

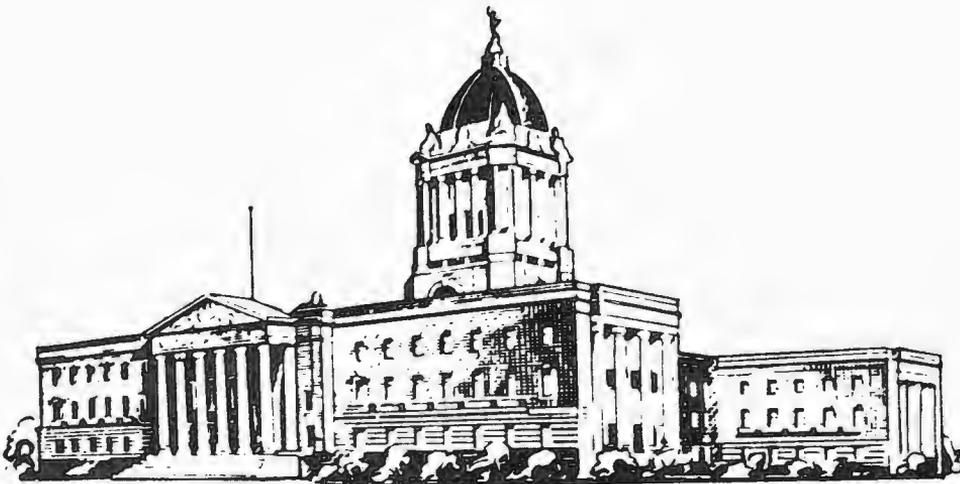


Second Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

26 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable Harry E. Graham
Speaker*



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10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 23, 1978

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, March 23, 1978

Time: 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, Members of the Assembly are aware that the government has been considering the province's participation in the proposed Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency.

I wish to inform the members of the government's decision to enter into the proposed agreement establishing the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency.

Before agreeing to the province's participation, we have sought assurances that the Manitoba producers will be able to supply any export market developed by the Manitoba Chicken Broiler Producers' Marketing Board or by an individual producer. Provisions of the proposed plan provide that the national agency, once established, is obliged to make an Agreement with the provincial board enabling it to develop and supply an export market for chicken which it finds.

It is this government's desire to see to it that the rights of Manitoba producers to supply such export markets either as individual producers or through their provincial producer board are assured.

Thus, concurrent with Manitoba's entry into the proposed agreement establishing the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency,

(1) The Province will immediately enter into a separate agreement with the Manitoba Chicken Broiler Producers' Marketing Board whereby the Board would be bound to provide an additional quota to a producer who has developed a new export market;

(2) The Manitoba Chicken Broiler Producers' Marketing Board will sign an Agreement with the national agency giving the provincial marketing board sufficient latitude to develop export markets for Manitoba producers;

(3) Notice will be given at the time of entry into the plan of Manitoba's intention to withdraw from the Agreement if the province's concerns are not satisfied regarding the ability of an individual producer to obtain additional quota to serve an export market he has developed, or if the provincial producers' board is restricted in its efforts to develop export markets for Manitoba producers.

Mr. Speaker, the government is hopeful that through our participation, Manitoba chicken broiler producers will enjoy further growth of their product thereby contributing to the growth of our agricultural economy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister making his statement to the House on this particular subject. It's something that we have been involved in over a number of months, indeed years. I would like to tell him, however, that we are not prepared to support such a measure, that that is indeed a violation of the spirit in which that government was elected and that is that there would be no further restrictions on anyone in the production of any commodity.

Secondly, I would like to point out the most important decision for not supporting that particular proposal is that it supports about six producers in Manitoba who produce about 50 percent of the total volume, and these are large corporations who do not need a marketing board. In fact, if there is any commodity that should not have a marketing board it's the broiler industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table two news releases. One has been put out by the Flood Forecasting Committee with respect to the potential for flooding on the Assiniboine and Red Rivers this spring. The second one is put out by the Water Resources Division and deals with the spring runoff outlook for other rivers in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, we have no objection whatsoever. I would hope that this is not a precedent that news releases are to be tabled. I agree entirely that these reports should be tabled and we have always done so, as reports to the House with regard to these matters.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. EDWARD SCHREYER (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Information has been brought to my attention, Sir, indicating that in at least one of the Health and Social Development district offices in Greater Winnipeg, that at the same time as there has been the layoff of three of the personnel of the said office and with an undiminished caseload that those remaining there are being required now to work at overtime rates. Can the Minister indicate that he is aware of this and is a matter of deliberate policy; and if not will he undertake to check into this?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would accept the request of the Leader of the Opposition that I undertake to look into it. It's a situation that we attempt to monitor on a regular basis throughout the spectrum of offices of the department. I can't give him any further information at this point, but I will report back to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I allow any more questions, the Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Premier)(Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, with leave if I might have the pleasure of introducing to you, Sir, and to the honourable members of the House, a guest in your gallery, His Excellency, Alex N. Abankwa, the High Commissioner to Canada from Ghana. Mr. Abankwa is visiting Western Canada for the first time and we're very pleased to have him as our guest in Manitoba today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition may continue with his question.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suppose I should take this opportunity to join the Premier in extending words of welcome to a distinguished representative of a sister member of the Commonwealth. I hope and trust that in his observing of our deliberations here he will see that wherever it is on this planet earth that there is always, unfortunately, a certain inevitability to acrimony and contention. However, we do try to contain ourselves, Sir.

I move quickly now to address a question to the Minister of Health. Given that he has undertaken to check and ascertain the facts with respect to my first question, will he now undertake to ascertain the facts, with respect to information that has been forwarded to me, that because of the cancellation of certain special education classes in the Portage la Prairie area that the children requiring these special education services are being bussed on a once or twice weekly basis to St. Boniface for the same said service?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, all I can do is undertake to investigate that for the Leader of the Opposition in the House. There is a substantial rationalization of programming and services being explored and being examined. I must tell the honourable gentleman that I can't give him any information on that because I don't have it, but I will attempt to obtain it.

MR. SCHREYER: Well' Mr. Speaker, I do not quarrel with the reference to rationalization; that is needed from time to time. I would ask the Minister, however, if he is indicating by his answer that he will be attempting to justify as rationalization the busing of children from the Portage Plains and Portage District to the St. Boniface Red River East area of the province?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting that I would attempt to justify it in terms of the usual interpretation of the word "justify", but I do suggest or do assure my honourable friend that I will investigate it and report to him in the House with respect to the situation. If that is the case then obviously there must be a legitimate reason for it to make the implementation possible.

If the situation is as described by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, then obviously I will have to provide him in the House with a reasonable rationale.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I would like draw the attention of the members to the gallery to my left where we have 30 students of the Warren Elementary School. These students are of Grade 7 standing. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Highways.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you here this morning.
The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister of Labour inform the House when she intends to left the freeze on the minimum wage in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. NORMA L. PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of policy and it hasn't been discussed as yet.

MR. JENKINS: Supplementary question. The Minister when she announced the freeze said that it would be approximately three months starting from the first of January. We are now approaching the first of April and she said at that time she was going to lift the freeze. When does she intend to announce that policy to the House?

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, I believe I said from four to six months.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism. I wonder if the Minister can assure the House that the transfer of Walter Danyluk, a long-time civil servant who worked under the previous Conservative administration, had much to do with the development of the Whiteshell Park, that his transfer out of Tourism had nothing to do with his objection to desecrating the Whiteshell Park development through the permit to construct a 200-unit condominium?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday I am reviewing the whole matter. My Deputy Minister will be returning at the beginning of April and we will be sitting down and discussing this particular matter and reporting back to the House.

MR. GREEN: I take it, Mr. Speaker, and I put this to the Honourable Minister as a question, that he cannot today assure the House that the transfer of Walter Danyluk, a civil servant employed by the previous Conservative administration who had much to do with Whiteshell Park, had nothing to do with his objection to the development of a 200-unit condominium doubling the population of that park with one development, that he cannot assure the House that that is the case.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does the Honourable Minister of Finance have an advance copy of the Tritschler Report respecting the Manitoba Hydro inquiry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, the Tritschler Commission has not to my knowledge come near completing its investigation or its inquiry, and as a matter of fact, the public hearings on it have not yet begun so I don't have an advance copy of a report; I doubt that the Commissioner himself has a copy.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that the Minister since the establishment of the Inquiry, has on two public occasions indicated that the Hydro rates charged are directly responsible, and the increase in hydro rates, are directly responsible to mismanagement on the part of the previous government with respect to Hydro, is he encouraging the people of Manitoba to indicate the same respect for the Tritschler Inquiry by his remarks as he gave to the judicial inquiry that was headed by Mr. C. Rhodes Smith, on two separate public occasions. I am asking the Minister whether he is giving the Inquiry the right to do that or whether he already has decided that the Inquiry makes no sense and that the position that he has continued to put since the Inquiry was established does not need an inquiry?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I would advise the Member for Inkster that the question of whether or not the Hydro rates have gone up from one cent per kilowatt to now 2.2 cents and would have been 2.4 cents per kilowatt hour over the eight year span of the former government. Whether or not that has actually happened, does not require a commission of inquiry to establish. Every citizen that pays a hydro bill knows that, and that is what I have been commenting on, not only in the last month or two months but for the last eight years. Whether or not, and why those rates have gone that way is at the heart of the commission of inquiry and covers a much greater scope than is being eluded to by the Member for Inkster.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister. Then the Minister is saying, and I ask him, that he did not say on two separate occasions, not that the Hydro rates went up

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-- which is a matter of factual knowledge -- and have gone up in Ontario, but that the reason they went up was because of mismanagement by the previous Hydro Electric Board under the New Democratic Party Administration, on two separate occasions, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact there is an inquiry in process.

MR. SPEAKER: May I point out to the Member for Inkster that his statement could hardly be construed as a question.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance does not have to reply to that.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance. I suggest to all members of the House, all members of the House, that this is not a period in our orders for debate. The question period is designed for members of the opposition, or all members of the House, to ask questions of the treasury bench, and the members of the treasury bench to answer and provide as much information as they have available in a fairly brief statement. Now, the Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I am sure we will have ample occasion to discuss this further. I will make reference to one communication that I received from the Member for Inkster a month or two ago with regard to succession duties and Greb Shoes, and that I did discover there was in fact a letter from him to myself, although it wasn't signed, and I did reply to that letter saying that apart from the issue which he raised, that the issue of the rates for power in Manitoba of Manitoba Hydro were much more of an issue than I had discovered and that those increase in rates would be laid at the feet of the former government and would form part of their legacy. Mr. Speaker I will stand by that. and I repeat again that the Commission of Inquir y's job is to examine why. Why Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance is really non-provocative, it is to ask the Minister of Finance if, when he made the statement just a few moments ago, that the rate increase from approximately one cent to 2.2 cents over the past several years was due entirely to matters that took place in the 1970s. I would ask the Minister of Finance if he confirms or denies that of that increase from one cent to 2.2 cents, there is inherent in it, (1) an increase in 1968, (2) an increase recommended by the Public Utilities Board and its chairman at the time, Mr. Murray Peden, of 14 percent increase in 1969 which was postponed for 4 years, 5 years to be more precise, and, (3) the loading into the rate base of Manitoba Hydro of a \$350 million Kettle Rapids power plant and a \$200 million plus Atomic Energy long distance DC transmission line, all of which took place and were committed prior to the swearing in to office of my colleagues and I. —(Interjection)—

Yes, I happen to be a little younger, Sir, than the Minister of Finance and I'm prepared to live . . .

A MEMBER: What's the matter with Jenpeg?

MR. SCHREYER: . . . live and wait for the historical appreciation of the legacy, there's no question about that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RON McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege of the House arising from questions I addressed to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation yesterday. On two occasions, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Tourism whether or not he had had any meetings with a Mr. Joe Jarmoc. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Tourism did not answer that question in the House, refused to answer that question in the House, which is within his right as a minister.

However, Mr. Speaker, the Minister then went out of the House and answered the same question to the press that he refused to answer here in the House. I think that is a violation of the privileges of this House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable Member for The Pas for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. The Honourable Member for St. Johns. The Honourable Member for The Pas have any . . .

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I have some questions if I may.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education and I wonder if the Minister of Education would tell the House whether he is the minister responsible for making announcements concerning education and the Universities Grants Commission in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): I understand that that is my responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my supplementary to the First Minister. I wonder if the First Minister has brought into his Cabinet yet a Mr. Cecil Smith.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker, I haven't brought Mr. Cecil Smith, the Member of Parliament for Churchill, into our Cabinet but I say that he would be a welcome addition to any Cabinet of any government in Canada.

MR. McBRYDE: I wonder if the Minister of Education could confirm a public announcement today made by the Member of Parliament for Churchill constituency, Mr. Smith, who needs something to announce in that area, that in fact the Inter-Universities North program has now been reinstated and the Inter-Universities North program which the present minister cancelled has now been reinstated by Mr. Smith.

A MEMBER: Right on.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honourable member's question, I would clarify that the Inter-Universities North program was not cancelled. There was some reduction in the budget through the Grants Commission on that program and it is my understanding, in talking to the Universities Grants Commission, that the director of that program will remain and that in fact university courses will continue to be offered in the north.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate at this time that I provide the information for two questions that I took as notice earlier in the week?

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition posed a question regarding the \$11 million increase in funding to the school divisions of this province for the coming year and at this time, I can assure him that although we do not have the final budgets in from all the school boards and I understand that is the usual practice, but on the basis of the information we have, that \$11 million of additional funding, that increase I would estimate at this time would amount to between one-third and one-half of the incremental expenditures of the boards.

Also, Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question posed by the Member for Fort Rouge who wanted to know the number of budgeted jobs for youth for this summer, within our department and within the government, the figure, Mr. Speaker, is approximately 2500.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to leave this question with the Minister of Education. He may wish to wait for a week or so before replying but, in any case, the question is, the announced intention of an increase of \$11 million by way of provincial grant to elementary and secondary education costs at the divisional level in Manitoba, would the Minister indicate whether that \$11 million would then be approximately one-third or one-half. He says "between one-third and one-half." I venture to suggest to him now that it is almost exactly one-third. Could he indicate which it is?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, that figure of course will not be available until we have had more information on the school board budgets but I can assure him that on the basis of that \$11 million increased funding, that the mill rate in the school divisions of this province, on the basis of information we have at this time, will increase only slightly and in some cases not at all.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that does require an additional question. Can the Minister of Education indicate then how it will be possible given that school board budgets or school divisions, are contending with approximately 8 percent inflation — I think to understate slightly — that an increase in provincial grants \$11 million or approximately 3 percent will somehow enable divisions to be able to proceed with only slight increases in the mill rate?

MR. COSENS: In reply to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, apparently the school boards, as responsible public servants in this province, are practising restraint as this government is.

MR. SCHREYER: Both the Minister of Education and I, I am sure the Minister of Education as well, has said on more than one occasion that he has confidence in the school divisions of this province, as do I. That being so, I assume the Minister would agree — does he agree? — that school division boards have been generally acting responsibly in terms of setting their budget, have done so for

many years and that they cannot be expected to ignore the realities of inflation itself.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education bearing on his reply that he made concerning the numbers of jobs allocated for students. Would he confirm that in fact that number of jobs allocated is 1,000 or 1,500 below what has been previously supplied, and taking that in addition to the expected 27 percent increase in tuition fees, is he, on behalf of the government, prepared to accept a major withdrawal of students from the universities for lack of financial means to attend?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: I think these comparisons, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Fort Rouge mentions, and so on, will become evident as we get into the Estimates.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, we will then have to wait for the Estimates for the confirmation of that problem.

I would like now to ask a question of the Minister of Industry and Commerce concerning the offer that the federal government has now made to provide an interest-free \$8.5 million loan to Co-op Implements to maintain its production and supply. Can the Minister of Industry and Commerce indicate whether in fact this government is now prepared to provide a matching fund, or prepared to get into negotiation with other provincial governments to see if they are prepared to also offer financial assistance of a similar kind?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could answer that on behalf of the Minister of Industry and Commerce since the Department of Finance has been handling the negotiations in this matter, and I would point out that the negotiations have been, and are still carrying on, with the federal government and the other two prairie provinces with regard to this matter. There have been meetings on a weekly basis and I expect that some sort of decision will be arrived at fairly shortly — perhaps within a week or ten days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as a supplementary then, to the Minister of Finance. He can confirm, however, that the interest-free loan has been offered by the federal government of \$8.5 million as announced on Tuesday in the House of Commons by the Agricultural Minister, Mr. Whelan. If that is a fact and is the case, could he indicate whether the provincial government in its negotiations with its counterparts in the other prairie provinces is prepared, at this stage, to enter into a similar kind of arrangement?

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm what the Member for Fort Rouge is suggesting was said by the federal government. I understand they did make some sort of public announcement.

I have to advise the honourable member that they seem to make very many public announcements on this matter — without any bilateral agreement of the other parties that were involved. All I can advise him at this time is that the three prairie provinces have taken the position, and have taken the position now for weeks and months, that they would be prepared to discuss guarantees to be negotiated — as to size and as to proportions — by the prairie provinces for the assistance of CCIL, providing there was adequate security indicated for the guarantees and an opt-out provision after a suitable period of time to see if the industry was going to survive. That has been made very clear to the federal government now over a matter of weeks.

I will indicate further to the member. At the last meeting in Ottawa which we held where we sent one representative there were 14 federal representatives at that meeting. And I'd say they seemed to have a little problem getting their act together, but when they get it finalized down I'm sure that they will come up with an answer, a negotiating position where we can get down to the hard facts of life and stop turning out press releases.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance is based not on supposition but on fact. Given the fact that the Government of Canada has announced a willingness to participate in this financial rescue operation, given the fact that the Province of Saskatchewan has announced last October that it was willing to do so in the event of at least one other province in Canada participating, I ask the Minister of Finance if Manitoba is prepared, in the light of the Federal and Saskatchewan announcements, to confirm Manitoba's intention?

May I ask the Minister of Finance, as well, when he talks about adequate security if he would not

agree that if there was adequate security feasible or possible in the circumstance that the CCIL could have gone to the chartered banks in a *pro forma* fashion?

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't want the Leader of the Opposition to leave the incorrect impression that there is any indivision of opinion between the three provinces because there is not. The position of the three provinces is now, and has been for at least the last several weeks and months, the same as far as we're concerned, and our indications to the Federal Government are now on a joint basis.

We seem to have some difficulty in getting the Federal Government to understand what our position is, although we have repeated it on many occasions and the position is the position that I have indicated in answer to the Member for Fort Rouge, and that will be supported by both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is he prepared to tell us who are the members of the syndicate that purchased the Lord Selkirk and whether one of them was a Mr. Duncan Jessiman?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, my information is that the two gentlemen involved in the particular interest is a Mr. Einarson and a Mr. Cholakis.

MR. CHERNIACK: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Honourable Minister be able to inform us whether there have been any discussions with him or other members of government relating to the possibility of giving a licence to the owners of the Lord Selkirk to operate a gambling casino?

MR. BANMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not had that request made to me.

MR. CHERNIACK: May I ask the Honourable the Minister of Industry and Commerce whether he is now prepared to inform the House — or will he in his statement — the names of the people who are involved in the syndicate with the 200-condominium development program that he has yet to report on?

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, I hope that will be part of the review.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, or if he is unable or unwilling to break his vow of silence, I'd like to direct it to the Acting Minister of Industry and Commerce. Even though a Mr. Jarmoc has already spent some \$100,000 on construction of a one-mile road, can the Minister assure the House that this will have no bearing of any kind on plans to construct a condominium at the Big Whiteshell?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned repeatedly, that the whole matter is under review. I have asked the Parks Officials to stop any work or any negotiations that they were having with regard to this particular thing until the whole thing can be reassessed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, do I determine from that answer that, in effect, they are going to order Mr. Jarmoc to stop construction on the road?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am getting a status as to what the exact status of that particular road is. I understand that some of the grading has been done and at present there is no construction there right now.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, has he informed this wealthy road donor that his efforts to date will have no effect on the government, the Minister or the department; or if he is given some indication will he reinforce that gentleman or that syndicate to make certain that they are not, in effect, throwing money away?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for . . .

MR. DOERN: That's supplementary. I don't think the honourable member understood me.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood, then.

MR. DOERN: Has he informed Mr. Jarmoc that his efforts to date will have no effect on the government or the department?

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned yesterday, my understanding is that any development that happens has to comply with the Parklands Act and it has to comply with all of the other agencies as far as environmental and that is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister who assumes responsibility for Inter-Universities North. There seems to be some contradiction in his statement today. Can he explain this Government Tews Service release dated March 10th, which quotes as the last line: "Several small programs operated through or by the Commission including the Inter-Universities North Program have been eliminated in light of today's comments."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the member's question, the Universities Grants Commission operates these programs. My information was on the basis of their budget cuts, that this program would be limited. I have now found that they have decided that they have enough funds to carry on this program for the coming year.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary then. I would ask the Minister, in light of his comments and several comments going around today, who are we to believe in regard to announcements concerning the Inter-Universities North, the Member of Parliament for Churchill, the Government News Service, the Universities Grants Commission or the Minister responsible?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that he has announced that the program has been limited, and not eliminated, could he explain the limitations that have been placed on the program at this time?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the member realizes that the Universities Grants Commission operates these programs. The government provides a certain sum of money and the Universities Grants Commission in turn apportions this out to the universities and those programs. It has become quite obvious they have looked at the amount of money they have available to them and have decided that there is enough money there to continue this program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Tourism. In view of the fact that yesterday in the House in answer to a question that I posed he admitted that he had instructed his Deputy Minister to sign an agreement in principle with reference to the building of condominium units in the Whiteshell Park, that he had instructed his Deputy Minister to sign that portion of the agreement, why did he then go out of the House and in talking to the media say that the information that he is operating under is that there is only an agreement to build a road?

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I'd like some clarification to a news report on March 22nd, wherein he indicated that the government is postponing action on the five-year capital program for construction of health facilities other than those announced in the Throne Speech. Is that basically correct?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and it will be discussed in detail in the examination of my Estimates.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, in light of those comments and in light of the comments made by the First Minister last October where he indicated that senior citizens must be given adequate nursing home and other health facilities, would he be prepared to meet with the 500-plus citizens of the

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community of Ashern who — I'll send him over the petition that I have received on their behalf — wanting the construction of the nursing home to go ahead? There are 561 different signatures.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to do so and I will tell them at that time that the surest guarantee of the project that they're interested in is financial common sense today to repair the damage that's been done so we'll have the money to pay for that project in the future.

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

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Health now prepared to tell the people of Ashern that there will be an announcement within three and a half years of the nursing home being rebuilt?

MR. SHERMAN: I am prepared to thank the people of Ashern and other citizens of Manitoba for working with us, putting their trust in us to set this province right financially so we can do those things that need to be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, since in the Minister of Health's reply there is reference to — it is obvious that he is now posing as an authority on finance. May I ask the Minister of Health if he is aware that the Province of Manitoba in the past eight years has run more years of budgetary balance with surplus than the Province of Ontario in those same eight years? Is he aware of that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Sir, whether I was aware of that or not is totally and entirely irrelevant to the debate in the Province of Manitoba today. I wasn't elected to represent a constituency in Ontario. I was elected to represent one in Manitoba where people are concerned about a budgetary deficit that boggles the mind, Sir.

MR. GREEN: If it boggles your mind you've got a pretty small mind.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, since the Honourable Minister of Health makes gratuitous reference as to what constitutes an undue budgetary deficit, may I ask the Minister of Health if he is suggesting that Manitoba's accumulated budgetary deficit over the past eight years is greater on a per capita basis than that of another presumably responsibly run sister province, namely Ontario? Is that what he is suggesting?

A MEMBER: He doesn't know.

MR. SHERMAN: What I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, is that it is great enough to be of the kind of concern that has produced the kinds of decisions that I have supplied in my answers to the Honourable Member for St. George.

MR. SCHREYER: Quite apart from demonstrating that the Minister has no sense of proportion or inter-provincial comparability, may I go on to ask the Minister of Health if he can indicate to the House whether, pursuant to his undertaking in this House last week that he would receive presentations if any were forthcoming from Dr. Huerto or members of a Citizens' Committee relating thereto, can the Minister indicate whether he has received such presentation and if so, when?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have not to my knowledge directly received such a presentation; there may have been one received in my office by my staff, I have not to my knowledge. However, I want to assure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that I am following through on the undertaking that I gave him, I have discussed the situation with my colleague the Attorney-General, and with my colleagues in government generally and I will continue the examination that I assured the Leader of the Opposition that I would give him.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I should thank the Honourable Minister for that assurance. I would like to give the Minister the opportunity to clarify this by asking him whether he can check the allegation that upon the attempt by those representing the 2500, approximately 2500 petitioners, that his office declined to accept the said petition. I have been so advised and I wonder if the Minister would ascertain if that could possibly be true.

MR. SHERMAN: I will certainly ascertain the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker. I want to reassure the Leader of the Opposition that the position that I have taken on this question is that since it comes under the aegis of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Medical Review Board, I was not and still am not inclined to accept an instruction or direction that I directly intervened. I certainly am, as I've said to him before, available to be consulted with but any direction asking me to intervene is one that I can't act on at the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: I understand the Leader of the Opposition has already asked four successive questions.

ORDERS OF THE DAY — THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The adjourned debate on the motion of the Honourable Member for Crescentwood, and the Amendment by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Sub-Amendment by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, it certainly is a privilege for me to stand in this Chamber and certainly congratulate you as many of the other Members have done, but I am also very pleased to congratulate you, and I am sure the constituents that also are from your area, being one of the rural constituencies, feel very proud of the fact that you are holding that high office.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I look forward to the coming years of debate with the Honourable Members opposite and certainly look forward to them remaining on that side of the House.

I would also like to say that I am very pleased to sit with a government that certainly has a large representation of rural Manitoba; I feel that with the strength and the background of the farm people that I have in the caucus or we have in our caucus, certainly makes me feel that the Member opposite who held this portfolio for some eight years did not enjoy, in fact, such a backup. However, he does have some agricultural experience within the caucus to help him with policy, the Member from Ste. Rose and St. George, so he really wasn't completely at a loss for people to help him formulate policy.

I do think that in the maiden speech that I would like to certainly speak about the constituency of Arthur. It, like a lot of the other constituencies which have been described and certainly make up a large portion of the agricultural community in Manitoba. As was mentioned in the Throne Speech, over one billion dollars in agriculture production being raised in the Province of Manitoba, while over 50 percent, 50 percent of the people of the Province of Manitoba rely on agriculture, whether in the production or the service to the industry, or the servicing of the products after the growth on the farms, so I do feel it is a very important office and certainly as agriculture goes in the Province of Manitoba, so goes the province, and I am prepared to certainly stand on record for the next four years and see really the growth that does take place with the policies in which we develop.

In starting to relate back to the area of the Arthur constituency, I would like to certainly mention some of the past members, the last member from Arthur being Doug Watt, who also held the Portfolio of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the people ahead of him were of course the late Jack Cobb and the late Art Ross and Jack Pitt. People who represent an area, Mr. Speaker, from that distance, from all constituencies which have to certainly sacrifice some of their family lives, their personal inputs to their own lives, certainly are sacrificed and I am sure that these people of the past have to be commended for the work in which they have done.

I would also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that some of the people in the Arthur constituency should be commended for the heroic efforts or their bravery in the way in which they handled the recent hostage and the problems that took place in Oak Lake. I am sure that with those kind of things happening, not only in rural Manitoba but all over Canada, when it comes this close to a person such as myself, knowing the people that were involved in that incident, certainly makes one think, and certainly makes me determine that the death penalty should be returned to bring law and order back to the Province of Manitoba and to Canada.

I also feel that the agriculture industry in the southwest corner of the province has a lot of things going for it, and as the honourable member opposite mentions we do have a good group of native people out there. In fact, we have one of the most popular annual pow-wows in the Arthur constituency every year; it's a week-long event at which the native people can display their abilities and their skills and certainly would invite everyone to attend in the future.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that we also have other industries in the southwest corner of the province and with the ever-increasing pressure for the increase of the energy sources that in fact there is quite an oil industry in the southwest corner of the province, one that probably by coincidence, but maybe not so much by coincidence, since the middle of October has certainly spured a real keen interest. Now I'm sure that there have been discoveries in the nearby country and certainly in the provinces nearby which have spurred that on, but also I think it is the attitude probably of the government towards the companies that are to develop the resources that we have in this province.

I think that in also mentioning the Arthur constituency, I would like to speak briefly and I would also like to make mention when I am in the area of the energy resources, that I think that the Arthur constituency in Manitoba has the only known coal mine in the Province of Manitoba. It is not operating, but some years

ago there were a group of individuals who felt that there was certainly a potential supply of coal there that would certainly supply the needs of a lot of the province of Manitoba. So I think that is worth noting, Mr. Speaker — that's to my knowledge and certainly that could be corrected — but I do think we have the only known coal mine in the province of Manitoba along with the oil.

We also have, Mr. Speaker, the Souris River which flows through pretty well the heart of the Arthur

constituency, flowing from the southern borders of Manitoba and the northern borders of North Dakota. Certainly a river which has caused the people of the Arthur constituency a lot of problems in the last few years. I am sure that the many hundreds or thousands of acres that have been lost to the farm people, the problems it has caused to the many towns that certainly find themselves nestled along the river bed, have certainly had many problems as it has been more of a problem in the last five years. I am sure that it has flooded more out of the last seven than it has been useable. And two years ago, Mr. Speaker, the river got to such a problem stage that it in fact wiped out two of the rail lines that crossed the Souris and carry on west to supply a rail service to two communities that certainly have suffered because of the way the Souris river was allowed to run rampant. Those railroads certainly were destroyed and have never been replaced.

And at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that those same communities, because of the problem of the loss of railroad, have certainly gone through some distressed times with having to move their products — their grains and the products which they move by rail now have to be handled by truck.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that in the past eight years in the Arthur constituency there has been very little roadwork done, until there was a rush program put on in the fall of last year. However, there was indication from the past government that they were prepared to do some roadwork, but it took eight years to do it.

I would also like to mention Mr. Speaker that in the Arthur constituency, we have two private resort areas, one on the northern boundary of the constituency and one on the southern boundary. These, Mr. Speaker, are privately owned resort areas and can certainly be contributed to part of the industry which there is in that constituency.

I would also like to make mention Mr. Speaker, of a very well noted medical clinic in the southwest corner of the province, a privately owned medical clinic with a very good supportive medical staff. In fact one of the founders of the clinic is one of the past presidents of The Physicians and Surgeons of the province of Manitoba and I think a rural town can be very proud to have an individual who has practised in the whole southwest corner certainly listed to the name of creditable people from the constituency.

I would also like to make mention, Mr. Speaker, at this time, of something that has taken place over the last few years and that has been the development of two wildlife management areas. Yes, Mr. Speaker, two wildlife management areas. We are all concerned about the wildlife and the continuing of it in the province of Manitoba and certainly there aren't any farmers in that constituency who are not concerned about wildlife. But, Mr. Speaker, in one municipality alone, there were fifteen sections of land completely removed for the use of wildlife. That land base, Mr. Speaker, could support some 1,000 head of cow-calf units and in the other. . . Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected, on the two — there was a proposal for the second one. The second proposed wildlife management area which I am aware of, was to go into the Plum-Oak Lake area, and after a meeting, many of the local people, after finding out about the proposal, resisted.

Now as I said earlier, I think you will find in the spring of the year many farm people are certainly very protective of the ducks and duck nests in that corner. They are part of growth and they are part of the whole area of reproduction the farm people produce and I think they are very concerned. They are also concerned about the jumping, the white-tailed deer which certainly for many years, has been a favorite hunting area for many of the people of the province of Manitoba and I think that we as farm people certainly can be proud of the fact that they have preserved that populace of white-tailed deer. At this time, however, it seems that because of the government's desire to take over large areas of farm land and completely turn it away from the agricultural people, this has caused some local problems and I certainly think that in the future development of these areas that we have to, not only tell the people of the rural parts of the province that they certainly have to have a wildlife area in their region, but should be discussed with the people at the local level.

I would like to speak briefly, Mr. Speaker, about programs. Certainly programs that are the concerns of all the members of the government and certainly the members on the opposition side of the House. I would like to go back briefly and just mention one of the programs that were mentioned in the Throne Speech, and that being the crop insurance program which certainly is and was a very important program set up by the late George Hutton, who I am sure that agriculture in Manitoba can be thankful for his foresight and the effort that he put into the agricultural industry. It was also pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that over 90 percent of the eligible farmers in the province of Manitoba, over 90 percent of the eligible farmers in Manitoba participate in a voluntary crop insurance program. Mr. Speaker, I think that is a commendable record and I would like to thank the members opposite for continuing on with that program and certainly advancing as the crops advanced and moving along with the recommendations that were required as agriculture advanced.

I also, Mr. Speaker, would like to mention another program which the past administration saw fit to carry on, and I think it should go on the record that the veterinary districts, the veterinary clinics which were established in Manitoba. . . The start of that program, Mr. Speaker, came in at the time of Doug Watt, the Honourable Doug Watt was the Minister of Agriculture. At that time the government of the day was concerned with the fact that there are only some 20 some veterinaries left in rural Manitoba to service the ever important livestock industry that we have. Through some planning and prograing it was decided to set up the veterinary districts and certainly speak to the local municipalities and sign agreements to build these clinics. And I say, I think the members opposite should be certainly thanked for continuing on with that program. We now have some 30 veterinary clinics or approximately 30 clinics in the province. —(Interjection)— That was when Mr. Doug Watt

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started the program, Sir. I want to go on record as saying that it was the previous conservative government that started the veterinary clinics. I would also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, that we do have 60 some veterinarians and I would like to say that the credit goes to the individuals who started that program and the credit to go to the individuals who continued on with it.

I would also like to just go back briefly and mention the fact that, because of the problems that the Souris river created in southern Manitoba, that the past administration decided to enter into an agreement with the Federal Government to do something about the Souris River. I would like to just point out today the first results of what has come out of that Souris River study, the task force study.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, here are the first results out of the task force study. They did manage to make some hats so I think probably that there should be some answerability to the people that initiated that task force.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, in my first speech, that I am sure that in looking at some of the past programs that we have to look at some of the ones that we are now taking a look at as government. One of those programs, Mr. Speaker, being the Farm Development program and I find it interesting to hear the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet mentioning that the chicken marketing situation has boiled down to the fact that there are very few members that we are activating it for, trying to agree on it for, that in the Farm Development Program, for example, there were a total, over the past five years, of some 2,600 farmers that applied and were accepted in the Farm Development Program. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we also are concerned about those 2,600 farmers but we are also concerned about the 27,400 other ones that certainly have never had any government in the last few years.

I would like to also mention in regards to the Farm Development program, Mr. Speaker, that the staff-to-farmer ratio with that agricultural service, Mr. Speaker, was 1 to 8. One government employee to 8 individuals that they were servicing. The total, Mr. Speaker, of all the money from all the grants spent, the total from all the grants on all the programs spent on 2,600 farmers, Mr. Speaker, was in excess of \$14 million in the last five years — on 2,600 farmers, and I will, Mr. Speaker, report to this House in the near future of just how, just how those 2,600 farmers are progressing after the next few years. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we will provide them with good government, we will provide them with good programs but they will be part of all of the agricultural community, just not singled out for special help.

When we're in the area, Mr. Speaker, of speaking about ag. reps. and agricultural representatives and staff within the department, I also would like to point out at this time that in the Province of Manitoba at this date, that we have ag. reps. whether it's a vacancy or whether it's two years or less service, we have 60 percent — 60 percent — of the ag. reps. in the Province of Manitoba are either two years or less experience or the positions are vacant.

MR. ORCHARD: I wonder why?

MR. DOWNEY: I would also like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that rural Manitoba have less than half the home economists servicing them that was servicing them in the Agricultural Department before this last administration came into office. I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is our responsibility as a government to have all the people of Manitoba serviced by the Department of Agriculture. I do not think we should be instructing, we should not be instructing, the ag. reps. to service those 2,600 farm people 50 percent of their time, certainly working with 2,600 farmers. So I think these are points' Mr. Speaker, that certainly have to be brought out.

I would also like to touch briefly on the programs that certainly were in effect before the change of government 8 years ago and one of those programs was the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and I think there's some interesting things that should be certainly pointed out at this time. At that time they had a long term lending program for young farmers in Manitoba, one of the stay-option programs that I'm sure was put in many years ago to help young farm people. That's the kind of a program, Mr. Speaker, that motivates people, the rural people, that someday they would like to own their farms and certainly have something which they can work towards. But, Mr. Speaker, the records at this time show that at the time of the throwing out of the buying program so that farmers could buy their own lands, that there were some 190 young people each year, or people each year, getting loans from MACC, but after the implementation of the government buying land and leasing it back that reverted to less than 150 people being serviced one year.

Mr. Speaker, I think probably when we look at the programs such as the Farm Diversification program and certainly the MACC' these are programs that have helped people. They've been tremendously rich programs. Certainly I think that that amount of money spread over a lot more people with programs and certainly supportive staff, building of infrastructure, and certainly for information to those people that we can see Manitoba grow and go ahead in the years to come.

There was a question presented to me, or a statement presented the other evening, by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet and certainly was concerned about the non-program for feed assistance. I would like to remind the House that after some pressure was put on, and a concern of mine that there was some assistance needed, that we should in fact put on a program. So we did put on a program, Mr. Speaker. We put on a program to lend money to individuals if they were unable to get it elsewhere to buy feed for their stock, to winter their cattle over the winter. So I think that, Mr. Speaker, should go on the record.

I would also like to just mention, Mr. Speaker, some of the other programs that I think have certainly been important to the farm people and I'm just at this time wondering if the honourable

member opposite would like to have a look at the game that he wanted to play with the farm people. I think that this is something that was quite an insult when the times were really tough that the Minister of Agriculture of that day could come out and say that it was now time that they played games. I think it's very important that that should be certainly documented that that was one of his ideas of how you should help the farm people. I think it's certainly worth noting that the money that was spent in helping the beef industry in the Province of Manitoba, the people that certainly deserved the money, there were people needing the money, and the government responded. Yes, Mr. Speaker, they responded. They responded with a program that took them a month to sell, it took a month of the information service with the Department of Agriculture to tell the farm people how good the program was. Yes, it took all the ag. reps. time to certainly sell the policy and the program for the administration.

But, Mr. Speaker, the one problem with it was, was the fact that the government were asking the individuals involved at that particular time to sign up their cow herds to the government for five years, that there was far more to come, that they could certainly manage and control their cow herds far better than the individuals themselves. So there were a lot of people because of that long term tie-up, certainly did not join up. However, if they had only known that the minister at that time was going to change the rules, change the rules and the regulations on which they were to enter that program, I'm sure that he'd have had a lot more success. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the way the program turned out that every farmer in the province that had a cattle beast on the farm would have entered the program.

But, Mr. Speaker, \$40-some million later to 6,000 people, we had a vote. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the people of the province, the farm people of the province, are now asking for — and I would say it's the majority of the people in the livestock business— are asking for a livestock program. But, however, Mr. Speaker, there have been so many votes and there have been so many commissions set up to really find out what the farm people want, in fact there has been some \$200,000 and some spent in commissions and votes to find out whether or not they really want — what the last minister, Mr. Speaker, what he wanted for himself — not what the farm people wanted but he wanted for himself.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to read you the two ballots that were sent out in those two votes and I think it's very important at this time that they be read. And there's another interesting fact, Mr. Speaker, that under the first program that was presented to the farm people that the last government found 7,000 and some voters — 7,271 voters — to vote on a program that the last minister really didn't think was what the farm people wanted but that in fact it wasn't what he wanted. So, I will read that particular one and out of that vote there were some 5,696 votes cast. This is how the ballot read. The ballot under the Natural Products Marketing Act of which beef cattle come under.

"Are you in favour of the Manitoba Beef Growers' promotion plan? Voters will indicate this preference by marking an X in the appropriate square."

Mr. Speaker, how would you know if you had that ballot what you were voting on?

A MEMBER: That was a secret.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to refer to another vote, that after, Mr. Speaker, we had several months of selling a program by government people, after we had a lot of money put out into the people that thought that certainly they needed help, and they did, and the minister thought that it might help to get a program through. This is the ballot on the second vote and this time they happened to find 14,952 voters.

And this is how this one read. "Ballot under the Natural Products Marketing Act, Beef Marketing Referendum, March 1st to 11th, 1977. Are you in favour of the establishment of a Manitoba Cattle Producers' Marketing Board with the duties and powers described on Page 2 of the Minister's letter to all beef producers in Manitoba?" What if you didn't get Page 2? How would you know what you were voting on? What if you didn't get Page 2?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the \$200,000 and some that have been spent towards the inquiries . . . by the way, in one of the inquiries, Mr. Speaker, one of those inquiries told the minister that the producers of Manitoba wanted an organization of their own. —(Interjection)—

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that in the few minutes that I have left I would also like to bring up a matter that has been sitting under the skin of a lot of people in rural Manitoba and probably it's been under my skin since 1971. That is, Mr. Speaker, when I had a meeting with some of the people in the department, and I can reassure the honourable member opposite that I did not work for him but I felt like I was for the last eight years. I would like to, Mr. Speaker, just mention about the compulsory Hog Marketing Board which was implemented by the last administration. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the honourable member opposite that because of the fact that it was made compulsory, that the hog population in Manitoba has decreased. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, that every local auction mart in every rural community were not able to assemble hogs for the Manitoba Hog Marketing Board, they had to come to two points in Manitoba. They had to come to two points in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, so that he could control the production of the farmers.

A MEMBER: That's his idea, control production.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I think that it is probably . . . —(Interjection)— No, there'll be a question period. Okay, sure I'll take a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would be interested to know, in light of the Minister's comments, whether it is his intention to now create a number of receiving facilities for the marketing of pork or hogs in Manitoba.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention at this time.

I would also like to carry on, Mr. Speaker, by saying that, in fact, because of that, we have seen a decline in the growth in some of the service centres in Manitoba because we have enticed the farm people to do their business in two large centres in the province. In fact, Mr. Speaker, at the time since 1971 the hog production in Manitoba has dropped from 1,300,000-odd hogs to less than 800,000 hogs in the last year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that it is really an important fact because of the fact that we are one of the few western provinces with hog processing plants left in the province. They need product. I'm sure that the people in the industry are concerned that we retain those facilities and certainly the job spin-off from that kind of an industry is immeasurable.

I would like to finish by saying that certainly it is very easy to be critical and that is not my whole intent. I look forward to the many months ahead of certainly discussing programs and things with the members, and have good contact with them.

I think it is also important to mention at this time that I did not want to become personal in this Chamber, and I certainly did not intend to. However, I do feel that I have a friend who was certainly mentioned or referred to — my honourable friend's father from Souris-Killarney. In fact I'm trying to figure out yet whether the honourable member opposite was saying at the time that his father came in to talk to him about a program, that because a farmer came in to talk to him that he did not want to talk about a program. Was that the reason, Mr. Speaker? Was that the reason, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister did not want to see a farmer in his office — to talk about a program?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say . . . The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, Mr. Speaker, that gentleman's father is a highly respected individual in the farming community not only in Manitoba but in western Canada.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that because of the fact that we have a province that needs the agricultural community and the community needs the province, I would like to say that we do have some programs for the future of Manitoba. There are going to be programs that will certainly help people to accomplish the goals, the goals which they themselves want to work towards.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that with the development of the water and the soil — and we can see the development certainly in the specialization of crops and in the specialization in livestock — that we can also look forward to more market research, more production research, more plant research, and information services providing the information for the farm people to provide the ways and means for themselves for the rural parts of the province to once again express themselves with programs and policies which mean something to them, that are certainly not told that they have to participate in.

I also think, Mr. Speaker, that when we look at some of the farm organizations within the province that we have to certainly look at some of the financing of these farm organizations. Some of them, Mr. Speaker, certainly go out and muster memberships for themselves and certainly work on their own behalf.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair that I should mention that we have certainly one organization in the community . . . All organizations in the communities are important. All farm organizations are important. We have one that certainly has 3,000 members or approximately 3,000 members that receive grants of \$2,000.00. But then we have another organization, Mr. Speaker, that certainly has a membership; which in fact is a membership which I don't mind meeting with and speaking with and certainly listening to. That membership, Mr. Speaker, happened to receive in excess, Mr. Speaker, of . . . I shouldn't say in excess; I guess probably the exact figure is some \$20,000 a year over the past year or two, or maybe more. I think, Mr. Speaker, with a membership of less than 1,000 that that figures out to be a pretty substantial government grant to a farm organization.

MR. FERGUSON: I wonder how many families are involved?

MR. DOWNEY: I really think, Mr. Speaker, that it is important these facts be brought out. I will be speaking further, when it comes time, to the amendments to the Farmlands Protection Act. That, Mr. Speaker, is not working as well as it was intended to work. I'm sure the intent was there. I will explain it further at the time of the amendments, along with the promotional program that the livestock producers of the province of Manitoba have certainly asked for.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would say at this time to spend another \$200 thousand-and-some to get the answer that has been known in the Department of Agriculture for some eight years — that they'll finally be able to go ahead and provide themselves with the funding and certainly the means in which to set up an organization of their own, separate from the government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that in the coming years that we can look forward to meaningful debate with members opposite. I feel that it is important, that certainly this Legislative Chamber is one of very much importance to see the true democracy work.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be a part of it and thank the honourable members opposite for their attentive listening, and certainly, as I said, look forward to further debate and discussions with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM: Well, Mr. Speaker, we have just witnessed a new era for the farming community in the province of Manitoba. We have just listened to, I believe, one of the most bland speeches that I've heard in my eight years in office. We have just listened to the comments that the Minister of Agriculture has made and I haven't heard a thing — not one program — that holds any hope or any encouragement to the young people who wish to get into farming in our province at the present time. Nothing; absolutely nothing!

We rehashed a few old programs. The Minister was trying to take credit for some of the programs that really went forward under the NDP administration. He was trying to take credit for these programs which I'll comment, in a few moments, on.

But first, Mr. Speaker, I would perhaps congratulate you again on being Speaker of our Assembly. I know from what I have seen so far that you will be conducting the affairs in a fair manner and I hope we don't cause you too much trouble. I know it's very difficult sometimes in our system of confrontation; it's difficult to control ourselves but we certainly do our best to not create too many problems for you. I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker who, I'm pleased, is sitting in the Chair as I get up to speak.

Also I would congratulate the mover of the Speech from the Throne and the seconder.

I, of course, was much more pleased in listening to the Member for Portage in his glowing comments about the progress in Portage la Prairie. The comments were so glowing that it reaffirmed our faith in public involvement. He went on to articulate all the wonderful programs. I would say about 80 percent of the progress in Portage la Prairie was by reason of public involvement in one way or another. That even includes the latest addition to Portage la Prairie — the McCains Manufacturing Plant there which is there because they received a hand-out from the public in the way of DREE grants and in the way of loans. Otherwise they would not be there.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the community of Portage la Prairie, outside of those small business people on Main Street . . . Outside of those; those are the free enterprisers. Those are the people who are taking a chance. We give those people credit. They are important to our economy. But outside of that, if you removed all the public involvement — not only in Portage la Prairie but in practically every major town in our province — there would be nothing, next to nothing.

So we want to just put everything in the right perspective. So don't come along and give us this hogwash about the private, private, private. We know that the private sector is important but it will not work by itself.

We have listened to this Minister of Agriculture and we know that the agricultural economy of this province is one of the most important. It is fundamental. It is true that it probably is responsible for 55 percent — he says 50 percent but I say probably 55 percent — of all activity in the province that relates back in one way or another to the primary production of agricultural food.

We have listened today to an announcement that the Minister made in regard to a marketing system for broilers, which goes completely against the philosophy of that government. It goes completely against the philosophy of the Conservative Party. And the only reason that they're establishing this — it goes against their grain and their philosophy — is to help a few large producers who are somehow being hurt by massive imports from the United States, of low import-price for poultry. And those perhaps half-a-dozen producers, or less, who produce over a third — those are the people they are trying to help: Champs; Friendly Family Farms. Those are the people who are crying for protection from the cheap imports.

So who are they trying to help? Who are they trying to help? Let them not fool the people of Manitoba on what's happening.

You know, Mr. Speaker, what this government is trying to do is to go back to the TED Report. They want to go back to the recommendations of the TED Report whereby you would reduce the farming population to approximately 20,000 farms. That is what this government is intent on doing.

Now, they are quite honest about it. They are not trying to fool anybody. They've said all along that this is what they believe in, and they are setting about to do just that.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people of this province did not elect you to create a wasteland out in the rural areas of our province. They did not elect you to depopulate the rural areas. They want people back out of the city. They want people out in the rural areas. They want viable communities.

A MEMBER: Why didn't they vote for you then, Pete?

MR. ADAM: They did; I was re-elected in a farm community with a higher majority, with a higher percentage than in either 1973 or 1971. In fact in Ste. Rose the people went against a trend that was taking place in the province. And I am proud that they have given me this confidence. My role is completely different than it has been in the last eight years in that I am now a Member of the Opposition. I will try to discharge my duty to the best of my ability, but my problem is how do I deal with a dictatorship? That is something that I can't adjust myself to. I am now dealing with a dictatorship that is controlled by a Leader who has fascist leanings, and I warn you backbenchers there, I know that you are not all fascists . . .

I believe that it is rule by terror. It is rule by terror. You have terrorized the civil servants, they don't know whether they're coming or going. They have been sitting on their fannies since last October being paid, not doing anything, they have nothing to deliver. They are not doing anything, they are waiting for you to make up your minds.

Restraint, we hear. That is the order of the day, restraint. The trouble with that, Mr. Speaker, is the restraint is going to hurt the people of this province who are least able to protect themselves. They are least able to protect themselves. You are talking about doing away with, phasing out programs like the supplementary pension for senior citizens. That is coming up. —(Interjection)— You will have a revolt on your hands, you will go down in history as the government who has lost popularity in the shortest time and you already know it, you already know it. You already know that you are losing popularity and you are already taking polls.

I'll tell you who is the main cause of it, it's your Leader, it's your leader, your fascist leader, that's where the backlash is coming to. Mr. Speaker, if you don't believe me I will give you an example. If some of the things that this government has done is taken out of Mein Kampf. Hitler's Mein Kampf. You don't know what it is? The book, Hitler's Bible. What did Hitler do in relation to the Jewish problem? What did he do? The solution that the Germans decided should take place would be that the Jews would be liquidated, that was the only solution to the Jewish problem. So he said, we will set up a committee, a Task Force, to do this job —(Interjection)— You're laughing, you're laughing, but six million people died because of that committee. —(Interjection)— You're laughing, eh? All right, just listen a while and learn something. He went to the leaders of the Jewish community and said, we have decided that the only way that we can solve this problem is to liquidate you, but we want to liquidate you in a just manner so we will set up a committee and you fellows will sit on this committee. You will decide who is the first to go to Dachau, Buchenwald, and that's what happened. The same thing happened here. We set up a committee and we invited the President of the civil servants to sit on that committee so that he could help liquidate his colleagues in the Civil Service.

MR. URUSKI: And he said he saved some jobs. What a laugh.

MR. ADAM: And he stayed there until he found out that he had been sucked in, he had been conned, and that he had only been invited there as a smokescreen. These are the tactics that this government uses, and they are Hitler's tactics, exactly the system that he used to liquidate the Jews in Germany.

The irony of all this is, you know, for many many months we didn't know, everybody was speculating where the dictator of this province was getting his stipend, his \$3,000 a month stipend, you know. Now it's in the open, everybody knows. We only suspected then that it was coming from across the street here. Now we know, it's in the open. So you know the irony of this is now we have the Great-West Life investigating the affairs of government. And the irony of this, Mr. Speaker, is that it came within a smidgen, that the affairs of Great-West Life, the dubious dealings that take place with Great-West Life, was almost open to the public scrutiny in this Assembly last spring. It came within this much of having their affairs blown wide open right in this Assembly. So the irony is, now today they are investigating us.

We know about these dollar-a-year men, we have had the experience with C.D. Howe during the Second World War where they had all kinds of dollar-a-year men who came to give their services for a dollar a year, good citizens who were put in charge of all kinds of public companies, companies that the people had built, manufacturing firms of all kinds, shipbuilding factories and ammunition factories and uniform factories, you name it, we built them, with public funds. And these very generous people like we have across the way took over the management of these firms for nothing, for free, but after the war they bought all these firms for 10 cents, 20 cents, 25 cents on a dollar. That's how they were paid off. That is why most of the industry is built up in Eastern Canada, the Second World War created much of that. But these fellows were amply paid off, these dollar-a-year men; the same thing is happening here, Mr. Speaker, the same thing is going to happen here. We are going to pay off our friends some way, some way they will be paid off.

We will see it with Autopac, they will undermine Autopac. First of all they are going to steal \$7 million from the revenues of Autopac, put it into Consolidated Revenues, raise the fees, raise the premiums, because the private sector, the private insurance companies are unable to compete at the present rates of the premiums for automobile insurance in Manitoba. But if we raise the rates then they may be able to come in and compete, and in addition to that we will subsidize them further by allowing them to use our Claims Centres for a very small fee. That's how they will undermine it. They don't dare cut it off because they know there's reaction. They have already felt the opinion of the people on many, many issues.

They could do away with the deficit by eliminating one program which, by the way, the Minister of Finance last year stood up in this House and said he would eliminate, and that is the Property Tax Credit Plan. One program, \$100 million, your deficit is gone, but you don't dare do it because you haven't got the guts to do it. You said you would do it, but you haven't got the guts to do it. The deficit, nobody likes deficits, but it isn't that big of a problem, you are just laying a smokescreen, that's all. It amounts to about \$8 million a year for the past eight years and we have had more balanced budgets in the last eight years than any of the previous ten prior to that. So you give a tax credit, you give an income tax credit.

Let me give you one example of what one fellow is going to do with his savings. A fellow told me on the 24th of October he has 12 people under his employ. He says, well, I'm going to get a tax credit, income tax credit this year, I'm going to buy a machine down in the United States — you can't obtain

this machine in Canada — and it will enable me to lay off two of my people. That is how you are going to create jobs in Manitoba. It doesn't necessarily work, and I believe that this government is being entirely unfair to the private sector to tell them, here, we're going to dump you the whole thing. You have got to straighten it out. That is entirely unfair because they are unable to do it and it requires a combination of public and private working together. That is the only way it will work.

I say to you that you want to go back to that kind of environment. We had that kind of environment after World War One. We had a free enterprise paradise. There were no services, there were no roads, there was no education, there was no Medicare, there was no property tax credit plan, there was no critical home repair, no Medicare, there were no roads, there was no taxes. We had a free enterprise paradise after World War One and we walked into the biggest depression that the country has ever known and we would have never got out of it if it hadn't been for the massive, massive public input for World War Two. We would still be under 1929 conditions; I was there, I suspect that many of you were not around then, I'm sure that the fascist leader that we have today wasn't there. I don't know whether he was in diapers yet, but certainly he is much younger than I am, I was there. I was there. I was one of the victims of that free enterprise paradise. There was no services at all, of any kind.

So what happened? They couldn't do it, and it's too much to expect from the private sector to be able to solve the problems that exist in today's society. And now you are throwing the ball over to them because you know it's not going to work, so you say, we challenge you, we challenge you, the private sector, to solve the problems that exist in the country today. Well, they're not going to do it, you know. I wish them well but it's just too much to ask of them.

You know Mr. Clark, Joe Clark, the Federal Conservative Leader, says that the problem today, the most serious problem facing Canada today is unemployment, that is the issue as Mr. Clark sees it. And you know, this Leader here is creating the issue. He's creating the unemployment for Joe Clark. Mr. Clark says that unemployment is the issue and Sterling Lyon is creating the issue. He's creating more unemployment. You have about 8,000 more unemployed now than you had last October. You count them, you go out and count them, and we're not counting the almost 600,000 people who are not on the rolls, who have dropped out of the labor market. There's half a million people in Canada that are not counted because they have dropped out completely, they are no longer in the statistics.

You fellows are helping that, you fellows are helping that. You had better make the most of it because you're not going to be here in four years, you're going to be out. You're going to be out.

By the way before I forget. I listened to the Member for Souris-Killarney say that oh, the people in his area, they know there's no free meals, and I want to remind him that he'd better look into the facts and the records; find out who are the first ones to come and take advantage of all these programs. Southwest area, that is where the majority of the programs go; they are the first at the public trough, if there ever is a program. I wouldn't doubt that even the member himself is in the Land Lease Program. I believe his father, I believe his dad was down in Brandon talking against the Land Lease Program. I wouldn't be surprised if he presented a brief there.

But I say, you'd better back off on that Land Lease Program; you'd better let it continue because it's already finding favour in your own areas. He shakes his head. The Minister for Souris-Killarney shakes his head and he says, "I presume that you think it's a poor program."

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Minister of Agriculture say that, oh, they had the MACC going. Well, I recall that they phased it out about 1967, or thereabouts. It was completely closed down. There were no loans for farmland. There were no loans for the purchase of farmland or anything. They had completely closed out the Manitoba Agriculture Credit Corporation and it was reinstated and re-established after the election of the Schreyer Government in 1969 or 1970. It was changed to cover the purchases for farm implements and livestock, etc., and the purchase of land was considered. The Farm Credit Corporation was advancing lower interest rates and it was better for that body to lend out money for land and that the province would lend out money for high interest purchases; and that is farm implements and so on.

He mentions about the Beef Assurance Program and he says that there would have been more people join if they had known that the programs would be changed. But the fact is that when we introduced this program that the Conservative members were going throughout the province telling people, "Don't get involved in this. Here's the big hand of government trying to take over your livestock herds." That is what you fellows were going saying, "Don't get in because they are taking your herds; you're losing your herds." Well, 65 percent didn't listen to you, they went in, 65 percent of the ranchers did go into that program. The 35 percent, perhaps some of them listened to you, but not too many, and now the Minister is trying to smokescreen.

Now I am not too much in favour of referendums. I can tell you that right now. I believe that when the people elect a government they give them some responsibility and if they do the wrong thing well then they should be prepared to answer for it.

A MEMBER: Or suffer the consequences.

MR. ADAM: But we did have a referendum on a beef checkoff which, by the way, the Conservative members were introducing in the House year after year after year after year. We did have it and the Minister said, "If the majority of the producers want a checkoff we will have a checkoff," and that is why we had a referendum. They turned it down, unanimously rejected that idea. Later on they turned down the idea of a marketing agency for rail grade beef.

I spoke to some of the ranchers. In fact I spoke to one here just last week who said, "You know, I'm a member of the pure-bred Charlais Association and my association was going out and speaking

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against this rail grade agency and I didn't want my name involved there." He was a member of the Charlais Association, yet his association's name was on the \$1,000 ad that appeared in the papers speaking out against a marketing system for rail grade beef. The Member for Roblin was going out throughout the country and telling people — I see he's not in his seat — he was going out: "If you don't want the Communists to take over you'd better vote against this; you'd better vote against it," and when they asked him here just three weeks ago if he would get involved in the strike to try and increase the price of beef he said, "Oh, I don't want no part of that. I don't want to get involved in that."

There will be violence if you continue on with your programs. There will be violence. There will be more crime in the streets. I can remember back in '29 that I just spoke about, that you couldn't walk from Main Street, from the corner of Portage and Main down to the Bay without being accosted half a dozen times on the street for a handout and those days will come back if you continue with your kinds of policies. There will be more holdups. There will be more breakins. There will be violence maybe even against members of this Legislative Assembly. People won't put up with it. You can't go back to the bow and arrow philosophy, no way. You have to come up to the 1978 times.

So they are going to ignore the majority of the livestock producers. I asked the Minister the other day if he's going to railroad this legislation through. Now I don't particularly like referendums but in view of the fact that we've had two referendums turned down for a checkoff, and one was specifically for the same principle as what this legislation is supposed to be, then I would say you should show some Conservative democracy that you talk so much about and let's get out and find out, once and for all, if they want it. If they want it, I'm fine, I go along with it. If it's turned down, well that's up to the people, let them decide. Let them decide. —(Interjection)— Surely the Member for Morris will not deny the people out there their right to express their opinion on this particular point. Okay. —(Interjection)— Well, do it. Don't ram it down their throats. It's going to be compulsory. You can talk till you're blue in the face but the minute that somebody takes money off my cheque for livestock, it's compulsory, it's compulsory. So what is going to happen? The fellow who sells 500 head, 1,000 head a year will write in and get his refund and the guy that sells 10 or 12 head won't even bother to do it. So it's the small fellow, the small operator that will be financing the Manitoba stock growers because that's what it's for, that's what it's for. That is Conservative democracy at work.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. ADAM: Thank you. You are going to allow the American corporations and foreign corporations to get back into the speculation of land through the back door. That is what you are going to do if you allow Canadian corporations to buy land. You will be allowing them to come in through the back door. It's nothing to set up a dummy corporation and buy land. So that is what you will be doing, you'll be undermining your own farmers in this province, making it more difficult for young people to get into farming.

My neighbour is a fellow who is not 30 years old. He is farming 1,700 acres and he doesn't own an acre. He told me just last week if it wasn't for the Land Lease Program there's just no way, "There's no way that I could be in the farming industry today." He says, "I intend to buy this land some day. Five years down the road I intend to buy this land. But if it wasn't for this Land Lease Program I would not be able to farm today." This is repeated all over this province. There are already almost 600 young farmers who are now farming today who would not otherwise be farming if it wasn't for the Land Lease Program. I ask you people to allow these young people to get into the vocation of farming.

You are going to cause chaos with your checkoff. I should mention that I'm sure that once the auction mart — I don't know how this is going to be handled — you're going to have to have the co-operation of the packers and the local auction mart to collect this money and you are going to create another burden on the auction marts of having to keep track of the collections if, in fact, the auction marts are going to have to do this. There is going to be a backlash there when they find out that they may have to collect and keep track of this money for the Manitoba stock growers.

Yes, we have a restraint program that is going to hurt the people of this province. It's going to hurt the people in the remote communities. It's going to hurt the little businessmen on Main Street in Dauphin and in Ste. Rose. You know I heard a glowing comment from the Meer for Dauphin about how things are booming in Dauphin. Well I say to him that he hasn't been down Main Street lately; that there are some of the stores in Dauphin who have laid off as much as 50 percent of their staff because the cash flow has gone down and it's hurting them right in the pocketbook. Their costs are still there; and they are starting to have second and third and fourth thoughts on how they voted in the last election. Many of these businessmen did vote Conservative and they are wondering now what the hell they did to themselves.

I say to you, that is the kind of restraint you are going to do. You are going to take \$7 million away from Autopac so that the average Joe will have to put up these funds. You're going to take it out and give it to those people — by coincidence it's about the same amount — you're going to give it back on the Succession Duty tax. You are helping people who are receiving half a million dollars and you are taking away from the average Joe who goes down the street.

Another thing you are going to do, and I predict that you probably will do I suppose, is allow the Ministers to compute their ministerial salaries for pensions. So you will there again be doing something that will cost the taxpayer more money.

I say to you, you are going to have a lot to answer for come four years from now. Thank you very

much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I consider it a very very great honour to have the opportunity of being a member of this House and giving this initial speech. I join with others before me in congratulating you on being selected for your position, a most honourable and significant one.

I might mention, Mr. Speaker, that I have a particular interest in your position because our town of Stonewall is celebrating its centennial this year and they are issuing a centennial dollar bill and on it they have the picture of the 9th Speaker of this House, Mr. S. J. Jackson, who was Speaker of the House from 1891 to 1894, so perhaps, Mr. Speaker, 100 years from now you can look forward to having your picture on a centennial dollar bill.

I would also congratulate the Deputy Speaker, a man of course who is accustomed to making judgments and decisions and I am sure that he will bring great honour to that position.

As is customary, and it is my pleasure to congratulate the Mover of the Speech to the Throne, the Member for Crescentwood, and the Seconder, the Member for Portage. I think both of these gentlemen epitomize a very good example of the strength of our government. The Member for Crescentwood, of course, representing an urban area and at the same time having a considerable knowledge of agricultural and rural affairs; the Member for Portage, representing a rural and agricultural constituency but, at the same time, having a considerable knowledge of small urban affairs. I congratulate both these gentlemen and I think the qualities that were exhibited in their speeches certainly bode well for the qualities that they will contribute to this Legislature.

I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not mention at this time and pay some tribute to the former MLA from Gimli constituency, Mr. John Gottfried, who represented this House for eight years. I must say that many years ago we shared several cups of coffee and a great deal of conversation when we were attending summer school at the University of Manitoba. Even at that time I must confess he was a little confused in his political philosophy, however, I wish him well in his retirement and thank him for his service.

I would also like to mention, Mr. Speaker, at this time, as a new member, the fact that I have been impressed — and I think most suitably so — by the senior members of this House, senior in years of service. I really feel that the contribution made by these gentlemen in years of service to the people of Manitoba is most significant. I can tell you that in five short months, I have come to appreciate much more the great public contribution they have made and, at the same time, I can well imagine the personal sacrifice that they have made. I commend them for it and I must say that those of us who are new members, I am sure, have very many worthwhile models and examples to follow in this House.

I also have realized, Mr. Speaker, that the job of the opposition in this House is to oppose and they are not a cheering section as we have been told, however, there are times when that cacophony of sound that emanates from that area might resemble a poorly rehearsed cheering section. However, I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that in the months and years ahead that I can retain the perspective of recognizing and respecting the contribution of all members of this House and at all times. I think that is essential and part of our particular job.

I should remark as some previous members have on the path that led me to this particular Chamber and I should mention, Mr. Speaker, it was not an easy path. I had as my worthy opponent in the election of October 11th, a gentleman who was not new to elections and I might mention also that this same gentleman was a brother of the former Premier which many would consider an asset and I suppose some might say was a handicap. However, in spite of that, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that those qualities of hard work and perseverance and respect for people that enabled me to become the MLA for Gimli constituency are qualities that I trust will stand me in good stead in this House. — (Interjection)— You're speaking relatively, I suppose.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that it's customary for new members giving their first speech in this House to extol the virtues of their constituency and I certainly am pleased to have that opportunity. As a native-born Interlaker who was raised there and has spent most of my life there, I welcome the opportunity to talk about that particular region which I think is unique and certainly has made a significant contribution to this province in so many ways. Located, of course, between the two great lakes of Manitoba, this area has certain characteristics that I am sure set it apart from the rest of the province.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the early settlers that came to that area deserve a special commendation, a special tribute, because unlike some of the other areas of our province, the prairie areas, the Interlake was not a kindly environment as far as the early settlers were concerned. They faced the roots and so on that resulted from the bush areas and they faced stones and it required a very hardy person, strong not only in physical strength but in moral strength to survive. The fact that they did and carved out a certain civilization in that area, a considerable civilization I think, is to their everlasting tribute. I would like to recognize those hardy pioneers at this time.

We have, like many other parts of this province, a very considerable agricultural economy, Mr. Speaker. I think that the Interlake probably produces every agricultural product that is produced in this whole province, every type of product. —(Interjection)— Well, you can't knock private enterprisers, gentlemen.

I should also mention that our livestock economy is one that is most significant. Stock growers in our area have been winning honours at the numerous fairs throughout this country for many years and they continue to do so. I think it is to their credit and to the credit of the quality of the livestock that is being produced there. We have a thriving hog industry, with many good operators in the Gimli

constituency, the Interlake area. We have the largest turkey hatchery in Manitoba located near Gunton and we also have the largest goose processing plant in Canada, if not in the whole North American continent, and I would like to mention these Number Ones at this time because I think they're something to be proud of.

I would also mention, Mr. Speaker, that we have some industrial base in Gimli constituency, not as large as we would like to see. The large Calvert's Distillery at Gimli; the considerable Bristol Aerospace plant at Stony Mountain and a number of other smaller industries that are being operated by private enterprise and are doing quite well and employ a large number of our citizens.

Of course, in Gimli constituency, Mr. Speaker, we know all about government business. The people who live in the Gimli area witnessed first hand that \$40 million Saunders fiasco and if you want to find out what they think of government running business, I can tell you that their attitude to that is quite negative. They saw firsthand what happens when government gets into the business. — (Interjection)— Certainly.

MR. GREEN: I wonder whether the people of Gimli objected, prior to 1971, when \$9 million public dollars per year were invested in that community for some 20 years which educated, fed, clothed and housed people of Canada and produced. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. Order please. Order please. I must warn the member that if he wants to ask a question it has to be brief and not be one that would invoke debate. This is not the time for the member to debate in the House.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member may proceed with his question.

MR. GREEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I don't wish my comments to be taken from the member's time but when the member yields to a question, he can tell me to stop asking it but the rule of questions is not of the nature. I asked the member if he would yield to a question and I asked him whether the people in his community objected to public moneys flowing in there at the rate of \$9 million a year which fed, clothed and did not produce anything for the people of Canada.

MR. COSENS: The people of my constituency, Mr. Speaker, were of course not adverse to accepting any money that might come as a result of a military base being located in their area. However, that is regarded as an essential service and part of the functioning of this country. When a government gets into business, that is a little different item.

However, along with that particular venture, the people of my constituency, Mr. Speaker, also of course had the opportunity, particularly those on the east side that live along the lake, of watching Manitoba's navy travel up and down their lake and they tell me, Mr. Speaker, that the fact that this government saw fit to dispose of the Lord Selkirk and receive some quarter million dollars for it, that they commend the Minister of Industry and Commerce for that. In fact, some of the people in this constituency, Mr. Speaker, some of my constituents tell me, those who were aware of what was happening in that particular quarter and realized how much money we were losing on that venture, tell me that if the Minister of Industry and Commerce had seen fit in the Cabinet to sell that boat for \$1.00 that the taxpayers of this province would have been well served.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency also have many relatives at Hecla Island. Many of them have fished and worked in that area. They deplore what they have witnessed happening to the Gull Harbour Hotel and they deplore it heartily because they know it affects not only their pocket books but also the pocket books of all Manitobans. So they are really not very impressed, they are really not very impressed, Mr. Speaker, with government in business, particularly the unsuccessful businesses that they have witnessed.

One of the other great facets of my constituency, Mr. Speaker, is the tourism industry and of course I know that the fine beaches along Lake Winnipeg have long been a drawing card for many people from this province and possibly some of the members of this Chamber enjoy their summers along those beaches and of course we also have many visitors who come to the province and enjoy those facilities also.

Like many of our other members, we also have many excellent golf courses and along with these tourist attractions and of course the excellent wildfowl hunting in the fall. There are many summer and winter festivals that take place and I would mention the wonderful winter weekend at Winnipeg Beach that is rapidly becoming one of the big attractions of the winter season, not only in our region but is attracting many people from the city. I would mention the nationally famous, perhaps internationally famous, Icelandic Festival, which takes place in Gimli every summer. I would also mention, of course, the stampede at Teulon and the Stonewall Agricultural Fair as well as countless other sports tournaments and picnics that take place through the area, all part, of course, of the tourist attraction and part of the attraction that draws people to this very picturesque part of our province.

I also, Mr. Speaker, would like to comment on the people of this area because I really believe that the character and background of a people is what makes a province, an area, a region, what it really is. I really think that my constituency is unique in at least one way and that Gimli, the town of Gimli, the district of Gimli, is the birthplace, the founding place of the Icelandic community in this province,

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in this country, on this continent. Of course, as I have mentioned, each summer the Icelandic Festival attracts many of these people back to this centre of the Icelandic culture in Manitoba, a place where those old traditions that are so near and dear to the people who settled in this particular constituency from Iceland, where these things are now recorded and kept so that they will be there for many generations to come. I would salute those ancestors of the present people of Icelandic origin living in that area, Mr. Speaker. These people I think are only partially represented by that large Viking statue in Gimli. It suggests the strength and hardiness of the people, but it does not, of course, mention the character ..and the heart that had to be contained in those early settlers of that region who faced great hardship. But I think this is probably the thing, Mr. Speaker, that has contributed to the great contribution that people of Icelandic ancestry have made not only to this province but to this country, and they are to be commended for it. I am proud to be representing that section of my constituency along with all other parts, of course.

In the northern part of my constituency we find another group of a different ethnic origin, the Ukrainian people who came over to this country and certainly faced great hardship, and only through their hardiness and their strength were able to overcome the rather harsh environment that they faced. These people, like the Icelandic community, have made an outstanding contribution and their sons and daughters have gone forth to all parts of this country in all walks of life, all professions, and their contribution, Sir, has been considerable.

I should thank the former Minister of Public Works because I understand from his rather adequate art collection that I now have benefited by having a picture, a painting, by Mr. William Kurelek hanging in my office, and Mr. Kurelek is one of our outstanding Canadian artists and I am pleased to say a former resident of the Interlake, and also a man of Ukrainian ancestry. I think he epitomizes again one example of the achievements of these people since they came to this country.

And, of course, Mr. Speaker, we have the Englishman, the Belgian, and the Polish people, and the Scotsman and the Irishman, and I think we have representatives of every ethnic group in our constituency, all living and working together, asking very little from government except the essential services and really telling me, as their representative, that they don't want government interfering in their life, that they don't want government manipulating their lives or their livelihood.

That, Mr. Speaker, of course, brings me to yet another topic that relates directly to my constituency and that is the fishing industry. In my particular constituency, at Gimli in particular, we have tied up at the dock over half a million dollars in boats and fishing equipment when the fishermen are in. This is a way of life that has been with these people from the time they came to this country. I have men in my constituency who have spent 50 years out on the lake. I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these fishermen are not happy about what has happened to their industry. They are upset and they are afraid that it is going to die, that it is going to disappear, and they tell me that their whole way of livelihood has been threatened by a philosophy that they claim would have changed the fishing industry into a welfare industry in spite of the fact, and they tell me, they claim that this lake contains a bounteous supply of fish of different varieties.

They tell me, Mr. Speaker, that the reason that their industry is in trouble is because of past policies, mainly of the previous government, that saw fit to lower the amount of catch they can take to the point where no one can make an industry from it. They also question, Mr. Speaker, very seriously the past policies of the government regarding licensing, which they claim have many inconsistencies. They also, Mr. Speaker, are very concerned about the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which they understood was going to be instituted to help them market their fish not store their fish.

I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased and the fishermen of my constituency are pleased that the present Minister, who is in charge of fisheries in our government, is taking steps, is talking to the fishermen, is studying the problem, and is on the point of coming up with policies that will rectify that situation.

I am not finished, Mr. Speaker, but I see that the hour is 12:30. I can continue after.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to inform the member that he has 18 minutes left.

The hour being 12:30, I am leaving the Chair to return at 2:30 this afternoon.