

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock Monday, February 11, 1974

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 25 students, Grade 11 standing, of West Kildonan School. These students are under the direction of Mr. J. M. Klassen. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, the Minister of Health and Social Development.

We also have ten students, Grade 7 standing of the Arthur Day Junior High School in Transcona. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Johnson. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Transcona, the Minister of Labour.

And we have 75 students of Grade 9 standing of the St. Norbert Junior High School. These students are under the direction of Sister Patricia, Mr. Richard Lemoing and Mr. Henri Grimard. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

And we also have 50 students of Grade 11 standing of the Nordale School. These students are under the direction of Mr. Kazina and Mr. Mihaychuk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

On behalf of all the Honourable Members I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports; The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON. RON MCBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): I would like to table the Annual Report of the Manitoba Government Air Division for the year ending March 31, 1973.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other tabling of reports Ministerial Statements? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General, Minister of Municipal Affairs) (Selkirk) introduced Bill No. 6, an Act to amend the Surrogate Courts Act; and Bill No. 15 an Act to amend The Queen's Bench Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister of Health and Social Development) (Seven Oaks) in the absence of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture introduced Bill No. 9, an Act to validate an Agreement dated the 10th day of May, A. D. 1973, made between Brandon Centennial Auditorium Corporation, The Government of the Province of Manitoba, Brandon University and the City of Brandon (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor); and Bill No. 10, an Act to amend The Margarine Act; and Bill No. 12, an Act to amend the Veterinary Services Act (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor); and Bill No. 19, an Act to amend the Crop Insurance Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. MCBRYDE, on behalf of the Minister of Highways, introduced Bill No. 20, an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor); and Bill No. 18, an Act to amend the Highways Department Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. PAWLEY introduced Bill No. 16, an Act to amend The County Courts Act; and Bill No. 17, an Act to amend The Attorney-General's Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. KEN DILLEN (Thompson) introduced Bill No. 21, an Act to validate By-law No. 719 of the City of Thompson.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q.C. (Leader of the Official Opposition) (River Heights): This is for the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether the Provincial Auditor supplied either himself or the Finance Minister, or the Cabinet, with a draft report of the Auditor's Report that we finally received. Was there a draft report first submitted to the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Not to my knowledge Mr. Speaker. I take it my honourable friend is referring to the report in its totality or to specific sections pertaining to each department, as I believe that there is a practice of referring to each minister of each department for pertinent comments on the administration of that department.

MR. SPIVAK: Maybe I can clear that question away - all I'm concerned about at this time, and this is for the purpose of obtaining information, is to determine whether the government received a draft report from the Provincial Auditor prior to its final printing, or whether this is the first information supplied to the government as well as to this House in connection with --(Interjection)-- I'm sorry - that's not the question. The question is, is this the first occasion on which the government has seen this document as well as the members of the opposition?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly - it's the first time insofar as I'm concerned. I have no way of answering on behalf of the Minister of Finance.

MR. SPIVAK: The question then is to the First Minister. In view of the recommendations of changes in the Legislative management system as suggested by the auditor in this report, will it be the intention of the government to call the Public Accounts Committee into session as soon as possible to be able to deal with this so that in fact these changes can be introduced as quickly as possible?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of policy. I might inform my honourable friend that certainly there has been prior discussion several months ago about ways and means of changing the format of presentation of estimates of spending, and in fact we look forward to doing just that, to introduce in an experimental way a different format based on program budgeting.

MR. SPIVAK: Have the proposed changes of the government, or the government is considering, been discussed with the Provincial Auditor?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I just indicated that there have been discussions several months ago about practices prevailing across the country so far as presentation of estimates are concerned and discussion about the relative efficacy of introducing perhaps at first for just one or two departments a format of estimates that is based on program budgeting rather than the traditional format that we have now which has existed for many many years.

MR. SPIVAK: I take it from the First Minister's answer that he is indicating that it has been discussed with the Provincial Auditor. Well in view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the Provincial Auditor is really an officer of the Legislature as opposed to the government. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes. In view of the fact the auditor is an officer of this Legislature rather than the government, again I ask the First Minister whether the Public Accounts Committee will be called into session as soon as possible to allow the Legislature the opportunity to make the recommendations for changes in the legislative management system to allow for proper perusal of the accounts of the government.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that Public Accounts Committee will be called at some convenient date as early as possible and that the Provincial Auditor will be there to deal with all questions. The decision as to the format of Estimates of Spending I would think lies with the same source that it always has.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Could he tell the House when the government first received the Auditor-General's report, Provincial Auditor's Report? How long they've had the report.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party is asking for an exact day I'll have to take the question as notice. I have no precise recollection

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(MR. SCHREYER Con't). . . . as to precisely when it was received by the Minister of Finance.

MR. ASPER: Could the First Minister indicate to the House whether the government received that report approximately at the same time that the Legislature received it, or had it a matter of months before that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, certainly not a matter of months. I would say approximately the same time. Perhaps there was a difference of a couple of weeks thereabouts; I'll have to consult with my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Could he inform the House who instructed the Auditor-General or the Provincial Auditor rather, or under what instruction was he when he declined to detail what he refers to as irregularities in his report? What is the authority for that practice?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the format and procedure upon which these matters are dealt with is based on the principle of stare decisis. I don't know what my honourable friend is getting at.

MR. ASPER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. In view of the fact that the Public Accounts Committee only sat for a matter of two or three hours last year, can we have some assurance from the First Minister that we will have ample time this year to peruse the accounts and question the Auditor-General, the Provincial Auditor, on them?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would quite agree that three hours hardly seems ample but the determination as to how long a committee sits lies with the committee. I hope and trust it will be more than three hours.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: To the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation.

In view of the auditor's statement in his report that the operations of the MDC are not now on a sound financial basis, does the Minister intend to be . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Let me indicate that questions as they relate to the procedure during the Question Period should not be of an argumentative nature or one that expresses an opinion. The honourable member is making both in his assertion the way he placed the question. If he wishes to rephrase it, he's welcome.

MR. ASPER: In view of the statement by the Provincial Auditor, "The operations of the Manitoba Development Corporation are not now organized on a sound financial basis," my question to the Minister is: has he taken any steps, or does he foresee taking steps, in the short term to correct the unsound financial basis that the auditor refers to?

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

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q. C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I believe that that will be fully dealt with when the Chairman of the Manitoba Development Corporation appears before Committee. Some of the facts that my honourable friend is referring to, and which I'm sure he knows well about, have not to do with the way in which the Corporation operates its enterprises but the way in which its financial balance sheets are set up. These can be changed to reflect a better position as indicated by the Auditor's report. We have chosen to represent the position without in any way making it seem better than it is.

MR. ASPER: To the First Minister, Mr. Speaker, or perhaps more appropriately to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation. Could somebody indicate to the House how much money was lost as a result of the irregularities or improprieties alluded to in the Auditor's Report.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, now I do not know whether he is referring to the questions to which he put to the First Minister relating to irregularities or if he is referring to the statement of the Manitoba Development Corporation. If it is to the Manitoba Development Corporation, I know of not one cent having been lost by virtue of the way in which the balance sheet has been prepared.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Now that the Minister for Highways is in his seat I'd like to direct a question to him. I'd like to ask the Minister when we might expect to get a report or program for the road building, or reconstruction of highways and provincial roads in the Province of Manitoba for 1973.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways) (Dauphin): Well, Mr. Speaker, it comes as a bit of a surprise that the Member for Arthur would ask this question. I think he knows full well that this program is only available to the Legislature when the Estimates are being approved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member for Arthur, a supplementary.

MR. WATT: A supplementary question. Normally, Mr. Speaker, without preamble, we do get a report or estimates on highways. In advance I just ask when that report may become available to members opposite.

MR. BURTNIAK: Quite soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. Order please. The Honourable Member for Arthur, the last supplementary.

MR. WATT: I ask the Minister responsible for highways if the program for highways is going to continue as it did prior to the election in June?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: On a point of order. I wonder if the Honourable the Leader of the Liberal Party can give me the location of the quote which he said he put in quotation marks?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: The quote referred to is on Page 5, the second two lines of the Auditor's Report - not the Manitoba Development Corporation Report - the report of the Provincial Auditor, Page 5, under Item (c), the first two lines on the top of the page.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. Order please.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, . . .

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

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, it is a point of order, Sir. It's only now that it is clear what the precise question that the Leader of the Liberal Party was asking and I would be prepared to reply to it, simply to indicate that it is in the normal course of the duty and function of an auditor to report on all such administrative procedures that in his judgment appear to be less than adequate, and if that's what my honourable friend means when he uses the term 'irregularities' then that's the answer, both here as in any other jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley, the Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister, the question put was: in view of that statement, has the government or does the government intend to take any steps to correct the conduct in audit of the Manitoba Development Corporation which the Auditor complains of, or alludes to as being not sound financially?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that's on . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Labour. Can the Minister give us some information as to the latest standing in respect to the strike at Motor Coach Industries, and has he offered his good facilities and offices to bring the two parties together for negotiations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, the offices . . . --- are always available to any industrial dispute or even, indeed, when there isn't an industrial dispute, in order to offset the possibility of one.

A MEMBER: Never to me, Russ.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. PAULLEY: After all, you haven't given me my suckling pig yet. But, Mr. Speaker, insofar as the activities of the Department of Labour and Motor Industries, a conciliation officer has had meetings with the industry and with the labour fraternities in an endeavour to bring about a resolution of the difficulties that's being experienced at the present time, and I'm sure my honourable friend will recognize that unless both sides are prepared to sit down and seriously consider the areas of difficulty, we cannot impose upon them any settlement.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister can indicate

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(MR. PATRICK Con't). . . . to the House if negotiations are continuing or have they broken off, and is there any indication of an early settlement?

MR. PAULLEY: I have been informed, Mr. Speaker, that a meeting was held just recently and at that particular meeting it didn't look as though any real progress had been made in resolving the dispute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I just want to make clear that my answers to the Leader of the Liberal Party were based on what I thought he was referring to as statements of the Auditor in the Manitoba Development Corporation's statement, and not on the other; I haven't directed my attention to the other.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable the First Minister in his capacity as Minister of Urban Affairs. Will the Minister of Urban Affairs have an opportunity to pass judgment on the proposed Fort Garry - St. Vital bridge before construction on it gets under way?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, that question is phrased in a way that makes it very difficult to reply. There will be the normal process of community committee meetings and hearings on the matter before it's proceeded with and during that course, as well, there will be an opportunity for the province, the Government of the Province of Manitoba, to deal with the pros and cons of the matter.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Well, will environmental impact studies of the type that have been undertaken in the normal course of events be made available to the Minister of Urban Affairs, or would the procedure always have to go through the community committee level of government?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, if there is difficulty experienced at any of the stages by which the decision would be taken through the city administration, then I believe procedure provides for a reference to the Municipal Board, if there's any zoning changes, etc.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): My question is to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Has a decision been made to expand CFI?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, that's a very difficult question to answer in the form in which it's put. The operations are expanding by virtue of increased markets and other activities. I gather the honourable member is asking whether there is going to be an additional decision to make capital expansion of the project. Not at this point.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, another question to the Honourable Minister. Is the matter of expansion still being considered?

MR. GREEN: There is one particular matter that is being considered at the present time that I am aware of.

MR. MINAKER: Another question to the Honourable Minister. When does the Minister expect to have a decision to be reached?

MR. GREEN: I can't really answer that because at the moment there is nothing that I could call a general expansion of the industry which is before me or before a funding institution. There's a matter of a single capital improvement which is being considered which relates to a second boiler, and I wish to be completely fair to my honourable friend, whether he wants to consider that an expansion or not is up to him. That is under active consideration.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, a last question. What size of expansion, the capital expansion, that the Honourable Minister referred to is being considered? Is it in the order of \$10 million, or 5 million or \$15 million?

MR. GREEN: The figure that I have on the second boiler is \$3.8 million; that's a rounded off figure, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, a question to the Attorney General. Is the Minister planning, or would the Minister plan to investigate charges made Friday by the acting director of the Native Club that the Human Rights Commission is totally ineffectual in dealing with matters of discrimination in the City of Winnipeg?

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think that the honourable member has taken the statement in question somewhat out of context insofar as what the party herself had indicated. It certainly is not the view of myself that the Human Rights Commission is in any way ineffectual and I think that only the passage of events in the future will demonstrate that.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was referring specifically to charges made by the Director of the Native Club of Winnipeg and therefore my supplementary would be: would the Minister be willing to meet with the people who made those charges to see if in fact those charges are correct and thereby report to the House whether in fact the Human Rights Commission is doing its job?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my door has always been open.

MR. AXWORTHY: I wasn't asking the Minister if his door was open. I was saying, would he specifically meet with those groups who are making those charges and report to the House whether there is discrimination particularly in housing in the City of Winnipeg?

MR. PAWLEY: I'd hoped that the honourable member would draw the necessary inference from my earlier remarks. Of course at any time I'm prepared to meet with any group that has any complaint arising from their concern in respect to the operation of any part of my department, so that I would welcome the opportunity to meet and to receive concrete facts as to the matters of complaint.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) (Osborne); . . . to answer a question asked by the Member for Swan River on February 6th, and taken as notice by the Premier. The question relates to the Manitoba Telephone System. The question asked, if the Minister responsible could give information about provincial TV coverage to northwestern Manitoba? I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the question referring to provincial TV coverage is not perhaps clear and I should clarify it. There is no intent by the province to involve itself in broadcasting television coverage to northwestern Manitoba, and the reference to provincial TV coverage therefore is inappropriate.

I might point out to members opposite that the involvement of the Provincial Government in TV broadcasting is expressly precluded by an Order-in-Council passed by the Federal Government on June 4, 1970 which directed the CRTC not to grant licenses for broadcast to a provincial government or to any of its Crown agencies.

If the question, Mr. Speaker, does refer to the readiness of the Manitoba Telephone System to provide common carrier services to the broadcasters interested in carrying a TV signal to northwestern Manitoba, then I can say that the Manitoba Telephone System was, as early as January 1973, ready and prepared to carry signals to points such as Dauphin in northwestern Manitoba. The offer was made in January 1973, as I've said; it was a firm offer, and it provided for a ready date of November 1973. Since that time, Sir, the broadcasters involved had their own difficulties, but nonetheless the Telephone System still stands ready to carry that signal to northwestern Manitoba whenever the broadcasters resolve their problems.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I purchased a clearly marked 10-cent candy bar in the cafeteria of this Legislature this day for lunch and I was charged 12 cents for it. I wonder if the Minister would indicate who's getting the rip-off on this situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, a similar question was asked of the P. C. Minister of Consumer Affairs by a 12 year old boy some two days ago. I might say that in this case in Manitoba the sale of that candy bar, presumably its proceeds accrue to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, then permit this 12 year old boy to ask a second question. Are there then different regulations governing the marking and the pricing of packages? For instance, can one organization get away with certain pricing techniques as compared to others? In other words, can Safeway or Loblaws change their --(Interjection)-- No, that's double, that's called double pricing, which the Minister also is aware of, or triple pricing, but I'm referring to a price clearly marked on a package and the produce being sold for a different price.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, I gather the question was in relationship to prices

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(MR. TURNBULL Con't). . . . stated on the package rather than the packaging itself. Mr. Speaker, the practice of double pricing is one that is not acceptable to me or my department and the particular case that the member raises, I will have investigated.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to, rather to the Acting Minister of Finance or the First Minister. Will the government consider reviewing the Mineral Acreage Tax Act and its regulations this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. I'm sorry for not giving him notice, advance notice, but I would like to pose a question to him. Has the St. James Liquor Commission store on Ainslie and Portage closed temporarily for renovations or is it closed permanently?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact I haven't been out to the St. James Ainslie Liquor Store, I am unable to answer the honourable member's question at the present time, but I'll certainly inquire into the circumstances.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister can also take the question: will the store be relocated in case it's not opened in the same place?

MR. PAWLEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't know, possibly it's because of the low volume of purchases out in St. James due to the fact that we have honourable members that drink so infrequently as the Honourable Member from Assiniboia; but I will take all these questions as notice and check them out and discuss them with the Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): I would like to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development. Can the Minister indicate what the current waiting list is for all nursing homes in the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, that waiting list, the figure, is not available to the department. That waiting list would be with the nursing homes themselves; we don't have ready access to them. As I indicated last week, we are trying to find this information; a study has been undertaken to try to establish what these waiting lists are, what duplications there are, because people do tend to put their name down on two, and sometimes perhaps three, different nursing homes. This is the kind of information we're trying to pull together but we don't have, and have never had, access to because it was not something that had to be reported or was ever reported.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a further question of the Honourable Minister. Can the Minister indicate the rate at which the persons are being removed from that list and being admitted to a nursing care home?

MR. MILLER: Again, Mr. Speaker, I'd have to get the results of that survey and to see whether that kind of information is the kind of information that will be available from the survey taken.

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

MR. J. PAUL MARION (St. Boniface): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed also to the Honourable the Minister of Health. Is there a shortage of qualified nurses in the rural areas of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Without knowing the exact answer to that, I would suspect that there probably are certain parts of rural Manitoba and northern Manitoba where perhaps registered nurses, the right type of registered nurse, is not readily available. This is something that has existed for many years, and they have to make do with other than registered nurses. If the question is: are there areas where there is no nursing whatsoever? then I think I have to answer that there is nursing of some kind available in most places in Manitoba.

MR. MARION: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as it's assumed that there is a shortage, probably in the rural areas, is there any active recruitment program being carried

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(MR. MARION Con't). . . . on by the government presently to fill in the void in two areas, both by enticing registered nurses now in other parts of the country to come to the rural areas of Manitoba, and in the second instance to entice young people **now** in our senior high schools to enter the profession of nursing.

MR. MILLER: Well, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact there has been encouragement to young people to enter the profession. The Bursary Student Aid programs are available to students who wish to go into nursing, and they've been utilized I know considerably, both the Bursary Student Aid and the Canada Student Loan Program; as well as LPM program has been started in northern Manitoba to meet the needs which are greater there, so that there is this kind of activity taking place. And as far as the recruitment, if it's through public health, then certainly the department itself is doing the recruiting. Where it's hospitals, because hospitals being autonomous bodies, they are doing their own recruiting and unless the department is asked to assist - and I am not aware that this is so - then it's left to the local authority, the local institution, to do its own seeking and finding of nurses. I haven't been called upon or asked by any hospital that I am aware of to assist in that matter, perhaps it's done through the Health Services Commission.

MR. MARION: A final supplementary. Does the Minister know if the recruitment programs with respect to young people in our high schools has had any measure of success?

MR. MILLER: To the extent, Mr. Speaker, that the nursing programs, educational programs are filled, then I would say therefore we have achieved a certain measure of success.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the First Minister re Manitoba Hydro. Can the First Minister advise the House what the cost implications are likely to be from the restrictions put on the lower Nelson by the Federal permit? Sorry, lower Churchill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I heard the honourable member, I believe amend that question to refer to the lower Churchill, not the lower Nelson, in which case, Sir, the answer is that the conditions that are attached to the Federal Approval Document are the very same conditions which are under continuing discussion between officials of Hydro and the Federal Department of Transport. It may well be that in the end some of those conditions will attach or cause, rather, a higher cost to the Churchill River Diversion, Nelson River Development, but that is something that should have been, to some extent at least, acknowledged as being a possibility right from the start.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister would indicate then: has Manitoba Hydro always considered the likelihood or possibility of control structures on the small lakes below Missi Falls on the Churchill River?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I don't quite appreciate the relevance of that question and even if alternatives had been decided upon, there is no way of anticipating what the federal Department of Transport response would have been in those respects when application was being made under the Navigable Waters Act.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Can the First Minister advise when we might find out what costs are involved in this further development?

MR. SCHREYER: Well I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that at the meeting of the Committee on Utilities and Resources that when the Chairman of Manitoba Hydro is present, that he may be in a position to give some further elaboration to these possible costs.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Did I hear the Minister correctly, when I interpreted his remarks to say regarding the placement of people in Senior Citizens Homes, in Nursing Homes, that his department is not responsible for the assignment of people to specific nursing homes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker, there is a process whereby, there is a paneling process but the actual placement depends on the nursing home itself. They are under no obligation to accept any particular individual as I understand it. This is one of the areas we are looking in - the admissions policies is one of the matters we are looking at.

MR. CRAIK: A supplementary, in the panel process do they not gain a knowledge of the total numbers of people who are waiting to get into the nursing homes?

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MR. MILLER: I am not sure that they would, Mr. Speaker. The paneling is done through the Manitoba Health Services Commission and I am not sure that they gain that kind of information. I think it's sort of a technical thing - they simply panel - they approve or disapprove, but from there on it's left to the nursing homes to accept these people as nursing homes become available because there is no specific reference to any one nursing home, it's a question of whether you qualify for a nursing home, and then where you go in depends on where vacancies occur.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): My question is to the Minister responsible for Autopac. Could the Minister give us the reason, or the reasons, as to why the government is going into the fire insurance business?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BILLIE URUSKI (Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation) (St. George): The reasons and the matter of policy that the member refers to will be given when the Bill is being introduced.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Could the Minister inform the House as to whether or not there has been any type of a study carried out regarding the effecting of the livelihood of people who are in the fire and general insurance business?

MR. URUSKI: The scheme as it is proposed is in competition with the private industry so there should be no - there should be healthy competition when the public insurance corporation comes on the scene.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my final question with regard to the same subject; is it the intention of the government to operate this new business at a loss?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Mr. Speaker, in the case of nursing homes, I direct a question to the Minister of Health and Welfare. Is it not correct that there are people appointed by the government that are outside of nursing care areas, and I'm referring to the Virden Nursing Care area which involves my constituency and my colleague from Virden, where priorities are now being directed not from the board at Virden or the area that I live in, but from somebody by the government outside of that area.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I couldn't quite follow the point of the question. I wonder if the Member would repeat it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Health and responsible for housing. In view of the recently announced shake-up in the management of Manitoba Housing, could the Minister tell us if these changes are in accord with the recommendations made by the Management study conducted by Professor Thomas Plunkett of Queen's last fall?

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, firstly I would deny that it's a shake-up. I think the appointment referred to by the Member for Fort Rouge is the part of the recommendation, of the nature of the recommendation, of the Plunkett Report.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister be willing to table that report in this House so that we can determine for ourselves whether the full management changes are required.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, undertake to do that. It deals with personnel. I am not sure that is something that can be tabled in the House. I'd have to look at this question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Would the Minister confirm whether this study in fact cost in the neighbourhood of \$25, 000 to produce?

MR. MILLER: No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that. The study was ordered by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. It would be paid for through their budget, so I cannot estimate whether that is correct or not. I don't see it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. When is the Minister going to issue a flood report on the Red River and the Pembina River?

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

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MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I can't recall when the Committee may have its first meeting but I'll take the question as notice and give the honourable member that information.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister in the former capacity he held, Minister of Finance. Could he inform this House if it is correct that had the Government of Manitoba carried out the recommendation of the Provincial Auditor by not taking into income last year the sum of \$15 million . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member must realize that's hypothetical.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the question is real and I'll try to rephrase it in a more realistic way. Did the Province of Manitoba actually suffer a deficit last year of \$15 million approximately, contrary to the surplus that it reported in view of the auditor's statement that \$15 million was improperly taken into income last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, before I answer the question I would like to raise a point of order, and it is not only technical, Sir, I believe that a question that is posed to a minister in his former capacity is not in order; and if that's not taken note of now it may serve as a precedent. So I would like to raise that as a point of order for your consideration, Sir. . .

MR. SPEAKER: That point is well taken.

MR. SCHREYER: . . . and reply to my honourable friend simply to this effect, that the alleged deficit that he alleges exists, does not in fact exist.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, firstly on the point of order. The point of order that the Minister makes, the First Minister makes, I would think is wholly inappropriate, for if that were to be a ruling of this House it would mean that no member on this side could question a minister on his actions, the actions he undertook as a minister in a former portfolio, and Mr. Speaker, that would be - that would permit a minister, the current minister to deny access

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I wonder if I may inform the honourable member that he can ask a question of the ministry and not necessarily refer to personalities and that's the simple case. The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Well, Mr. Speaker, okay!

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: In an effort to be helpful in this situation, I believe that really after all is the reason why Cabinets get juggled every once in a while.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: On the point of order, the Honourable Member who knows that Cabinet Ministers change once in a while knows that of his own experience, and it would be inappropriate for me to ask him a question as the former Minister of Mines and Resources; and the question that the Leader of the Opposition is posing shows a basic misunderstanding of the question period. This is not a cross examination of ministers as to their activities. This is an examination of government as to its activities and the questions can be put to the ministry, not a question as to whether a minister handled himself properly in handling a previous portfolio. There is room to discuss that in debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. ASPER: Since the government house leader insists on prolonging the debate on the point of order, I wish to make the point that if . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I do believe I have indicated that questions may be asked of the ministry, and I think we should proceed on that basis. I have been willing to listen to the contributions by the various members of the House and some have contributed well, some have contributed less, but in essence the ruling is that you ask questions of the ministry. The Honourable Member may proceed.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Is he suggesting by the answer that he made, or is he stating to this House that the Auditor's statement, that \$15 million last year was shown improperly as provincial income. Is he saying that that statement is incorrect?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, nothing of the kind. I am simply answering the question

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(MR. SCHREYER Con't). . . . as to whether or not there is a deficit on current account.

The answer is negative.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, would the First Minister explain how there can be a surplus, or anything but a \$15 million deficit if the Auditor's statement is correct that \$15 million was improperly shown as income.

MR. SCHREYER: Well two points, Mr. Speaker: first of all I would take the Auditor's statement in its total context, that would be helpful to begin with. No. 2, simply to point out that revenues during the course of the year sometimes are more buoyant than are anticipated at the year's commencement.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Would he confirm that the actual losses unrealized or un-written off, suffered by the Manitoba Development Corporation to date exceed the \$40 million stated by the Auditor's report by something over \$100 million.

MR. SCHREYER: Absolutely absurd, Sir.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. On the proposed motion of the Honourable the Member for Rupertsland and the amendment thereto by the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I begin by concurring with previous speakers who have congratulated you on being re-elected to the position that you presently hold for a further session. Perhaps I should apologize rather than congratulate you as being one who resisted in some slight measure your ascension to the Chair.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker, a man who has done a fine job in previous sessions of the House. As Chairman of Committees, his job is frequently tedious and often under rather trying circumstances.

I would also like to congratulate those new ministers who have assumed new responsibilities since we last met.

I also congratulate the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne. Unfortunately I didn't have the opportunity to be present on Friday when they spoke but I did read their remarks in Hansard and I think they have made a fine start to their legislative careers.

I was very pleased to listen to all of the new members who have made their contributions during this debate; they all did a very fine job for their maiden speeches and I look forward to them becoming experienced members and taking their due part in the House.

If there are any members left who I have not yet congratulated, let me congratulate them on their re-election to the House.

Mr. Speaker, I had occasion last week to pay a visit to the Manitoba Rehabilitation Hospital or the Rehab Centre I believe it's called now, at the invitation of their prosthetics Department. I did speak on this same subject of the handicapped and prostheses on a previous occasion and I believe I recommended at that time to the then Minister of Health and Social Development that artificial limbs and prosthetic devices should be included under Medicare. I was very pleased to see that not too long after that that Medicare coverage was extended to cover just those things.

Since that time of course, there has been a real mushrooming demand for such devices. They had been available commercially before and the sudden demand shows that previous to that introduction there were many Manitobans who had been suffering through the lack of such devices simply because they could not afford them. The prosthetics department at the Rehab has found that its work has more than tripled, more than quadrupled since that time.

There are a number of prosthetic devices, wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs, that are available commercially and also can be supplied through that department as ready-made appliances. But members will understand I am sure that just as not everyone can buy a suit off the rack, that not every wheelchair or artificial arm or leg is suitable for everyone. This is where the value of that department is most appreciated, Mr. Speaker. The members of that department are all skilled and highly trained not only in adapting existing devices but in fact making from scratch those devices and aids which have become an indispensable help to the handicapped. Some of the devices that are made and supplied through that department are relatively simple. For instance a simple padded removable insert which can be put into a wheelchair, custom made to the person who is to use it, with the required support at the

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(MR. WALDING Con't). . . back or at the sides which will prevent a person's spine from collapsing and prevent his condition from getting worse, and in some cases even improving it. Other devices that are custom made at the department include such simple things as a reaching device for someone in a wheelchair who needs to raise his feet to get into a car or get into bed or into a chair, something like that, devices which are not available commercially can be tailor-made at the department.

Now Manitoba has been getting a very good deal as far as that department is concerned because many of the salaries of the skilled workers in there have been paid by federal funds. The department has received quite a substantial LIP Program which is about to expire, and it has taken several years to assemble together the very highly skilled team presently serving Manitobans. There is danger that this team is likely to disintegrate over the next matter of months and into next year.

One further problem involved is that other provinces are recognizing the abilities and the talents of the technicians employed at the Rehab Centre and are raiding the members, offering them higher salaries to move to such centres as Regina and Calgary. It seems to be a problem across the west that there is no accepted training school, either through a university course or a community college, which offers a course in prosthetic technology that other provinces can send students to. I know that the present Minister of Health has over the last year or so been talking to other people within secondary education field across the west and looking for some means of rationalizing the courses offered in higher education throughout the prairies and western Canada. And I would hope that this would be one area where there might be some co-operation between the western provinces to set up a course which is obviously very highly desired.

I might at this stage get down to the partisan politics of the Throne Speech, and I wanted to deal with a few of the things that the Leader of the Liberal Party said when he made his speech just about a week ago. And I hope that he will maybe remain for a few minutes to hear the few things that I have to say.

The speech made by the Liberal Leader ran for something like twelve pages and I don't suppose I could possibly cover the whole of it. I do want to pick out just one or two relatively small items, things that he mentioned and deal with those. I don't like to be picky and pick on those very minor things but just as a house is built of small bricks, so a presentation is usually built on a number of small facts. If those bricks should tumble then there is a chance the whole edifice might fall, and if those facts do not hold up under examination there is the possibility that the conclusion may not be accepted in its entirety.

I'd like to refer first of all to Page 76 of Hansard when the Leader of Liberal Party said and I quote, "Thousands of voters were disenfranchised. Election results may have been changed as a result of spoiled ballots, prolonged court action," and then he goes on a little bit further. The grammar is not too clear, Mr. Speaker, whether the spoiled ballots caused the change in election results, or the prolonged court action, but nevertheless that's beside the point. The Leader of the Liberal Party has referred to spoiled ballots in changing election results. I'd like to assure him that spoiled ballots have never been a factor in any election result, neither have they changed any election result, neither are spoiled ballots ever referred to the courts. --(Interjection)-- No, not even in his case. Mr. Speaker, the term "spoiled ballot" has a very precise meaning under The Election Act. The term "spoiled ballot", Mr. Speaker, refers to a ballot which is accidentally mismarked by a voter in the voting booth which he then returns, which he then returns to the DRO and that spoiled ballot is then exchanged for a brand new one which the voter may then mark and that new ballot is then put into the ballot box in the normal way. So a spoiled ballot never even goes into the ballot box and it can then never be a matter of contention. I'm not sure whether that was just a slip of the tongue by the Honourable Liberal Leader but he should be a little more precise when he makes his assertions I feel.

On page 67, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party makes use of some statistics. And he says, "Fact. In the past twelve months our industrial wage composite for employment using figures provided by Statistics Canada based on 1961 equalling 100 points, that composite has declined from 120 in August of '72 to 114 in August of '73." Now those figures that the honourable member has used, Mr. Speaker, do not refer to wages as he says they do. What

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(MR. WALDING Con't). . . they refer to is Page 29 of the Manitoba Digest of Statistics which refers to employment indexes, industrial composite by province. What he is referring to, which he says is wages, is in fact employment. Now there may be some indirect connection one with the other but there is no direct bearing on employment and wages paid.

I'm not sure that he was really too honest with us, Mr. Speaker, in picking out the dates that he did even if we accept his figures on employment. For of all the months that are listed for 1973 the figure for August at 114 is the lowest one. Now he might have picked any month, preferably the most recent one but he did not do so, he picked out the figure for August of 114 and luckily for him the previous year, August 1972, the figure shown was 119.8. However, had he been concerned enough with the number of people employed in Manitoba for those same two years he could have found on another page in the same book of statistics, the facts that the actual numbers of people employed, using those same two months August '72 to August '73, he would have found that in August 1972 there were 395,000 Manitobans employed and that one year later in August of '73 there were 405,000 Manitobans employed an increase and not a decrease.

But taking one fact which he got wrong, he then produced from that the following sentence: "And yet while our economic growth declined our cost of living shot up, etc." And I'll get to that in a moment. The one fact which he used failed to prove that our economic growth had in fact declined. I would like to suggest to him just a few figures that might refute that argument. Using the same two months of 1972 and '73 we will find for instance that the average weekly earnings of the industrial composite - now we're talking about earnings and not employment - the figure went up from \$138.40 to \$144.80 in 1973. There's an increase there of \$6.00. Total wages and salaries for the same two months went up from 184 million to 195 million. The value of manufacturing shipments up from 132 million to 154 million. The value of retail trade up from 115 to 135 million. And the value of cheques cashed from 1,200 million to 1,800 million in a matter of one year. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that does not bear out the Leader of the Liberal Party's suggestion that our economic growth declined over that year.

But he went on further to speak of the cost of living, attempting I suppose to contrast a decline in wages with an increase in costs. And I will just quote what he said about that. He said, "Our cost of living shot up at a frightening and unacceptable rate. It is also a fact that in 1972, November," - and now here he's changed the month - "our cost of living was 142.3. It has risen 13 percentage points to an unprecedented 155.5 in November of 1973." He goes on a few lines later to say, "The cost of food in the past year has risen by 26 percent from 145 to 171. It is also a fact that the cost of housing has risen by 10 percentage points from 146.1 to 156.1 in this past twelve month period." Well, Mr. Speaker, that requires just a little more examination.

The previous figures given by the honourable member have of course referred to Manitoba and we find in going back to our Digest of Statistics for Manitoba that the figures quoted with cost of living, cost of food, and cost of housing, do not refer to Manitoba, they are in fact figures for the whole of Canada, which point of course the Leader of the Liberal Party failed to tell us.

However for perhaps a more accurate comparison we should go back to using Manitoba figures. And fortunately for that they do not appear in this Digest of Statistics under Manitoba. What is listed are the same - the comparable figures for Winnipeg, and since over 50 percent of our population lives and buys these things in Winnipeg, and in fact many of our rural people shop in the city, too, it would surely give a more accurate impression of costs faced by Manitobans to use the figures for Winnipeg rather than the figures for the whole of the country. And if we look at those figures, Mr. Speaker, we find rather a different figure from that given by the Leader of the Liberal Party. Certainly as far as Winnipeg is concerned the cost of living did increase over that year. It went up from 135.9 to 146.3 points, and that is an increase of 10.4 and not the 13 percentage points mentioned by the Leader of the Liberal Party. As far as food is concerned that also went up by a large amount. It went up from 142.7 to 167.4, an increase of 24 percentage points and not the 26 percent as stated by the Leader of the Liberal Party. As far as housing is concerned maybe the cost of housing in Canada went up by 10 percentage points, but it did not do so in Winnipeg. The figures are 121 and 127, the difference is 5.4 percentage points. Granted that's an increase in every case but it is

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(MR. WALDING Con't). . . . not as much as the figures for the whole of Canada that the Leader of the Liberal Party gave us. It should also be noted, Mr. Speaker, that in each of those cases the latest figure that we have for Winnipeg is below the figures given for the whole of Canada. So when members on the opposition benches say that inflation is up and the cost of living is up, we would ask them compared with what? It reminds me of the old joke about two men that met in the street one day and one said to the other one, "How's your wife this morning?" And the second one replied, "Compared to what?"

A couple of pages later in Hansard the Liberal Leader had something to say about the rate of job production over the first three years of the New Democratic Party Government, that is from '69 to '72. And he said about a third of the way down on Page 67 that during the NDP's first mandate from 1969 to 1972 we created only an average of 4,500 new jobs each year, and that's an 8.4 percent decline. The facts are a little different, Mr. Speaker. Again in the same book of statistics that the Leader of the Liberal Party was quoting from we find that the figures for Manitobans employed in those two years went from 363,000 to 378,000. That's an increase of 15,000 or 5,000 per year.

Two pages on, on Page 70 the Leader of the Liberal Party moved on to the topic of taxes. Now on this subject at least we should expect accuracy knowing that the Leader of the Liberal Party has some expertise in the field of taxation. And on Page 70 he said, "Mr. Speaker, to the average-sized family in this province, someone with a taxable income of \$10,000 he will be paying 42.5 percent income tax to this province."

He will now be paying \$11.00 a month in provincial income tax on his new family allowance payment. I note that the Leader of the Liberal Party does not say that a taxable income of \$10,000 is an average amount, because obviously it is not. A man with a family having a taxable income of \$10,000 would be grossing somewhere in the region of 14 or \$15,000 a year which is obviously far above any Manitoba average as far as income is concerned, but he does say, an average-sized family in this province will be paying \$11.00 a month in provincial income tax on his family allowance cheque.

Now that seems quite a lot of money and I did a little bit of arithmetic to work backwards from that \$11.00 and I found that if 42.5 percent was \$11.00 then the federal share would be 26 - \$27.00 so that a man in this position would be paying 26 or \$27.00 per month to the Federal Government and \$11.00 to the Provincial Government. But I also found out that a man with a taxable income of \$10,000 would be paying income tax at the rate of 27 percent, therefore the \$27.00 that he would be paying on income tax represents an amount of \$100.00 a month that he would be paying that tax on.

The Member for Sturgeon Creek shakes his head - possibly I'm not making it quite clear. Anyway I'll work back from it and maybe you'll understand what I'm getting at. For a man to be receiving \$100.00 a month in family allowances in 1974 he would in fact have to have five children. The Leader of the Liberal Party tell us that a family with five children is an average-sized family in Manitoba. Well the facts are a little different, Mr. Speaker, for the average number of children per family in Manitoba is not five, it is 1.8. Now I know we have inflation and the Leader of the Liberal Party likes to exaggerate a little bit, but to go from an average of two children to five children is I think not acceptable in this House.

But what would this same man earning or having a \$10,000 taxable income actually be paying to the Provincial Government with his two children? Well the two children would bring him in \$40.00 a month in family allowances and 27 percent of this would be \$10.80, which would go per month to the Federal Government, and 42 percent of that, which would be \$4.59 - so for an average-sized family in that situation, there would be \$4.59 being paid to the Government of Manitoba and not the \$11.00 a month as stated by the Leader of the Liberal Party.

I must remember not to consult the Leader of the Liberal Party in his professional capacity with assistance with my income tax.

One other area of taxation that the Leader of the Liberal Party has been concerned with from time to time and has spoken about, has been the area of sales tax, and on Page 70 he says: "The sales tax, as we said during the election, and as we said earlier in the House, must be removed from all the necessities of life." Well I don't remember the Liberal Party saying that at the time of the last election. I do remember them saying that sales tax should be removed from second-hand items - such things I presume as second-hand Rolls-

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(MR. WALDING cont'd)

Royces; and second-hand antiques and second-hand gold coins, and such things - but now he says that the sales tax must be removed from the necessities of life, and that really does have a nice ring to it, Mr. Speaker. After all, who could wish to tax the necessities of life? What hard-hearted government anywhere in Canada would wish to tax those sort of things? The converse of that argument, of course, is that we should be taxing the luxuries of life and again for any public spirited politician, who could grumble at that.

The Leader of the Liberal Party didn't go on however to define what he meant by the necessities of life but we do find back a few pages, when he was not referring to that, that he did have something to say about the necessities of life and on Page 65 he said, "Let me point out that the biggest rises are in the necessities of life - food and shelter." Mr. Speaker, I have news for the Leader of the Liberal Party, food and shelter do not bear any sales tax now nor have they done so since sales tax was brought in.

However, let us move on to one other area that also had to do with taxes, and on Page 74 the Leader of the Liberal Party said, "Manitoba has an opportunity to lead the way for the rest of Canada." Doesn't that have a fine ring to it? "By introducing a provincial income tax rebate plan which would exempt from provincial taxation all child care expenses for sole support parents." Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a very good idea --(Interjection)-- very good idea, and knowing how kind hearted the members are on this side, I really don't see how any of them could oppose such a thing, and knowing what a humanitarian the Minister of Finance is, I really don't see how he could resist such a rebate to sole-support parents; the only problem being is that it's impossible to rebate a tax which is not paid and we could not exempt from taxation, all child care expenses because those child care expenses are not now taxed. So that's another good idea that goes down the drain. You know, these things might sound all very well when they occur to the leader of the Liberal Party in the small hours of the morning presumably, or when carried away in the flights of oratory, making a speech somewhere, but he really should give a little more consideration and do perhaps a little bit more research into some of these things before he trots them out in this House.

My colleague here says that he should check with the Free Press. --(Interjection)-- Well I think that the Leader of the Liberal Party has enough problems without that.

Mr. Speaker, that's about half a dozen, five or six small little items that I picked out of the speech by the Leader of the Liberal Party. He is certainly not giving us the truth and the whole truth. Some of the facts that he gave to us, the so-called facts, were in fact, distortions, facts masquerading under a name which they did not have and I want to suggest to the Leader of the Liberal Party that if he expects us to take him seriously and we want to, if he expects to be able to present an argument in this House, that what he should do is to take a little bit more trouble with some of his homework to get his facts straight, make sure that what he says is in fact so, then he can come back into the code and not face the prospect of spending the rest of his electoral years somewhere on the other side of the credibility gap.

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MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating you on your re-election to the high office that you have earned, that you deserve, Sir, and that we all appreciate your service to.

I would like also to congratulate all the new members of the Assembly. I think that it bodes well for the system and the province and the House and for your stewardship in the next few years, Sir, that there should be such excellent new talent come into the Chamber as has come in as a result of the last general provincial election. I have been as impressed, as all past members of the House I am sure, with the contributions that have been made in the Throne Speech Debate by the ten new members of the House: the Honourable Members for Thompson, for Rupertsland, for Emerson, for Churchill, Crescentwood, Fort Rouge, St. Boniface, St. James, for Rhineland and for LaVerendrye, and I think we can all take pride in that addition and we can all thank the First Minister of the province in one respect for the election last June, if in no other, and that is for providing the opportunity for these ten excellent new members, Sir, to come in and join our midst.

I perhaps take a different perspective on the Throne Speech to that taken by some of my colleagues, some of the other spokesmen on the opposition side of the House. I'm not dismayed at all by the fact, Sir, that there was nothing in it. I'm not disturbed or upset by its innocuousness and its blandness. I take enormous relief from that fact and I'm sure that many Manitobans share that sentiment with me. I think we had enough NDP medicine in the last four years, Mr. Speaker, and I say with my new colleague, or our new colleague from Churchill, as he remarked the other day in his comments on government initiatives in the north, slow it up a bit. My colleague from Lakeside has just made mention, made reference to that plea made by the Member for Churchill and I echo that and reiterate it—slow it up a bit. I think that many Manitobans would share the sentiment that I express at the moment, Mr. Speaker: Thank God for a Throne Speech from this government that doesn't contain too much more in the way of state medicine.

There's another aspect of satisfaction to the Throne Speech, Sir, and that is that it reflects the fact that this government has run out of gas. It reflects the fact that this government is suffering from political tired blood. It reflects the energy crisis on a personal level, a personal plane—the energy crisis existing in the ranks of the First Minister. And that's something for which to be devoutly thankful too, Mr. Speaker, because that hopefully means—and here once again all Manitobans can take hope—that this is a dying government, Mr. Speaker, so we take hope and heart again.

I think it was Mark Antony, Sir, I think it was Mark Antony, Sir, who said, "I am dying, Egypt, dying," and that could be the plaintive plea echoing from the lips of the members of the front benches opposite in these days, Sir, as they survey the wreckage and the stalled momentum of the once mighty machine that they had rolling prior to June 28, 1973. Well somebody said, Sir, somebody said, Sir, what about the Jacksons? Well, what about the Jacksons? The fact is, the fact is, Sir, that where four years ago we might have had the muffled cadence of the jackboot, today it's been replaced by the senile shuffle of the bedroom slipper. That's all that's left. That's all that's left, Mr. Speaker—the next candidates for the nursing home and it's a good thing, it's a good thing that they got that legislation on the rails in time to take care of themselves.

That's another point. The question as to whether there is room for them or not; that's up to the Minister of Health and Social Services and he'll have to fight to make room, to open up space for himself and his colleagues. If he gets in first. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, it's enough to bring tears to the eyes of an old anti-socialist, the kind of thing that's happened to this government that started out with such initiatives and such pride and had the strut of authority a few years ago and today is reduced to the blandest and most vapid of government programs as expressed in the Throne Speech offered in this Chamber ten days ago—nine days ago.

I think that there is enormous energy and talent on the back benches, particularly represented by the five new members who have come in this time. I think there is considerable talent and energy on the middle bench; but I think the front bench, Sir, is showing evidence of running out of gas and running out of ideas and running out of the ability to serve the people of Manitoba in terms of the directions that they feel, and all of us feel this province should be embarked on, where human progress and human welfare is paramount. So despite the fact that

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) the Throne Speech rang empty in terms of initiatives and in terms of hopeful policies for the next four years, I repeat, Sir, that I personally find it of considerable satisfaction on this side, and I think many of my constituents and many other Manitobans would share that view, because the hope is there that now that the initiatives in the former NDP directions have been blunted and thwarted and frustrated and have been slowed down, and now that people are beginning to question to the extent that the government is questioning itself which way it should be going and what it should be doing and what its ambitions and initiatives should be, there is hope, Sir, for a turn-around in the next general election that could set this province back on the pathways and on the routes towards the kind of progress that we aspire to for it, and the kind of philosophy to which we subscribe on the free enterprise side of the philosophical ledger.

Mr. Speaker, a night or two ago the Minister of Mines asked in this Chamber, who speaks for Conservatism? He was concerned that there was a lack of cohesion on this side of the House or in this caucus in terms of expressing the philosophy of Conservatism and Conservative integrity. Well that was an interesting question to come from the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker. In fact, it was an interesting question to come from any member of the government caucus. When one considers the kind of campaign on which most of them, if not all of them on that side of the House, ran last June, Sir, one has to conclude that there is a peculiar kind of political astigmatism that afflicts the Minister of Mines and Resources when he looks at this side of the House, he looks at this corner of the Chamber and asks who is there to speak for Conservatism.

There may be one or two on the other side, Sir. I think the Member for St. Matthews is one who would stand up if asked who was there to speak for Socialism, but the number would be very very small, Mr. Speaker. And we recall the slogans, the banner under which most of them campaigned last May and June when they asked the people of Manitoba to re-elect Ed Schreyer's New Democrats, and when the emphasis was always placed on the name and the image of the Leader of the Party rather than on the kind of philosophical position to which they lay claim. So I think, Mr. Speaker, that one could turn the question around and ask the Minister of Mines and Resources, who is there on that side of the House to speak for Socialism? And who would say, for example, as the Minister of Mines and Resources speaks the other night, that the First Minister necessarily speaks either for socialism or for the New Democratic Party or for that government caucus.

I think if you stopped ten Manitobans today, whether they be labour people, business people, teachers, taxi drivers, whatever, and asked them who speaks for the New Democratic Party, I believe, Sir, you'd probably get ten different answers, or at least five different answers and all in equal proportion. And there may be some who might say, who might provide the answer: "Well, the Minister of Mines and Resources happens to speak for the New Democratic Party in paramount terms today." There might be others who would say that the United Steel Workers speak for the New Democratic Party. There might be others who would say that the Minister of Health and Social Services is the man who really speaks for the New Democratic Party. And there would be some, there would be some who would say the First Minister speaks for the New Democratic Party, for the government caucus, but I submit, Sir, that it certainly would not be a blanket 100 percent consensus--that's more than a consensus--it would not be a blanket 100 percent kind of response. So the question that the Minister of Mines and Resources directed at us the other evening, I think, Sir, could be with considerable amusement and enjoyment and entertainment, be turned back at the questioner himself and at his colleagues, because we are at some loss and I think Manitobans in large measure are at some loss from time to time, Sir, to determine just who it is who speaks for the government party. There is nothing wrong with the United Steelworkers speaking for the government; there is nothing wrong with the Minister of Health and Social Services speaking for the government. But the fact--the situation exists as such, Mr. Speaker, and therefore it becomes rather humorous and rather much of a sham for the Minister of Mines and Resources to feign solidarity, unity, and sort of single voice articulation on that side and imply that there is anything but that kind of cohesiveness or solidarity on this side or in this party.

Mr. Speaker, I think the former Member for Crescentwood, former member of this Chamber for Crescentwood, probably would agree if not in--he certainly would not agree in total essence with what I am saying because he wouldn't agree with the philosophical perspective from which I speak, but I think he might agree with that assertion of mine that the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) as to who speaks for the New Democratic Party and who there is over there who would stand up for Socialism, is one that could go begging a long time without an answer.

Mr. Speaker, may I look at one or two aspects of the partially announced government program in the next few minutes, both from the omissions of the Throne Speech and from the references that were in the Speech to specific projects that may be undertaken.

I'm interested in considerable degree with the references to the improvement and the upgrading that's necessary in the area of the Workmen's Compensation Act, Sir, and I look forward to the kinds of things that the Minister of Labour has already made reference to in the public press in recent weeks, and to the kinds of suggestions that the Manitoba Federation of Labour itself has forwarded to the Minister's office for improvement in that sphere. At the same time, I think that what was said about improvement in the Workmen's Compensation Act and what was said about the need to provide increases in pensions for those affected in industrial accidents, leads naturally to another point that has to be made, Mr. Speaker, and that is that while we are in favour on this side of the kinds of desirable improvements that have to be made for working Manitobans and all Manitobans in such spheres, we are not in favour of endless spending programs and we think that if rationalization is brought to some of the spending programs now going hell bent for leather under the lack of control brought to them by this government, there will be room for improvements of the type that the Minister of Labour and the Manitoba Federation of Labour have sought in that specific field; there will be room for numerous improvements that need to be made if spending can be rationalized and brought into line across the broad spectrum of government administration in this province generally.

Like many of my colleagues, I was struck by the singular omission of really specific reference to the number one problem in the province today in the Throne Speech, i.e. the cost of living. Although there was some oblique reference to that situation, there was no single specific hard-hitting zeroing-in approach to that question, no definition or identification of it as the number one problem facing Manitobans, and I think many thousands of Manitobans were considerably disturbed, Sir, by the fact that in all the verbiage and in all the rhetoric of the Throne Speech that single pressing, crucial problem was forgotten and ignored.

Mr. Speaker, I look in the new session for some approach to and some study of the juvenile act and the application of juvenile disciplinary, legal and disciplinary measures under our system of law in this province, to cope better with the problems that have occurred in a number of points since we last met in this Chamber, particularly in my own constituency of Fort Garry. In the months just past there have been some incidents, unfortunate incidents of juvenile violence in different schools, in school areas. I don't wish to generalize from the point of view of schools but in different school areas of Fort Garry-- and I'm sure that the occurrence of them differs not at all from similar occurrences in other areas--but the ones that occurred in Fort Garry did have the benefit, for good or ill, of publicity and had a spotlight, a public spotlight focused on them, Sir, and so they have come to the attention of many of us and of the public at large. It's a serious problem that has many causes, that has many roots, and it's nothing that can be cured or cleared up by one simple panacea or by one stroke, either at the political or the educational levels. There are concerned citizens in the area now meeting in regular committees to study all the causal effects of the kinds of incident that have occurred, and I think significant progress is being made and major areas of society in the Fort Richmond area of Fort Garry are being looked into in connection with that study. The parent groups and teacher groups, public citizen groups, are looking at the application of the laws as they apply to juvenile offenders; they're looking at the availability of recreational facilities for families and young people in the area; they're looking at the whole system of school guidance instruction, guidance counsellors, and the availability of good guidance to students in school. They're looking at many aspects of education in society.

But one aspect in particular that has disturbed many of us arises from the fact that many police officers have confessed that they have been rendered fairly powerless to deal with juvenile offenders on many occasions because of the lack of punch that's instilled in the juvenile courts and the lack of follow-through that is provided by juvenile authorities dealing with those young offenders, and I think that the time has come, Sir, in the interests of society and the interests of people young and old who obey the rules and obey the laws, the time has come to re-examine

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . the application of some of our statutes and regulations in that area of behaviour.

There has been, I think, a tendency in recent years to approach the problem of the juvenile offender in an extremely cautious and extremely liberal and an extremely permissive way and this--was it desirable in a worthwhile experiment? There is nothing wrong with approaching the problem from that philosophical perspective and seeing what could be done. But perhaps, Sir, the pendulum has now swung too far and resulted in a situation that finds many juvenile offenders literally thumbing their noses at the law, flouting the law, laughing at it, because they know they can do things that they can get away with. They're arrested, taken down to the police station, and within fifteen minutes they're out and home and back on the school lot or the Safeway lot or the community club lot doing whatever it was they were doing before in the way of harassing or intimidating or fighting, and they never really have to answer for their consequences, answer for their actions. So this is something that I think disturbs many of the people in my constituency these days, Sir, and I would recommend to the House that an examination of our attitudes in that sphere of behavioural society is overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I've had another area of concern expressed to me that I'd like to put on the record in the House from some teachers and some clerics in my constituency who believe that religion is not getting a fair deal in schools today alongside the kind of devotion that we have developed in recent years to secularism. We in Manitoba made the decision to remove religious teaching from the schools and I have no quarrel with that decision, nor do some of the teachers, parents and clerics who have been talking to me. But I think that once again we may be in a situation where the pendulum has swung perhaps too far and where fairness dictates that at least the different philosophical and spiritual and religious theories and approaches and perspectives be at least given recognition when the question of man and life and evolution and the world is being studied in the classroom. The people who have spoken to me about it say that there are many references made to the scientific view of man's beginnings and the world's beginnings, but alongside that there is never any recognition of the fact that there are other points of view and that perhaps man doesn't have all the answers as yet, and that perhaps there are other philosophies and viewpoints worthy of consideration. What they say in effect, Sir, is that there is a kind of a subtle theological discrimination practiced by omission more than by commission, and that the purpose of education really is to awaken a responsiveness, an intellectual responsiveness and a curiosity in young minds, and that the truer educational approach to the question would be, whenever that topic comes up either in a formal or an informal way in the classroom, to recognize the fact that although there seems to be some scientific evidence supporting what we might, for lack of a better term, call the "evolutionary theory of man" there also are historic, classic points of view well-founded in academic history, well-founded in the history of man, that support other points of view, and that there is an area of exploration and adventure out there that young people should be permitted to explore in and adventure in for themselves. The door shouldn't be shut either overtly or covertly. So I would like to put that on the record, Sir, as a point that I think is worthy of considering in a democratic society. I think all points of view related to anything so basic and fundamental as our beginnings are worthy of recognition and study in our schools, deserve such recognition and study, and naturally can lead on the parts of some persons to deep concern if they're omitted and ignored. The people who have mentioned them to me are people who are very concerned with the total education of their children, the total exposure intellectually of their children to all the questions answered and unanswered in the world, and they feel there is an omission there.

Mr. Speaker, an area in which I would like to spend a few moments--and I'm glad the Minister of Labour is in his seat at this time because it relates particularly to problems under his aegis--is that of the situation currently existing in the Manitoba Government Employees Association with respect to--(Interjection)-- Well with respect to union organizing activities. The Minister of Labour says the problem is resolved and I'm happy to hear that. I was happy to hear on Friday that the problem was resolved as far as contractual matters are concerned. But I would like to discuss with the Minister at some stage, and I give him notice of it now, as it were, the question of whether or not there has been something undesirable at the level of union organizing activity in the MGA insofar as whether or not persons closely connected with Cabinet planning groups, closely connected really with Cabinet in the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . administrative directions of this province, have been taking an active part in organizing on behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. There is no brief held here, Sir, for either the Canadian Union of Public Employees or the Manitoba Government Employees Association insofar as the certification to act for and represent provincial civil servants is concerned.

The question I raise is whether it does not put members of the civil service at a disadvantage to have organizers on behalf of one union or the other working so closely to leaders of power, working so closely to the seats of the Cabinet itself. I understand that a number of the organizers, all of whom in this case incidentally happen to be working on behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, were closely connected to Cabinet in that they were members of different Cabinet planning groups, Sir. There were, I believe, one or more who were in the urban development group of the Cabinet planning secretariat, one or more in the economic analysis group of the same secretariat, one or more in the planning section of the Provincial Department of Education, one or more in the branch dealing with educational projects for colleges and university affairs, and there may have been others.

Now, there is only one question in my opinion that arises at this point, Mr. Speaker, and that is whether or not individuals who are that close to the administrative decisions and to the administration of the province do not have a particularly influential position and a particularly influential status with members of the civil service generally, and if they do then I suggest that not by design but by fact and by act there is a subtle kind of harassment, a subtle kind of intimidation, a subtle kind of pressure placed on the rank and file civil service, because those who are in decision-making positions above him are actively working in a specific direction.

Now I leave it at that point, Mr. Speaker, and look forward to examining it with the Minister at greater length, but it has been a concern, Sir, and if there is any machinery that can be invoked in future to prevent that kind of overlap of influence and perhaps that kind of situation where there is an unfair advantage and a vested interest at stake, then it would be in the best interests of the provincial civil servants rank and file, the provincial civil servants' leadership and the Provincial Government and the province generally, to invoke that kind of machinery.

Mr. Speaker, the question of the current unemployment level and the difficulties being experienced in the garment industry in Manitoba is one that I also pose to the Ministry and particularly to the Minister of Labour at this time, that the unemployment level in Manitoba is reasonably good; I think we're at around 4.2 percent. That may not be totally desirable but it's not bad. However, Sir, at the same time there's a current short fall of at least 1,000 workers, I am told, in the garment industry in Manitoba, and I wonder what initiatives this government may be undertaking and planning to link up the two situations, whether, you know, how there can be an unemployment level of 4.2 percent which is probably one to 1.2 percent higher than is entirely desirable, and a short fall of that magnitude in an industry that's basic and crucial to the welfare of the Province of Manitoba is an interesting question. The wages in the garment industry are above minimum wage level, I am told, therefore there should be no reason, Sir, why the two situations can't be dovetailed to satisfy both aspects of the problem, and to beat both ends of the equation.

Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Labour Relations Act which was the subject of some considerable study in this House during the past two years, requires I think in the view of many, and I believe even in the view of the Minister, some further examination, some strengthening and some improvement in some areas, and in one area in particular I'll look for some action from the government; that is, in the area of the conscience clause, having to do with the phrase which makes specific reference to the religious beliefs of a person who is being assessed union dues. There still seems to be a wide area of misunderstanding and of disagreement, both at the management and the working levels of industry generally, as to the fair application of that stricture in the legislation. The legislation refers, Sir, to the right of a person to be excused from paying union dues if he is opposed by reason of his religious beliefs; and of course the question has not been satisfactorily answered by religionists, by politicians or by labour officials, or by individual union members, as to just precisely what that term means, whether it means the individual, intimate, personal beliefs or whether it means the tenet of a faith or a church or a religious movement. So I would hope that we'll have a chance to examine that inconsistency and that anomaly from the point of view of guaranteeing the freedom of conscience

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . of all Manitobans regardless of their religious beliefs in the weeks ahead in this session, Mr. Speaker.

The other issue that will concern me will be related very closely to the whole question of urban renewal and the different ingredients going to make up the proposed urban renewal packages at the present time, and in particular the question of relocation. I come from a constituency that is one of those being considered as a site for new railway routes under some of the rail relocation plans being studied, and I wish to reiterate the kinds of opposition that have been expressed by my constituents and by me before, Sir, to any relocation of railways into urban areas where people have made long term investments in their homes and in their streets and in their properties. I believe the place for the railways, if they're to be relocated, is outside the Perimeter Highway, in fact substantially outside the Perimeter Highway, because there are even parts of Metropolitan Winnipeg now that are inside the Perimeter Highway so that relocation should take place in areas sufficiently removed from the urban environment that we don't simply replace one blighted area for another. I appreciate, and my constituents appreciate, the difficulties under which many parts of the urban area have laboured for many years as a consequence of railways being in their midst, but the replacement of a blighted area with another blighted area in another part of the city seems to be a foolish exercise and a disastrous waste of government funds, Sir. If the railways can't be relocated to an area where they don't blight the urban metropolitan complex, that is Greater Winnipeg, then further studies should be undertaken to see what can be done about reducing the kinds of difficulties that they now create where they're presently located.

Mr. Speaker, there's reference in the Throne Speech to a sports' directorate and I know that recently substantial initiatives were made in that direction with the appointment of a Director of Sport. This is a development that I think has been long overdue in Manitoba, in western Canada and in Canada. I think all Canadians took pride a few weeks ago when the substantially improved showing of the Canadian team at the British Commonwealth Games in Christchurch; it was the first time that a Canadian team had ever done that well in a major international athletic meet and the first time in fact that a Canadian team had led the field the way Canada did for several days, finally finishing a very close third to Australia and England. I believe that the comparison between the kinds of performances that Canada used to achieve - and I use the term loosely - on the international level ten years ago and the achievements - and I use that term proudly - that Canada is marking up today, point up very dramatically the values and the benefits of the kinds of intensification of recreational programs and amateur sports development that has taken place in this country in the last ten years, and we need more of that. I don't think you can divorce sport and performance in sport from the whole field of culture and the whole field of pride in one's country, particularly in this day and age, in this competitive, sports-oriented world that has been the outgrowth of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. And so I think all Canadians take a legitimate pride in the kinds of things that our teams do when they do well, and I commend this government for moving in that field with the establishment of a sports directorate here, because it can only enhance the health and the general physical fitness and the general sporting achievement and the general pride of Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, some of the things that I have made reference to are extremely important in the scale of priorities and I hope will not be minimized in any way, either by myself or by other members in the debates in the weeks ahead, but all of it takes second place to the costs affecting all Manitobans in terms of their livelihood today, and I return in conclusion to that specific point, that for all that we can look for perhaps in other areas of development, that for all that is important in the quality of life in this province and in the social requirements of Manitobans at various levels, the most important thing of all is the ability to make a living and support a family and to keep a home, and unless some very strong, very courageous, very imaginative initiatives are undertaken by all of us in this Chamber in concert with other provincial governments and the Federal Government to get a handle on and put a control on that runaway feature of our lives, then none of these other things that we are looking at are going to be worth very much, Sir, so I would hope that the basic initiative of this government, prodded by this Opposition as it will be day after day after day hopefully, will turn in that direction and will bring that difficulty under control. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

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MR. McBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to enter into the debate the first time in the new session. In doing so, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate you on your reappointment to your important position in this Legislature and I hope to be one of those to assist you in maintaining the order and appropriate decorum of this House.

I'd also like to congratulate, Mr. Speaker, the members of the Legislature newly elected to this House; and of course, Mr. Speaker, I'd especially like to congratulate the new members from northern Manitoba. People might recall that during the election campaign the Leader of the Opposition said that this provincial election would be won or lost in northern Manitoba, and after the election I took the liberty of taking that newspaper article and putting it on our caucus room wall to remind my colleagues of the importance of that part of our province from many points of view including the political point of view.

I would also like to congratulate the new Ministers that have been appointed. They're certainly a welcome asset to the government of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, when a legislative session begins, then we start to see what the strategy of the various political parties is and how they're going to approach the session, and I suppose, Mr. Speaker, how they're going to approach things for the next few years. And I think that it's at least disappointing to me, if not to others, that the apparent strategy for this session of the Legislature by the members of the Opposition is not to propose policy alternatives, not to give the people of Manitoba a choice as to what kind of policies they would like to see pursued; basically their strategy is to criticize, Mr. Speaker, to pick on little things here, little things there, but don't - don't propose an alternate strategy, Sir, because if you do somebody might criticize you because they won't like your approach as opposed to the approach suggested by the government and by this political party that I am a part of.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I suppose it might not be too bad of a thing if you're in Opposition, because there's always something to criticize, Mr. Speaker. There are numerous programs that government are involved in, and regardless of which political party is in office there are a number of things that could be strengthened and there are a number of things that could be improved, there are a number of things that could be changed. But, Mr. Speaker, to do so without proposing viable alternative policies, Mr. Speaker, I think is an abdication of the role of Opposition, and I'm afraid that's the type of strategy that has been fallen into by the Leader of the Opposition and his Party and now apparently is being followed up by the other members of the Legislature or the other Party in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that the Leader of the Opposition has tried to make an issue of, and I haven't heard anything, Mr. Speaker, from him except for a very vague and general statement that in northern Manitoba there's patronage. Mr. Speaker, I suppose that's a pretty safe statement to make if you don't have to elaborate on it or add anything more. Maybe the member is just keeping us in suspense, I'm not sure. But, Mr. Speaker, I think that I have a bit of an understanding of his definition of patronage, and I think it would be the situation that if there was a position advertised "Leader of a Political Party" and qualifications were listed, that you were able to speak in public, able to get along with people, able to propose policies that are in benefit of the people of the country or the province, if this position was advertised, bulletined, Mr. Speaker, and there were three applicants for this position, leader of a political party, and one of them were the present Premier, one were the Leader of the Opposition, and one were the Leader of the Liberal Party; and when selection day came around, Mr. Speaker, and there was a panel to decide, a selection board, Mr. Speaker, and they chose the Premier of the Province for the position of leader of this political party, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party would say "patronage", Mr. Speaker, whereas the rest of us would know, and the people of Manitoba would know, that that person was the best qualified of any of the applicants for that particular job.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important and necessary for members of the Legislature to have some idea and some understanding of the feelings of people from all parts of the province, what their attitudes are towards development and change, what their attitudes are to various policies and programs, and I think that my colleagues from northern Manitoba have done considerable to put forward some of these attitudes to the House and so that members of the House could understand. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, it would be fair to say that there are really two aspects to northern Manitoba when we are dealing with northern Manitoba from a policy point of view and that is, Mr. Speaker, there is the urban centres recently populated

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . and there is the remote communities that have been populated for a considerable length of time. And I think it's fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that as government, and even probably members of the opposition have some understanding of the kinds of policies, the kinds of programs, that the people in the urban centres are wanting, that the people in urban centres would benefit from, because I think basically the people in the urban centres of northern Manitoba want really an equal access to services, an equal access to good things in life, and a decent wage and decent prices for goods. I don't think it's too complicated to figure out the kind of programs that are of benefit to those centres.

I think probably, Mr. Speaker, a little bit more difficult area of policy determination comes in relation to the remote centres in northern Manitoba where at some time programs are begun and then found not to be very useful and have to be changed and adjusted to circumstances in those particular communities, and, Mr. Speaker, I'll be the first to admit that we don't have all the answers in relation to remote communities, although I think we have most of the answers in relation to the more urban centres in the northern part of our province.

Mr. Speaker, in order to try and assist members of the opposition to understand at least one small aspect of life in northern Manitoba, I would like to quote very briefly from an issue of the Steel Gauntlet, Volume No. 11, No. 10, November '73, the Steel Gauntlet being the newspaper of the United Steelworkers of America, the Thompson local. Mr. Speaker, I think that just a brief quotation from this article - not that brief - some quotations from this particular front page story might help some of the members just to understand one small aspect of northern Manitoba. This story, Mr. Speaker, deals with the death of a young man in the mine at Thompson, Manitoba.

This was a young man who was born in 1954 and was killed accidentally in the mine at Thompson in 1973. I quote, Mr. Speaker: "The deceased came to his death by following means: result of the upper portion of his body, namely the head, being crushed between a timber and a battery of a motor at the 1,400 foot level T-1 Mine owned and operated by International Nickel Company of Canada Limited, Thompson, Manitoba. Medical cause of death recites only the principal cause, severe traumatic injury to head including basal fracture of the skull; and fourthly, it appears to me that the death resulted in whole or in part from the unlawful act of culpable negligence of no person or corporation." Mr. Speaker, that's a quotation, and I quote again from the article. "That was the magistrate's verdict. That was the way he died and that was that. All legal and businesslike. No person nor corporation charged, nobody's fault. The accident just happened, I guess. The National Safety Council says they don't, but it seems from the verdict that they do and the result of this one was just as tragic as every other one. A young man 19 years of age, just starting in life, his first job off the farm, didn't get his chance because of an accident that just happened. And like all the others that just happen.

Ken, like many other prairie youngsters was born and raised on the family farm. His family farm is in Grandview, Manitoba, and his parents and younger brother are now taking care of it since there is no more Ken. He was born on May 4th, 1954, and as his mother recalls Ken was always a good older brother who took care of his younger sister and brother. Ken attended the country school of Moranville district for eight years and then attended the Grandview Elementary School from Grade 9, and on completion of Grade 9 enrolled at the St. Vladimir College in Roblin, Manitoba. St. Vladimir is a private school mostly for catholic students. While a student there Ken studied extra subjects such as Ukrainian religion and was active in school choirs. He accompanied several concert tours throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. "Ken was a quiet but pleasant partner to have around," stated one of his workmates, Les Snider. "I never heard Ken swear," said Les, "he was absolutely polite, which is uncommon under the ground where everyone is rough." Ken took his Grade 12 in Grandview Collegiate. In October of 1972 he graduated. His main interest at this time was farming. He had worked on the farm from a very early age and, says his mother, he could run any machinery on the farm. He ran it with extreme caution and never had an accident.

In November, 1972, Ken decided he should venture into the employee-employer relation world and make some extra money. His first and only job was that with Inco. As months went by, said his mother, Ken wasn't too pleased with his work and at different times he told his folks that he would soon leave as too many accidents happened. He had at last decided that maybe he would try to enter the Brandon College in September. In May he went home for the

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . long Victoria Day weekend and he was then thinking that maybe he shouldn't return but he did as there wasn't anything else around then. While home that weekend he complained of a sore back and he found just sitting in a chair very uncomfortable. It was later discovered that a timber had fallen on him in the mine. His partner had apparently let go of his end of the timber they were carrying and Ken hurt his back. He returned to work that week-end and his family never saw him alive again. The next time they saw him he was lying in his coffin.

Ken was a model family son. His parents never had any complaints from his teachers about him nor from neighbours. He didn't like wild parties, and he had a few choice friends who chummed around with him. He liked to work weights and had done so for several years building up his body and strength. Between doing weights and working on the farm he had grown into a strong and healthy young man. Said his mother, we miss him dearly. He hadn't started living yet. Why him, is hard to understand. His brother, Ian, who is sixteen years old misses him in silence and there is such a load on him that - with all the farm work now.

Yes, Ken was another young Canadian stupidly killed by another accident that should never have happened. He was killed in a mine where many stupid accidents have happened. He was killed trying to put a battery back on a motor by using a timber. The timber method is often used in putting ore cars back on the track and it is only a miracle that more men have not been crushed to death using this method. Are they still using timbers to re-rail cars and motors? Yes they are. After all what comes first? Is it production or safety?"

And, Mr. Speaker, that's a very sad story quoted from the steelworkers' newspaper but I think it cuts quite deeply into one of the problems that are facing northern Manitoba, and that is the situation of people from all over Canada working in the underground mines in that part of our province, and I think, Mr. Speaker, maybe it's only that kind of tragic story that helps members of this House and helps the public generally to understand some of the feelings in that part of our province.

Mr. Speaker, I could tell of concerns in many other areas of life in northern Manitoba, of inaccessibility to medical services and those kind of things which I think would also help members to understand the feeling and the situation that the people in the northern part of our province live with and deal with on a daily basis. Mr. Speaker, I selected that one because it was very recent. I thought members, especially from rural areas, would understand it quite clearly and I know this subject is very disturbing to many of my colleagues from the northern part of our province. Mr. Speaker, that's only one small aspect of life as we face it in the northern part of our province.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any difference or change in the policies and programs of this government, this New Democratic Party Government, I would hope that it's in our ability to listen to, to talk to, to relate to the people, and to develop the kind of programs the people themselves are asking for, that people themselves want. Mr. Speaker, not a program of us deciding here in the City of Winnipeg what is best for northern programs, what are the best northern policies, but arriving at these policies and programs only after discussion, consultation and reconsultation with the people who are affected by those programs and policies. I think the newly elected Member for Rupertsland in the area of economic development stated that kind of goal, that kind of method of assisting people, and I think it is the only effective one, the only one that in the long term bears the kind of results that I'm sure all members of this House would like to have.

Mr. Speaker, in light of that kind of approach the Department of Northern Affairs has engaged in a discussion for changes or possible changes in the Northern Manitoba Affairs Act. Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be fair to say that these consultations, especially in terms of legislation, are the most intensive that have probably taken place anywhere in our country, where people even before legislation is drafted have been asked fully for their opinions, the various possibilities pointed out to them, the alternatives open to them, and their recommendations have been compiled in a way that I think when they're finally completed that will be meaningful, not only to the people who gave forward those ideas, Mr. Speaker, but to all members of the House, and especially useful to those of us who have the responsibility of drafting and bringing to this Legislature recommendations for new legislation, for new programs, for new policies.

Mr. Speaker, it is sometimes, I suppose, unfortunate that the -- to understand a number

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . of the situations and problems that are in the northern part of our province. We rely on reports that may not always be accurate, or that may be initiated from self-interests of a few people involved. I suppose one of these situations, Mr. Speaker, arises around the winter road program in northern Manitoba. Because, Mr. Speaker, this is a situation that has been developing for many many years where private companies have accepted the hauling of goods into remote communities and have made their own way into those communities, and charged, Mr. Speaker, the kind of rates that traffic would bear. Mr. Speaker, I'm not criticizing those who were involved in that activity. They were good business people and they were trying to make a return on their money invested. I would maintain, Mr. Speaker, that it was a good return.

However the province became concerned, Mr. Speaker, quite early that perhaps there was a way to lower the cost of goods in these remote communities and decided at that time to pay half the cost of the construction of roads into some of these communities. But that caused a problem, Mr. Speaker, because when the province is paying half the cost then other haulers thought they had the right to use that road. And anyone familiar with the situation would know that we had a range war develop, or something like a range war develop, over who had the right to use certain winter roads and it got to be a very dangerous and difficult situation to deal with. And, Mr. Speaker, it was decided at that time that the province would in fact pay 100 percent of the cost of the opening up and maintenance of winter roads and make that use of those roads available to other people to haul goods into remote communities. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that -- I don't know how much credit we can take for that particular development, Mr. Speaker, because I think whatever government had been in power would have had to take some steps to deal with the problem situation that had arisen.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, the difference of today and yesterday was in yesterday we used a catswing or cat train method of hauling goods in there and only in the last few years have evolved into a winter truck road situation which is quite a different kind of construction, which is quite a - really a more costly kind, a much higher grade of trail that has to be put through for the freight trucks that can operate on the highways of southern Manitoba to get into the northern part of our province.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think even with the limited experience from last year we can show quite significant reduction in the cost of hauling goods into that part of our province, and, Mr. Speaker, when someone can say that it has cost the people in those communities a considerable amount of money, Mr. Speaker, I can only say that person doesn't know what they're talking about. It has cost, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's fair to say the people of all of Manitoba, a considerable amount of funds to assist the people in remote communities to have the cost of their goods lowered. Mr. Speaker, some of the benefit will go to the retail people hopefully and they will gain from this endeavour on the part of the Provincial Government of Manitoba. I think that it would be fair to say though that the biggest benefit - people who benefit the most from this is really the Federal Government through the Department of Supply and Services who are the main haulers into that area, and another is Manitoba Hydro that takes considerable oil into these communities to operate their diesel generators in remote communities of northern Manitoba. But also the ones who gain, Mr. Speaker, are the retail stores and hopefully when we start seeing the results from a northern prices consumer review that is presently taking place we'll be able to see whether or not these retail outlets are in fact passing on the savings to the people in remote communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I could go into some detail on the present situation of winter roads in northern Manitoba but, Mr. Speaker, I think I'll await until a written report for the members or until Estimates come before this Legislature. I think it's satisfactory to say, Mr. Speaker, that the main roads are now all pushed through and within a week heavy traffic will be moving over all the main roads in the winter road network and, Mr. Speaker, barring some catastrophe there is no reason why all goods shouldn't be in to the communities in northern Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, more important all goods should be at a considerable saving to the people shipping goods and buying goods in northern Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, this again is another small part of the Provincial Government's program to try and assist northern Manitoba to have an equal situation to the people in southern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, in my mind a key

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(MR. McBRYDE cont'd) . . . word in there is "equalization" because, Mr. Speaker, I think we have to move in that direction; we have to move in that direction rapidly and as fast as we can as the government to try and give equal opportunity to the people living in the northern part of our province, the same as those living in the southern part of our province.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would submit to a question? I wonder if he can indicate at the present time, based on the information he now has, that it's fair to say that there is no analysis of the government that would indicate that in any way, up to this point, that the roads that have been produced or constructed under government supervision, have in any way lowered the cost of goods to people in the remote communities.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, there is some evidence to that effect, the northern prices review system that was announced is now beginning to do an indepth study of the cost to the consumers in those communities, and Mr. Speaker, this will give us the kind of information we need; and Mr. Speaker, maybe further steps will have to be taken to try and lower the cost of goods to those people.

MR. SPIVAK: A further question in connection with this. Last year at approximately this time, the question arose as to why the price of goods was the same and had not been lowered. At that time the government undertook that there would be an investigation for last year. Do you have any information on that which would indicate that the price of goods were in fact lowered as a result of the government activity last year?

MR. McBRYDE: The cost of those goods that went in over the winter roads network last year, the cost per pound to haul those goods, was considerably lower than under the previous method or under the air transportation method.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question isn't the cost of the haulage charge, my question is the cost of the final goods purchased by the consumer, the retail price. Is there any indication from the government that for last year the retail price of the goods in remote communities was any cheaper?

MR. McBRYDE: You know, I welcome discussion of this subject but I would rather do it at a more appropriate time, rather than on the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

My colleagues have offered me the opportunity to be the first one up on estimates so maybe members could hold all their questions until that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Let me also indicate that questions should be in respect to clarification and not to open further debate. If the honourable member has a question of clarification I will entertain it. If it's one that will open up debate I have to rule it out of order; he'll have to judge that himself.

MR. SPIVAK: On a point of order, my questions were related to the statements and were not intended in any way to get involved in a debate. They were questions specifically asking for clarification of the statements that had been made.

I wonder if the honourable member, would, with respect to the analogy that he made with respect to the Premier, myself and the Leader of the Liberal Party, clarify and indicate the extent to which members have been appointed to the Northern Affairs Department who in fact, have not been boarded in the way that he suggested the Premier and myself and the Liberal Leader would be judged; how many and how significant within the Department?

MR. McBRYDE: I understand from my colleagues there is a question on the Order Paper in that regard. Mr. Speaker, I would say it's significant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: I wonder if I might direct a question to the Minister with regards to one of the very major points he made here, in respect to the miner who was killed in the mine accident and described in the paper he read from. Mr. Speaker, first of all the question was - I didn't catch the date on which he mentioned this happened. Was it in the last year? Is this the accident, during the last twelve months?

MR. McBRYDE: The article doesn't say the exact date of the accident. My assumption from reading the article is that it was quite recent.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, we would ask the Minister if he would table the article, so

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) that we might have access to it. Secondly Mr. Speaker, and the real question here is whether or not in view of this accident there wasn't an undertaking along the lines he thought should be by the mining inspector and the mining branch, the Mines Branch to the safety inspection procedure - was there not a more detailed report? He's talking in this report here, Mr. Speaker, about the magistrate's report on the accident which he felt was dealt with with dispatch and didn't give the full plight of the situation that was involved.

Was there not, and I think Mr. Speaker, the Minister does have a responsibility as a cabinet minister, to vet these things before he makes these statements in the house. Was there not a statement by the mining inspector, or a full investigation, and a subsequent recommendation that they would look in and attempt to alleviate this particular practice?

MR. McBRYDE: . . . question that I'll engage in. Mr. Speaker, there is a full report of the kind that the member has talked about. In regard to the paper, Mr. Speaker, my understanding is it's the procedure of the Legislature that if it's a paper that's commonly available that it's not tabled. I don't know if the members are on the mailing list of the Steelworkers at Thompson but this is my one copy. I'd be pleased to loan it, but I would like to have it back again.

In regard to safety, Mr. Speaker - further to that question Mr. Speaker, there have been a varying, serious, and intensive change in government program and policy in terms of mining safety, and Mr. Speaker, we do not now have a Minister of Mines and Resources like we have had in the past, who seemed to imply that production was in fact more important than safety.

MR. CRAIK: I think . . . I really rise then on a matter of house privilege. Last year, in this House, we had the Member for Flin Flon stand up . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member state his matter of privilege.

MR. CRAIK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, at that time he accused the mining inspector of taking a rip-off from the Mining Company at Flin Flon and doing an inadequate job under the previous government of doing these things--an inadequate job of inspecting for safety in the mine. And we have a statement by a Minister of the Crown now, Sir, today , that says that again a problem has existed and the problem hasn't even been rectified, and by the admission of the Steelworkers Paper and by the admission of the Minister of the Crown. Mr. Speaker, what's the point of all this? We had accusations . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please, order please. I cannot see that the honourable member has stated a matter of privilege. All he's doing is debating a difference of opinion with the other side. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle Russell): . . . in his speech the Minister referred to a difference in the--(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I haven't even asked him the question and he told me he won't answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Let me indicate that it is customary if there are questions of clarification necessary, if they are going to again open the area of debate, I shall have to rule them out of order. . . . Those are your rules, let's abide by them.--(Interjection)-- That's his privilege too.

MR. GRAHAM: . . . indicated there was a vast difference in the construction methods between cat train roads and truck train roads. Could he indicate what that difference is?

MR. McBRYDE: . . . has to be good enough for a cat to get over and the other has to be good enough for a truck to get over.

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

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I have a temptation to ask you a particular favor, knowing the kind of special relationship that I've enjoyed with you over the past few years, as to whether or not we couldn't call it 5:30 at this particular time but I see by the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: I'm at the pleasure of the House.

MR. ENNS: Well we are in a co-operative mood this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, and I'll attempt not to ruffle that mood, at least, not for the first few moments of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, of course would want to join with the chorus of other members who have congratulated you, Sir, on your appointment to the position that you occupy. I suspect, however, Mr. Speaker, that something that was missed by most other members up to now in their congratulations to you is the realization, Sir, that not only do we genuinely

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . appreciate the fact that you will act as steward of this Chamber once again, but that you, Sir, have found what, oh I suppose many a successful married couple has found out a long time ago, that you have with your congenial institution of providing a dinner and relaxation on Friday afternoons found a way to the members' hearts through their stomachs you might say, and in my judgment, of course, if the congratulations appear to be somewhat warmer this time around than on other occasions that might be part of the reason, Sir, We do appreciate the institution that you have instituted where on Friday afternoons we can set our partisanship for a brief moment and enjoy the genuine hospitality of you, Sir; and I might add, enjoy some of the cooking of your good wife who I understand assists you from time to time on those occasions.

Mr. Speaker, I of course express my congratulations to the members in the House. I must express some regret that it has now become an all male domain. I express that particularly as the member that represented the female sex that has been represented in this chamber over the last decade has consistently come from the Conservative side and we, as a result of the actions, particularly the actions which I think could be attributed as anti-women's liberation on the part of the government, have now removed that particular force from our benches. I refer of course to the former member for Fort Rouge.

My own situation, Mr. Speaker, I note with some pleasure has not changed despite some of the devout wishes of members opposite that I would not be here; I would have to indicate with some gratification and some sincere appreciation to my constituents, who despite formidable and worthy opponents decided nonetheless to retain their confidence in me as their spokesman in this Chamber. Indeed I might add, Mr. Speaker, have put me here with a greater majority than I have ever enjoyed in any previous year.

Mr. Speaker, I had also wished to make some comments with respect to the Throne Speech. In fact I was just about on the same wave length with the Honourable Member for Fort Garry who just spoke this afternoon, that I was in listening to my leader and listening to the official reaction of the Liberal Party, somewhat relieved that this document spelt out some slowing up of the hectic galloping pace that socialists are always working under, and I was about to congratulate the government on that particular basis, but I heed the advice from the Member from Morris who has already told me that that is a thing that I should never do, should never show generosity to this government, should never congratulate them because they will turn upon them in a vicious and mean manner and cast them back into my face.

The difficulty of course is that they have had too many of my speeches before them and heard them, that I have made in private and in public, that if you want to for a moment, disassociate yourself from the party labels that we put on each other and just talk about maximum government versus minimum government, then, Sir, I speak for a minimum government in the rolls of our lives and tend to agree with any government that chooses to do a little less interfering in the every day and personal life of its citizens from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, in reading through the Throne Speech one can't help but be amused at the recitation of the crude growth figures, that kind of recitation for which my leader was so wrongly condemned during the tenure of his office as Minister of Industry and Commerce or indeed which has followed him to a great degree as the Leader of our Party. Somehow these same figures become very important to this New Democratic Party right now in trying to establish some claim to progress, some claim to moving this province forward. Mr. Speaker, of course they are important; they are indicators, barometers of what's happening in the Province of Manitoba. I just make the remark in the sense that it's somewhat amusing to see in what short period of time attitudes can change.

I also, Mr. Speaker, note with some satisfaction when I read in the Throne Speech that "I am informed regrettfully that accidents and Highway Traffic Act convictions for the past year have substantially increased. Examinations of ways in which to reduce this pattern is under way and my ministers hope to report progress in reversing this trend soon."

Well, Mr. Speaker, you know there was a time, and this to a degree, indicates a certain maturity on this part of government which wasn't there a few years ago. There was a period not so long ago, in fact 3, 4 short years ago, where this government received some macabre pleasure out of blaming accidents and highway deaths on the previous Progressive Conservative administration, and that, Sir, I will not now allow myself to do to this government or to these ministers. I simply would indicate to them that they have my support for

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . whatever reasonable measures they bring forward in dealing with this very serious, a very growing problem that affects the lives of so many Manitobans; that brings heartache and brings tragedy into the homes of our citizens every day, year in, year out. So, Mr. Speaker, rather than the kind of indulgence that was indulged in by this government some four years ago, I applaud their recognition of the serious situation that we have on our highways and that we should be doing something about it.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose that I should not be surprised at the government's intention to move into yet further fields of business and private endeavour. They will, of course, have a bit more difficulty in snowballing the public this time around because I think all of us admitted that there was a more complex situation that faced us as legislators and the people of Manitoba at the time that the Autopac debates were carried out in this House. There was a general degree of concern and dissatisfaction with some aspects of the insurance as carried out by the private companies. We all know that they could have been solved without the heavy-handed interference and intervention of government. We all know that we could have saved the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba countless millions of dollars that we have now been demonstrated this government and this agency will accrue as their mounting deficits continue. However, the intrusion into the other fields of insurances, as indicated by this government through the Throne Speech, will lack that convenient cover that they had in the auto insurance debate. In other words, here it will be easier for us as Opposition members to clearly demonstrate that really all it is is a naked thrust, a naked grab of control of power is what this government and what these Ministers want. And I suspect that that will be a considerably lighter and easier job for us as Opposition members to demonstrate this time around when we discuss those matters as they become before us.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on this Throne Speech - I want to deal essentially with the morality of this government, the morality some of its Ministers have displayed, particularly in the last little while. I do so to some extent as a reaction to the statements made by the Minister of Finance who thought the kind of campaign that was waged by the Progressive Conservative Party, and I suppose others, was particularly misleading and indeed bordered on the crude scare tactics, I think he expressed particular annoyance with the kind of ads about the big arms around the Legislature here depicting the kind of control and intervention that we felt the government was going to perpetuate on the people of Manitoba. Well, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that in the next very few moments I will be able to demonstrate in a very clear and decisive manner that if anything, if anything, our campaign was understated, our campaign was in fact allowing the usual latitudes that one would want to allow in the heat of an election campaign and in the general advertising world that we were in fact understating the case.

Mr. Speaker, I view - and I want to tell the Minister of Finance that, and unfortunately he's not in his chair - I want to indicate to him that I do view every move of this government into the private sector, every greater degree of control into the private sector, as a measure that is a deliberate step by step program for what we certainly would call and what most people of Manitoba would accept as being totally unacceptable to the degree of government intervention in their daily lives.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this particular government, when it came to power, it of course spent a great deal of its time convincing Manitobans and trying to convince us in the Chamber here of the new kind of morality that they were bringing to the people of Manitoba, that they were bringing to the administration of this province. The fact is they used to ridicule, they used to sneer at the kind of tactics that the old line Parties engaged in from time to time the election tactics that the old line Parties engaged in from time to time. They laughed at those kind of slogans that Conservatives had over the years past, such as Hollow John, or I suppose more recently the kind of Trudeaumania that was exhibited by the Liberal Party in this country. And, Mr. Speaker, for a moment you could just about believe that they were speaking with a degree of conviction and faith. I can recall, Mr. Speaker, a fairly influential man in the New Democratic Party who explained it to me thus, that he was convinced that the issues, the principles of the things were the matters that counted, that personalities indeed should be set aside. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, he ran a campaign against the present Leader -- I won't mention him but the colour of the button that he used is green-- but there was a bigger meaning behind that button, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think in fairness

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . that I am divulging any personal confidence with the person involved because I assume that the campaign, the campaign was a public one and that these buttons were widely distributed. But what he was trying to tell his own Party, and what he was trying to tell other people, the general public in Manitoba at that particular time, was that there was no room for the personality cult in the New Democratic Party, that that Party stood for principles, that Party stood for issues, and that was the new morality that the New Democratic Party was bringing into politics in Manitoba.

Well, Mr. Speaker, where was that lack of personality in this last election? Mr. Speaker, I predicted the kind of election that we would be facing. I predicted that, Sir, if you refer to the debates of last year, the Hansard, the Hansard on Page 1973 on April 6th right after the Budget Speech, these are my very words in this Chamber: "Mr. Speaker, this government and this Party does not intend to go to the people under the banner of the New Democratic Party. It intends to go to the people solely and strictly under the banner of the Schreyer government." "Am I right? This government intends to hide itself and will hide the New Democratic Party label to the greatest extent possible. You see, Mr. Speaker, it is not the New Democratic Party that did this, it is the Schreyer government that did this. It is not the New Democratic Party government that provided nursing care homes for our aged, it is the Schreyer government that will have done all these things. That, Sir, of course you all recall, it wasn't so long ago, was the kind of scenario that was in my judgment deliberately set up so that the Minister of Finance, who held that portfolio for a period of time, and I acknowledge that he had personal problems at that particular time, but nonetheless it was all too convenient that the Schreyer—that the First Minister of this government, already loaded to the gills, you might say, with responsibility, assumed the portfolio of Finance to read that Santa Claus Budget Speech in this Chamber so that this kind of a statement could in fact be true, at least literally, that Mr. Schreyer did do all these wonderful things.

Mr. Speaker, so much for the kind of new morality that this Party, this government was going to bring to politics insofar as electioneering techniques were concerned. Mr. Speaker, I would dearly love to take up the challenge, and this is one of the advantages of speaking late in the debate. Other speakers, intervening speakers, make some reasonably good speeches and have their impact on members, and one is tended to be diverted from what one originally wanted to say, and I feel myself somewhat torn by wanting to accept the challenge as issued by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources about the question of who speaks for the Conservatives on this side of the House, the whole concept, the philosophy of our two opposing sides; and I agree with him on this score, that there is really that fight and that fight alone that should be fought in this Chamber, but that'll have to wait another day. I suspect with a budget approaching that that may well be the occasion where that can be done.

Mr. Speaker, I notice that you are . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being 5:30, the honourable gentleman will have an opportunity to proceed later on this evening. I am leaving the Chair now to return at 8:00 p.m.