



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

28 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Harry E. Graham
Speaker*



VOL. XXVII No. 6A 2:30 P.M. Thursday, February 22, 1979

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, February 22, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: His Excellency, the Governor-General.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Your Excellencies, it is a particularly warm pleasure for us, on this your first official visit to the Province of Manitoba, to welcome you home; home to the province, home to the Legislative Building where you served as First Minister and home to this Chamber of which you were a member for so many years.

We, of the Legislative Assembly, welcome you, both in your own right and more particularly, on this occasion, as the representative of our gracious Sovereign.

It is with special pride that we congratulate you on your appointment to your high office and may we, through you and your office, reaffirm the loyalty and allegiance of members of this Assembly to Her Majesty and our deep affection for her as a person.

You, yourself, made reference, Your Excellency, to the fact that a diverse society in a vast land can experience a broadening of the mind and spirit and magnanimity of the soul. We, in this central province, this Keystone Province which links east and west, are a people whose forefathers came from many lands. Their diverse contributions have given breadth to our culture and a new dimension to our heritage.

We recognize and endorse your view that within the past 50 years — just a moment in the sweep of history — our Canada has gone from aloofness to tolerance and beyond tolerance to respect for, and indeed a deep desire for, the retentions of the differentiations of our heritage and culture.

Thus it is with a sense of pride and in the sense of hope that we say, "Encore Bienvenue."

HIS EXCELLENCY EDWARD R. SCHREYER (GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA): Mr. Speaker and honourable members of this Legislative Assembly, I want to thank you most sincerely for the words of welcome that you have addressed to my wife and myself.

I shall, of course, take great satisfaction in conveying to Her Majesty the expression of loyalty which you have just expressed on behalf of honourable members.

It gives me great pleasure, as a native son of Manitoba, to return to this place, this very place here, which has been so central and so exciting to me for so many years. Perhaps I should add, Mr. Speaker, that it was, at times, too exciting.

It is particularly gratifying to return as a representative of Her Majesty, Elizabeth II, to a province which my distinguished predecessor, le Tres Honourable Jules Leger, described as a part of Canada in which the people and the land have interacted, interacted in the sense that geography and history have combined in Manitoba, to forge a community in the most diverse elements have been brought into harmonious and fruitful relationship. Therefore, I think Manitobans will easily understand, if I refer to my native province, as the Heart of Canada, not only because it seems geographically to hold the east and the west together, but also because it has provided a bridge in history and in human terms.

Since it is here in Manitoba, which was the crossroads for the indigenous Indian population, the early French, the Scots, the Anglo-Saxons, the Germans, the Ukrainians, the Scandinavians, the Poles, to mention only some of this human kaleidoscope. Settlers from every corner of Europe and the world, whose efforts have gone into the making of Manitoba, is on a larger scale the efforts of these self-same people in every corner of this country, have gone into the making of Canada. Demographically speaking, Manitoba is Canada in microcosm.

As Manitoba once stood at one of the geographic crossroads of this country, so do we now in an albeit different sense stand collectively at our own different kind of crossroad as a nation. As a people, we stand at a moment of fate. Just as the lesson of Manitoba has been one of co-operative effort, in realizing the aspirations of a larger community, so too should all Canadians recognize that their desire for a better life and for the realization of their goals and of their values

lie in the cross-cultural understanding and the linguistic understanding and mutual support, and I might add mutual respect. Respect for cultural differences and for the historical facts of Canada's formation.

(Text spoken in French. Translation not available.)

Apropos this, it is worthy of note, that Canada and the Provinces of Canada, are joining in the United Nations focus in 1979, the Year of the Child. This conjures up many notions, I am sure, as to what kind of attention may appropriately be given to the Year of the Child, and the divinely blessed but human institution of the family, two inexorably linked values that are at the bedrock of our Judao-Christian civilization.

Surrounded as you are in this Chamber, in this most beautiful of Parliamentary Chambers, by the reminders of Moses and the sages of antiquity, you can be I shall say, you can continue to be inspired, as you have been in the past.

I leave you now in the serene confidence that you will be so inspired. That is a good point at which to bid you all adieu et au revoir. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please rise. (God Save the Queen.)

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN(Morris): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Report of the Queen's Printer and also, Sir, the Report under The Trade Practices Inquiry Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM(Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table two reports. One is the report of the Flood Forecasting Committee with respect to the situation concerning flood prospects on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and the other is a report by the Water Resources Division of my department that deals with the same situation throughout the rest of the province.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. JORGENSEN introduced Bill No. 12, an Act to amend The Corporations Act.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER, Attorney-General(Osborne) introduced Bill No. 9, an Act to amend The Crown Lands Act and the Real Property Act and Bill No. 11, an Act to amend The Provincial Judges Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

HON. HARRY J. ENNS, Minister of Highways(Lakeside) introduced Bill No. 13, an Act to amend The Highway Traffic Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we go into the question period I would like to take this opportunity to welcome 29 students of Grade Five standing from Crane School. These students are under the direction of Lynn Yetman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, the Minister of Health.

We also have 28 students of Grade Nine standing from the John Pritchard School. These students are under the direction of E. Kroeker. This school is in the constituency of Rossmere. On behalf of all the Honourable Members, we welcome you here today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is toward the Minister of Health and Social Development. Further to the Minister's response to me yesterday in connection with investigating the level of meals provided in our institutes, would the Minister be prepared also to investigate as to whether or not due to his government's restraint policies that the standard of meals at the Selkirk Mental Hospital for patients has been reduced insofar as there has been a substantial reduction in the amount of vegetables that have been served to patients, that soup at the evening meals has been eliminated from the menu and that hamburger is served more frequently and that bacon now is served only once a week rather than twice a week as earlier for breakfast and that only two strips instead of three are served.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in the 24 hours since the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked me a question on this subject for the first time yesterday, I have had an opportunity to check with my departmental officials and those who are responsible in particular for the management and administration of our mental health centres. I'm advised, Sir, that there is no substance to the anxieties expressed by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I am prepared to continue to monitor it; to continue to maintain the vigilance over those standards that we always have done and to continue to discuss it with him, but there is no substance or justification for his anxieties, I'm advised, Sir.

MR. PAWLEY: I would ask the Honourable Minister whether or not the facts which I've just related to him are true or untrue.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I cannot verify facts relative to two or three strips of bacon. What I can verify is the general menu, the general caloric and vitamin level, the general size and substance of the meals and the menus being offered. I am assuring him, as I am assuring his rather restless colleague from Inkster, that I have utilized the 24 hours since I was asked that question to investigate it, that I am advised that the concerns he brings to me are not true.

MR. PAWLEY: Would the Minister use the next 24 hours to ascertain whether the facts which I have related to him today are correct or not.

MR. SHERMAN: Of course, Mr. Speaker, I said that in my first answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question as well for the Minister of Health and Social Development in reference to the report issued by the Ombudsman concerning the illegality of the government's positioning juveniles in the Adult Detention Centre. Can the Minister indicate that in light of the statement made by a Family Court Judge that there has been a 100 percent increase in the number of juveniles who have been raised to Adult Court, does that represent a distinct change in government policy whereby they are now positioning juveniles into the adult detention system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, certainly there has been no such change in policy or no such policy enunciated by my department, so I would have to say to my honourable friend that the answer is no.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary I would ask either that Minister or the Attorney-General, that if it is not a distinct change in the government's policy to raise juveniles to Adult Court, can the Attorney-General or the Minister of Health and Community Services, indicate why there has been close to 100 percent increase in the number of juveniles who are being raised to Adult Court and therefore being assigned to Headingley or Stony Mountain, or other adult detention centres as opposed to juvenile centres, what is the reason and cause for that substantial change in the position of juveniles in our court system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, it is not a policy of any government to raise juveniles to adult court. That is a decision that is taken in the courts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a final supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, then, to the Attorney-General. Would the Minister confirm the following? That it is the Crown which makes application to raise juveniles to adult court, and that, secondly, the discretion of the court is based upon the availability of facilities, and that Justice Kimelman of the Family Courts indicated that one of the reasons why those applications are being received is for the lack of social and proper . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that this is a period for asking questions rather than making statements. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge want to rephrase his question?

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'll rephrase my question to the Attorney-General. Would he confirm that a Judge of the Family Court has indicated that one of the causes for the close to 100 percent increase, is due to the lack of psychiatric, and other specialized facilities for the treatment of juveniles in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the report was tabled in this House yesterday. I'll undertake to have it reviewed by my department and respond to the member in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I don't rise to ask a question. I just want to deal with the traditional courtesies of the House. I believe that it has been — and this is without any criticism whatsoever of the Member for Fort Rouge since I'm directing the question to you — I believe that it has been part of the courtesies of the House that the Leader of the Opposition is permitted to ask more than one question and to proceed with what he considers to be his important questions for the day. I hope that that courtesy would continue to be extended.

MR. SPEAKER: It is my intention to allow every member of the Chamber the maximum use of the Question Period, and in particular the Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Health and Social Development relating to the questions which I posed earlier to him: Will the Minister indicate whether or not there has been a letter commending management in the Selkirk Mental Hospital, involving cutbacks insofar as the costs of providing food to the patients at the Selkirk Mental Hospital?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that but I will investigate it. I can advise my honourable friend that there is, I think, some restlessness on the part of some staff members at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre associated with the management of the dietary function because of procedures that are being carried out in the interests of the well-being of the residents and the interests of efficiency.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable member wish to enquire into those procedures, whether they are in the interests of the patients themselves, or in the interests of the restraint program of his government?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the two things are synonymous.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health. The Minister has stated that the quality of care would not suffer in the hospitals because of lack of funds, and I would like to ask the Minister if there is any directive as per the maximum number of patients that any one nurse, or one LPN, would be responsible for during their shift?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can't give the Honourable Member for St. Boniface a precise breakdown right across the whole hospital spectrum, but there are staffing guidelines laid down by the Commission based on the size of hospitals and the patient component in them.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would then endeavour to check and give me these guidelines and to verify, if it is the case, that an LPN now is responsible for twelve patients where she was trained to take care of two.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask another question to the same Minister. Is the personal care program of the government, has there been any change or is it still a universal program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: There has been no change, Mr. Speaker. I assume the Honourable Member is making reference to the question of private proprietorship as against non-proprietary ownership. There has been no change in that.

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not concerned at this time with the ownership. I am talking about the care for the patient. Is it a universal program here in the province, the way it has been in the past?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, no change in that.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Can the Minister then, Mr. Speaker, explain why people or patients that have been accepted as needing this help, of needing the help or being admitted to a personal care home, is then sent to a private hostel, because this patient happened to have some money, until he spends his money? That is not a universal program, Mr. Speaker. That is a means test.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the program has always, I believe, been based on fairness and as much equity as it is possible to achieve in making determinations between one citizen and another. That is still pursued, and I would expect that if a decision of the kind to which my honourable friend refers was made it was made in that context, but if he cares to supply me with details I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface have additional information for the Minister?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The situation, the Minister stated that it was always the same thing, that it was on a question of necessity. You might think it's funny, Mr. Speaker, but I don't. And if this is the attitude, fine, I'll find another time to get this across to the public. Bloody joke.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East. Orders of the day. The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health, responsible for Corrections. In view of the scathing condemnation of the Ombudsman, in terms of the conditions at The Pas, I wonder if he can report whether his government will now take action in the construction of a new facility. I quote, "The situation at The Pas is so intolerable that action to provide some separate accommodation for the juveniles in custody must be taken right away.

It is even too urgent to wait for the Provincial Government's Juvenile Justice Committee to complete its report". Are we now going to get some action after that scathing attack by the Ombudsman?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask my honourable friend from Elmwood whether, during eight years of NDP administration, they took any action.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'll answer the question. —(Interjection)— During our term in office, considerable planning was in fact made on that facility. The building was designed, the contract was let, a letter of intent was given, and the building could have commenced construction in October, a year and a half ago, it would now be complete. That is the answer to the question, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister has a supplementary I'll take it . . .

otherwise I'll . . . My second question is again given the deplorable conditions in the The Pas, that there is a description in the Ombudsman's report that there is contravention of the law, complete disregard of legislation, probably no other institution in the whole of Canada which so ignores the legal and professional . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Would the Honourable Member for Elmwood please ask his question?

MR. DOERN: I asked the Minister if can give this House some assurance that construction will proceed on that facility. All he has to do is tender the design that is in existence and that he's been holding up for a year and a half, and the building can commence. When can we expect that to begin?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask my honourable friend whether, in fact . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the Honourable Minister of Health that he has sufficient information in his office, he should have the answers to the questions that he about to receive. Does the Honourable Minister care to answer the question?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member well knows of the situation leading up to the present circumstances at The Pas with respect to that correctional institution. He knows that we have said and that I have said that we are moving to resolve it. We do not have an answer at this moment. We do not accept the extravagantly expensive commitment which was made by the previous government involving the taxpayers of Manitoba to a concept there that could not be justified, either in dollar terms or cost effective terms or purpose. We will resolve the question as soon as we can, with the interest both of the population of that institution in mind and the interests of the taxpayer in mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Before we proceed, while I realize that it's a cause of great celebration to have a visit from the Governor-General to this Chamber, I understand the attitude of buoyance and exuberance that exists within the Chamber but this is the question period. The Honourable Member for Elmwood may proceed with his final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: I asked the Minister if he can explain the reason for the delay. Is he telling us that there has been an eighteen month study of the working drawings of the proposed correctional institution and courthouse? Is he telling us that the reason for an eighteen month delay is that his government has been studying a potential reduction in the facility in terms of floor space, etc, or is he still considering some obviously far-out schemes as put by the Minister of Government Services, that they were considering renovating some old building or old facility for that purpose? Why the delay? Can he explain?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member should remember that that isn't the only extravagance with which we have had to wrestle in those eighteen months. We've been dealing

with that and a hundred similar commitments of an extravagant nature, and we just don't have all the answers yet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, further to the questions pursued by the Member for Elmwood. I would ask the Minister for Government Services that in view of the fact that some of your — and I say that in the royal view — your best friends in the private construction industry are saying that they need the public sector in order to stay alive, will he at least work on that centre — not because of his feelings for the juveniles there — but of his feelings for his friends in the private construction industry?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Government Services.

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the occasion to speak before the Winnipeg Construction Industry and inform him that approximately one-third of our budget of last year, \$560 million, was in public sector capital expenditures.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster with a supplementary.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, is it also correct, Mr. Speaker, that when he spoke to them they referred to the immaturity of our political leadership as being the reason for no development. I repeat the question — in deference to his friends, his private sector, rugged individualist friends in the construction industry who are begging for public support so that they can exist. Will he do it for them if he won't do it for the poor incarcerated juveniles?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, the policy of the government is to try and provide prudent public sector activity, which simply means that we have to deal with the moneys that we have available to us, set our priorities and to try and tailor our program to meet those needs. Within the context of that the matter that is now being discussed before the House is being dealt with and I think that there will be a resolution of this matter.

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

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the honourable member says that the problem is to deal with our fiscal resources, is he telling us that the \$8 million of Succession Duties that were given up last year and the further tax cuts of what your people have said, are \$83 million in public revenues which was foregone by the Conservative administration, are you telling us that that correctional institution has not gone up because of foregoing those \$83 million?

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I'm not. I'm simply saying that if \$40 million wasn't squandered on Saunders, if the provincial garage of \$3 million wasn't built, there would be money available for the kinds of activities that are being requested now.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. In view of his desire to bring forward desirable projects, and much needed projects, could he indicate to this House when the project of the Ashern and Eriksdale Personal Care Homes that were tendered and were stopped by your administration, will be tendered since they are very much desired by the people of the Interlake?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the honourable member wait and see.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjections)—

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The whole purpose of the question period is for the opportunity to ask questions of the Ministry and to elicit answers. If people don't want to ask questions and

want to talk, one to another, I suggest there is another place for them to do it. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I directed a question to the Minister of Government Services regarding the High School at Norway House which was approved last year in the last year's budget estimates of the Minister of Education, and I believe the only reason it has not proceeded is that this government has not yet made a decision as to who will be the architect for that project. There appears to be very great dismay in the community as well as a lot of rumours flying around, about why particular architects are being considered and why others aren't.

So, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister, yet have an answer for us to indicate what is happening on this project?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I indicated the other day that I would take the question as notice. The matter is still under notice and there will be an answer shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland with a supplementary.

MR. BOSTROM: A second question, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Minister responsible for Renewable Resources. With respect to the fishermen in the Poplar River — Black River area, I understand they're requesting of your department the introduction of individual quotas for the coming fishing season. I wonder if the Minister could indicate if his department has communicated with them and if they will be favourably considering this request.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, there has been to this point, no change in policy with respect to commercial fisheries.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. Can the Minister confirm that Concordia, Misericordia, Dauphin and Winnipegosis and Grace Hospital are conducting their strikebreaking exercise in accordance with a strike manual distributed by the Manitoba Health Organization in March of 1978?

MR. SPEAR: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, I wouldn't be able to comment on that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can ask the Minister to undertake to investigate that. And while he is doing so, can the Minister confirm that the MHO — or undertake to confirm or deny — that the MHO has directed its negotiators to keep a low profile in media with respect to the strike situation and are stressing the fact that they are able to cope with the strike without transfer of patients or reduction of services?

MR. SHERMAN: No, I couldn't confirm that either, Mr. Speaker. All I can confirm is that the assurances that my office has received from all those institutions is that patient care and quality of patient care is unaffected by the work stoppage.

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

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm that the Grace Hospital has severely restricted its admission of surgery patients in response to the situation created by the management dispute? And can the Minister undertake to report back to the House other specific reductions in health care at any of the hospitals involved in the labour dispute?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the situation at Grace, I would suggest that it's very likely that it's elective surgery that my honourable friend is talking about; that those slates always go up in considerable number in the wintertime; and that no expressions of concern have come to me from the medical staff, the administrative staff or the board of the Grace Hospital, or the

Health Services Commission or the Manitoba Health Organizations.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Honourable Minister of Labour. Does the Minister of Labour have any statement to make to the House concerning the present status of employment in the meat-packing industry in Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): No particular report, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WALDING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister had any meetings with the meat-packing industry lately, to confirm the state of layoffs and notices of layoffs in the business?

MR. MacMASTER: No, I haven't, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WALDING: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the same Minister be prepared to investigate and perhaps confirm reports that several hundred people have been laid off and have received notices of layoff; that in one plant the workers have been cut down to half time and that another plant is in danger of closing? Would the Minister investigate and report back to the House?

MR. MacMASTER: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate it being brought to my attention. I will investigate and I'll make the member aware of my findings.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Two days ago, when I asked the Minister questions regarding unjust bread price increases, the Minister referred to a press release of the Minister of Consumer Affairs in 1973. I'd like to ask the Minister if he will table a copy of that press release because I've obtained a copy of it and it contradicts everything the Minister told the Members of the House two days ago regarding that matter, and the effectiveness of the New Democratic government in 1973 in dealing with the matter of increasing bread prices. Would he table a copy of that press release, I'll table a copy of this one?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend is going to be willing to table his copy, it seems to me a little bit redundant for both of us to be tabling copies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a supplement.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, given the infamy of the Ministers of Consumer Affairs in tampering with government documents and press releases, I want to make sure that the present Minister has not tampered with the press release and in fact attributed something to the Minister in 1973 that he did not say.

MR. JORGENSEN: My honourable friend is perfectly free to table whatever document that he has and nobody is preventing him from doing that.

MR. PARASIUK: I ask again, will the Minister because he referred to that matter in the Legislature, he referred to printed material, will he table the press release that he referred to in answering questions two days ago; I think that's part of the rules of the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of tabling the document if my honourable friend is going to table it.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, I have been clear, I have said I have tabled the press release that I have obtained regarding that 1973 press release. He referred to the one, I asked him to table it as well. I might have a different press release, and I am asking him to particularly prove his point by providing the factual information. If he doesn't have it, then of course he can't table the press release because it wouldn't back his claims.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Member for St. Rose. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise at a point of order. I believe that the House Leader must be misunderstanding the Member for Transcona. The Member for Transcona has merely asked that the press release that you dealt with yesterday be tabled and he says he doesn't know whether the release that he has is the same one. And therefore you are attributing to him the tabling of a release which you assume is identical but I don't think that you would have any objection, or should have any objection to tabling the release that you referred to yesterday, and it's a legitimate point of order for the Member for Transcona to make that you referred to a press release. Would you table it?

MR. JORGENSEN: I'm going to have a look at the document that my honourable friend has tabled, and if it's the same one then there is no need for me to table it.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if my honourable friend will tell us that the documents are identical I suppose we will have to take his word for it. If they are not identical, then we would want them both tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR.A.R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. In view of his reply to my colleague from Elmwood, in which he stated that he regarded the institution at The Pas as extravagant, and that they had inherited other extravagances from the previous administration, I ask him if the nursing home for Winnipegosis approved in May of 1977, does he consider that also to be extravagant and having held it up for over a year and a half?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, no, Mr. Speaker, that certainly is not an extravagant project.

MR. ADAM: Then, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the people of Winnipegosis when they can expect to get this much-needed facility?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, can my honourable friend from Ste. Rose stick around?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education. Can the Minister of Education confirm that his government will reduce, by the sum of \$400 thousand, the funding of special programs at Brandon University in the forthcoming fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, that type of information will be dealt with at the time we examine my estimates.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Minister advise whether the report on the front page of the Brandon Sun, which appeared in the past ten days, advising that there had been a \$400 thousand cutback, can the Honourable Minister advise whether it is his intention, without giving us detail, whether it is his intention to cut back on special programming at Brandon University in the forthcoming year?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of what was printed in the Brandon Sun in that regard.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, final supplementary, would the Honourable Minister give assurances to this House that his Department, in no way, he and his Department in no way, his government in no way, will reduce the ability of Brandon University to continue to offer these special programs to the people of Manitoba?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I would repeat my first answer that in my estimates I will be quite prepared to go into details and discussion on those particular projects.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Honourable, the Minister of Health and Social Services. Has the Minister had the opportunity to read the Malcolm Chenier autopsy report that was prepared on January 10th of this year pursuant to the Fatal Inquiries Act of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I haven't I believe, read the autopsy report. I have had a full report from officials of my Department and the Manitoba school .

MR. CORRIN: In that case, Mr. Speaker, I feel it's incumbent on me in my duty as a servant of this House to table the autopsy report made pursuant to the Fatal Inquiries Act, and prepared by the Medical Examiner, Dr. D. W. Ray, and I would address all members attention to the fact that this resident was not only, as was indicated in the newspaper reports, mildly retarded, but was also diagnosed as being psychotic. And I would ask a question in view of that finding that was made on January 10th of this year, is the Minister satisfied that residents described as psychotic, diagnosed as psychotic, should be allowed to be left unattended in circumstances where they could leave the institution?

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not satisfied with any procedure of that kind. I have described the incident as a tragic error in judgment. Meetings have been held since that time to re-examine and reinforce procedures in place at the institution.

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

MR. COSENS: I would ask the Honourable Minister then if he's satisfied that immediate changes in security procedures effecting psychotic residents should be made immediately at the school, and I ask that question in view of the response made by the Minister in the February 21st edition of the Winnipeg Tribune, where he indicated that the supervision in general is very good and responsible, and said that the tragedy has not resulted at this point in any major changes in procedure at the school.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I stand by that endorsement of the supervision at the school. That doesn't say that procedures cannot be re-examined, cannot be studied, and in some cases be tightened and reinforced. That is what has happened. But I cannot assure my honourable friend that a wide sweeping new approach has been invoked. That has not been necessary. What happened here was an error in judgment. I don't know whether my honourable friend or I, and everybody in this House can ever devise a world and a system in which there are no individual errors in judgment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I have another question for the Minister of Health and Community Services. Coming back to the basic point about the impact of government restraint policies upon juveniles in our detention system. Is the Minister apprised of the statement made by the Manitoba Association of Social Workers, that at the present moment, as a result of the government restraint program, that social workers and probation officers are not being allowed to see their youngsters as frequently as required. They are not able to attend regular forensic conferences, and they cannot play an

effective role with the families they're consulting. The information referral systems are slowed down and the whole system is suffering. Is he apprised of that statement? Is he also investigating that statement to see if such charges are true?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: I was not apprised of that statement until it was just quoted by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, Mr. Speaker. All I can say is that I'm aware that the Manitoba Association of Social Workers is continually examining, continually probing, continually Workers is continually examining, continually probing, continually looking. So am I. I ask him to take our word on the government looking. So am I. I ask him to take our word on the government side that these programs and practices are being monitored. The proper levels of —(Interjection)— I would say this, Mr. Speaker. My honourable friend from St. Boniface asked me where I got the expertise. I didn't get it from him, Sir. But it's there and we're developing it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The hour for question period having elapsed, I will allow the Member one supplementary question. — (Interjections)— Order please. I will allow the Member for Fort Rouge a supplementary question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, when you have indicated that the question period has expired, surely Honourable Members opposite know that they've had the full forty minutes to ask questions. Questions can be asked tomorrow, if my honourable friend will be here.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have attempted to extend a courtesy to allow the Member who has repeatedly risen, trying to get the floor, the courtesy of one supplementary question to complete his questioning. Realizing of course that the time for questions has in fact expired. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your courtesy, but not for that of the government. I would then ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, that in the care of the juveniles in the detention system, is he also prepared to confirm that there is an upwards of a four to six month waiting period for children from rural and northern Manitoba who are brought to the Manitoba Youth Centre before they're given forensic screening or services, and that the lack of proper treatment services are preventing that kind of condition to be met in any effective way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that we do monitor these processes and programs, but I'll take my honourable friend's question as notice.

ORDERS OF THE DAY — THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Springfield, and the proposed amendment of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Roblin has 25 minutes.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a very difficult task for me is to present 15 minutes of my reply to the Speech from the Throne last evening and then to try and pick up the threads and the vein of the Speech and continue today. I did feel that my spirit would maybe measure up to the task until the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition started talking about food and the quality and the quantities of food, Mr. Speaker, and me being on a low calorie and a low cholesterol diet, it caused me great anxiety and pain over here to feel . . . but I hope the Honourable Leader of the Opposition will rest assured and I can give him some personal advice that I have lost 35 pounds since the last session, and a low calorie and a low cholesterol diet doesn't do anybody any harm. In fact, I'm enjoying it very, very much .

Mr. Speaker, I wish the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition had been here last night when I dealt with the bed sheets as well, and convinced the Honourable Members opposite what

a myth and a dream that that was last year that was hashed off by the Members opposite, this great issue of bed sheets. This year, it looks like it's going to be food or the shortage of food.

I also wish the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition had been here last night and heard the speeches of the Minister of Mines and Resources and the Minister of Agriculture. This room was like a morgue last night. I don't know what got them all fired up today, but it was like a tomb here last night when these two most able and dedicated Ministers laid some of the policies of this government on the record and placed before the Members opposite and most of them went out with their tails between their legs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I ever saw the Official Opposition as low as they were last evening. They couldn't even find anybody to speak last night from a quarter after nine till we closed at ten o'clock and the day that an Opposition is down that low, in my opinion, then they are not the Opposition in a Legislature. In my opinion, an Opposition should be ready and able and willing to meet any challenge any time, and normally, in the Throne Speech debate, the Official Opposition is supposed to follow leaders from one side to the other. After the Minister of Mines spoke, not a voice over there. Not a voice. They just wanted to adjourn the House and get out of here as quick as they could. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have several reasons, I know, why they wanted to get out last night. They couldn't take it then, and I wonder how long they'll take it today.

Well, let me explain, and I'll give you maybe thirty reasons why I can't support the motion of the Leader . . . interim Leader of the Official Opposition that is before us at this time.

The first document that I would like you to take a look at is one of the Tribune on Friday, February 9th, Business Loans Top \$14 million. Success story, the news clipping says.

Let me tell you the second reason that I can't support the motion as offered, that the taxes were reduced some \$83 million last year by the government. That's \$83.00 for every man, woman and child in this province.

Let me tell you another reason. This government saw fit to reduce the personal income taxes of the citizens of this province.

Mr. Speaker, this government, we reduced the deficit from \$214 million by a whooping 40 percent down to \$131 million. That's what this government did last year, Mr. Speaker. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there is a further reduction of the debt plan this year for this government of the province.

Mr. Speaker, let me also remind the members opposite and the interim Leader of the Official Opposition — I apologize, Mr. Speaker, I have a terrible time with that tongue-twister — the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition, that the provincial payroll was reduced some 13, maybe 14 percent by, maybe, 600, 1,700 people due to attrition.

We reduced, Mr. Speaker, the provincial spending considerably, last year. I think that it was one of the lowest of all the provincial governments across Canada.

We've reduced the duplication in government services in the workings of government as much as possible and there's lots of room left to be done in that field, especially the duplication of services by Canada and the provinces.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that last year this government constructed 378 new Senior Citizens Units across Manitoba — 378. Two hundred and eighty new low-cost family units last year were constructed by this government, Mr. Speaker.

Seventy-five percent, Mr. Speaker, of the pensioner home-owners, the old-age pensioners who own their homes, were provided last year with a full school tax relief by this government.

The Critical Home Repair Program has improved considerably and will be improved more, Mr. Speaker, all across the province.

Let the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose know that we increased the provincial contributions to the school cost by 15 million or 8 percent more money to the school system across the province.

The City of Winnipeg, as everybody well knows, got 30 million not too long ago in a bloc-funding plan. Thirty million dollars to the City of Winnipeg, to run their operation.

There were more summer jobs created by this government last year than there ever was by the NDP and it was done by the private sector. The private sector got involved and put some of their money in finding jobs for these young people all across this province, and as my figures show it, there was some 4,900 jobs were created last year.

Mr. Speaker, how does the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition expect me to support his Motion, when those kind of statistics are on the record of this province — are things that all happened last year. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Mines put into the record yesterday about the 64 jobs for each one hundred people starting to work for the first time, when there was only 29 in the last year that the NDP was in government. —(Interjection)— Yes, I know, when I get finished I don't think there will be anybody left over there because they can't take it, Mr. Speaker.

Let's move on, because there is dozens and dozens of things that I can put into the record what this government did last year, Mr. Speaker. We have moved the Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs to Thompson with a lot of the senior staff. That's a move in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've also improved the water service of some of the northern communities and two that I'm personally acquainted with is the program that is taking place in Camperville and at Duck Bay.

We've eliminated the State Farm System, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've brought in a new Tax Credit Program to benefit the young farmers of this province which is the last thing that the former government would think about. They were only interested in the Minister of Agriculture owning all the land, owning all the cattle and owning all the hogs. We found out, by the way, last night, what kind of money went down the drain on that Japanese Hog Program. I am glad the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition is now in his seat and I hope that he will take a look at that statement that was brought into the record by the Minister of Agriculture last night.

We provided tax benefits to the farmers through the Gasoline and Motive Fuel Tax Act, Mr. Speaker. Those were long overdue benefits.

The Cattle Producers Association was formed last year against the will and the wishes of the Members Opposite. Has anybody heard anybody complaining about that Legislation? Not a word. The farmer is happy as can be.

We repealed the Mineral Acreage Tax, Mr. Speaker. That was another positive thing that this government did. Even still, the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition complaining about the problems of the health care and I assured the members last year of my short stay in a hospital during the last Session, what excellent care and what excellent facilities and what excellent staff is in our health institutions today. Last year, this government increased 6 percent the grants to the hospitals across this province. Fifteen million dollars was spent last year to add 480 personal care beds for the year '78-'79 fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, we've reduced the tax for the small business, finally giving the small businessman a chance to get his head above the ground and build up his inventory and his sales. The interest-free forgivable loans were available for rural small business, Mr. Speaker. That's another plank of the government that was brought into light last year.

The list goes on and on and on, Mr. Speaker. The Highway Program, of course which was a "no, no" for the government opposite. I don't think in my Constituency, especially, I don't think that there was a shovel of gravel brought in there in 8 years, but we sure made some action last year, Mr. Speaker, and there is going to be more and more roads built this year and the year after and the year after and we are going to get our Highway Program in this province back where it used to be, at least as good, maybe not as good as our neighbours to the west and to the east, but we will certainly measure up in a comparable way, so that at least they won't be complaining about the quality of our roads.

We have also, Mr. Speaker, increased the provincial share of school cost by about 15 million, or approximately 8 percent.

Mr. Speaker, they've revised the regulations to encourage increased oil exploration in the province, and that's not a big matter but it's certainly one that the oil industry is happy to look at and maybe we will find some additional oil reserves in our province.

The one that I like, especially after listening to the economics of this Mickey Mouse economist from Brandon East, that 19,000 additional people were working in December, 1978, over the same period '77, and I don't care how that economist from Brandon East turns those figures around, Mr. Speaker, that is a fact, that there was 19,000 people more working in Manitoba than the year before.

More housing starts, Mr. Speaker. Housing starts were up 36 percent last year. Implement manufacturing or manufacturing shipments up 13.5. Retail sales up 11.5. Farm implement sales up 34 percent in the first 8 months of the year. Mr. Speaker, is there any reason why I can't support the Motion as offered by the Interim Leader of the Opposition? With those kind of glaring statistics on the record, with this kind of a government in front of me, with these able and dedicated young Ministers and with the leadership that we're getting from the Premier, there is no way that I could support the Motion of the Interim Leader of the Official Opposition.

I wish you well and I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, if the Members opposite will tool up and get their courage screwed up and follow the leadership of this leader and this government, Manitoba is going to be better and the people are going to be better and we will have a good quality of life in this province.

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

MR. BILLURUSKI (St. George): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Taking my turn in the debate on the Speech from the Throne, I wish to, as customary, Sir, to congratulate you on resuming your post here as Chairman of the proceedings, I hope that you will be able to govern in a judicious and as impartial a manner as is possible in this chamber.

And, to the Mover and the Seconder of the Speech from the Throne, I offer my congratulations on their contribution to the speech.

To the Member from Radisson on his contribution in en Francais. Certainly his attempt and his desire to learn our second language is one to be commended.

To the Member from Roblin I have to say that he wants the credit for reducing the taxation of the province of Manitoba \$83 million. I accept that he wants that credit that his government reduced it, then on October 1 last year they increased taxation by \$60 million in the province of Manitoba. They can't have it both ways, Mr. Speaker. They want to take the credit in their so-called documents of reducing taxation, but here is where it's false, Mr. Speaker. They say in their document — and he has quoted it, and the Member from Wolseley has quoted it — saying that it was \$83 less for each man, woman and child, than under the last year of the NDP. Mr. Speaker, that is totally false. That document is totally false when it contends that the taxation of every man, woman and child in this province was reduced by \$83.00. That's a falsehood right on the record, because there has been nobody's taxes, nobody of average income's taxes reduced by \$83.00.

First of all, 40 million of that, No. 1, was brought about by the Federal Government. The remaining amounts went to less than 100 estates, Mr. Speaker, of approximately seven million dollars in estate tax went to approximately 100 estates. So where does that \$68 million go towards the one million men, women and children? Not only that, Mr. Speaker, that document that the Conservatives have been sending out, and they purport to have reduced all those taxes, they compound that Sir, by going on and saying that in addition to that 83 million they reduced personal income tax. How could have have reduced additionally personal income tax. in addition to the 83 million? Well, look at that document, Mr. Speaker, on the record, it's on the record.

Next, they said they reduced taxes in small businesses to stimulate job creation.

Thirdly, they again said income tax reduced for small business. This is in addition to the \$83 million because these are separate categories. Mr. Speaker, that document that the Conservatives have sent out to their constituents purporting to be an accurate statement is a total falsehood. They cannot go to the people of this province. It is totally fraudulent, totally fraudulent.

Mr. Speaker, the Member from Roblin came out and said that 75 percent of pensioner home owners provided with full school tax relief. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter was school tax relief was provided for years before through the Property Tax Credit program. The additional relief that they provided last session, Mr. Speaker, helped who? Pensioners whose assessment on their homes was at least \$7,000. The very elite, the pensioners who owned very expensive homes. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I checked in my own constituency, or in my own municipality where I reside, out of approximately 4,000 residents in that municipality among whom I would consider about 8 or 10 percent being elderly, only one pensioner qualified under that program in my municipality, Mr. Speaker, only one. And, I can tell you he is frankly the most well-to-do pensioner in my constituency, in my municipality, there is no doubt about it, you want to see his home, and I don't begrudge him that. I don't begrudge him that the home that he has been able to accumulate, but don't let the members opposite say that they have helped the pensioners, 75 percent of the pensioners by their program of reducing school taxes, and that is fraudulent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the record they have continually reported they have sent to their constituents across this province, misrepresented the entire fact of their record, Mr. Speaker. Let's look at the housing situation. You know, they now are going around and announcing, I think a \$12 million housing program in the province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, they cut a \$70 million housing program when we left office. Now, they are trickling it back in bits and pieces, and making great to-dos about announcing a \$12 million housing program. Is that the way that they are intending to run this province? Well, I can tell them they will have enough of a program, enough of a housing program left for their entire four years. They don't have to look at anything new, because they've got their housing program all sewed up, the program that was left for them.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health today really caught himself because he indicated that most of the health care programs, the building of institutions, The Pas jail, all these programs he called extravagant. He called these programs, they were extravagant. Mr. Speaker, those small communities where there were nursing homes planned, where there were hospitals planned, where there was the jail that was planned, there is no excuse on behalf of the Tory government to now not proceed with them, and not proceed with them immediately. In fact, they stopped the tendering process on the nursing home in my home area, a small community of Ashern and Eriksdale. And, you know Mr. Speaker, what tactic they are now using. They are meeting with those communities and saying, "Look, you communities, decide between the two of you which one will go first." Rather than

with a program as announced initially they are now trying to build up animosity between communities, and say, "Look fellows, you argue amongst yourselves which of those personal care homes will go ahead first, we'll then wait and see who fights it out between you communities and then when we decide we will build one in your area."

That's after, Mr. Speaker, after the programs, the projects were tendered. Those projects were tendered in September of 1977, and now I get an answer from the Minister of Health, and he says, "Well, wait and see." Well, Mr. Speaker, we've waited a year and-a-half. Wait and see. They have enough of a program that was left over by this government to last them the entire four years that they will be in office. I am sure even longer by the way they are going now.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Minister of Agriculture went on to toot his horn about his department and what his government was intending to do in the field of agriculture. Mr. Speaker, he berated the farm diversification program and killed the program and that's certainly your prerogative by saying that that program wasn't worth its salt. So now he is proposing a program of elitism, a program that will help farmers like myself who know where to get the answers anyway, who will make use and who have always made use of the resources of the Department of Agriculture. The little farmer, the farmer that has been struggling all along will continue to struggle, will get no help. You've cut out the sewer and water program saying it's a meaningless program. It is a meaningless program and they will not help.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture in a press release last fall — and even I read his press releases — said that while we are doing away with this program of sewer and water help for the farmers of Manitoba, we are going to assist them. So, what the Sam Hill are they going to assist them with? Looking for water? Is the Minister of Agriculture going to send out the Member for Pembina with a little willow to bend around and show the farmers where to find water? Is that the kind of program that he is intending to do?

Mr. Speaker, not only that, we're going to have the Member for Pembina coming to the Interlake with a little willow, but he won't be looking for water; he'll be saying, "You producers, you shape up. You'd better look out because we are in office now." —(Interjections)—

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture tooted his great horn that the Premier of this province called a conference on grain movement and transportation in the grain movement field. But you know, Mr. Speaker, while I say that is fine that they have called that conference, but you know we haven't heard a word, we haven't heard a word from the Conservatives and the Minister of Agriculture, or the Minister of Highways indicating their total opposition to the rail-line abandonment in this province, not one word. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture, last night when we talked about rail-line abandonment and the Crow's rates, the Minister of Agriculture waffled in his position. He started out by saying, "Yes, I agree that the statutory rate should stay. However, however, you know we should really have a look at it." Now, what does that mean, Mr. Speaker? The Conservative position of totally waffling.

They want to quietly go around the farming community and say to the farmers, "Gee, you're a nice guy. You know, we're right behind you on this rail-line abandonment and those damned Liberals in Ottawa, they're just not worth a damn, they are abandoning your railways; we will look after you." But they don't say one word what they would do in their position with respect to rail-line abandonment. They will go around and pat farmers nicely on the back and in the next breath they will meet with the multi-nationals, the large industries and say, "Look, we know you have to be efficient, we will agree with you on rail-line abandonment. We know that you need all these profits, so you can go right ahead with your abandonment, we won't say a thing, but we will blame the Liberals for doing your dirty work." That's exactly what the Minister of Agriculture is intending to do. —(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, I think there is an obligation by the Minister of Agriculture to indicate this government's position on the Crow rates; to tell the farmers of this province as to what the Conservative policy is in Manitoba, on the Crow rate.

You know, he is almost like the President of the Manitoba Pool. While his producers say that they support fully the Crow rates in this province, the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Pool say there should be a review made of the Crow rates and that the railways may be able to provide a better service if they get greater compensation.

Mr. Speaker, that compensation will come from only one place, from the farmers' pockets; and it's incumbent on this Minister of Agriculture and this government to state their position on that very very strong issue. —(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, the Minister, last night, talked about providing sewer and water assistance to small communities. Where has he been, Mr. Speaker? Where has this Minister been? Last session, Mr. Speaker, he just about killed the sewer and water program in this province by not providing enough capital funds. He said, "Oh, we've got lots of applications. We've got a lot of applications for sewer and water but you know, we really don't need any more capital because that's all we can handle."

And now he's going to come out and say that he's going to assist small communities. Who is he trying to kid, Mr. Speaker? He's got enough on his plate. All he has to do is provide the funds, Mr. Speaker.

The nonsense that he's talking about, providing assistance for communities under 350; all communities were eligible under our program. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that communities of greater need, in terms of greater problems with water services, were given priority over other communities. There is no doubt. And if the Minister of Agriculture is saying that he does not intend to follow a policy of that nature, that he will do it on a first come, first served basis, I want to see that, because his Estimates will really tell the story as to whether he's going to put his money where his mouth is, because he will not provide the funds necessary to carry out the program that he crowed about.

Mr. Speaker, he also crowed about the Ag Services Agreement telling us that he will extend research funds and moneys for crop production and grass seed and the like. Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you what this Minister has done. He can't even provide financial assistance to one producer going to a conference in the United States dealing with grass production. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, I will tell you where, Mr. Speaker. It is in Idaho. It is a conference. He has sent a staff representative and rightly so. I believe that his staff should be brought up to date; but when the request came by this Producers' Association — and it is dealing with alfalfa, Mr. Speaker, it's dealing with alfalfa — he crowed about an \$18.5 million program but he couldn't even provide assistance for that producer to travel on behalf of his association to this conference in the U.S. That's the kind of assistance he is talking about. It is window-washing, windowpaning, window-dressing, Mr. Speaker, that's all he is intending to do. He is intending to say, look, this money is available but when the requests come in, sorry, we've got no program of this nature. And yet he has the audacity to stand up in this Chamber and say that he is going to be providing funds for research and development.

Mr. Speaker, he made remarks last evening with respect to the hog deal that was instituted by the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board, Mr. Speaker. I have not checked with anybody, but I want to challenge the Minister's business sense. He says he's a businessman. His assumption was — in his statement last night — that the deal to Japan cost — I think his words were — \$2-¾ million to the producers of Manitoba. That was his statement to this House, Mr. Speaker. It has to be based on only one assumption; it has to be based on the assumption that if all those hogs had come on the market in Manitoba at that same time that the price would have held. That's the only basis that he can make that assumption; that if all those hogs had gone into the Manitoba market, that that price would have held, and that is not true, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister knows anything about salesmanship he knows that in order to hold up and buoy up a market there has to be a competition in the marketplace, if he's really talking about competition, a competition in the marketplace dealing with the sale of those hogs. —(Interjection)—

Not like, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations made by his "pups" in dealing with the Hog Marketing co-ordinating committee, not like those recommendations that he set up. He may as well have appointed the Chairman of the Meat Packers Council to come up with these recommendations. It certainly, Mr. Speaker, will be interesting to note what the government's intentions are with respect to the report that was commissioned by the Minister of Agriculture after Mr. Speaker, four out of five of the recommendations that they are now making were negotiated between the producer board on behalf of the Producers and the Meat Packers' Council. What four did he call for this review? All he had to do was sit down with the Manitoba Hog Producers' Marketing Board and say, "Look, what are you fellows doing in this case, when all these recommendations were dealt with?"

Mr. Speaker, those recommendations that have been made to him, it will be interesting to know what kind of a setup he has for the Producer Board. Because, if those recommendations are implemented . . . —(Interjection)— There is more to those recommendations, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)— No, he talks about the Dutch clock system, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister now is waffling.

Mr. Speaker, he talked about the four recommendations I said that were implemented. The Hog Producers Marketing Board implemented the Dutch clock auctioning system, but there is a little bit more to that. It says that "the auctioning should be openly discussed and negotiated among all affected parties; that final authority for a major change in selling should rest with the Manitoba Marketing Board," Mr. Speaker.

That really is, Mr. Speaker, an attack on the integrity of the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board. It is nothing else but that, by the people who he has appointed. The farmers no longer will be in control of their marketing. Mr. Speaker, it will be the Cabinet that will set the marketing policy for the Manitoba Hog Producers Marketing Board in consultation with the Meat Packers Council and Burns, of this Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it will be interesting to see what move the government will make with respect to this report. It certainly will. It certainly will be. Mr. Speaker, the Minister last night, indicated that members on this side should really applaud their entry into the Chicken-Broiler Marketing Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, all that the Conservative party has done is set up supply management for eleven corporate farmers in Manitoba. The corporate farmers are Canada Packers, Dunn-Rite Food Products, Friendly Family Farms, Shady Nook Farms, Maple Creek Broiler Farms, Steinbach Broiler farms, Neepawa Food Processors — who are Champs — all those producers; there are approximately eleven of them, control about 50 percent of the Broiler Market in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, that program . . . We will give the Minister of Agriculture a chance to see whether he supports orderly marketing. We will give him a chance this session to see whether he supports orderly marketing in the way that he has, one side of the mouth says, "That the Wheat Board has had its day," and on the other side, "That members should support orderly marketing."

He has brought in the marketing board for the corporate sector of this province to control the market for at least 50 percent of the broilers in this province. He talks about an agreement only on the basis if the markets can expand, if there can be an expansion of these markets. Mr. Speaker, then why do they need the marketing board? What for do they need the marketing board? Those eleven corporate producers control more than 50 percent of the market. Why? All it is, Mr. Speaker, is to cut off imports from the United States into this country and raise the price to consumers. Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the reason for the agreement to the marketing board. I want the Minister to get up and challenge my statement, if that isn't the case.

Mr. Speaker, the way that this government is carrying on its program of trying to make the farmers believe. With respect to the Beef Income Assurance Program, they are sending out letters to cattle producers saying, "You owe us so much money under the program." Mr. Speaker, what they are doing, they are really performing a fraudulent act, Mr. Speaker. The government knows what the terms of the agreement are but they are not abiding by the terms of the agreement if they are intending to collect that money. They are fraudulently trying to scare the small producer into paying them while the large ones, who have the ability to organize and get legal help, are going to stay out and refuse to pay. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, you mark my word that that will happen. Mr. Speaker, you mark my word that that's what will happen. It will be the little producer who will be shafted by this government by the terms that they are intending to implement the collection of moneys under the Beef Income Assurance Program. It will be totally inequitable in the way they are trying to administer this program in the collection of moneys. They will then go around the province and say, "Look, that program was so lousy, the contract was so poor, that we could not collect that money and many people got away from it." Mr. Speaker, their inactions to this day will be totally inequitable to the small producer by how they will handle it.

Mr. Speaker, the Tories have crowed and hooted that they are good businessmen; that they are great financial managers, wizards of dealing with money, and they are going to review the operations of the Public Insurance Corporation in this province. They are not happy with its operations. They are going to review the effectiveness, equitability and further extension of no-fault insurance. Well, Mr. Speaker, this has got to be the greatest farce going.

They had the opportunity, Sir, to implement increased benefits to no-fault insurance, when? When they were elected in the fall of 1977. They had that chance. Mr. Speaker, they could have increased the total disability from \$75 to \$12 a week. They could have increased the partial disability benefits from \$25 to \$35 per week. They could have increased death benefits from \$1000 to no upper limit. They could have increased the medical expenses from \$2000 to \$15,000. They could have increased the total impairment benefits from \$6000 to \$12,000. They could have increased the partial disability from \$6000, a percentage of \$6000 now to a percentage of \$12,000. They could have increased funeral benefits from \$500 to \$1000.

Mr. Speaker, all these announcements were made, Mr. Speaker, and they shelved them. Now they are coming out of the corner and saying, "We want to review. We want to review the extension of no-fault benefits." What a bunch of bullshit. Excuse the expression, Mr. Speaker. That is the greatest . . . Mr. Speaker, they had their chance, and now they are . . . I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I didn't mean to offend you now that you're leaving your Chair, Sir. But I wish you would go back. —(Interjection)— It was brown, Mr. Speaker. You're right. You're right. Mr. Speaker, those benefits were announced, but they couldn't bring themselves to bring those benefits around, Mr. Speaker. I'll tell you why. Because they just wanted to do away with the \$7 million of gasoline tax that they were collecting. They had to bring it back to general revenues, because they had to bring that money back to pay for the estate and death taxes that they allow to our very wealthy. That's the reason why they couldn't bring in these benefits, and now they're going to try and indicate to the public, in fact the First Minister says, "Look, I really like that Quebec plan. We're going to really

do something." That is a bunch of hogwash, Mr. Speaker. If I can use that. Turkeywash, Mr. Speaker.
—(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the Tories know what they are doing. Lyon is the Premier of this province, the interim Premier for as long as he is there, is indicating what he wants to do, and his Minister responsible even at his age, when the Premier says "Jump" the Minister says "How high?" They don't know what kind of an inquiry to call. I'm sure, as my Leader has indicated, it'll probably be Fred Stupidly who will head up the inquiry with Claude Tritesus as vice-chairman. I can give them suggestions as to who should head up that committee. Those two would be a fine pair, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, from the point of effectiveness and efficiency and equity, Mr. Speaker, the Quebec plan has done nothing to bring about any savings to the consumer. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt, and no one argues with the sincerity and the type of benefits under the Quebec plan to the policyholder. But in terms of bringing about the cost-effectiveness, it has done nothing. Mr. Speaker, the benefits, as I have said, of the Quebec plan, are good in terms of the no-fault benefits. But all that Quebec has done has added one more company to the hodgepodge and added to the administrative costs with continued confusion to the motorist. The old antiquated rating system remains, and we know about the old rating system, how selective it was. All people now have to do is run around more to buy their insurance, and administrative costs remain the same. The people then have to go to the government and they have to go to the private company to do that. That's the kind of program that this Premier and this government likes, at least that's what he says.

The administrative costs in Quebec will remain the same. They will not change like they have here in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. Their administrative costs will remain between 35 and 45 percent of the premium dollar. Even the Member from Minnedosa, who is a great banker, will agree — and I'd like him to stand up if he doesn't — that the administrative costs in Manitoba have remained at less than 20 percent, in fact, between 15 and 18 percent of the premium dollar of the Manitoba plan. And that's where the savings are, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what will happen to Manitoba if the Quebec plan was adopted? What will happen? Firstly, from a financial point of view, Mr. Speaker, the province will lose approximately \$65 million annually of cash flow. The province's loss will be approximately 60 percent of its premium revenue, which will be taken up by the bodily injury if the Quebec plan is adopted.

That means, Mr. Speaker, increased borrowing on offshore markets, long term investments into local hospitals, school boards, telephone systems would cease. Mr. Speaker, greatest loss would be to the motorists, and the motorists now gain from this \$65 million approximately \$7 million a year in investment income to maintain premiums as low as possible. That's what will happen, Mr. Speaker.

Corporation costs will have to increase because they will still need the computer program and to a lesser extent, the costs will not reduce proportionately and MPIC on the computer program is the greatest user, uses the most and their costs will not proportionately decrease if the policies are transferred over to a dual system.

People, Mr. Speaker, will have to start running around to buy two policies, a real inconvenience. What's a little inconvenience for freedom's sake, gentlemen? You know, freedom of choice. That's all right. You bring it in. Freedom of choice. Freedom of choice to do what? To pay more, Mr. Speaker. That will be the freedom of choice to most motorists. Run around more and pay more. Mr. Speaker, people have the option of buying additional coverage on their Autopac. Don't the members opposite remember, the government? They had the option of competing with Autopac for the additional coverage over and above the basic policy. What happened? Just look at the record. They virtually went right out of the market. The private companies couldn't compete with the corporation. They are extinct. They've gone out of the extension coverage business over a period of three years. The corporation's business went from about 60 percent up to approximately 90 percent. That's the kind of competition the members really want.

Mr. Speaker, the real crux will come in the creaming or the selectivity of the private rating system. The public will then again have to come in to bail out the private companies, because they will only want to ensure the good risks.

The unsatisfied judgment fund will come back, and I think the Tories still, while they're in government now, were still paying off claims against the fund almost a decade after the public insurance has come to this province. Is that not the case? I know in our last year of office we put in about \$200,000 to pay old claims. Wait. That will be back. Tell the people of Manitoba that that's part of the study and it will occur, and bring it back, of course.

And of course, the drivers who are under 25 years of age should really love you. You know, they really should love you. Most of them, I believe, or a good percentage of them voted for you. That should really cinch their vote if you move in that direction for the next election. So you'd better do it, because I think you really want to cinch their vote. You'd better move in that

Now, to be totally cost-conscious, you know, you've got a whole bunch of claim centres. Why do you need claim centres? Because Autopac no longer will need the claim centres. They'll be out of the public collision damage. They don't need the claim centres, you know, it's about \$5 million. Let's lease them out as the industry has suggested. The industry has said, "Let's lease it out. Give it to them at a nice sweetheart deal like the deal that you've made with the accounting firms, with no strings attached. Charge us what you want." That's the kind of lease. Or better still, why be a good landlord? Sell them off, like Morden Fine Foods, the Lord Selkirk, like the Dormand Industries, give them away for next to nothing. On those terms.

Mr. Speaker, service to the public in the last year and a half has deteriorated. The staff freeze has continued despite protestations by the Minister of Highways, the First Minister, that it has not. The last session, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Highways indicated to this House, on page 475, that when I asked him why was the staff freeze lifted from Autopac and it was not lifted on the general insurance division. And he indicated that it was lifted from Autopac. He said and I quote from page 475, "Firstly, we recognize the cyclical nature of the extra work load that comes about during January, February, when people are renewing their insurances. Secondly, of course, Autopac is a monopoly. We have to provide that service to Manitobans. There is no alternative service available and therefore you know that exemption was made to the automotive division of Autopac, Mr. Speaker."

That statement is totally untrue, Mr. Speaker, the staff freeze has been maintained on the Corporation. He was maybe right that there was an increase in staff for the computer division when the renewals were coming in that new people were hired, but with respect to adjusters the staff freeze continues. Service has deteriorated, the work load was of . . . Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the Member from Minnedosa. The claims have increased and the work load per adjuster has increased. The uncertainty of the government action, or government inaction has deteriorated morale within the Corporation.

The Minister from Brandon, I have to call him that there is a Minister from Brandon responsible for MPIC, is playing dumb on the staff freeze, Mr. Speaker, on both the auto and general insurance side. He is not being very candid with his constituents and the people of Brandon by not coming clean about the loss of jobs and the income to that fair city by their policies. He doesn't want to say anything about it despite all the rhetoric about competition and freedom of choice. They have allowed the general insurance division to wither and die by their staff freeze. Another blow to Brandon. The Corporation cannot actively now pursue new business when it really can't service the business it has.

Brandon, Mr. Speaker, if they don't know, was the head office of the General Division of the Homeowners' Policies, and the Minister doesn't know, and he answered me on Friday, he didn't know what impact the staff freeze had on Brandon. Hogwash, Mr. Speaker. While the government has hired over 2,000 civil servants by their own admission within the last year and a half, the hiring freeze that they have instituted is effectively strangling the general insurance division of the Corporation. They at least Mr. Speaker, should have the guts to admit that they don't want the public in the general insurance field. Even if it is making money, they would rather strangle it. Show it as a loser and then they say, "See, people?" You know, that's government inefficiency. It is the Tories who are totally inefficient, Mr. Speaker. They are inefficient and dogmatic. They believe that there should be no public underwriting in the general insurance field, but they won't come out and end it. They won't come out and stop it. Instead, they are wasting thousands of dollars of policyholders' funds by allowing that division to flounder and sink.

You know, they could effectively, if they were as good managers as they claim, sell it off. They could sell that division and at least, I am sure, do much better than they did with the Lord Selkirk and Morden Fine Foods, because that is a money-making proposition. That has made money. But no, Mr. Speaker, instead they will let their friends gain the business by default, and the people will again lose to a few fat cats in the insurance industry. Why should they spend any money when the Tories will do their wishes? Mr. Speaker, so much for their sincerity about reviewing the insurance program in this province. We will wait and see what kind of shell game . they are going to continue playing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first words must be to you, Sir, on the return to the high office which you hold and the high mission of representation and advocacy which you perform for all members of this House. I am glad to see you back, Sir. I thank you for your service on behalf of myself and look forward to a long tenure for you in that chair.

Secondly, I wish to address myself in congratulatory manner to my honourable friend, the Member for Selkirk, now Leader of the Opposition. It's an important chapter in the political and legislative

history of those of us who have the opportunity to serve in this Chamber at this point in time, to see our honourable friend from Selkirk move to the ascendancy, at least for the time being, of his party, and of his caucus in this arena. I wish him good luck but good luck up only to a point, Mr. Speaker. He can be sure that the proposals of the government's programs and positions and the defense of those proposals and positions will be conducted with vigour; will be conducted with integrity; will be conducted with the strength and conviction and the Honourable Member for Selkirk will find his new job no easy task. But he has demonstrated a willingness and the courage to take it on and we look forward to combat with him in the months ahead.

Third, Sir, I would like to express my congratulations to the Mover and Second of the Address in Reply, my colleagues the Honourable Members for Springfield and Radisson, respectively, two members of this Chamber who distinguished themselves in the previous sessions of the Thirty-First Manitoba Legislature, I suggest, and who have added further lustre to their records of performance in this Legislature through their contributions to the Throne Speech Debate up to this point.

Fourth, let me address myself to members opposite, who now represent the establishment in this country. They, no doubt, take considerable and deserved satisfaction in the fact that a distinguished former member of their ranks is now the occupant of Rideau Hall; but lest they think, Sir, that class distinctions are preordained by God and here to stay, and permanent, let them be warned . . . —(Interjection)— Let them be warned that establishments are known to tumble and to crumble and that the day of the people on our side, will come. At least, Sir, they are only human and they're vulnerable.

Fifth, Mr. Speaker, I want to just address a word through you, Sir, and with the indulgence of members of the Legislature, to the men and women who serve in the Health Care industry and the Health Care delivery system in the Province of Manitoba. It is a privilege to have the responsibility of administering the Department of Health and Community Services, and working with those dedicated Manitobans at all levels and in all professional and semi-professional components of the Health Care system. I want to express my gratitude to them for the support and the co-operation that they have given the people of Manitoba through their government, in maintaining the excellent Health Care system that we have.

Well, Mr. Speaker, to the business at hand, I think that the fundamental observation that one on this side of the House would make after four or five days of the new legislative session is, that we are faced with a sad moment and a sad hour in the condition of Manitoba's political life. Whatever happened to opposition? Whatever happened to the great fighting loyal oppositions that have made such a mark and established such a record and a history and a tradition in this Legislature, regardless of party persuasion? And I might say, Sir, that I took pride in my small role within an opposition in this Legislature for eight years, it was a fighting and a dynamic and an aggressive opposition. —(Interjection)— An opposition that gave meaning to the term "democracy"; that gave fire and value and effectiveness to this particular arena.

It appears, Sir, although perhaps the judgment is somewhat premature, that at this point in time we're into a situation in this political arena where all the energy and all the drive is going to come from the government benches, from the government side of the House and there's going to be no opposition.

We came in here admittedly looking for some good constructive fighting opposition, Sir. We're still looking for it. We may get it but there's certainly been no indication that it's there at the moment.

One of the difficulties, of course, is the leadership race that's under way on the other side of the House. I think that one has to look into the present machinations within the New Democratic Party and caucus, to find the answer to the vapidness and the effectiveness of the opposition up to this point in this House. There is trouble, Sir, in NDP city, if one may paraphrase a much paraphrased phrase.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there is uncertainty, indecision, concern and anxiety and if I were the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Selkirk, I would understand that. One looks around at the benches around him since this session got under way and since the debate on the Throne Speech got under way, and for the most part they have been barren and empty except for three or four faithful supporters. One can only conclude, Sir, that the rest of the members of the opposition caucus are out taking telephone polls on their chances in the leadership contest. They're certainly not here to speak; they're certainly not here to fill the role of a loyal and constructive opposition in this Chamber and that makes it very difficult for the new leader. I sympathize with him in that position but as I say, if I were him I would be somewhat concerned. I would look around to the empty benches around me if I were in that position.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. May I bring to the honourable members' attention one of the fundamental rules of parliamentary debate, that it's very improper to make reference to members'

absence in the Chamber. I think that he should confine his remarks to those members who are present.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, your admonition is well taken, Sir, and I do acknowledge the faithful attendance of some. But I think that the point I'm trying to make, Sir, is that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has a difficult role in front of him, in terms of the campaign and the battle that he has got to wage on behalf of his party and on behalf of the system that expects an effective opposition.

In any event, Sir, let us take the situation with respect to the government's record to date and the government's announced intentions in the Throne Speech of a few days ago and examine the position that we find ourselves in politically, vis-a-vis this very opposition to which I have referred.

First of all, I think there should be a clearer recognition of the inaccuracies of the "gloom and doom" that has been voiced and publicized and carried as widely as possible, by the opposition in the last sixteen months under the current administration. You know, the doom sayers opposite have had their day decrying the kinds of things that this government, in the interests of the people of Manitoba, has been attempting to do. They've had their whining spokesman and their sycophants talking about all the difficulties and the agonies that are occurring as a consequence of more effective fiscal and financial management of the province's affairs and the argument has now floundered, has now collapsed, has now in effect proven to be little but rhetoric, Mr. Speaker, because in general I think it would have to be acknowledged, even by the opposition — and I would recognize that they are fair-minded usually in their acknowledgement of obvious facts — that the public of Manitoba, with some exceptions, the public of Manitoba is responding in a creative and a positive and a co-operative way to the absolutely vital effort, critical effort, that must be made by this province, through its government, to right our affairs in such a way as to ensure prosperity for ourselves and for our children in the future; to assure maintenance of the systems and the programs and the welfare and well-being that we have in place, to reduce and if possible eliminate the threat to that lifestyle and to those programs and to that economy that results from irresponsible and unthinking and ideological programs and approaches.

I think, Sir, we have had demonstrated amply in the past few months, as I say, notwithstanding some exceptions that I recognize, that the general attitude has been one of co-operation and response and positive commitment to the job that Manitobans see and feel and know has to be done. I want to say that the co-operation that we have had in government in the health facility field, from hospitals and health facility boards, from administrators, medical staff, general staff and others, in trying to get our health care costs under control, has been highly gratifying and has been much appreciated.

Most hospitals and nursing homes and health facilities in this province have come in successfully, inside their budgets, inside the budgets that were set for them in 1978-79 and a great many of them have expressed to me, in personal visits and in personal meetings with them, a recognition of the positive benefits of a restraint approach or an effective financial management approach such as has been implemented by this government and carried out by those institutions. A great many of them have reported that the challenge has been good; that it's been positive and that it has been productive.

So, honourable members opposite, I think have lost the battle of impression and lost the battle of rhetoric, have lost the battle of doom and gloom that they have attempted to wage and I think that in large part their resentment and bitterness at the present time, Sir, stems from the fact that we stole their thunder. That they recognized, even with their general disregard for financial responsibility and financial accountability, that the point demonstrable throughout North America, at least, in the mid-1970s and late 1970s, has been that it's been crucial that jurisdictions get their health care costs under control before the systems they have in place are threatened and damaged beyond repair.

That lesson has been evident in states across the United States and provinces across Canada far beyond Manitoba's borders. The problem is not unique to Manitoba. And even with their blinkered ideological approach to their own dogma, the previous government recognized that that lesson was there; the writing was on the wall and they were going to have to move to be more effective and more efficient in the management of our health care system.

They didn't get the chance to do that, Sir. They know that what we are doing is right and is necessary and has to be done and they feel the natural kind of frustration and resentment of anybody who has had his thunder stolen in that way.

So I dismiss, I dismiss, Sir, a great deal of the kinds of unsupported, whining criticisms that come forward from the opposition in the area of health facility efficiencies and in the area of tighter budgets.

If there are legitimate difficulties and problems brought to my attention and the attention of my officials, there is no question that we investigate them and attempt to resolve them. But the general rhetorical approach that whines to the effect that restraint is killing our health care facilities and our health care delivery system is rubbish. It's rubbish, and it's been proved and demonstrated and exploded as rubbish.

Mr. Speaker, there are seven major challenges that I think face the people of Manitoba through their government, and their other agencies of public life in the health care field. I don't rank them in any particular order of priority, but they include the following:

The need, Sir, to move, to meet the perceived needs in health care facilities of Manitobans in various parts of our Province. That's one. The fact that there are obviously areas of urgency where some localities and regions are concerned, with respect to access to adequate health care facilities.

Two is the need to improve the climate for medical practice in this Province. The need to withstand the competition for our doctors. The need to stave off the recruiting drives with a kind of an atmosphere and an environment here that makes doctors and other health professionals want to stay, and want to practise in Manitoba. That is a major challenge facing us as Manitobans.

A third is the need to distribute our doctors and our health care professionals better, more effectively, and more evenly, and more thoroughly throughout the Province. Of the 1,600 practising physicians in Manitoba, by far the vast majority of them are concentrated in urban Winnipeg, and we do have to produce some effective means and methods of getting those professional services and those professional experts into northern and remote parts of our Province, which have for far too long been under served in that respect. Some mechanisms are being put into place in an attempt to do that, such as the introduction last year for the first time of a northern fee differential for doctors practising north of the 53rd parallel. There is much, much more that can be done, and work is being done between my office and the Manitoba Medical Association to try to set up a mechanism for doing better and for meeting that challenge.

A fourth, Sir, is the need to meet the challenge of the elderly, who now, as persons 65 years of age or over, represent approximately one Manitoban out of every ten, constitute approximately one out of ten out of our population, and who over the next three to four to five decades will come to represent one in five of our population. And it's not simply a matter of developing the methods and the means of coping with their health needs because looking at our elderly population today in Manitoba, 90 percent of them own their own homes, live in their own homes, have relatively good health, are not confused or bewildered, or senile in any way, are active participants in the life of their Province in one form or another.

So it's not a question simply of meeting health needs. What is required here is a utilization of that energy, and that well of talent and that well of experience that at the present time under our cultural approach to aging finds far, far too many of our elderly relegated to the sidelines of life long before their time.

A fifth major challenge is the improvement of our life styles and the development of the best kind of preventive medicine approaches that we can that involve undertaking as a personal responsibility by individuals, their own health care and their own well being.

Six, Sir, we need to preserve and maintain Manitoba's reputation for excellence and expertise in the medical field, and we intend to leave no effort unpursued in that respect. Manitoba has a reputation as a centre of medical excellence, in some particular disciplines, a centre without peer on the Continent and recognize the challenge that we face in the threat that exists to that reputation and those standards because of opportunities that have been developed elsewhere in North America, and opportunities that have been lost in Manitoba. We will do our utmost and we will move to preserve that capacity for such a reputation and such excellence in the future, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, but no less important, is the other challenge that I would list in this range of seven major challenges and that is the need that still exists to develop a compassionate but responsible mechanism for containment of health care costs in our society, for containment of the rapid escalation of health care costs and public expenditures in the health care field that afflicts every jurisdiction in this country, and in fact every jurisdiction in North America, with possibly one or two singular exceptions only. But even Provinces like Alberta and Ontario, even States like New York and California, are concerned and are working and are moving in the same directions that we are in Manitoba, and that many of our sister Provinces and States are, to get those escalations of costs under control before they ruin the systems and the programs and the facilities that are already in place. That, Sir, remains. It was expressed by us as a major consideration and a major priority to which we felt the people of Manitoba had to address themselves through this government, and it remains a priority of equal import with those I have cited.

So these are the fields of commitment, effort, and search, that we're embarked upon in Department of Health and Community Services, and through this government at the present time,

Mr. Speaker, and the kinds of things we hope to do and will be announcing and doing in the months and years ahead in the health care field, and the health and welfare field generally. It will be undertaken in the context of the recognition that we have of those challenges. It will be undertaken in the context of the priority that we see occupied by those challenges for Manitobans in the late 1970's and the decade of the 1980's coming up.

With respect to that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity in the time remaining to me, to advise Honourable Members in the Chamber and through them and through the media, the people of Manitoba, of decisions that have been taken by my colleagues in the government caucus, on the treasury benches, pertaining to capital projects and capital construction plans in the health facilities field in Manitoba for fiscal 1979-80. Members need no reminder of the fact that when we assumed government some 16 months ago, we looked at a staggering program of possible projects in this very important, admittedly very critical, field. A program that included promises ranging all the way up in total commitment to a half a billion dollars in downstream costs over the next 10 to 20 years. When one took into account the capital promises made, whether firm or whether verbal or written, but made through some form of indication which raised expectations in communities all over the Province, the capital promises made, the cost of that capital over the amortization period related to each proposal, and the operating costs relative to those individual projects themselves, we were looking at that staggering kind of commitment to lay on the shoulders of Manitoba taxpayers over the next 15 to 20 years.

We felt in all honesty and responsibility, Sir, that we would threaten and jeopardize the whole health care system we had in place if we moved irresponsibly, if we moved with too much haste into that kind of wild and apparently unplanned jungle of commitments. We had to assume the responsibility and carry out the responsibility as custodians of the resources of the Province, of reviewing the individual concepts and components that went to make up that overall program of proposed construction projects. It has taken considerable time to do it because of the requirement for fairness and equity and equitability and the requirement that we recognize to meet the most urgent needs first, and yet to be able to encourage those who've hoped and planned for projects in other areas, perhaps considered somewhat less urgent, still to maintain the momentum of their hopes and their planning.

So, Sir, the outcome of that process, that's been an intensive one, is a capital construction program in the health facilities field for Manitoba in 1979-80 that includes construction of 122 new personal care home beds, and a number of hospital expansion and renovation projects. It includes 13 specific projects in a new capital cost program of \$15 million, Mr. Speaker, exclusive of the continuing construction of the new Seven Oaks General Hospital in northwest Winnipeg. The new 336 bed Seven Oaks Hospital is being built at a capital cost in excess of \$32 million, and is scheduled for completion and opening in 1980. Cash flow into Seven Oaks during the coming fiscal year will be \$11 million, Mr. Speaker. Thus, we're looking at a new project program of \$15 million and cash flow into Seven Oaks, during the coming fiscal year, of \$11 million. So that makes for a total amount of capital commitment in health facilities in fiscal 1979-80 to \$26 million.

In addition, Sir, \$10.6 million is already committed through four other capital health projects approved earlier. So that in effect, what is in place is approximately \$36.5 million of commitments to health facilities in terms of capital through fiscal 1979-80. But \$10.6 million of that was committed somewhat earlier, a few months earlier, through 4 specific projects and \$26 million of it is new.

Mr. Speaker, several other projects, apart from these 13 specific ones which I intend to identify, several others are continuing under active consideration by the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Although these will not proceed at present, because of budgetary limitations, the government is confident that they will move ahead during the next two years as our financial position improves.

Financing of the 13 new projects will be handled through long-term borrowing by health facilities boards, that borrowing will be amortized over a 20 to 25 year period. Repayments will be made through annual budgets of the new facilities which are approved by the Health Services Commission. Details of the new 1979-80 projects, Mr. Speaker, are as follows: In Baldur, a new 20-bed personal care home will be constructed and attached to the present hospital; in Carman, Mr. Speaker, the present hospital will be replaced by a new hospital built on a new site out of the flood zone; .. in the Interlake, Mr. Speaker, 20 new personal care beds will be provided in a new facility on the west side of the lake and there will be assistance for communities in this area to establish clinical facilities. The specific location in the Interlake is to be determined after further discussions between the Health Services Commission and the concerned communities and there are three such communities involved but there will be a 20-bed personal care facility provided in that area and approval for its start is herewith granted and made public for the record, Mr. Speaker.

There are four hospitals in rural centres that urgently require renovations to upgrade their

and X-ray facilities and approval is being granted for them and they include, Sir, the hospitals in Morden, St. Pierre, Swan Lake and Winkler.

In Pilot Mound, a new 24-bed Personal Care Home will be added to the existing Prairie View Lodge in Pilot Mound. The Pilot Mound Hospital will be closed and there will be major renovations and expansion of the Crystal City Hospital to accommodate residents in that area.

In St. Claude, Mr. Speaker, the new 20-bed Personal Care Home will be constructed and linked to the present hospital.

In Wawanesa, a new 20-bed Personal Care Home will be constructed and linked to the existing hospital.

In Winnipeg, major renovations will be undertaken, Mr. Speaker, to the McEwen residence on the St. Boniface Hospital campus, that's an interns' residence which is not needed for that purpose any longer, is a structurally-sound building. It will be converted into an acute-care psychiatric facility with 48 beds, eight of which will be available to Concordia Hospital and the other forty of which will be utilized in association with St. Boniface Hospital. And, Sir, in Winnipegosis, a new 20-bed Personal Care Home will be constructed and attached to the existing hospital. In addition, Mr. Speaker, planning will continue for several other projects in both the hospital and Personal Care Home fields subject to continued discussion between the communities concerned and the Health Services Commission.

Foremost among impending projects under intensive government study at the present time are redevelopment proposals for the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg and for general hospitals in Dauphin and Selkirk. I will, Mr. Speaker, provide specific information on the status of the government's plans for these projects during presentation of my Departmental Estimates to the Legislature during the next few weeks.

I want to remind Honourable Members, Sir, that previous approvals have already been given for construction during this calendar year on four projects that are in addition to that \$15 million capital program I've just announced. They are the replacement of the St. Joseph's Personal Care Home in Winnipeg, two projects at the Health Sciences Centre, the new Cadham Provincial Laboratory and the Cancer Centre expansion, and replacement of the hospital at Snow Lake, Manitoba.

Capital funds have also been provided for the continued upgrading of existing hospital and Personal Care Home facilities to ensure they meet improved fire safety standards.

Again, Sir, let me emphasize that in that package exists a project of massive size that must not be ignored or overlooked in any accounting of what the people of Manitoba are doing through their government in this field at the present time and that is the Seven Oaks Hospital in northwest Winnipeg. I remind you, Sir, that \$11 million in cash flow will occur on the Seven Oaks site this year and the total will be something in excess of \$32 million in capital expended by the time that hospital is completed next year. So let us add that for certain into the Capital Program we're talking about.

Sir, with respect to these 13 particular projects newly announced at the present time, let me just say in the time remaining to me, that these are only 13 further steps being taken by the government to meet the perceived needs of Manitobans in the health care field. They are not the last step, Sir, by any means. They are merely steps that we believe we can responsibly take at this point in time. There will be more steps, Sir, in the future, and I want the Honourable Member for Inkster to know that. As I've said, the government has been faced with a considerable number of proposals from various parts of the province. The selection of the 13 was made, Sir, only after intensive study and a wide number of onsite visits.

I want to say to all those interested in and connected with various proposals all over the province, that we've attempted to be as fair in our decisions as possible. There has never been any question about the validity or the sincerity of any of the proposals, but we've necessarily had to take into account the obvious differences of urgency that become evident during any review of this kind, so I would ask those who perhaps are temporarily disappointed at this point, to bear with us as we try in progressive stages and fairly and responsibly to ensure that good health care facilities are available to our citizens in all parts of the province.

There are other expansion programs contemplated through the Health Services Commission during fiscal 1979-80, Mr. Speaker. They include, as reference has already indicated through the Throne Speech, to an ensured program for breast prosthesis and surgical brassieres. This is the external prosthesis that's involved here. Surgical reconstruction in mastectomies always was an ensured program, but the new program will provide for the external prosthesis. There is a program for emergency psychiatry facilities at the Health Sciences Centre for a hearing aid program for children under 18 years of age and for a pilot project in the Adult Day Care field. I'll be announcing fuller details on those programs during consideration of my Estimates.

I thank all those Members on both sides of the House who have had particular interests and

particular projects that have been in our Capital Project Study List. I want to say to you, Sir, or through you, Sir, to all Members who have been related in any way with any of those projects, that I can assure their constituents of your diligence and your conscientious commitment to achieving progress on those facilities. You have helped me; you have helped the government; you have helped your constituents; you have helped the people of Manitoba in improving the spectrum of our health care facilities and I thank you for that.

I assure all whose projects still remain in the speculative area, that we will continue to work with them in the future to achieve approval for further groups of such projects in this field just as rapidly as the capacity of Manitobans to pay for them permits. Mr. Speaker, I trust that the program being undertaken in the Capital Projects Field that I've had the opportunity and privilege to outline today, will be a source of gratification to all from the perspective of benefit to Manitobans, generally, with assurances for further steps in that direction in the future. Thank-you.

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

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to join the debate on the Speech from the Throne and I am very happy to say that the Minister who has just finished speaking; the Minister of Health, has just made my day, when he announced that after considerable urging from me over the past 16 months, he has just announced that a nursing home for Winnipegosis would proceed and I'm sure that the people of Winnipegosis will be happy to hear this. I am very pleased. He has made my day after this long delay and the extensive efforts that have been made by the people of Winnipegosis to obtain this facility and the efforts of the previous administration, including myself, if I may take a few laurels. We did work very hard to obtain this, and I'm happy, finally, to hear that it will proceed.

I was concerned for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I'm perhaps being carried away by my enthusiasm for this project because it is one that was very close to me, and before I proceed I wish to extend my congratulations to you, again, Sir, for being the Speaker for this Session. I am sure that you will discharge your duties as you have in the past, in a very fair manner. I would like to extend, also, a traditional congratulations to the Mover and the Seconder of the Speech from the Throne.

Text spoken in French. Translation not available.)

We're happy to see the Member for Roblin back with us. We understand that he was having some problems in the past and we're happy to see him here. I am also happy to be here as well.

I can now speak firsthand of a delivery of health services in our province, having just come out of the hospital, one of the major hospitals in Winnipeg, and perhaps I can speak with authority on bedsheets now, as well as the Member for Roblin. I entered one of the major hospitals here on January 31st, to undergo surgery on the first of February, and I believe it's worthwhile mentioning what happened while I was there because there has been a lot of discussion and there is still a lot of discussion on the delivery of health. I arrived about five o'clock, Wednesday, January 31st, and I was processed and brought to my room and a meal was served to me at 5:30. I was advised that I would not be able to have any further food for 12 hours and I would be going to surgery the following morning. Well, Mr. Speaker, the next morning I was advised that I would not proceed into surgery until 1:30 in the afternoon, so the result was that it wasn't a 12-hour fasting, it was something like 22 hours. I thought that that should be mentioned, because I could hardly afford to lose it. Unlike the Member for Roblin, who could afford to lose a few pounds, I was not able to afford to lose too many pounds. I went into surgery at 1:30, and I was brought back from the recovery room at 6:00. I believe I wasn't too alert when I came back in, but I believe Mrs. Adams told me later that my bed had been made when I came back from the recovery room.

However, Mr. Speaker, on Friday I had a bit of a problem. I had a discharge from my ear and I did soil the sheets. I had some problems, and I called the nurse in and she was there immediately to assist me. But I want to say that on Saturday, the nurse finally came in to do my bed. I came back from the surgery Thursday — Saturday my bed was made. So the nurse came in, and I said, "Well, three cheers." And she said, "What for?" Well, I said, "You're making my bed. As far as I'm concerned, my bed hasn't been made since Wednesday, because on Thursday I wasn't aware of what was going on anyway, after I came out of surgery." They had, I believe, a tarpaulin over the sheet, and it was extremely rough. So much so, without doing the bed for two or three days, and without changing the sheets, it was so rough that I had a rash and I was starting to have blisters on my elbows. So finally I took the tarpaulin off, or whatever it was, it was some sort of canvas. So, when the nurse came in on Saturday to make the bed, not change the sheets, I said to the nurse, "Look, I don't want that, that's a bit too rough to sleep on," because it was rolling up as I moved into bed. So she went and got another sheet and used that in place of the tarpaulin,

or whatever it was they put over the bed.

The doctor came in on Friday, the next day of the surgery and he said, "Well, I guess you will have to stay here a couple of days." "Well," I said, "that's fine" I, that means I'll be leaving on Sunday felt. But the doctor didn't come in on Saturday, and neither did he come in on Sunday. I was very keen to leave on Sunday, but I wasn't able to, they wouldn't let me out. Finally, on Monday I said, "I'm leaving, I'm leaving." So they started phoning around to get hold of the doctor, so that I could get a discharge from the hospital. I guess they did catch hold of him, and I was allowed to go.

When I went in I signed in for a private room, I said I wanted a private room. I wanted a bath, and I wanted a private toilet. I was willing to pay \$10.00; he said, "It's \$10.00 to get a private room." I got a private room, but I didn't get a bath or a toilet. It was just an ordinary room with one bed in it. So I mentioned to the nurse as I was leaving, "I have to pay for my bed." She said, "You don't have to pay for any of the beds in this ward, don't you have Manitoba Medical?" I said, "Yes, but I think I have to pay \$10.00 today, and I'm not satisfied." "Oh, well, you don't have to pay in this ward, they are all the same, every one of them are the same." I paid them, not at that particular moment, but I intend to write to them and ask them to refund my money because I don't think anybody else paid on that ward. So she said, "You don't have to pay here." I went down, the nurse took me down to the door and got a cab for me, and I left. But, I got a bill last week from the hospital and they requested that I send them the 50 dollars for the five days that I was there and I did. But, I still believe that I was charged unjustly in that particular case.

I had no complaints of the food. I had sufficient food, I had no complaints in that direction, and the service was good. The nurses looked after me well, except that I noticed that the nurses had to substitute for waitresses. They were skilled personnel, trained nurses who tested my pressure and my temperature, and brought me the medication. But, they also had to double up as waitresses, and I have nothing against waitresses. It's a noble profession, but I didn't think it was right that they would have to also double as chambermaids and make the beds. In fact, they didn't make them anyway, it didn't matter. They only made them up on Saturday, and they didn't make them up on Sunday or Monday. Of course, I didn't stay Monday night.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I perhaps want to make a few comments on the Speech from the Throne, which to me is only a rehash of Conservative rhetoric, with no new sense of direction. I can detect no new direction that we are going to proceed from here on in. The document, Mr. Speaker, is one that you could expect from a government that's been in office for 25 years, tired, and ready to give up, and running out of steam. That's what this document looks to me.

We could debate on some of the contents that it does contain, and we could also debate this Throne Speech for what it doesn't contain. It makes no mention of the minimum wage, for one thing. Not a word, not a word, Mr. Speaker. The minimum wage was set in 1976, at \$2.95. It was scheduled to be increased in January of 1977. There isn't a word in the Throne Speech in regard to minimum wages for the people on the lowest rung of the economic ladder, on the lowest rung. The lowest people on the totem pole. Not a word, not a word, Mr. Speaker. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it will be a lot more difficult to deal with this question now. I believe it was a grave error on the part of the government, the Minister of Labour at that time not to proceed with at least some increase in the minimum wage. We have seen an inflation rate of nine to ten percent, but the people who are receiving \$2.95 an hour are only receiving now, in real terms, \$2.00 an hour. Now, I know it's difficult for a small, private entrepreneur to have to pay more wages, but I believe it would have been a lot easier to absorb that increase more slowly. If the recommended rate of \$3.35 an hour was too high, at least if it had been raised to \$3.25, \$3.20 or whatever, that would be easier on the small entrepreneur than now to have to raise it to around \$3.60. That is what is recommended now as what should be the minimum wage in this province. And that, I suggest, is going to create some difficulty. There is no mention of this, Mr. Speaker, and I think it will come back to haunt this government for the way they handle the people at the lowest bottom of the income scale.

The only mention of the senior citizens, is that they are going to gouge out a little more money. No mention, Mr. Speaker, that the senior citizens should be receiving \$350.00 a month. There is no mention of that. The government intends to take a little more of that indexing or increase that they receive on a quarterly basis under their federal pension. The Manitoba supplement has never been indexed, it's tied, and it stayed at one rate of \$23.46 quarterly, I believe. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the government should discuss with the Federal Government the need for increasing senior citizens' pensions in this province. There have been many studies made in regard to the income poverty level, and there have been varying amounts suggested from \$5,000 to perhaps \$12,000. But let's take something in between. Let's suggest that maybe the poverty level would be somewhere between \$7,000 and \$8,000. The senior citizens are living below the poverty line, and now this government, this Minister is going to dip into that poverty level income. He is going to stick his

grubby fingers in their pockets. And I'm taking his words, because he used these same words here when he was on this side of the house, which he will be back here in 1981 if he can get elected in his own constituency, of course.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that the Manitoba supplement should be increased to \$400 or \$500, so that we can bring our senior citizens up to \$350 per month, and that the Manitoba supplement would be on a quarterly basis. So, I suggest that there is nothing in the Throne Speech that is going to look after this problem. There is little hope, not too much hope when you read the Speech from the Throne for the future of this province and for our people.

I am happy that the Minister of Health is going to bring some of those programs onstream, that he himself last year — and I can, if he wishes I'll get the record of Hansard, when he was saying that all we were doing when we were in government was taps of waste, all over this province. Taps of waste. And I'm sure he will remember his own remarks. Mr. Speaker, he says, taps of waste all over this province. The nursing home at Winnipegosis, taps of waste; the nursing home at McCreary, taps of waste; the Senior Citizens' Home that's been cut off completely in Winnipegosis, taps of waste. The renovation to the General Hospital in Dauphin, \$1.5 million, taps of waste. His people are after him, Mr. Speaker, and he has to go to the press and say, "I got to ask my government what they are doing." Taps of waste, that's what you said, Mr. Minister last year. —(Interjection)— Yes, you qualified your remarks later, "Oh, well, I wasn't talking about nursing homes, I wasn't talking about that." —(Interjection)— You were qualifying it. You came out and qualified it because I rubbed your nose in it. I rubbed your nose in it. —(Interjection)— I'll prove it to you if you wish. I'll get the records out and show it to you. Yes, we remember.

I have some concern for what is in the Throne Speech. I believe some concern should be expressed. If this government is serious about tampering with programs such as the public auto insurance, that my colleague from St. George commented on when he spoke, I'm concerned about the mention of selling of Crown lands, contrary to what the Member for Roblin thinks. —(Interjection)— I will want to see what their intentions are in this direction.

I am concerned with what they intend to do with the Property Tax Credit Plan and primarily with Medicare. And I suggest to the government, they had better be forewarned not to tamper with these programs because the people of Manitoba will bury them. The people of Manitoba, like what happened to Thatcher in Saskatchewan, will never allow them to tamper with these programs. —(Interjection)— No, great businessmen, great businessmen, yes.

The biggest kick I get out of Conservative arithmetic is when they say, Mr. Speaker, that if you take \$100 million of taxpayers' money and hand it out, give it away to those who are already wealthy, that that doesn't cost the taxpayer anything. You give away — and this government proposes to give away \$118 million in the next five years — and if you take \$100 million of taxpayer dollars and lend it out to private enterprise, to private industry or for public expenditures, and if you only collect \$50 million back, that you've lost somehow, under Conservative arithmetic, you've lost \$50 million. That is something that is very hard to believe and they are trying to sell that to the public of Manitoba. They like to have clean books. They stole that from the Liberals in Ottawa because they've been doing it for years. They say, "We don't want to lend money because if we lend it there's an account receivable and if we can't collect then we've lost money. Let's give it away then we don't lose anything." That makes a lot of sense. That makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Speaker, this government, they have a dilemma because those programs that I mentioned, Autopac, Medicare — well maybe not Medicare so much — but Autopac and the Property Credit Tax — and we know they voted against it — when we introduced this in the House they voted against that, 100 percent. They were unanimously opposed and it sticks in their si /des like thorns, and they have a dilemma.

Mr. Speaker, they have shown themselves, they believe that they are super salesmen, business geniuses. We have seen the demonstration of that salesmanship. I've had some complaints from Morden. I've had some complaints from Morden — from your constituents, the Member for Pembina, I've had complaints. How could the government sell Morden Fine Foods for a million dollars when there's a million dollars worth of inventory, and they gave all the property away for nothing? And all the equipment. —(Interjection)— I'm getting complaints from your area. You'd better believe it. —(Interjection)— So that was real good salesmanship, the selling out of our resources, you have proven yourself to be masters of the business field, master super salesmen.

Mr. Speaker, we heard in 1977, that this government would cut taxes, which they haven't done. —(Interjection)— Well, we had to collect more money last year. We had a higher budget. We had a deficit. We have a higher budget this year than we had in 1978 and in '77, so more money has to come, more revenues will have to be found, more tax dollars have to be collected as well as to pay off the deficits. —(Interjection)— Well, the deficits have increased about \$300 in less than two years under your administration, under your genius. So you're perpetrating a fraud by telling the people that you were going to cut taxes. Yes, you've cut for some, we readily admit that, that

you've cut for some. But your election promises were that you would cut taxes without cutting services to people. —(Interjection)— Well, you were not able to do that. Anybody can cut programs and save money. Anybody can fire staff and save money. That's not hard. Anybody could do that; it's a matter of priorities. If you feel your priorities are to look after those who have much, that's your prerogative, you're in government now. Our priority is to look after the common people.

Mr. Speaker, I only have a few moments. What I found most shocking, Mr. Speaker, that this government does not believe in the democratic process. And last year, we saw this government introduce Bill 25, which was opposed, I submit, by about 80 percent of the producers. This government brought in a bill that would give about 15 percent of the producers the right to impose their will on the majority of about 80 percent. And that has been proven in meetings all over this province last year. And he knows it. The Minister of Agriculture knows it. And he didn't have the intestinal fortitude to come across when we challenged him to produce the statistics that he was throwing around in the House here. He wasn't able to do it and he hasn't done it yet. And he misled this House for five weeks and I asked him to resign over it. He got insulted about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The hour being 5:30, I am leaving the chair to return at 8 o'clock, at which time the Member for St. Rose will have ten minutes left.

MR. ADAM: Somebody else should take it. I don't want it.