I would like to begin by commending you on your election to the highest office this Assembly has to offer

an individual. Having known you in my childhood and my youth, as well as for your two years in this House, Mr. Speaker, I know that you will do your utmost to keep us from going astray. Although I would hope that I will need your advice and counsel seldom, if I should, I can assure you that I will take it with equanimity.

Normally one would like to begin on an optimistic note, particularly in response to a Government's first effort at a Throne Speech, and I took some time trying to decide how I was going to categorize the Throne Speech. I took some time to think about how you could capsulize the initiative, the vision in this particular document - about 40 seconds as it turns out. The word "trite" comes to mind, and I thought perhaps that is the word that could best be used to describe the tremendous thought and initiative that was shown in the Throne Speech. So I went to the dictionary, and what does "trite" mean? It means "hackneyed, stale, cliché, unoriginal, unimaginative, platitudinous and banal." I said that is it, that is the word. I am so thankful that I thought of it because from now on, in my reports to my constituents and others, the word "trite" will be mentioned frequently.

Mr. Speaker, that is somewhat unusual. I would think for a first initiative, the Throne Speech which sets out the terms of reference the Government is going to use in its legislative agenda would be more dynamic, would have set forward a vision that Manitobans could recognize as having some basis in principle, in ideology or in practicality. In all of those terms, this Throne Speech was an unmitigated failure. I will acknowledge that they did reference a couple of specific initiatives and I will be talking about those in a little bit.

I think what comes through this document more than anything else is really unlimited timidity. They simply did not have the intestinal fortitude, the political will, to go ahead and introduce what we know was on their mind and is their real agenda. Circumstances, and perhaps they are somewhat pragmatic dictated at the Throne Speech, and I think that their agenda for the next several months, weeks, days be somewhat more limited. Certainly, the Throne Speech would indicate that that limited view is what have.

I said there were some exceptions in the Throne Speech, and there were a couple of exceptions where specific initiatives were outlined. Of course we had the multitude, the plethora of plans, reviews, round tables and networking that we are going to do. Today, the First Minister suggested that 11 times the word "review" was used in the last Throne Speech. I would suggest if you use all of the synonyms that one could with the word "review" there was probably 30 or 40 reviews going on in this Throne Speech.

However, the exceptions are also worth noting. There are also points of departure between the Members on the Government side and, certainly, the New Democratic Party. Those points of departure are, without exception, negative in terms of the majority of Manitobans. The first one — and we had the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) just speaking — is the commitment to amend the labour legislation pertaining to final offer selection.

Mr. Speaker, he does not think he had mentioned it. His memory is very short, as well as not being particularly long.

I want to say for the record that the Minister of Labour was being less than forthcoming when he suggested that somehow labour legislation introduced by the previous Government was not conducive to a good labour relations climate in the Province of Manitoba. I point out to him and to the House that the labour relations climate in Manitoba was second to Prince Edward Island in terms of days lost to strikes. That record is one that was maintained since 1982. The fact is that we have a good labour relations climate and the reason that we have such a good climate is because the labour legislation in this province does provide a balance. It provides a balance between the rights and obligations of both management and the working people.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment to change final offer selection, to bring in amendments, is an ideological one — not a practical one. The only instance in which it has been used in the Province of Manitoba is one in which it has been successfully used, and one that is acknowledged, by both parties, that it served its original purpose — and that was to make collective bargaining work. Not to interfere, not to impede, but to make it work. In fact, it did make it work.

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) is chirping from his seat about half a percentage point difference which is bound to work. He does not understand that the final offer selection makes it almost a certainty that the positions of the two parties in negotiations are going to narrow as they come closer to that final moment when they have to choose their course, whether it be a final settlement, an agreement in principle, or whether it be a strike or some decision to move to final offer selection.

There is an inevitability that their positions will narrow and I am not surprised that their positions were very close when, in the final analysis, they chose final offer selection. That is how it was supposed to work, and I would implore the Minister not to start amending final offer selection or any other labour legislation until there is a problem. "Don't fix it if it ain't broke." There is no indication, no record, no statistic that would support this particular province having labour legislation which is anything but healthy for both parties.

The second exception is the commitment, and one that was made during the election, is to eliminate over a period of time the payroll tax. That is nothing but a concession to the 6,000 or less big businesses in the Province of Manitoba who are going to — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, the Member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) continues to say that he will pass it on to the consumers.

The Member for Portage la Prairie may not be aware of the fact that fully 18 percent of the total payroll tax paid to the Province of Manitoba comes from the federal Government, that additional money comes from corporations, including banks and large financial institutions, for whom there is no substitute. The sales tax does not impact them in the same way. What they are doing, whether they will acknowledge it or not, is simply giving up revenue that could be used to do all of the wonderful things that the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) suggested needed to be done.

There is the irony because, as the previous speaker rightly pointed out, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) today went on record as wanting to do all those wonderful things and chastising the Government for not doing them, while finding herself on the same side of the fence when it talks about giving away \$200 million worth of revenue; giving it away to big corporations, giving it away to ICG and the Royal Bank of Canada while all of those other things need to be done. That is her priority; that is the Liberal priority; that is the Conservative priority.

It is somewhat disconcerting and Manitobans over the course of the next few months and years may have an opportunity to find out that the Liberal-Conservative agenda is not in the best interests of average Manitobans, be they farmers or miners working in Flin Flon or the working poor in the inner city of Winnipeg.

* (1620)

Mr. Speaker, The Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board (Mr. Connery) suggested that there were amendments on the way. I have to say quite candidly that I wish him well in dealing with the necessary amendments to the Workers Compensation Board. It is a complex system, but I would like to put the Minister on notice that changes to the Workers Compensation Board have to be fundamentally in the interests of working people; not in the interests of stemming perhaps necessary rate increases; not in the interests of a few employers who, by virtue of the nature of their business, are finding their assessments increased year after year. The changes have to be in the interests of the working people — of injured workers.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) saying their best interest is the interest of a healthy economy and healthy business. There is no doubt about that, but there can be no trade-offs and if the Minister of Labour, or Minister responsible for Workers Compensation (Mr. Connery), is going to introduce legislation which compromises the principles of The Workers Compensation Act, which compromises the right of injured workers to due compensation, then he will have a fight. I am sure that all Members opposite will join us in that fight to protect the interests of working people.

I must say that the sentiments expressed by the Minister are gratifying. His commitment to the interests of working people I hope, I believe, is sincere, and I will assure the Minister that if the changes forthcoming are of that nature, they will be supported. However, I have my doubts. I have my doubts that those who advise the Minister are going to share his sentiments for very long.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to comment on the revisionist history that we saw in the Throne Speech. We saw it in subtle ways in the vocabulary in the text of the document, and I simply want without being unduly defensive to say that the record of the previous Government when it comes to the economy is second to none. To hear that Manitoba did not take part in the recovery of the Eighties is sheer

hogwash. I do not care what statistics you look at, whether they are from the Conference Board of Canada, or the Economic Council of Canada, or the Investment Dealers Association, the record speaks for itself.

The Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) speaking from his seat says they all left town. He may not be aware of the fact that Manitoba experienced the largest population gain in more than two decades during our tenure of Government and the total population increased. The fact is —

An Honourable Member: We got more businesses — 50,000 new businesses.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, the Member is also showing his ignorance when it comes to small businesses. We had a 50 percent increase in small businesses and corporations in the Province of Manitoba from 1982 to 1987. The highest, largest increase across Canada and, of course, those small businesses created jobs, thousands and thousands of jobs in Manitoba over the course of those same years. We also took steps as a Government to reduce the deficit. Perhaps if there was a single most damaging initiative that we undertook, it was the recognition that the financial position of the province needed to be improved over a period of years.

But let nobody be confused about the financial circumstances of the province when this new Government took office. The deficit had been substantially reduced, 37 percent in two years, and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is shaking his head because we all know right now he is busy, and his Department is cooking the books, that they are going to be throwing in — there is no question about it.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance, on a point of order.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I demand that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) retract those words. That is a very serious allegation that is laid at the footsteps of any Minister when he suggests that myself or officials of my Department are cooking the books. I would request that he respectfully withdraw that statement.

Mr. Storie: I have no intention of withdrawing that statement. It is neither unparliamentary nor without precedence in this House. It has been used many times, including by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Finance, on a point of order.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, I have never used those words in this House. I consider myself to be an Honourable Member and I would hope that the Member opposite would also withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, on the same point of order.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to check the precedents and confirm my opinion that the term that

I have used is not unparliamentary. In the meantime, I will continue if you wish. If what I have said is unparliamentary, I would without hesitation withdraw it, but I do not believe it is.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we are going to see some adjustments in the financial outlook for Manitoba including some adjustments to last year's financial position. The Minister of Finance knows that is going to happen and I simply want it on the record that everyone experts it. We will be reviewing it and putting out the other side when that happens.

I want to spend some time as well, before I begin my remarks on another area that was, I think, given short shrift in the Throne Speech. That is to spend some time on the importance, the significance of the very few words, sentiments, indications of action that exist in the Throne Speech with respect for the North.

The Northern Development was virtually ignored in the Speech. Anything of substance, anything that gave particular hope, would have given particular hope to Northerners, be they communities or individuals, was completely absent from this document.

I think it is important that we leave on the record a number of initiatives that could easily have been included and I hope will be on the Government's agenda if they are at all serious about looking after the two-thirds of the province that they do not represent.

When it was determined that I would be part of the Opposition rather than in Government, I made a commitment to my constituents to be as constructive as possible; to work with the Government to make sure that those things which need to be done are done, and I intend to do that.

I want to start by saying that there are a list of things that need to be done in northern Manitoba — initiatives that were begun; in some cases initiatives that had moved to completion; that need to be finalized. I want to start by saying the first thing that this Government should do is commit itself to the orderly development of hydro resources in the Province of Manitoba.

Hydro development is, Mr. Speaker, the single most important resource that we have. It is the single most important means for providing the engine for economic development and growth as well as the single most important element of the Government's desire to create wealth for providing services to Manitoba.

Hydro can mean not only development in the Province of Manitoba; it also can, through the Manitoba Energy Foundation, which may or may not survive this session, provide support, wealth, with which Manitobans can build on the service base that we already have. So that is number one. I hope that the new Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld) and the new Chairman of the Manitoba Hydro will not let the opportunity pass to continue to develop our Hydro resources.

* (1630)

I am somewhat dismayed to have to say that the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) conspires with the Conservative Government to prevent hydro development. During the election, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition clearly demonstrated her lack of understanding of the importance of hydro to Manitoba. The Member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) demonstrated her lack of understanding of the significance of the Northern States power deal; the implications it has for the financial position of Manitoba Hydro; the implications it has for the Province of Manitoba and the Government's ability to provide additional services and to spur economic diversification in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand from whence that Opposition came. Perhaps some day she will elucidate us. Maybe she will elucidate those reasons for us because she was hallucinating. If she would hallucinate her reasons, we would all be better off. I believe that the orderly development of hydro resources is important. The Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld) has an opportunity to fulfill a commitment that was made to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting which operates in Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake, has an opportunity to contribute both financially and in terms of moral support to a development that is essential for the stability of those communities.

Part of the commitment, of course, has to do with the need to protect the environment. As Members know, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting is one of the two major producers of sulphur dioxide. There is an opportunity through the process of modernizing the mill at Flin Flon to eliminate twin problems: the problem of polluting the environment, reducing the SO₂ emissions; and the possibility of stabilizing the community, enhancing the productive capacity and the cost of production for HBMS in improving their financial situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) should not lose this opportunity and if, as we are led to believe, the Members opposite have any clout with the federal Government, the western diversification should be used to support the diversification initiatives, the modernization initiatives in Flin Flon. I can only tell the House that those negotiations were ongoing. The commitment to Hudson Bay and Flin Flon was made, and I hope the Minister of Energy and Mines is pursuing that vigorously.

Mr. Speaker, the provincial Government, through Manitoba Mineral Resources, has long been a supporter of mining and mine exploration in the Province of Manitoba. Unfortunately, we heard during the election — I do not know whether it was an off-the-cuff remark but a remark from the now First Minister (Mr. Filmon) — that there was an intention to eliminate the proposed increase to the mining tax, a 2 percent increase.

In my opinion, that would be a serious mistake for two reasons: No. 1 being that the mining industry is currently experiencing a rejuvenation because of increased base metal prices, and increased prices in precious metals as well. They will have, in the fiscal year 1988 in Manitoba, profits exceeding \$500 million and they can afford to pay to contribute to the province

and its future development an additional 2 percent of mining tax.

As the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) well knows, if he has read the briefing documents, the proposal was to turn that additional 2 percent into, to combine it with the current right of the province to put 3 percent of the mining tax into a fund, established to protect and promote mining communities.

The Minister of Finance and this Government have an opportunity to create the mining community development fund, to set aside monies, millions of dollars this year and succeeding years to make sure that mining communities that are threatened because of their single-industry nature are protected, that we have protection for individual workers, protection for homeowners, protection for small business people in those communities and that we have funds that can be made available for those communities to do their own economic development planning and diversification. It is a must and the Government cannot lose this opportunity. I will be looking with interest to see whether in fact those initiatives are included in the Budget. They are important and not to proceed with them would be wasting an opportunity and wasting a golden opportunity to support single-industry communities, remote communities in northern Manitoba.

The Throne Speech makes passing reference only to the importance of forestry in the province. It does reiterate a commitment that the Conservative Opposition made to divest the province of Manfor. I would again indicate that is not something new. The previous Government and I, as Minister responsible for Manfor, are looking at divestiture options. But I can assure this House as I have assured members of the International Wood Workers Association and the Canadian Paper Workers Union that under no circumstances would their jobs, their employment security, the security of that community or the surrounding communities be jeopardized by that sale.

Mr. Speaker, there is no mention in the Throne Speech of reforestation and the importance of continuing the efforts that the province and the federal Government through the Manitoba forestry agreement had undertaken to reforest Manitoba and to make companies who are involved in forest industries, to make them responsible for continuing that initiative.

Mr. Speaker, there is an obligation, and this falls upon the shoulders of the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs (Mr. Harper), and if there is such an animal, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, the obligation to implement the —

An Honourable Member: What kind of racial slur was that?

Mr. Storie: There was a question of whether there is anybody in your caucus who would understand those issues.

Mr. Speaker, there is an obligation on the part of this Government to implement the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement which was negotiated back in

1984 between the province and the then federal Government. There is an agreement. It was signed off by the federal Government. It was signed off by the Province of Manitoba. There is an agreement that rectifies 100 years of injustice when it comes to land entitlement in the Province of Manitoba. It is an agreement that was comprehensive and dealt with all of the land claims that were known and understood in the Province of Manitoba and all that is required is the federal Government to honour its undertaking and sign the agreement. Mr. Speaker, that agreement was to be signed by David Crombie who was at one time Minister responsible for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. It was the undertaking of Mr. McKnight. It is still unsigned. That is an injustice — need not be. I call on the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs, to make sure that that agreement is signed and in place and the ratification process for assuring the transfer of lands and title lands to the bands who have entitlement coming begins immediately.

Mr. Speaker, we have a mention in the Throne Speech of the Northern Development Agreement. I want to say that agreement has been extremely important in providing the infrastructure that has improved the quality of life in northern Manitoba. We have an opportunity when the current agreement expires to build on that success and particularly to build on the success of the human resource component which is approximately 60 percent, 65 percent of that agreement, because it of all the components of the agreement has been most successful in revitalizing the spirit of northern Manitoba. It has meant education and training.

Mr. Speaker, could you indicate how much time I have remaining?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. Storie: Thank you very much.

The Northern Development Agreement is an area that has to be addressed. I would like to spend some more time on the initiatives that are required in northern Manitoba and I could talk about the need to develop the highway network and the roads to resources in northern Manitoba, but I will have an opportunity to address those concerns more directly to the Minister of Highways.

What I wanted to talk about was the passing reference in the Throne Speech to the Free Trade Agreement. The Free Trade Agreement in my opinion needs to be the focus of debate in this Legislature for this Session and for any other Sessions that we might have prior to the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement or prior to a federal election.

I am not alone when I suggest that the Free Trade Agreement is fundamentally flawed in many respects, but no more so than in the field of energy.

* (1640)

I want to read from a report that was produced by McLeod, Young and Weir — not a New Democrat

socialist fearmonger but a responsible financial management house which has the same concerns as I do and as thousands of Manitobans do. What does it say about the energy agreement? Does it say it is good for Canada? Does it say that Canada wins by this agreement? No, it does not.

It says: "Evaluation: Canada wins once in the short term, medium term via increased exports." In other words, we are going to be able to ship more oil and gas to the United States. "The U.S. wins twice in the long term, once on access to energy supplies and again on the basis that we can no longer use energy as an element of national industrial policies."

We cannot use energy as an element of a national industrial policy, and Manitoba cannot use it as an element of its provincial policy on industrial development. Let there be no mistake about this. This is a sell-out, this is a sell-out! There is no doubt about it.

I wanted to show you how — I cannot think of the word — how underhanded the rhetoric is that the federal Government is using in promoting this agreement. This is an example of Orwellian doublespeak if I have ever heard it. I want to start out on page 40 of the energy assessment that came from the federal Government. Listen to this — no I cannot say hypocrisy. Yes, I can, it is with respect to the federal Government. Listen to this hypocrisy. Listen to this.

This paper — and it is talking about a paper that was produced by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in June 1987, and it says: "This paper concluded that oil security was largely an international problem that required international cooperation." We are a country sitting on the largest known reserves of non-renewable resources, a country that has immense renewable resources, and this Government is telling us that this is a matter for international cooperation and there is nothing we can do about it? That is ludicrous; that is a sell-out.

They follow it up with equally innocuous and erroneous misleading statements. Listen to this about energy price levels in Canada. "In all cases, however, the impact of the agreement is unlikely to be significant." I do not think there is anyone in their right mind who could conclude that if they knew anything about how energy is priced.

The Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld) has in his hands a report from his own department. It says that had the Free Trade Agreement been in place in the years that we had a National Energy Program, it would have cost Canada, Manitobans included, some \$55 billion more. How can anybody be so naive as to assume that, if we export all of the reserves that we have in terms of gas and oil, it is not going to affect prices for consumers in Canada, in Manitoba? No one could be that stupid. This is trying to pretend.

Listen to this euphemism. This is ridiculous! It says: "To the extent the agreement enables Canadian gas producers to increase their exports" — this is beautiful. Who are the gas exporters? U.S. multinational corporations. "To the extent the agreement enables

Canadian gas producers to increase their exports and hence reduce their current surpluses at a faster rate, the price of natural gas in Canada may firm up sooner than would otherwise be the case."

What do we mean by firm up? I will tell you what we mean by firm up. As soon as our known reserves are exported — and there was a 33 per cent increase in gas exports last year — Canadians are going to be paying double, triple, quadruple the prices for natural gas. That is not in the long term, that is in the medium to short term. That is what they say, the prices might firm up. Is no one going to stand up for the 200,000 natural gas consumers in Manitoba? I know Members on that side are not. I can tell you that we are. Manitoba consumers will see through this rhetoric in the very short term as they start paying for this privilege that we have been allowed by us entering the Free Trade Agreement.

But listen to this. I love this, this is so beautiful. "There is nothing in the agreement . . ." — this is on page 41. "There is nothing in the agreement that precludes Government from setting domestic energy prices higher than export prices." In other words, we can sock it to our own consumers but heaven forbid that we try, as the National Energy Program did, to support Canadian activity, Canadian business, Canadian industry by setting a two-price policy that benefits Canadian consumers, that benefits Canadian business. Heaven forbid! We can charge them more — the agreement allows us that. How magnanimous.

An Honourable Member: It allows us to charge our own consumers more. Is not that nice?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) and the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) of this province have an obligation. They have an obligation to inform themselves, and it is quite patently obvious from the comments that the First Minister made today and the comments that the Minister of Energy and Mines made earlier that they have not considered the implications of this agreement.

This is not some short-term inconsequential agreement. It has long-term substantial and, I believe, negative consequences for the whole of Canada. It has those consequences in miniature to Manitoba, and they are significant. This Government needs to address that. They need to address the concerns that I have and that I share with thousands of Manitobans and I hope Members who share Opposition stature with the New Democratic Party because it is serious. It should not be overlooked.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement is going to get some attention. It is going to get some attention in this Session of the Legislature, because this may be the last opportunity we have as Manitobans and Canadians to stand up and say no.

Although I can assure you that I will attempt to cooperate with Members opposite as they proceed about the business of Government, I think that there is a significant chance that I will fail on occasion. That is because I do not believe that the Government, despite

their rhetoric to the contrary, is listening. I do not believe they are listening. I do not believe they listened to my colleague, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), when he attempted to have this Chamber debate the in-vitro fertilization resolution. I do not believe they are listening to Manitobans when they talk about doing some of the undoing that they are talking about. I think it is regrettable that we have a Government focused on undoing rather than doing. That is certainly the impression I get from this Throne Speech.

I shall try not to be depressed or melancholy about the prospects of changing this Government's attitude and bringing it more in line with reality. However, I will be undaunted and you can be assured that, with your guidance, I will be raising at every opportunity what I see as the real interests of the people of Manitoba, and the real interests of northerners in particular as we continue to address the problems that come before us during this Session. There is more than free trade.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I still have some time remaining? Thank you.

One of the areas that was neglected in the Throne Speech — and I acknowledge that the Leader of the Liberal Party addressed this in her remarks — and that was in the area of education. Clearly, the need for additional spending in the area of post-secondary education goes without saying. There are and there will continue to be problems in providing equity for all of the school divisions in the Province of Manitoba, and that is a problem that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has squarely in his lap.

I want to say about post-secondary education that our community colleges and our universities have for the past at least five years, going back six years now, going back to 1982, been under attack by successive Liberal and Conservative Governments when it comes to supporting post-secondary education and health in the Province of Manitoba. That is a tragedy. It is something that has been raised not only by myself but other Ministers of Education in other jurisdictions.

I sincerely hope that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has the intestinal fortitude, the will to address this problem on the national stage because it is not good enough for a Conservative Government to sit here in Manitoba and pretend there are no problems when it comes to funding at our community colleges or our universities. He cannot sit there and do that. We will be watching. I will be watching with interest to see whether the Minister takes the initiative, provides some leadership, because perhaps if the Conservative Government in Ottawa gets the message that we are not happy in Manitoba from a Conservative Government, they will not consider it just politicking but they will consider it looking after the interests of young people and those who want to further their education in Manitoba.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I respect the right of other Members and the need for them to contribute.

* (1650)

Mr. Gilles Roch (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to give a few words of welcome, as well

as congratulations to all the Members of the House, both the new Members and the veteran Members, for being here today. I am sure it should make for quite a different Session this time around.

J'aimerais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue et mes félicitations à mon collègue qui est maintenant président de l'Assemblée. Je vous souhaite de bon succès dans nos délibérations, et j'espère que tu vas être capable d'y garder contrôle.

(Translation)

I would also like to welcome and congratulate my colleague, who is now the Speaker of the House. I wish you good success in our deliberations, and I hope that you are going to be able to maintain control of the House.

As well, I would like to offer my congratulations to all the new Ministers. Let us hope, given the record of the previous Government, they have no where to go but up.

As well, I would like to congratulate the new Leader of the Official Opposition and her new colleagues. I am sure that they will be fascinated from time to time with some of the proceedings in here. I know I certainly was when I was first elected, at the same time as their leader as a matter of fact.

J'aimerais aussi souhaiter à mon autre collègue de la langue française, le nouveau membre de St. Boniface (M. Gaudry), la bienvenue. Je suis bien content de voir qu'on a encore un non-socialiste de St. Boniface parce que l'ancien député, malgré qu'il siégeait pour le NDP, on sait qu'il n'était pas un socialiste. Il l'a dit souvent. Même aux élections fédérales, je crois qu'il votait pour un autre parti. C'est ça qu'on se fait dire, en tout les cas.

(Translation)

I would also like to welcome my other French-speaking colleague, the new Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry). I am very happy to see that we have another non-socialist from St. Boniface because although the former Member sat for the NDP, he was not really a socialist. He said so very often. Even in the federal elections, I believe he voted for another party. This is what we are told, in any case.

Mr. Speaker, we are here, in a minority Government position, but Manitobans sent a loud, clear message. There are maybe three parties representing the Legislature but 45 of the MLAs are not socialists. That is a clear, clear message -(Interjection)- maybe 46. The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) wanted to run for us in '86, so maybe he is not a quite a socialist. The fact is he joined the socialist Party.

Mr. Speaker, it is not the ideal situation as far as a minority Government. It makes it a little bit more cumbersome, shall we say, but from the point of view of an ordinary Manitoban or, for that matter, from a person from outside Manitoba looking at locating here, at least we have seen the socialists go into third place and, according to recent polls and according to the man on the street, going further down yet.

So the positive thing that happened election night is that Manitobans sent a clear signal to people who are willing to do business here that Manitoba is open for investment and for job creation. That, let there be no mistake about. Although some of my honourable colleagues from the second Opposition Party like to bring out other issues, the fact is we know why they were overwhelmingly rejected. There was . . .

An Honourable Member: Sharon Carstairs.

Mr. Roch: No, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I would have to disagree with that previous comment. The fact is Manitobans were tired, indeed disgusted, with the excesses of the previous Government. Their track record on Crown corporations — the most shining example, if you want to call it shining, being Autopac which was a major issue in the last election — is one of the reasons as to why they are back to where they are in the pre-1969 era.

Mr. Speaker, the New Democratic Party likes to talk still about Crown corporations. We heard the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) talking about the gas company. We heard them talk about ManOil. ManOil is for sale. If the New Democratic Party has so much faith in those Crown corporations, may I suggest that possibly they would like to buy it and use the profits to finance the elections. There is a perfect opportunity for them to purchase a Crown corporation.

Then there was their ever-growing bloated bureaucracy. That was a major cost to the taxpayers of Manitoba. Had it been all career civil servants, it would have been one matter, but the fact is that they were filling in the departments, especially their research and planning departments, with all kinds of Party members who just were unemployable. Given the fact that there are no other NDP Governments anywhere in Canada, where are these people going to go to now? -(Interjection)- He did not even pay me.

The reason that the Government was defeated was because it did not listen to the people. The Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) says, "I have forgotten." No, I did not forget. I listened to the people. Given the fact that smoking is not really in fashion these days — there used to be a slogan that said, "I would rather fight than switch." — to the Member for Elmwood, I say I would rather switch than fight.

Whenever there was a difference of opinion between the people and the bureaucracy it seems, given the fact that many from their ranks came from the bureaucracy, they would side with the bureaucrats. They seemed to think that Government and bureaucrats always knew best. Examples in my riding were: the case of Sperring Road where they needed access to a major highway - the Highways Branch said no, the people appealed, the bureaucrats won; the ski slope at Falcon Lake which the previous Government tried on numerous occasions to close down, but thanks to my colleague from La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz), he fought them tooth and nail and it is still open and shall remain open.

On the question of telephones in the Springfield area — and when I say Springfield I do not mean just the

constituency, I mean the constituency and for that matter other areas around Winnipeg — when the previous Government was approached, there was no action. In the case of municipal projects for infrastructure, there were a lot of promises but no action. These are but a few of the examples as to why the previous Government was defeated.

This is my first opportunity of sitting on the Government side, and I would like to quote some highlights from the Speech from the Throne. It says: "The people of Manitoba have shared in the prosperity of the 1980s. but in the recent years the economic growth occurring elsewhere in the country has bypassed us . . . Manitobans are concerned that economic growth in recent years has relied upon an unhealthy and unsustainable level of public sector spending which has left a legacy of high debt and taxes and a growing burden of debt service costs. This legacy threatens our ability to fund the public programs Manitobans want and deserve. It also threatens the investment and job creation potential of our economy which are essential to our continued prosperity."

(Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko, in the Chair.)

* (1700)

That brings us back to the points I raised earlier. Too much of the reliance of the previous administration was on public spending, which got up to the point where one-third of our expenditures were all on interest costs. It could not keep on this way. Something had to be done, but I think the straw that broke the camel's back was no doubt the tax on net income. It finally brought home to the people that they could no longer afford to keep on down that route, that an alternative had to be found.

Another part on the Throne Speech says, "My Government is determined to establish an economic climate that will encourage risk and reward initiative. My Ministers believe the first step to achieving that goal is through the removal of disincentives, not through the creation of new grants and incentives."

That is very telling. It seems we have become a society which is almost dependent on handouts and grants and other forms of government subsidies to exist. That is because successive Governments, especially in this province, have put us in that frame of mind.

I recall being at a conference, I believe it was 1984 in Quebec City. I just happened to be reading the business section of a local newspaper, and one of the major news articles in the business section was a new plant opening up. That in itself normally would not make a headline, but in this case it was a headline because it was being started up without any form of loan guarantee or Government grant or subsidy of any kind. I think it is a sad reflection of what society has become when business and, indeed, other types of enterprises cannot start up on their own without always having to have some kind of Government assistance. I believe that, yes, we have to keep some form of subsidies, some form of grants, especially in the case of non-profit organizations, but I believe that the key is our tax system. By removing disincentives, such as the

payroll tax, it will encourage industry to locate here and, indeed, to keep local industry here and even expand here rather than expand out of province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Throne Speech says, as well, I think any Government has to admit that, it says, and I quote, "Government does not have all the answers." I think it is about time Governments admitted that they do not have all the answers.

Another frame of mind that we have been led to believe is that governments can do everything for us. I think it is time we start encouraging people to rely on themselves and indeed for governments to look to outside expertise to guide them in day-to-day operations. The problem with people in government, whether they be employees of government or elected officials, as we are, is that after a lengthy period of time we can soon lose touch with what is going on out there. It is very very important that we maintain contact with our constituents so that we know what is happening, and that we are in touch with what they are thinking.

It has been said that the best government is the less government. There is no doubt about it that government has a necessary role. But government must not become an end all and be all. The government is here to serve the people, not the people to serve the government. That has happened for far too long in Manitoba. It is an era which has ended for a very long time, hopefully forever.

M. le député président, j'ai eu l'occasion l'automne passé de faire un voyage en Europe, et parmi les différents pays que j'ai visités, j'ai visité le pays de mes grands-parents paternels, la Suisse. Le système suisse, dans mon opinion, est très bon. Leur parlement siège quatre fois par année, trois semaines à la fois. N'importe quel bill, n'importe quelle résolution, toute obligation gouvernementale doivent être complétées durant ces trois semaines, autrement, si ce n'est pas fait, ils doivent recommencer la prochaine fois. La raison pour ceci est simplement celle que j'ai dit toute à l'heure. C'est pour qu'il y ait le moins d'intervention par le gouvernement dans la vie du monde que possible.

Qu'est-ce qui est la situation en Suisse? C'est bien simple. L'économie suisse est très forte, une des plus fortes sur cette terre. Le peuple de la Suisse a un standard de vie supérieur probablement à tout autre pays. Et, malgré qu'ils n'ont pas été en aucune guerre, pendant il y a plus que 300 ans, ils sont très, très capables de se défendre. Ils sont capables de dépenser l'argent nécessaire pour se défendre, et d'abord peuvent se déclarer neutre, et demeurer neutre sans avoir aucune crainte que leur neutralité ne va pas être respectée.

M. le député président, le système suisse est le meilleur exemple que je connaisse qui démontre que le libre entreprise, essentiellement le capitalisme réglé est le meilleur système qu'on puisse avoir dans une économie.

Un autre paragraphe dans le discours du Trône dit ceci: "Mon gouvernement s'est engagé à consulter les parents, les enseignants, et les administrateurs

scolaires sur les importantes questions des études à domicile, les droits des parents, et de la révision des programmes scolaires. Les écoles indépendantes constituent un élément tout à fait accepté et dynamique du système scolaire manitobain. Elles se verront octroyer des subventions plus importantes conformément à la décision du gouvernement de mettre en valeur les possibilités d'éducation de tous les Manitobains.

M. le député président, ceci est une occasion que le temps, ou je devrais dire une situation, et c'est grand temps que ça arrive. Parce que malgré que le système publique a été originellement mis en place pour desservir tout le peuple, c'est rendu à un point où il y a des inequités dans certains cas. C'est rendu à une situation où dans certains cas le peuple n'ont pas la confiance qu'ils avaient il y a quelques années dans notre système publique. D'abord il faut respecter la volonté du peuple qui est capable de leur donner des options, telle que l'option d'avoir des écoles privées, qui respectent leur point de vue moral, leur point de vue religieux, telle que l'option d'enseigner à leurs enfants à la maison, d'après leur point de vue moral et religieux tout en maintenant les standards d'éducation qui sont reconnus dans notre province.

(Translation)

Among the various countries that I visited was the country of my paternal grandparents, Switzerland. The Swiss system, in my opinion, is very good. Their parliament sits four times a year for three weeks at a time. Any Bill or any resolution and all Government obligations have to be completed during these three weeks. Otherwise, they do not get done and have to be taken up the next time. The reason for this is simply, as I said just now, so there is as little Government intervention as possible with the people.

What is the situation in Switzerland? It is very simple. The Swiss economy is extremely strong. It is one of the strongest in the world, in fact. The people of Switzerland have a standard of living that is superior probably to every other country and, in spite of the fact that they have not participated in any war for over 300 years, they are very capable of defending themselves and of spending the money required to defend themselves. Firstly, they can declare themselves neutral and remain neutral without having any fear that their neutrality is not going to be respected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Swiss system is the best example that I know of that demonstrates that free enterprise, essentially regulated capitalism, is the best system that you can have in an economy. Another paragraph in the Speech from the Throne says this: "My Government is also committed to consultations with parents, teachers, and school administrators on the important issues of home schooling, parent rights and curriculum review.

"Independent schools are an accepted and vigorous option in the Manitoba educational system and will receive increased funding as my Government moves to enhance the educational opportunities for all Manitobans.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an occasion or, I should say, a situation where it is high time this happened because, in spite of the fact that the public system was originally put into place to serve all the people, it has come to the point where there are inequities in certain areas. We have a situation in which, in some cases, the people do not have the confidence they formerly had in the public system. Firstly, it has to respect the wishes of the people and give them the options that they want, such as the option of having private schools that respect their moral or religious points of view, such as the option of teaching their children at home according to their moral and religious viewpoints, while at the same time maintaining educational standards that are recognized within our province.

M. le Député Président, I would like now to keep on with some highlights of the Speech from the Throne. One of them says: "The Single Parent Job Access Program will be enhanced to allow single parents . . . to gain the skills necessary to allow them to participate as full and productive members of society."

* (17 10)

I think that is a very good commitment to put in there. Although I realize that particular paragraph and sentence also says, "most often women," the fact is that there are men who are single parents, and I speak as one of them. Although I am not one who would be eligible for that kind of assistance, I must make reference to comments that my colleague for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) made in his maiden speech when he referred to personal sacrifices that are made by all Members when they enter politics.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

In some cases, these personal sacrifices can affect family life. In some cases, other career decisions can affect family life. In some cases, it can leave single parents destitute, and I think where those people do not have the means to help themselves, it is incumbent upon a responsible and social progressive government to see to it that we do what we can to help those parents.

The Throne Speech goes on to say, "My Government is also committed to the effective delivery of justice services to Manitobans in all regions. My Government will be taking steps to restore and strengthen rural policing services and other justice services throughout the province. My Government will also be pursuing comprehensive rural development policies such as the creation of off-farm income opportunities through diversification to ensure long-term stability in rural Manitoba. In addition, my Government will announce further action to help farmers meet the current challenge and protect the longer term productive base of the agriculture sector."

Mr. Speaker, I think this demonstrates this Government's commitment to rural Manitoba. Although there is a trend from the rural to the urban because of the prices on the farm, it has become, in many cases, uneconomical for some people to stay on the land. There has been a trend towards urban centres. What we face in Manitoba is a unique situation, as one of

the two dailies referred to as "Winnipegization", rather than urbanization. That is why it is very, very important that strong initiatives be undertaken to maintain a rural way of life because it is not, in my opinion, a very healthy situation when you have over half a province's population into one big centre. It would be far better if there were two or more major urban centres. However that is not the case, and we must live with that reality and work on it.

Some initiatives which must be done for rural Manitoba are, as I mentioned earlier, in the area of telephones. We have committed ourselves as a Government to eliminating, as soon as it is feasibility possible, party lines in rural Manitoba. There is no reason in this day and age of fibre optics and other modern technology, why such an anomaly should exist. I realize that previous Governments might have thought it more exotic and more fun to venture out across the globe, but I think it is time we repriorize and did our spending right here in Manitoba.

Another item which will be looked after is extended toll free areas, such as exist in Alberta and Saskatchewan to name but a few. Take the periphery of Winnipeg, for example, where there are many areas where we are in a similar city such as Edmonton or Saskatoon, where the smaller so-called "bedroom communities" are within proximity of a major urban centre, they also belong to that centre's exchange. In the case of Birds Hill, which is in my riding of Springfield, that is the case. There are many other cases such as Oakbank, Dugald, Hazelridge, Lorette - and I am referring here to exchanges, not communities, because those exchanges also include other communities - they should be included in the Winnipeg Exchange. Where you get further apart, I realize it is not feasible to include everyone, at this time anyway, into the Winnipeg Exchange. Those areas which lay further beyond, we have as a priority, we have to eliminate the party lines.

Another area which has long suffered for many years now in rural Manitoba has been our whole system of transportation, our highway system. I can cite examples in my riding, some of which the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) can certainly identify with: Provincial Road 405 between Lorette and Ile des Chenes, Provincial Road 210 between Landmark and Ste. Anne, the 306 between Hazelridge and No. 15 - Highway 15 itself, for that matter, between Vivian and Elma - and No. 11 between Whitemouth and Hadashville, all are falling apart. There are points on Highway 11 between Elma and Hadashville where one must slow down to 60 kilometres per hour, otherwise your wheels are going to fall off. That was a direct result of the misplaced priorities of the previous administration.

Yes, as one member has said, we will change it now. Unlike the previous Government, where Highways and Transportation and Natural Resources were low on the totem pole, we will give those departments equal, if not better priority - at least for the time being - to other departments, simply to catch up. If we do not spend the money now, our whole infrastructure will collapse and then what? It will cost even more to replace it.

An example that many Winnipeggers might be familiar with would be the 307 which goes through Seven Sisters

into the Whiteshell. Again, you ride down that road and it is a provincial road, paved. It may as well not be paved for the kind of shape it is in. I could go on and on with many other examples, but there are far too many. I am sure that all my colleagues on all sides of the House, even those of the Second Opposition Party who might be reluctant to admit it. The fact is that our system of transportation in Manitoba has been severely neglected and it is time and it is incumbent upon us as a Government, indeed upon us, all of us as such Leaders to see to it that we reinstate a good system of transportation.

If I might make a suggestion to the Minister of Highways, I think that we should look in the near future at the completion of the Perimeter highway. I will leave that to the Member of Emerson.

Another item which may be dealt with, which should at least be introduced is the 1987 Constitutional Accord, better known as the Meech Lake Accord. It says in the Throne Speech that the previous administration committed the Manitoba Government to introduce the resolution in this House. My new administration will honour that commitment in this Session. In Manitoba, Public Hearings are guaranteed under the unique Rules of this Assembly for any constitutional amendment.

This basic guarantee was put in place to protect the democratic process and the interest of the people of Manitoba. These public hearings are, indeed, very important. It saddened me to see the results of the recent poll which showed that 50 percent of the population, or at least 50 percent of the response to that poll are unaware of Meech Lake or, I should say, unaware of its implications. It said that about 10 percent could care less, but that is probably the case on many issues, that a certain percentage could care less.

The fact is that this accord has national implications, especially for Westerners and Manitobans. It is an issue and an accord which must be carefully studied and fully debated. It can not be rushed into.

* (1720)

Mr. Speaker, it was quoted in the media that you were chosen because you were able to act, when you were sitting as an Opposition Member, in a very non-partisan fashion. You were quoted as saying that you always put the interest of your constituents ahead of those of the party. I have always said the same at all of my annual meetings in my constituency since I have been the candidate and MLA both, '85, '86, '87 meetings, at which I had the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) as my guest speakers and, indeed, I said that at five all-candidate meetings, twice at two elections, in '86 and '87.

It is very important that this be the case on this issue. We had to listen very carefully to the people who elected us, and then we had to vote and act accordingly. That is why I stress the fact that it is a good thing that in Manitoba we have public hearings on issues which affect the Constitution because, if nothing else, it will at least raise the consciousness of those people who do not understand it and they will at least have the opportunity

to come forward and air their views or, if they cannot do so, to at least send in briefs.

I would like to quote Thomas Jefferson who said, "I know of no safe repository for the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome direction the remedy is not to take it from them but to increase the discretion by education."

I look forward to participating fully in a very serious, thoughtful and meaningful debate when the opportunity to do so arises in this Chamber on this accord. It is one which must not be taken lightly by any Member of this Assembly and one which indeed should not be taken lightly by any member of the public.

To go on to other matters in the Throne Speech we see in there by reducing waste — well, maybe I will begin with the second paragraph first. It says: "My Government will live within its means while providing better service to Manitobans" — and we identify how we will do that — "by reducing waste and improving management my Government will have additional resources for initiatives in health care, education, social services, justice and the protection of our natural and cultural resources." Which again leaves me to repeat the first sentence I said a while ago, "my Government will live within its means while providing better services to Manitobans."

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the deficit has been climbing which causes extreme interest costs on our province, a drain, money which is going out of province. The previous Government often accused us of being friends with the bankers but, in fact, they were the friends of the bankers, friends of the foreign bankers, because half of that debt, maybe more by now, is owed to foreign banks, the bankers of Zurich, the bankers of New York, the bankers of you-name-it, that is where our money is going.

That is every dollar which leaves this province in the form of an interest payment is one less dollar that we have to spend here on vital services, such as hospitals, health care, transportation.

I would like to quote from a February 27, 1988 issue of the Winnipeg Free Press, just a few paragraphs. It is entitled: "A Failed Fiscal Strategy." It says in that article, and I quote: "The trouble is that last year's massive tax increases, the biggest tax grab in the province's history, continues to bite relieving Manitoba taxpayers of an additional \$400 million." Manitobans, as they complete their income tax forms, realize what Mr. Kostyra did to them a year ago. When they fill out their forms a year from now, they will understand that they were given in this Budget another dose of the same medicine. The result now is that a larger proportion of the money the Government takes from taxpayers has gone to finance the growing provincial debt. Today, in what the Government claims is the sixth year of sustained economic growth, it still projects a deficit of \$334 million. Despite Mr. Kostyra's boast, that does not reflect a fiscal strategy which is rational, which is well thought out, or which is working, which brings me back to the beginning of my speech here, in this Debate on the Throne Speech, to why we are the Government, and they are no longer the Government.

People had had enough. People realized we could no longer afford to live beyond our means. People realized that we needed real gold, not fool's gold. We could not keep on the way we were doing.

I would like to quote this time a little poem from William Ellery Channing, which maybe the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) could use as guidance, because the former one certainly did not. It goes as follows, "To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages, with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never. In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common. This is to be my symphony."

Mr. Speaker, that can be a nice philosophy of life itself, never mind just the financial aspect.

En finissant, M. le président, j'aimerais vous remercier de votre attention ainsi que tous les membres de cette chambre, de leur attention. Je souhaite à tous une bonne session. J'espère que la durée sera pas trop longue mais si nécessaire, j'espère que ce sera pour le bien du Manitoba.

(Translation)

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and all the Members of this House for your attention. I would like to wish everyone a good Session. I hope its duration will not be too long, but if that is necessary, I hope that this will be for the good of Manitoba.

Let us work together, regardless of party affiliation, to make this a good productive Session for the people of Manitoba. Let us work together to put Manitoba back on the right economic growth. Let us work together to get Manitoba back on track to seek its rightful place in Canada, and indeed for its population to grow once again, as it used to prior to the socialist years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry): As one of those novices that the Member for Portage (Mr. Connery) mentioned earlier, I am in fact a little bit nervous. I will not go so far as to say I am intimidated, but I certainly regard this as an honour and a privilege, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this House. I am hoping, Sir, that if I make some mistakes, you will bring me into line, and I hope that I do not make too many of that nature.

I want to say that my family and I have had the opportunity over the years to have travelled to many different countries of the world. We have always come back to Manitoba. We have always come here to Canada, and thank God for Manitoba and Canada. There is no place that I have visited that is better, and I have been to a lot of those places over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your election to this high post. I think it is most appropriate, that you as a rural Member and a farmer have the opportunity to guide this House in this period when we

are looking at serious rural situations and the farm situation is not what we would like it to be. I am sure that you will ensure that adequate time is devoted in this House to ensure that legislation that leads to the better situation in the rural areas and the opportunity to make sure that is brought about.

* (1730)

I want to also congratulate the Deputy Speaker. This is an unusual move when the Deputy Speaker is a member of the Opposition. But I think that it will lead to the good will and the cooperation that was so eloquently brought forward by the Minister for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) last week. I think that it is a step in the right direction.

I also want to give my sincere best wishes to all those who are elected to the House for the first time, but I also want to congratulate those candidates who were not successful because I am one of those who have tried twice —

An Honourable Member: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Member for Fort Garry.

Mr. L.A. Evans: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to just congratulate those candidates who were not successful this particular time because I am one of those who ran in 1986 and was not successful. I would hope those candidates who experienced defeat this time will rise to fight another day because I can tell them that victory is very sweet after you have once been defeated.

While I am going to probably be accused by some of my own members as being too complimentary, I want to particularly congratulate my friend and the Honourable Member for Virden (Mr. Findlay) for his appointment as Minister of Agriculture. I have had the good fortune of being a colleague of his for several years and I have a great deal of respect for him.

I also want to commend the number of people on the opposite benches who have diplomas or degrees or whatever it happens to be from the Faculty of Agriculture. I am satisfied that if they have learned effectively, are capable of doing a good job for us. I am also pleased that I have had the good fortune in years gone by to have associated with the Honourable Member for Portage (Mr. Connery), the Honourable Member for Rhineland (Mr. Penner) and many other in agricultural pursuits. While some may say it is bad company, I will not try to associate with them too much in the near future, but I can tell them that if they bring forward legislation that is sound and has a beneficial effect on rural Manitoba that I will do my best to convince my colleagues that we should be supporting that type of legislation.

I also want to pay particular tribute to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I think many of us in this House will agree that had it not been for her tremendous stamina, her encouragement and the will to carry on that many of us on this side of the

House may not have found the enthusiasm that was necessary to keep banging on those doors. I want to ensure the honourable lady that from now on she can rely on 19 other people to pick up some of that load and I want to warn all those in this House that the numbers that are on this side wearing a Liberal banner will increase as time goes by. So Ladies and gentlemen, those who may be contemplating taking a lot of time to do the things they want to do, remember that the time may be shorter than you anticipate.

I would also like to congratulate one of our Pages who happens to be serving us this afternoon, that is Miss Irene Howard who is a resident of my constituency living on Crane Avenue. We are glad to have you with us and we appreciate your help, Irene.

I was anticipating, Mr. Speaker, that because of the seriousness of the rural situation and because of the number of Members opposite who have rural routes that we would see some very imaginative and sensitive proposals in the Throne Speech, proposals that would lead to the restoration of confidence in the rural areas, the return to stability and, to be blunt, I am deeply disappointed. The Speech from the Throne almost ignores rural agriculture again. What it may be is that you have so many people on that side who are so close to agriculture that they sometimes take things for granted and do not put the attention that is necessary to bring it forth in the Throne Speech as effectively as I would have liked to have seen it.

Because of the severity of the rural situation, Mr Speaker, I am going to break with tradition today. I would like to spend the bulk of my time extolling the virtues of Fort Garry and outlining the significance of Fort Garry as far as the history of the province is concerned and so on. But instead, I am just going to thank my constituents in Fort Garry for the confidence and the support that they have given to me and at this time I am going to devote the bulk of my time to addressing some of the areas that I feel are of major significance as far as agriculture and the rural areas are concerned.

As the representative of Fort Garry — and that being primarily an urban riding — I think it is only fitting, Mr. Speaker, that I devote a little of time of trying to convince perhaps Members on all sides of the House why perhaps I have as much empathy for the rural areas as any other Member in this House.

My father and his family came to this country at the turn of the century. They homesteaded in western Saskatchewan in a little town called Merid and I think now you would find a great deal of difficulty even finding it on the map. But for those who are sufficiently interested, it is close to Alsask and I suspect it may well have been close to the site where Capt. John Pallister stopped, looked around and made a his famous statement that this area cannot sustain viable agriculture because it is too darn dry. That area is now referred to as the Pallister triangle. My family lived in a sod hut, they used oxen and they eked out a meager living there for approximately 20 years. Finally, they decided they had just had enough, they could not continue any longer and they packed up their meager belongings and headed a few miles north to a place

called Unity, Saskatchewan, where I was born in 1933. So you know exactly how old I am.

My father married a hired girl and that is a name that I will probably always despise because in those days if you are a farmer's daughter, you went and worked for somebody else for virtually board and room. If you were a farmer's son you went and worked for somebody else for board and room and they were referred to as hired girls and hired men. They were the standard terminology of the day for those people who worked on the farm for other farmers.

But anyway, my father married the hired girl and I came along. I was born into one of those families that were referred to as being on relief. Now, I do not know how many of you remember what it was to be on relief. Now it has a lot of different names called welfare, and on the dole, and various other things. But what it meant was that you were darned hard up.

I can remember vaguely of course, because of my age — and some of it you have difficulty determining how much you remember and how much you think you remember because you were told, but such things as dust storms. I can remember as a kid going out and picking stones and for any of you who have not experienced that, picking stones is one of the most miserable jobs there is and it was an annual occurrence, perhaps like picking roots. It is an annual occurrence in areas where you are looking at soil erosion and every year there was another batch of those stones to be picked. We did not grow many weeds, it was too dry.

The other thing I still remember and I still hate them, is Saskatoon berries. Saskatoon berries were something that as soon as you got out of school, you had to go out and picked Saskatoons. I was 14 before I realized there was any other type of dessert. So if somebody says come over and have a treat of Saskatoons, I would rather just eat the cream, thank you.

Now school in our case was two-and-a-half miles and we either rode a horse, and of course the horses were primarily meant for pulling the plow, so they had backs on them that were about 3 feet wide and if I am a little bow-legged at the present time you can understand why.

Those schools in those days consisted of one room and that room usually had 30 to 40 students in it and the teacher in that room was expected to look after grades 1 to 8 and in many cases to also look after grades 9 and 10 who took the courses by correspondence. Now I was one of those who took grade 9 and grade 10 by correspondence and perhaps the most embarrassing recollection I have is the first time that I went into grade 11, and of course you went into to grade 11 in town and the teacher said, would you stand and recite this in French.

When you take French by correspondence you might be able to read what is on the cornflakes box, but you certainly do not pronounce it and that was one of the more embarrassing times that I can remember. And that, Mr. Speaker, was about 1948, which is 40 years ago. There were no school buses. The highway is still gravel and dirt and this is something that we have not completely gotten rid of yet.

* (1740)

In 1950 at the age of 16, I headed off to the University of Saskatchewan to enroll in Agriculture. I have to admit that was the first time that I had left home. I do not mind admitting at all that at the age of 16, when you have been on a family farm all your life, there were quite a few evenings the first few months that I was away that I will admit to actually crying from homesickness. So the rural students of that day had some problems that we just do not even remember ever occurred, but they were, in fact, there.

Now, what happened to the farm? While the family was on relief, there were no taxes paid, there were no mortgage payments made, and by the time things started to improve my parents owed far more for that farm than they had owed when they first purchased it. Fortunately, at about that time the Debt Adjustment Bureau was brought into place — and we have things that are somewhat similar to it now — but they sat down with my father and they looked at the debt, wrote off the bulk of it, and brought it back to it so it was essentially the principal that he owed when the depression started and he was able to eventually own that farm.

I never returned to the farm. My brother became an engineer; my sister became a nurse; my parents retired. The farm was sold and now if you were to go back into the area you could never determine that in fact there had been a homestead there or that any farm family had ever lived there. It is not because we did not love that farm way of life. My father always said: "I want a farm because I'm my own boss" and that is probably the thing that is most often quoted by farmers still today. They relish the thought of being their own boss. But my mother had a different point of view. She said: "Son, you can farm if you want to, but if you are so stupid that you do not go away and get an education before you decide to farm, then you should deserve to farm."

That was her attitude. She was satisfied at that time, which was about 1950, there was no future in the farm. Now today, I have been out in the farm community and as you will realize, I ran in the Springfield constituency in 1986. There are still farms in Manitoba where I am sure the parents are advising their sons and daughters to not continue farming because there is no livelihood there, and we are seeing the demise of many country towns.

Now, just this weekend I was fortunate enough to be out in Arborg, along with the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), the Honourable Member who sits to my left and is much further to my left philosophically. We were there along with three other colleagues from our own caucus. We had a delightful time. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Mayor of Arborg and the Reeve of the Municipality of Bifrost, but in talking to them they said: "We are still concerned about the viability of the farm family and the viability of the small towns."

Yesterday we had the good fortune — the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) and myself — to go out to Minnedosa, the riding of our honourable friend from Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer). Here again we had

great hospitality. We had a wonderful afternoon. We had the opportunity to speak to many farmers and these farmers again told me: We are looking again for some assistance. We do not want aid. We do not want handouts. We want support to make sure that we get through this period of time.

I am satisfied that our rural way of life and our family farms and our farm and rural communities can be saved. It is just a matter of having the will to do it. When I was out in these two communities the people that I talked to said, well, you have heard the Throne Speech. What are they doing for Agriculture? Admittedly, I had to respond by saying, as I read the Throne Speech, not very much.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. L.A. Evans: So let us review the Throne Speech a little bit. Let us review it. What is there for rural people? I will quote some of these things. One of them goes on: "My Ministers have been consulting broadly on matters of education policy, agriculture and resource conservation, local government and assessment reform, and social services reform."

The key phrase is "consulting broadly." I have absolutely no argument when one says that they are consulting broadly, but surely to goodness, when you have been in Opposition as long as some of these Members are, the time for consultation must be rapidly moving to an end. It is time to start to think about action.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. L.A. Evans: The second phrase that is in the Throne Speech which refers to the rural areas is to provide funding for an independent province-wide voice for Manitoba farmers. Checkoff legislation will be brought forward for the consideration of members.

I am pleased to see this and I want to commend the Honourable Members for bringing this forward and I want to ask: Why was it not done a long time ago? It has been requested and the Keystone Agricultural Producers — which I assume may well be the ones who will be accepting this responsibility — have gone so far as to even provide draft legislation in the past. So there was not much to be done except bring it forward, and it was not.

The third thing I picked out — and I tried to be fair here — is that agreement in principle among all 10 provinces has been arrived at as far as the Red Meat Tripartite Stabilization Program is concerned. Here again I congratulate them for the rapid movement on this. I just hope the phase-in period is as short as it possibly can be and I would hope there are efforts made to make sure, as soon as it is possible, that going into this scheme will revive and allow the development of a strong feedlot industry here in Manitoba, so that those thousands of calves that have left the province in previous years do not get out of the province again.

After those few things, the pickings for rural areas become pretty slim. I will quote some of the next ones.

"My Government will implement new and creative initiatives to attract and retain positions and other specialized health care professionals in rural Manitoba." And I can only hope that the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has a lot of ideas because the first two or three he has come forward with have not met with much support.

Another area of interest, and I quote, "My Government will increase options in day care delivery to meet changing needs of families in both urban and rural areas of the province." When I take the term "option" I assume that you have an alternative. In most of the rural areas in Manitoba at the present time there is no option because there is nothing there to make a decision on because there is no adequate day care. So there is something that needs to be done immediately, and perhaps the term "option" was an ill-conceived term at that particular time.

Some brief comment is made in strengthening rural policing services and obviously one can not argue with that, but no real commitment is there. Finally, of course, a fairly major section is there relative to conservation of agricultural and natural resources and I commend the action that is identified there, but anxious to see that something is quickly implemented.

Likewise, a commitment is made to water services. Here again, I am concerned with water services because a farmer tends to be one who is eternally optimistic. I am concerned that if we were to walk out of this Chamber this afternoon and find it was pouring rain outside, the whole concept of doing something about water supply would be forgotten about; and if 1989 was also a dry year we would see the same thing regurgitated again — the need to do something with water. I can remember Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and some of the positive effects it has had. But it has not had much to do in recent years and there needs to be something done immediately in terms of getting that water supply, because there is nothing worse than to have a herd of cattle that are crying because they do not have adequate water. I have experienced that and I know what it is.

From a rural standpoint, what I think the Government can be criticized most for is errors of omission. Errors of omission are the type of thing that I think is best reflected in a baseball game. That is, an error of omission is when you stand still and the flyball is coming over your head and you decide before it gets to you that you can not possibly catch it, and you just stand still and let it go. The type of action you want is somebody who will run as fast as he or she can to catch that ball, and if they get their glove out and it goes off at the end, they are identified as having committed an error. As far as I am concerned, it is far better to have made an error where you have tried your hardest to succeed than it is to have an error of omission where you have made your decision that you cannot do anything before you give it a shot.

* (1750)

The areas that I think have been sadly neglected as far as the Throne Speech is concerned is the whole

concept of farm financing. It is not mentioned in a manner that I think could be taken as being very meaningful. I realize that a Throne Speech tends to be very general and I suppose, depending on your political bent — you could read anything into it you want — but I could not find anything that was substantive when it comes to the area of farm financing. I could not find very much when it came to the area of income stabilization.

I think we know that we have a problem with the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation in that only 47 percent of the acreage is covered. I think we know from a federal standpoint that we have a problem with the Western Grain Stabilization Program where you have a Minister who has attempted to bail out half of the debt with the result that you have got a significant number of people who are not happy with it. I am only suggesting that there should be things contemplated such as income stabilization on the farm.

What about farm services? We have had a little bit of discussion on farm services and I could not agree more with the Honourable Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) than to outline the significance of having the availability of services with telephone services where you can phone Winnipeg and do your business without having long distance, likewise the necessity of getting rid of the party line so that you can use some of the automated computerized facilities that are now available, roads and likewise. Now they are given very superficial coverage as far as the Throne Speech is concerned.

What about the input into land utilization? Are we going to make a major thrust in the areas of conservation? Are we going to bring about such things as the right-to-farm legislation so that our rural farmers are not concerned about the encroachment of urban areas into the vicinity of their hog barns and so on where they have problems of that nature?

What about the agricultural research area — and this is a place that comes very dear to my heart. Do you realize that the sole amount of money going into agricultural research in this province amounts to 75 cents per capita. That is all, 75 cents per capita from this province goes into agricultural research. I cannot blame my colleagues across, but that has not changed very much in the last decade. So they have had one opportunity before to do something about it. I should warn them that this may well be their last time to do something about it now —

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

L.A. Evans: — and I realize that all things cannot be done at the same time. I do not want to be an alarmist, but if in actual fact the heat that we are looking at in the 1980s — and I am not sure if everyone realizes that the four hottest years that we have experienced since records were kept have all occurred in the 1980s, and there is a good chance that 1988 might be the warmest one of all, particularly now that the House is open. It is conceivable that we are looking at the beginning of the greenhouse effect and the disappearance of our ozone layer. The amount of

research going into that type of thing to ensure that we have productive capability later on is not there. So I am hoping that you can see fit to do whatever is possible to make sure that the underutilized research capacity is put to work.

I am very concerned that we have not had the enactment of plant breeders' rights legislation and it has sat with first reading in Ottawa for quite some time. I am very, very alarmed that our other Opposition went so far as to hire someone to lobby on the negative side of plant breeders' rights who knew absolutely nothing about it.

We have a situation now where there is no opportunity and no likelihood for private enterprise to get involved in agricultural research at any time, and the same thing that is happening is that Agriculture Canada does not have the resources. The university does not have the resources so, if plant breeders' rights are not brought in pretty soon, we will find that we do not have the research capacity that is necessary for agriculture in Manitoba. So something needs to be done.

I could go on and on, on the agricultural vein, but I want to shift to another area that is very dear to me and that is the whole business of post-secondary education. I know my able colleague from Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) will discuss this at more length later, but it is an issue that is very close to home and I want to commend the Government on the provision of funding to maintain the accreditation of the Faculty of Dentistry, but I am concerned that they are falling into the same rut that the previous Government did and that is to bring out the bucks when accreditation is in jeopardy.

Unfortunately, a majority of the faculties of the universities do not have accreditation boards and, as one who has been very close to the Faculty of Agriculture for many years, I can tell you that in 1987-88 the purchasing power was 15 percent less than it was in 1977-78. So all of the faculties on all of the university campuses in this province need some additional support. Here again, we realize that all things could not be solved overnight but, for goodness' sake, give us the indication that something will in fact be done because it is critical.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that I have hit a few notes here that will make people think and take note of some of these. I do not want to be overly critical. I want to point out to the honourable gentlemen opposite that I am looking forward to the opportunity to cooperate with them, and the Honourable Member for Virden (Mr. Findlay), I would be more than happy to have the opportunity to sit down and look at things that you feel are the type of legislation that is beneficial to Manitoba. I am hoping very much that we can look forward to a period of cooperation.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, it being so close to six o'clock, I do not wish to begin my speech. Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

Monday, July 25, 1988

The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the Rules, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 p.m., at which time the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) will have 40 minutes.