



Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature
Assemblée législative du Manitoba
Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Viriden	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 14 December, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel, the Honourable Member for La Verendrye has 15 minutes remaining.

MR. B. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the adjournment for the supper hour I was in the midst of pointing out to the Legislature some of the problems or difficulties that members opposite face when they're dealing with certain items that they have brought forward in the Legislature, and then later on the realities of their deeds come about to the point where they start refuting what they originally set out to say.

In this particular instance, it was the Minister of Finance, who in tabling the documents for the 1.5 percent payroll tax, indicated at that time that the money was going for health and post-secondary education exclusively; and then later on when some difficulties arrived with that tax, he is quoted as saying that not one single penny of this tax can be traced to those two particular functions.

Part of the problem that we've faced in this Legislature over the last while is the credibility of members opposite and the reason I say that is that it has been pointed out time and time again by speakers before me on this side of the House that the promises made by members opposite during the campaign to turn this economy around, to ensure that people would not lose their houses, to ensure that bankruptcies would not take place in small business, that farmers would not lose their farmlands, is something that they just have not been able to live up to and I know the people out there are going to judge them upon that.

I guess one of the things that one finds out very quickly in this business is that we are all subject to believing something, if it is repeated often enough. I think one of the things that they really got trapped on, and they're going to have a lot of difficulty with over the next little while, is the difficulty they got themselves into with regards to Limestone. They were pressing for the resumption and the construction of Limestone.

At first they started off, back in 1977-78, blaming the previous Conservative Government for stopping construction on that particular project. It was then it pointed out and it was admitted by members opposite, that indeed, it was in the dying moments of the '77 election that their board, with their approval, suspended the construction at Limestone.

However, that did not stop the First Minister, when he was elected leader of the party, to say in response to questions from reporters that he "called on the Lyon Government to proceed immediately with Hydro's northern development. The two-year delay in the construction of Limestone has already cost an additional \$250 million to the people of Manitoba." That's back in '79. Then in 1981, the Member for Ste. Rose, for example, and I believe this appeared in many of the other papers, mentioned in his little MLA Report that he puts

out in his local paper, that "overall economic development growth and energy savings would have been aided if orderly development of hydro was not cancelled in 1978."

In 1981, Mr. Speaker, the NDP caucus, under the signature of the now Premier of the province, said the very same thing the Member for Ste. Rose said in his article, and this is dated February 4th, 1981, that "overall growth and energy savings would have been aided if orderly development of Hydro was not cancelled in 1978." We have heard - and this is as late as 1981 after, in this Legislature, having admitted that it was their board and their government that halted construction of Limestone because it wasn't economically feasible.

So, Mr. Speaker, one wonders why they persist and why they persisted, during the election campaign, saying that the resumption of Limestone should have started immediately and here we are a year later and nothing has happened.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing the Throne Speech allows is members of the Legislature to deal with a document itself, and also deal with some concerns and some issues that constituents have raised over the last number of months.

One of the issues that I'd like to deal with is the problem, which I guess at this time of year - unfortunately at this time of year - receives a lot of public attention and that is the problem of the drinking driver. Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents are people who are concerned about this. They are concerned about the right of police officers in this province to stop people who are suspected of being intoxicated while driving. I guess one of the most high profile things that is happening right now is the ALERT operation, which is taking place in Winnipeg and a number of the other areas.

What concerns me, and I guess concerns a lot of constituents of mine, is the so-called provisions under the new Charter of Rights, which a number of the legal people and a number of the people in the judiciary are using, I would say, as a means to a large extent, trying to thwart the police officers in their duty of trying to apprehend people who are driving while intoxicated.

I listened, with interest, to some of the remarks of the Attorney-General with regards to the legality as far as the new Charter of Rights was concerned with regards to drinking drivers. He indicated that there was some question whether or not the police had the authority to stop somebody without legitimate cause, and then proceed in going ahead and asking that person to comply with the police wishes - in other words blowing into the ALERT system. I heard the gentleman that represents the Criminal Lawyers or Trial Lawyers' Association - I think Mr. Brodsky, or something - mentioned that nobody should take the test unless they consult with their lawyers first.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned not about the person that is intoxicated when he or she is driving - I shouldn't say I'm not concerned, I am concerned about them. My constituents have more of a concern about the people that are driving on the same highway and driving on the same road with their families and

their loved ones, when this particular person is allowed to drive on that particular highway.

I believe, and it is the feeling of the majority of my constituents, that every avenue, every possible recourse should be taken to ensure that someone who is intoxicated and is driving a motor vehicle on one of our highways, every precaution should be taken to apprehend that individual and get that individual off the road.

Mr. Speaker, I, and again speaking for my constituency, feel that if we are going to use our Charter of Rights the way it has been indicated now that it should be used, in other words to try and thwart the efforts of the authorities to deal with this bad problem, I think then the belief that I have in what the Charter of Rights should be doing for Canadians is not what I had hoped it would be. Because if it is simply a mechanism, if people are simply going to use the Charter of Rights as a mechanism to try and thwart and defeat the law the way the majority of people want it to be, then I believe it is wrong. And I hope that the Attorney-General of this province will not allow the type of frivolous action and frivolous objections to occur with regards to an important and serious matter as I have just mentioned here today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to relate a case which was reported in the local paper in Steinbach where a gentleman was apprehended at a .18 breathalyzer count, which means that he was seriously impaired. The question whether or not that individual had been treated fairly under the Charter of Rights was raised by the judge at that particular time, as reported in the paper, and the question of whether the police had the authority to stop that individual, whether they had the right to stop even though they might have had a suspicion that particular individual was impaired, was questioned by not only the counsel for the accused but also by the judge presiding. I think if that's the type of thing that we are going to get into, to try and thwart the efforts of our law enforcement officers, then I want to say to all members opposite, that is not what I believe the Charter was intended for and it is not what my constituents want to see happen with regards to the people that are caught on the highways or are suspected of being intoxicated while driving.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, with regards to the Throne Speech Debate, I want to say to members opposite that it might be an old worn phrase, but one which I have been, maybe if you want to say, drawn to closer and closer is the one that economic freedom means personal freedom. And when what we've seen happen in the last number of years on the federal scene with Crown corporations, when we've seen what happens when bureaucrats become involved in operating, when we see what's happened with a number of the other government agencies that run the affairs of government, one realizes very quickly that when you allow people who are not responsible generally to the public in any positions of authority, that becomes very dangerous.

One of the things that the people in my area feel very strongly about is that they would rather control their own destiny than have the government tell them what direction to go. My people do not feel that they want to be beholden to government for everything that happens. I want to say to members opposite the peo-

ple in my area believe in that principle very strongly. I intend, during my stay in this Legislature, to bring that feeling to bear on members opposite and I want to say to the First Minister and to the Members of the Treasury Bench that it's people like this, people who are willing and dedicated to working to make this Province of Manitoba a better place to live in that will ultimately be able to bring this province around to a situation where, hopefully, there is something left after the members opposite have served their three years in government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, let me first associate myself with the congratulations that were delivered to you one week ago by the Leader of the Opposition. I know all members agree with the Leader of the Opposition in rejoicing to see you restored to full health. You occupy a difficult position, yet it may be true that a Speaker is not only doing his or her job well, if at various times both sides of the House feel they've lost some advantage due to the Speaker's Ruling.

I want to express my confidence that you will continue to govern the procedures of this House, this Chamber, in an impartial manner that has been evident to all observers.

I also congratulate the new Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chairpersons of Committees of the Whole House; like my friends and the Leader of the Opposition, I wish them well. I know that both are conscientious members of this Assembly and by coincidence both are men who chose Canada as their home. In a province that was built so much by those who came here from other countries, it is both unique and fitting that these two new officers of this Chamber, are indeed, new Canadians.

The Mover and the Seconder of the Address in reply to Her Honour also deserve congratulations. As their speeches indicate, the members represent constituencies that are quite different, widely different; and yet, Mr. Speaker, their deliveries, the presentation of their material during their moving and seconding of the Address in reply to the Throne Speech indeed commend themselves well to the service of Manitobans. Their concern, their commitment, was well demonstrated in their community indeed, and their presentation brings distinction to this Chamber and they commenced the debate very well indeed.

Mr. Speaker, in my contribution to this debate, I wish to discuss several topics this evening. First, is the need to keep developing programs that tackle the crisis of unemployment; (2) the present state of the Manitoba economy, as it compares to other provinces; (3) the progress that has been achieved in implementing commitments which were made to Manitobans during the provincial election campaign; and (4) the policies that will continue to guide this Government in the years that lie ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is customary for the Premier to spend a great deal of time rebutting the arguments of the Opposition at this particular point in the Throne Speech Debate. I listened carefully to the speech by the Leader of the Opposition the other day and I've listened to most of the speeches by the members of the Opposition and, Mr. Speaker, there appears at this

stage to be little need for rebuttal. Indeed, upon reading the speech by honourable friends opposite - in particular, the speech by the Leader of the Opposition - I could not help, Mr. Speaker, but feel sorry for him. After all, the Leader of the Opposition is evidently and justifiably proud of the fact that he has served for some 24 years; 24 years since he was elected to this Chamber - a long record of service. The Leader of the Opposition has served as the First Minister of this province for some four years, and it was only a few months ago, Mr. Speaker, that he was admitted as a Privy Councillor and received the very unique honour of entry into the Privy Council.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, now that he has announced his stepping down from the leadership of his party, he had a splendid opportunity to demonstrate a statesmanlike quality. He had a beautiful opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to indeed reflect upon the state of Manitoba and to provide some cool-headed analysis of the future of our province as it pertains to the children, the children's children of those presently in the Province of Manitoba, and yet, Mr. Speaker, he threw that opportunity away. He continued to display, unfortunately, that kind of mean and vicious style that the Leader of the Opposition has become accustomed to do. Mr. Speaker, it's been unfortunate, if not for Manitobans, it's been unfortunate for his particular party, the Conservative Party of Manitoba, that he has conducted himself in this way. Because, Mr. Speaker, our nation is in the midst of the worst economic crisis in some 40 years. It is a time, Mr. Speaker, when we in Government realize full well the importance of being open to ideas, new thoughts, new proposals, in an effort to do all that is possible at this particular time in order to assist Manitobans to move through this difficult time.

Yet, what do we have, Mr. Speaker? What do we have from the Opposition? We have an inconsistent three-headed approach during this Debate. The Leader of the Opposition proposed that we impose acute protracted restraint as he indicated had been initiated back in 1978, a program which proved to be so disastrous, Mr. Speaker, during prosperous times. On Information Radio last Wednesday afternoon the Leader of the Opposition stated that we should follow the example that he set in 1978, an example which would mean cutting about \$500 million of spending in the fiscal year, which we are approaching.

Mr. Speaker, in October of this year, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber went one step further. He proposed that the province should not borrow as much as one cent this year, "regardless," said the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, "the purpose of that borrowing." This would mean not just massive cuts proposed by his leader, but would involve cancellation of the Affordable New Mortgage program, sharply reduced loans for farmers, major cuts in construction in Hydro, in the Telephone System, and in the Crown corporations.

Then, Mr. Speaker, shortly after the Session commenced what do we have? We have the Finance critic of the Opposition pop up in this Chamber with a demand that we reduce revenue by \$70 million. So, as far as I know, Mr. Speaker - and I may be mistaken and the Finance critic might be able to correct me in this respect - he didn't propose any new tax in order to

replace this lost revenue although, he wouldn't acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that he was calling for a larger deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this evening whether the Leader of the Opposition, whether the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, whether the Finance critic in the Opposition party are truly serious about these proposals?

Mr. Speaker, one further interesting observation is the lack of support across the way from the colleagues of the three front bench members for the proposals. Mr. Speaker, their colleagues continue to call for more spending, more capital spending and no increase in taxes or fees.

Another indication is the list of \$500 million in cuts that the present leader would make; the strong argument against any further capital expenditure in spending which we've been hearing from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the case for larger deficits as made by the next leader. Just where, Mr. Speaker, are these brave new plans?

Mr. Speaker, do these people have the courage of their conviction or are they leaders that know full well that if the Conservative supporters in this province, many very fine people, Mr. Speaker, heard about the economic proposals that are being made from across the way, would those Conservative supporters rise up in anger and throw out their leadership?

I can only conclude, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservative leadership is ashamed of specific suggestions that they had made and I am going to leave it to the people of the Province of Manitoba to consider and to reject these three silly, inconsistent pieces of proposals.

And what of other members across the way, Mr. Speaker? Frankly, I had expected, Mr. Speaker, during these difficult and trying economic circumstances that is touching every community in Canada that we would hear from an Opposition bipartisan suggestions for economic action; at least an Opposition, Mr. Speaker, that would have focused its attention on the economic problems confronting Manitoba. At least I would have expected that from our Opposition. Instead, Mr. Speaker, what do we have?

We have the Member for La Verendrye who announced from the Conservative benches that they had gone on a little fishing expedition. That particular member first went fishing after interference in McKenzie Seeds that didn't even exist. Then he went fishing after assurances that he indicated had been given to the Festival du Voyageur, which assurances had never even been given.

Then, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Fort Garry had tried to tie this entire House up in his quest for information about a study which doesn't exist and, indeed, may never exist, Mr. Speaker.

The Member for Tuxedo, on the other hand, stood up in this House and demanded immediate release of environmental reports that were released to the public weeks, indeed, months ago. Mr. Speaker, I think that these members would do themselves a favour if they simply hung a "Gone Fishing" sign on their caucus room door and left. Their performance has been little short of — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, their performance has been incredible and, unfortunately, their performance brings little credit to this House. If all they wanted to do was to throw mud, I would have

expected them to at least have waited to see if there was any mud to throw. But, Mr. Speaker, what we do know and what Manitobans know is that the Opposition party in this Chamber is no longer dealing with matters that are important to the agenda of Manitobans as a whole; instead, they are dealing with matters on an agenda that are only relevant to the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba - that's what it's all about.

Mr. Speaker, fussing and fuming about situations that just do not exist is a waste, and I say this by way of advice to members across the way and I don't expect them to accept my advice. In fact, if they had accepted my advice back in 1980 and '81 they might still be government today, but they chose not to accept my advice, so I feel quite secure, Mr. Speaker, in the fact they're not going to accept my advice this evening either.

I would urge, —(Interjection)— my, is there something wrong with the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, I want to just gently and in a friendly way to the Leader of the Opposition, if the Leader of the Opposition would just listen for a moment - I would like him to listen; he might learn something if he would listen a little bit, rather than carry on as he has been - that if he and his colleagues would try and use the weeks that this House is in recess to work hard, to research and develop questions about the real problems that are confronting Manitobans and, it's true, those of us that have been Opposition know that this is difficult when you're in Opposition, but I can assure members across the way that it's well worth the effort.

Mr. Speaker, if they don't do this, they're going to find that their credibility is going to continue to be shot to kingdom come even worse than it has been for the last number of months in this province. Mr. Speaker, they are going to find that continuing to chase nonexistent situations is not going to result in the establishment of any credibility for them on the part of Manitobans.

You know, Mr. Speaker, a government does perform best when it is confronted with a hard-working and effective Opposition and we on this side don't claim perfection. We've never claimed perfection unlike the honourable members across the way. We don't, Mr. Speaker, on this side as New Democrats or as members of this Opposition claim any self-righteous conviction that we have all the answers to the problems confronting Manitoba; but if the Opposition had any valid or reasonable or constructive suggestions during these trying and difficult times when there is so much joblessness in the land, why have we not heard those constructive suggestions during this Session? If they are truly, Mr. Speaker, the heirs of Bracken and of Roblin, let them show that they are the heirs of Roblin and Bracken by following in their footsteps and by demonstrating the careful and constructive attitude that was displayed by those Conservatives in years gone by - let them. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, Manitobans - and let me warn honourable members across the way - if they don't follow in that tradition, Manitobans will turn away in greater and greater numbers from the present Conservative party in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, pointless, baseless and vicious attacks

on a daily basis as we have heard from across the way will convince even the staunchest Conservative that their present Conservative caucus is dead from the neck up. In times like these, the speech by the Leader of the Opposition was remarkable for its almost complete lack of any specific proposals. I would have thought that an Opposition, which believed it could attack the Government's economic performance, would have been eager during this sitting to compare our economic performance with that of other provinces; I would have suspected that would have happened.

Certainly the New Democratic Party, as the Member for Sturgeon Creek knows, was always eager and ready while we were in Opposition to compare the question about the Government and about its relative performance with other provinces. Now - although, Mr. Speaker, we have switched sides and we've moved from the Opposition to the Government and the former Government has moved to the Opposition - it seems that the New Democratic Party remains as the only party that welcomes comparisons with other provincial economies and I wonder why, Mr. Speaker.

These have literally been the worst of times for most Canadians, the worst time in 40 years. For an analysis of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, you don't have to study some obscure economic journals; look indeed at the issue of Business Week that carries today's date. There is an article —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, if I could continue . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, look, as I indicated, at today's issue of Business Week. There's an article discussing the present policies of Mr. Vokar, the head of the U.S. Central Bank. Mr. Vokar led the world in his devotion to tight money and to high interest rates. As the article states, he went after inflation with a radical experiment in monetarism. The authors write that "monetarist strategy is dead now and though it succeeded in more than" and I would like honourable members across the way to listen. Maybe it won't occur in the front benches, but I think there are some members across the way that are beginning to reflect as to the God that ended up having but clay feet and, Mr. Speaker, that's what we are finding. "Although the inflation rate was halved, the price was extraordinarily steep. We had back to back recessions; we had the highest rate of unemployment since the great depression. We've had soaring bankruptcies; we've had a severely strained international banking system." And this journal which, Mr. Speaker, I believe is quite a right-wing journal that would never, never a few months ago have written such an article, writes that "Vokar's sudden switch in strategy was motivated by his fear that the economy was on the verge of collapse. Fiscal stimulus in the form of big tax cuts - not working. It has been fast becoming evident that only a relaxed monetary policy would work."

The article goes on to describe the lack of impact from the first few months of lower interest rates and the fact that Mr. Vokar is still reluctant to significantly stimulate the United States economy. A final quote from the article says, "Mired in deep recession, the whole world is waiting for recovery in the U.S. econ-

omy," and that means that it is waiting for Vokar to lower interest rates enough to revive business and to create consumer confidence. You wouldn't find articles like this in business journals six months ago because they were still congratulating Mr. Vokar six months ago for the firmness of his monetary policy, for being tough enough to keep interest rates high. It seems that some people have finally learned that a policy which robs people of their jobs, of their farms, of their businesses, of their income, just is not only criminally wrong but it just economically makes no sense. In fact, it's economic madness.

It is a policy now, Mr. Speaker, that is even beginning to eat away at the larger companies. If you have high interest rates you will find increasingly people being discouraged from buying homes, from buying household appliances, from purchasing cars. Highly profitable forest industries will start to show equally high losses. They will commence to close down. Mines will close down and the same is true for most sectors of the economy.

Today's interest rates in the United States are still at historic high levels compared to their rate of inflation. Rates in Canada are still higher than those in almost any other major industrialized nation and the effect of month after month of high interest rates has been a crisis of unemployment that has become the most significant reason for investors and consumers to lose confidence. There is no other word for it, Mr. Speaker; it is a word that I expressed only a few moments ago. It is economic madness.

Those in December, 1982, who urge Canadians to sacrifice for the future by accepting massive joblessness, Mr. Speaker, are unfortunately the same voices that we heard in 1980 and 1981 that were urging Canadians to sacrifice at that time for the future by accepting record high interest rates. Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba do not support, do not endorse that high interest rate tight-money kind of policy, nor does this Government. Manitobans are not prepared to accept these high levels of unemployment and neither is this Government.

My colleagues and I are prepared to use and to seek every means within our provincial jurisdiction and our resources in order to meet this crisis. We know that no single government can end unemployment on its own, but there is no reason for us to sit back and to do nothing. It is not a cause for despair; rather it is a clear challenge to stretch the Manitoba resources to the very limit in an effort to create jobs and to improve Manitoba's economic position. We have accepted that challenge. We have accepted that challenge, Mr. Speaker, and so far Manitobans have a better employment record in 1982 than Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia and Canada as a whole.

Anticipating that the recession would continue, we announced a package of measures in August which have been coming on-stream since then, designed to provide more than 4,000 Manitobans with work; construction and renovation of homes, arena retrofits, improved sewer and water lines, repair of MHRC facilities is some of the work provided. In essence, the priority has been work of long-term economic and social value which can be done now to provide jobs.

The Throne Speech included new and expanded programs to continue this approach and enter into

co-operation with the Federal Government, thus creating 2,000 additional new jobs. Every department has been directed to shift its economic activity, its spending activity, to those kinds of activities that create jobs because this Government does not intend to turn away from its primary responsibility at this time which is to create jobs now.

Mr. Speaker, every member of this Chamber knows the terrible waste — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, I don't intend to try to out-shout anybody on the other side. Surely, every member of this Assembly knows the terrible waste of human lives and economic potential that massive unemployment causes. Families, entire communities come under strain. Young people start their working life on unemployment insurance instead of on a job. An entire generation of young people are confronted with an ordeal that they did not deserve, Mr. Speaker. People are able to buy less and this is contributing further to the economic decline. Even those who have a job are uncertain about keeping that job and their lack of confidence adds further to that decline. Native people and others that have been on the fringes of labour force discover that they're being pushed further and further back, a cycle of decline, Mr. Speaker, that feeds on itself and becomes a constant downward spiral. If leaders, business, government and labour are not willing to act constructively and effectively, the situation will worsen. That is why this Government will continue to focus its efforts on jobs now and build the basis for recovery instead of preoccupying ourselves with the apparent Conservative lust, the lust that the Conservative Party seems to share so much, for cut-backs that would do harm and damage to Manitobans. That is why, Mr. Speaker, in August, Manitoba presented a joint federal-provincial program of investment to strengthen the Canadian economy and to provide much needed jobs.

You know, Mr. Speaker, how much better would it be if we would jointly co-operate and work together, the Federal Government and provinces, to improve the railway system of Western Canada than to enter into this long and bitter and silly debate to force western farmers to abandon the Crow rate and to accept direct federal payments as a substitute. There is no better time than now, Mr. Speaker, for public investment in tourist facilities, for the fishing industry, for the revitalization of older neighbourhoods and for the main streets of this province. Federal-provincial construction of a Hydro line to Churchill would mean more northern jobs and a greater advantage for our prairie port.

When the Minister of Finance meets with his colleagues from across the country later this week . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Order please.

I believe the honourable member is entitled to the same courtesy of a hearing that other members would expect when they are up speaking. The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister of Finance meets with his colleagues across the country later this week, he will make the case on behalf of Manitoba to his colleagues across

this country for a major co-operative investment in jobs now for a healthier economic base. Surely the value and the purpose of a strong central government could not be better demonstrated than at the present time, and surely the present hardships suffered by hundreds of thousands of families across Canada deserve nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier the unusual fact that in this Assembly we have an Opposition that is reluctant to compare Manitoba's economic performance to that of other provinces. Well this Government has been doing its fair share to create jobs and productivity. We want to do more and we acknowledge it's not enough, Mr. Speaker. However, in the first 11 months of this year, Manitoba's performance in keeping and creating jobs was the third best in Canada according to Statistics Canada. That compares, Mr. Speaker, to the seventh best performance achieved by the previous Government in 1978, followed by the tenth and last in 1979 and in 1980.

This is a year when Manitobans have not been shocked and disheartened by the population trend, unlike previous years under the previous administration. The provincial population, Mr. Speaker, is growing almost as quickly as the national average and comparably better than any time in the past four years. This is an indication of a relatively superior economy and a sign of confidence in the future of our province. Yes.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Opposition is never more hypocritical than when they try to somehow connect the size of the Provincial Civil Service with the level of Manitoba's population and we've heard that only a few moments ago, references to that. No one is fooled by their attempt to say that the 1981 Tory increase of about 450 in the Civil Service was prudent while the 1982 NDP increase of 480 is altogether a different story; nobody's fooled. The New Democratic Party can - nor can they sit there and holler about Saskatchewan, where the former Clerk of the Executive Council in Manitoba and the former Deputy Premier are working today and I wish them well, Mr. Speaker, but let there be no crocodile tears and false alarms.

Manitobans judge both political parties by what they do and not what they say, and Manitobans know that this province is better off with a growing population, despite what the Opposition might say, than it was when the Tories were spending so much time, Mr. Speaker, doing what? Denying that there had even been a population loss.

The change in Manitoba's unemployment rate during the first 11 months of 1982 has been dramatic. Yes, it's been dramatic, the increase in unemployment, an increase from 6 percent to 8.2 percent. Yet even so, and I would like the members across the way to listen carefully to these comments, we have done better than the national average, something which was not true in 1978, 1979, 1981.

My colleagues and I know the plight of thousands of unemployed is, and must be, our first concern. I have been in The Pas to meet the Manfor workers and I've been in Thompson to meet the unemployed, the miners this fall, and earlier I was in Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake. I did visit the Native communities where we have witnessed 70 percent unemployment or more and I

know that the plight of the unemployed in those communities is the plight of all Manitobans. Yet Manitobans can also take pride from knowing that, at least now, we're pulling our weight within the national economy; that we've made a good start in coping with the disastrous recession. And yes, Mr. Speaker, the comparatively good start has been made and can be a source of hope for us all.

How about other economic indicators? —(Interjection)— Well, Manitoba continues to lead the country in the growth of retail sales, an important indicator in the degree of consumer confidence. Once again, this is better than any of the past four years in Manitoba. Combined with our inflation rate, it means that small and large stores in Manitoba have been able to maintain much more of their business than in any other province. This is the second year in a row that Manitoba enjoys the lowest rate of inflation in the country. It has been this Government's deliberate policy to freeze or to slowly increase public sector prices to the fullest possible extent.

Members opposite usually were willing to point to one economic indicator, and I'd like the Member for Sturgeon Creek, the former Minister of Economic Development, to listen carefully to this because I recall so frequently the former Minister of Economic Development, proudly, of all the figures he could pull out to try to substantiate progress under the previous administration, it was the figures pertaining to manufacturing shipments - yes, the member nods his head in agreement - I'm pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that the most recent figures for the first eight months of the year show Manitoba the third best performance in Canada. Again, better than in any of the four previous years comparatively, when relatively speaking, Manitobans unfortunately weren't able to take advantage of the national economy because of their discredited policies.

There are other indicators which I would like to see improved, although in none of them is Manitoba falling below the standard that existed between 1977 and 1981 in terms of comparison with other provinces. The expectation is that Manitoba will cope as well with the downturn as any other province, and by all appearances, better than what is taking place in other provinces. The forecast of a first-place performance means that this time Manitoba is doing better among the provinces than it did during the 1980 recession. Indeed, it appears that Manitoba is meeting the challenge more adequately than any recession during the past 20 years, because a fifth-best rate of economic growth was until now the high-water mark for our provincial economy in difficult times.

The case that our party made in Opposition is the case that I make this evening; it is that the Provincial Government deserves to be judged on its economic performance, how it compares to that of other provinces. It's always possible, if not probable, that Manitoba will do comparatively worse in the years that lie ahead when the economy is booming or at least is growing moderately, but my colleagues, however, will continue to discuss the economic situation and we'll talk to Manitobans about the problems that we're confronted with in this province - just as we had been doing - and I think this explains some of the unusual activities on the part of members across the way. They

don't like, Mr. Speaker, how effectively we've been able to talk to Manitobans during the past 12 months; we'll continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, just as in 1981, we will leave it up to the people of Manitoba to judge and to compare the efforts of the Provincial Government against that of others. We are prepared on this side to leave it to the good judgment of Manitobans, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign that commenced some 14 months ago, our party made a series of commitments to Manitobans. We outlined our platform day by day during the campaign, a procedure that was criticized and was criticized much by the Leader of the Opposition. My colleagues and I are keenly aware of the obligation that we have to the people of Manitoba and we intend to fulfill those commitments and if we can't fulfill those commitments, we'll explain to Manitobans why we can't.

Tonight, I'm able to report that all but three of the specific main commitments we outlined in the campaign are now moving towards implementation and that many have already been fully implemented.

To begin with, in the farm sector we said, Mr. Speaker, we would sit down immediately with farm representatives to develop an income stabilization plan for the beef industry. That plan, Mr. Speaker, is now in place. It was developed through extensive consultation with Manitoba farmers. Many hundreds and hundreds of farmers participated in that process in public meetings in every corner of this province, and there was at the beginning no clear consensus, I understand, as to how the program should be developed by the beef producers of Manitoba. Yet, even those who opposed the final result have now said publicly that the present Minister of Agriculture listened to their grievances, listened to their complaints, and he made changes in a responsible manner in the interests of Manitoba's beef farmers.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, just as a little bit of extra news for members across the way, I understand that a majority of the directors of the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association are now enrolled in the Beef Program. Mr. Speaker, I realize that what has happened is a process, a process that this Government believes in, of new politics in which people, in this case farmers, were involved in dozens of meetings throughout the province. Yet the development of this plan for Manitoba beef was in my mind an excellent example of a government, how it combined its action in order to act positively and decisively and to consult widely with Manitobans.

It was clear that this Government would fulfill its promise of a stabilization program. It's also clear that those directly concerned would have a say as to how this plan would be developed. The operation of the plan was affected by farmers; the operation of the plan will be directed by farmers; it is now up to the beef producers of this province to decide voluntarily whether they wish to enroll or not. There are no easy answers to the instability in the beef industry, but I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, tonight, and all members of this Chamber and most Manitobans agree, this Minister of Agriculture deserves congratulations for a job well done.

We promised —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, maybe the interruptions are a concerted effort on the part of

the Opposition to keep me wasting my time so I don't finish my speech.

Mr. Speaker, we promised to remove provincial capital gains tax from the sale of family farms and that has been done so that, in Manitoba, these sales are subject to less capital gains tax than in any other province in Canada. This has helped giving retired farmers some decent opportunity in their retirement years and encourages them to sell to those who wish to continue family farming.

It was more clear, in the election campaign, that this Government would move against absentee ownership of farm land. Legislation to achieve that goal is before the House, as was indicated in the Throne Speech. Members have received the bills and, again, there have been opportunities, Mr. Speaker, and I want to mention this for a moment. We went out to rural Manitobans over the last few months and we discussed the contents of proposed legislation with Manitobans in their communities, and we discussed with Manitobans how that legislation should be framed. I, and others on this side, we've encouraged that public discussion, we haven't hidden from that discussion. We haven't done, as the Leader of the Opposition suggested in his speech, as he might have very well done, we didn't hide our faces. We went out and we met with the people of the Province of Manitoba and we dealt with those concerns that were expressed. What the legislation also reflects is that commitment to make sure that Manitoba farms are made available for Manitoba farmers. Manitobans must know well that the many loopholes that have been used for speculative money to be invested in Manitoba farmlands in the past, those loopholes that have driven up the price without increasing the quality of farming one iota in this province, those loopholes will be closed, Mr. Speaker. And we do not intend to continue the charade that has been existing of a law against absentee ownership that actually winks at speculators and winks at foreign money interests.

My colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, has been working long and industriously on Main Street Manitoba with business and municipal representatives of many communities, working with the Minister of Municipal Affairs to revitalize their communities.

The expansion of the Children's Dental Care Program has begun and the Minister of Health has been studying and consulting about the questions of how best to deliver dental care in the school divisions that do not have that service now.

Mr. Speaker, this Government put a stop, as it pledged to do, to the practice of permitting the construction of profit-making nursing homes in Manitoba. We have continued to build homes, but now only when they are sponsored, Mr. Speaker, by religious or non-profit organizations. As members opposite were reluctant to admit, this is a policy which Manitobans wanted and which will save them money.

Increased health services for seniors had begun with eyeglasses and, once that first step is properly assessed, this Government will add hearing aids and dental services.

Health care construction has been increased substantially during the first year of this Government and other steps are under way to restore the health care system of this province.

A two-year, \$23 million interest rate relief program was promised during the campaign. That program has been in operation now for approximately a year and the latest figures, Mr. Speaker, indicate that more than 600 farms, additional hundreds of homes and businesses, have been saved because of that program, as pledged by this party in the last year's election campaign.

We indicated, indeed it's clear, that . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We made it clear during the announcement in the campaign that the scope of provincial action was limited and that, therefore, this program would be limited. But I think that Manitobans showed their preference for a Government which would do all it can over a Government that would do nothing except defend the high interest rate policies of Clark and Trudeau in Ottawa. Members opposite had the opportunity to lead the way in Canada and to introduce comprehensive interest rate relief, Mr. Speaker, and they chose not to provide that leadership.

Some of them are asking that this program be expanded. Well, in the December 4th Free Press, the Member for Tuxedo seemed to be asking that we end provincial interest rate relief for homeowners. I can tell them tonight that we intend to proceed with that program because it is doing exactly as was indicated. It's saving the homes and the farms and businesses of hundreds of Manitobans who are hardest hit.

In northern communities large and small, Manitobans have seen that this Government, unlike members opposite, don't prefer welfare to jobs. Assistance to the important resource industries had been built into job creation for the North. With construction of fish structures, reforestation receiving emphasis, this Government has helped Manitoba fishermen, many of them in the North, to form an organization. In our negotiations with the new Northlands Agreement, we involved northern communities. We involved the people in the northern communities in the process and we have ensured a priority within that agreement for job training, an agreement which members opposite were ready to predict, Mr. Speaker, but a few months ago, would never be signed. Self-government in the North is being increased and, across Northern Manitoba, people know that their voice is now at last being heard.

Tenants in Manitoba, once again, enjoy the protection of rent controls across the province. This ensures tenants the right to have unjustified rent increases rolled back. It provides landlords with recovery for their costs for a marginal profit. In addition, the Manitoba program is designed to eliminate speculation in rental properties. The Critical Home Repair Program was proceeded with as pledged, Mr. Speaker. The program was allowed to dwindle away in 1978, '79, '80 and '81. It has now been revitalized and has been expanded as a part of an emphasis upon home renovation across the province. We are now told that in some areas contractors are having some difficulty even keeping up with the work from that program. This is welcome news, indeed, after the economic drought that so many small businesses suffered dur-

ing the hands-off attitude of my friends across the way.

Consultation is now under way within the framework of the Community Child Day Care Standards. I want to commend the Member for Wolseley for all the effort and work she has done on this, to involve parents, day care operators and workers in the development of standards for this most important service.

The effort to ensure that Manitobans are heard in Washington, the Garrison issue has been stepped up dramatically. As I said in Portage earlier this year, there is no guarantee that this project will be changed to ensure it doesn't affect Manitoba but this Government would rather make the effort than take the politically safer course of doing little and disclaiming responsibility. We would prefer to make the direct representations.

French language services are being extended in a manner that reflects the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada that Manitoba is officially a bilingual province, yet it also avoids the expensive questioned approach that's been taken by the Federal Government in different circumstances. Manitoba is the only officially bilingual and multi-cultural province. This Government is working with ethnic groups to establish a multi-cultural policy and a policy that properly reflects our rich and our diverse heritage in this province.

It is in this Session that the Legislature will deal with the reform of the Workplace Safety and Health legislation and of pension benefits once it's healthier and safer work places to prevent injury and death. The other seeks to improve the means by which Manitobans set aside part of their salary to ensure a decent income after they retire. Both these reforms are long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell the Leader of the Opposition if there is one item that's been referred to favourably over and over to me by people outside this building, working people, elderly people nearing retirement, and that is, at long last, there's efforts to bring about pension reform in the Province of Manitoba. I have received numerous indications of support. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition would like to know too that these same people have expressed pleasure that this Government is looking at the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation to expand its operations if indeed they can help to bring about some improvement in respect to pension reform.

This Government moved immediately upon its election to implement the steps in orderly Hydro development that had been promised. Hydro and building trades have negotiated a historic clause that provides jobs for northerners on future Hydro construction. We have been pursuing all markets for Manitoba's electricity, not just one market.

No one would deny that the recession has slowed down the demand for electricity and thus new generating capacity. Nobody denies that, except possibly members across the way. The Alberta Government has made it very clear in its public statements about the present priority to develop projects that create jobs in that province. I do not know whether the North American economy will improve sufficiently to advance the date of new Hydro construction in the next year or two, but I understand very well all the smoke and

accusations that have been thrown up as a screen by that party that spent four years demonstrating its hostility to Hydro construction that it had developed when it had been in Opposition prior to 1977.

With the creation of the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation, increased investment in mineral resources development, this Government is fulfilling the commitment to increase the stake Manitobans have in the development of their province's resources. The depth of the recession draws almost all attention to short-term economic solutions yet this Government is not prepared to act only for the short term.

We've stated the case in the campaign that Manitoba's economy is stronger when the public sector is actively investing in this economy. That long-term strength will be needed when the recession ends and the investment will be undertaken now. We don't think that Manitobans want their government to invest only in industries that have present or future problems. Why shouldn't Manitobans enjoy some participation in the successes of the province? We think they should and we'll proceed with these investments in the resource industries.

Mr. Speaker, without going into further detail, I think they know that this is a Government that a promise made is a promise kept. I know and I understand the bitterness across the way, bitterness from a group that must be so bitter in seeing now in place a government that is undertaking measures that they refused to undertake during their four years while they were in office. It must be even more bitter for them when they remember how many of their specific election commitments were never touched. Tonight I can assure Manitobans that this Government will continue to keep faith with them by proceeding with the commitments that were made in the election.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech Debate last Friday I stated that our main goal could be described as providing good government for Manitoba. This is a goal which one can never consider at any time to be accomplished. Yet I know that people on every corner of this province and from every walk of life have learned that this is a government which listens to them, considers their views and is prepared to seek the best alternative. We do not hide our political philosophy, but unlike members opposite, we apply our political philosophy on a day-to-day basis facing the problems of individuals within the province. It is within the context of that reality that a political philosophy must be judged. In the months that lie ahead we will continue our process of working in partnership with business and with labour. We know full-well that there will never be complete harmony in business, labour and government, but there is no justification for fixed attitudes or closed minds.

The Economic Summit Conference at Portage la Prairie was a demonstration of the fact that in Manitoba, at least, government, business and labour representatives can sit down together, can discover many areas of mutual agreement, and many shared perceptions. In North America the relations between these economic partners has often been marked by mistrust and by hostility. I do not know if Manitoba can truly break that mold, but I do know that it's well worth the effort on the part of us to seek political and effective ways of developing and operating programs through

co-operation by all three of these economic groups within the Manitoba economy. In terms of attitude, this Government will continue to demonstrate that it does not fear or define as its enemy either business or labour. We're not afraid to see either the increase in the strength of labour or the increase in the strength of business in Manitoba. We will continue to encourage business and labour to continue to sit down and talk and work with each other to provide constructive proposals and ideas to work with Manitobans. This is going to be whether the Opposition likes it or not, this is going to continue to be an open Government that will continue to consult with Manitobans.

This consolatory approach is evident in many new programs that have been and will be brought forward by our Government. They reflect the advice and wisdom of people throughout the province, and I want to say that during the past two, three months we've had opportunity to - I've had the opportunity to personally visit many communities in ridings held by members across the way, Boissevain, Melita, Souris, Virden, Birtle, Russell, Roblin, Minnedosa - and, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say here this evening, although the majority - well, I could go on and on and on, I'm dealing only with one corner of the province where I've been - Mr. Speaker, what I appreciated in those communities, when I sat down in those communities and talked about local and provincial concerns, the people in those communities - many of which were members of the party across the way - put aside partisan bickering and joined constructively with us in making their proposals to make a better Manitoba. I appreciated that because, Mr. Speaker, the people in those communities and in the other some 44 different communities that I had the opportunity to visit were pleased to join hands with us to work together to build a better Manitoba.

These are difficult times, Mr. Speaker. They are times that require the innovative spirit that will examine programs, that will prepare to eliminate those programs that are irrelevant in order that we can proceed with new thrusts, new programs relevant to the 1980s, programs - not programs of severe restraint and mindless cutbacks that may have no sense or rhyme - but programs that are directed to stimulating the economy, to creating jobs so that we can work towards recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we have a program for the short-term, a program for the medium-term, a program for the long-term, to build upon the strengths of this province and to ensure that Manitobans whether they be farmer, whether they be worker, whether they be business person, whether they be Native, whether they be professional, wherever they be, can join together in that task of working together through this recession, of setting aside partisan bickering, that too often we see in this Chamber, in the interest of the total province so we can move on to build in this province a community, Mr. Speaker, that need be second to none in Canada. We have much that is great in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a good start has been made and that work is going to continue over the next three years.

So, I urge members to support the Throne Speech this evening and to move quickly towards the discussion of legislation. Mr. Speaker, talking about com-

petency, I note that we've already tabled many many bills which has, I believe, never before occurred in the province so early in the Session - I guess members don't like that very much - so that members across the way will have the opportunity along with other members to peruse that legislation before we resume our operations later, so we can prepare, also complete, the Spending Estimates for 1983-84. Manitobans expect an openminded and effective government, a serious approach to issues; and to face the problems that are confronting us, we intend to continue that approach, Mr. Speaker. We intend to work with Manitobans in that process, not work against Manitobans, not to preach to Manitobans, but to work with Manitobans.

There is only one other issue I would like to have dealt with, Mr. Speaker, but I see my time is running out. I had wanted to spend a few moments on the question of peace, because, Mr. Speaker, there really is not much import in what I have said about us making a better province and a better world, if there be no world for us to enjoy. I don't know whether I have leave for this; I suppose it's not within your prerogative but I did want to have dealt with the question of disarmament briefly at the conclusion of my remarks. I think it's too important to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Does the Honourable First Minister have leave to continue?

Order please. Order please. Order please. In accordance with our Rule 35(4), I'm interrupting the proceedings to put the motion to the House; it is on the motion of the Honourable Member for Riel for an Address to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to her Speech at the opening of the Session.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. H. CARROLL: Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member support? (Agreed) Call in the members.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The motion before the House is the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Riel for an Address to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to her Speech at the opening of the Session.

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

YEAS

Messrs. Adam, Anstett, Ashton, Bucklaschuk, Corrin, Cowan, Desjardins, Mrs. Dodick, Mr. Doern, Ms. Dolin, Messrs. Evans, Eyler, Fox, Harapiak, Harper, Mrs. Hemphill, Messrs. Kostyra, Lecuyer, Mackling, Malinowski, Parasiuk, Pawley, Penner, Ms. Phillips, Messrs. Plohman, Santos, Schroeder, Scott, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Uruski, Uskiw.

NAYS

Messrs. Banman, Blake, Brown, Carroll, Downey, Driedger, Enns, Filmon, Gourlay, Graham, Mrs.

Hammond, Messrs. Hyde, Johnston, Kovnats, Lyon, Manness, McKenzie, Nordman, Mrs. Oleson, Messrs. Orchard, Ransom, Sherman, Steen.

MR. ACTING CLERK, Gordon Mackintosh: Yeas, 31, Nays, 23.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is accordingly carried.
The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday).