

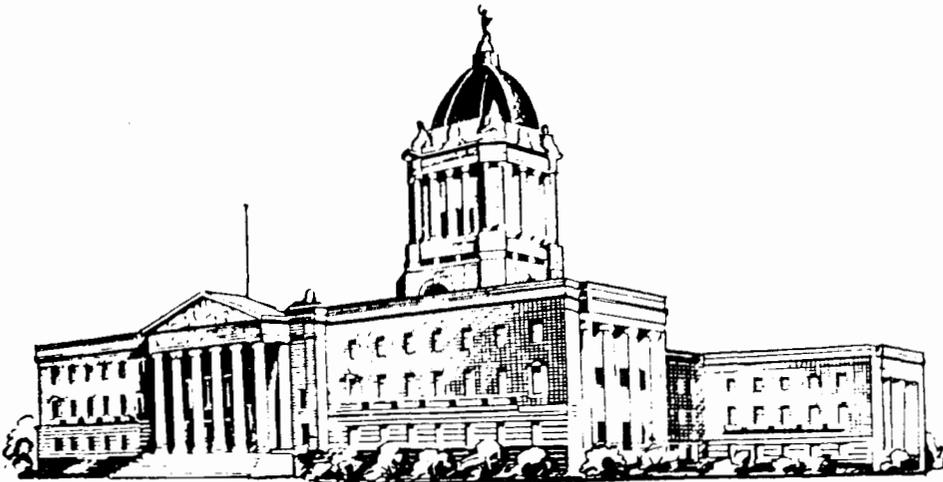


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA  
10:00 a.m., Friday, February 20, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery where we have 45 students of Grade 11 standing of the Miles Macdonell Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Loudon. This school is located in my own constituency of Kildonan.

We also have 20 students of Grade 5 standing of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School. These students are under the direction of Miss Lymycz. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Burrows, the Minister of Education.

On behalf of all the honourable members, I welcome you here this morning.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

HON. RUSSELL A. PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief statement to read to the House which is as follows: I was informed in the early hours of this morning by Mr. Tom Beggs, Conciliation Officer, Department of Labour, that the negotiating committees in the Health Sciences Centre dispute have reached agreement on matters at issue. This agreement is, of course, subject to ratification by the union membership at a meeting which I understand will take place at noon today. I would like to express my appreciation for the tireless effort of the negotiating teams of both parties and to our conciliation officers and especially Mr. Tom Beggs.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition) (Riel): Mr. Speaker, we thank the Minister of Labour for his announcement and I am sure that all of us in the House are pleased to see that agreement has been reached. There is no question about it that this is one of the most serious threatened strikes that can possibly hit our communities. In this case it was partially avoided although not completely. There was still a high degree of dislocation of the patients in the hospitals and in the Health Sciences Centre. I gather that there was at least approximately two-thirds of the patients still had to be moved and the larger proportion, in a similar case, out of the Misericordia Hospital. This indicates that settlements can be reached. The question has to be asked though as to whether or not the mechanism is the mechanism that should be used to protect the life and health of those people that are threatened in cases like this.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other ministerial statements? The Minister of Health. The Honourable Minister for Co-operative Development.

HON. HARVEY BOSTROM (Minister of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services) (Rupert's Land): Mr. Chairman, I have a news release with respect to the Flood Forecasting Committee's report which I would like to read to members. I have a few copies here for members as well.

The Flood Forecasting Committee held its first meeting of 1976 on Thursday, February 19. The Committee met to review the situation concerning flood prospects on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers for the spring of 1976.

The Committee reports that snow accumulations are near normal in the Red River Basin in Manitoba and North Dakota. Similarly, soil moisture levels at freeze-up were near normal. Therefore, prospects are for an average spring runoff on the Red River. With normal precipitation from now and throughout the snowmelt period, overbank flows are not likely to occur along the Red River in Manitoba. Above normal precipitation could lead to some flooding on the Red River upstream of the Floodway Inlet.

The Committee reports that in the Assiniboine River Basin, snow accumulations are generally above normal. Soil moisture levels at freezeup were well above normal.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . . . Indications are that with normal further precipitation, minor overflows may be expected on the Assiniboine River downstream of Miniota. Above normal further precipitation could produce extensive spring flooding on the Assiniboine River downstream of St. Lazare.

The Committee emphasizes the fact that the weather conditions from now on will be highly significant and advises that a subsequent meeting will be held in March to review the flood prospects existing at that time.

The following information was available to the Committee for its appraisal of the spring runoff situation:

1. A snow survey conducted by the Water Resources Division during the period February 9th to 11th in the Basins of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

2. A soil moisture survey conducted by the same Division at freezepoint in the fall of 1975.

3. Records of fall and early winter flows in both rivers as recorded by the Water Survey of Canada.

4. Climatological data on summer, fall and winter precipitation obtained by the Atmospheric Environment Service of Canada at stations in the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

5. Information from various co-operating agencies in the United States, concerning conditions in the Red River Basin in North Dakota and Minnesota.

Heavy rainfall during the past summer has resulted in much above normal soil moisture conditions in Southwestern Manitoba and in the Interlake and Westlake areas. Snow accumulation thus far is above normal in southwestern Manitoba and near normal in the Interlake and Westlake areas. Elsewhere in Manitoba soil moisture levels are generally below normal and snow accumulations are near normal.

With normal precipitation from now and throughout the snowmelt period moderate flooding may be expected on the Souris River and its tributaries. Some flooding is also likely on the Pembina River and its tributaries, the Assiniboine River tributaries between St. Lazare and Portage la Prairie, southern tributaries of Lake Dauphin and the Fisher River. Flooding may also occur on the Whitemud River, the Brokenhead River and the Icelandic River if further precipitation is above normal.

Precipitation from now and throughout the breakup period will be highly significant. A further outlook will be issued by the Water Resources Division in March.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other Ministerial Statements? The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, we thank the Minister for the statement but I think it should be pointed out, lest we become too complacent about the optimistic forecast that has just been given by the Minister, that in the final analysis whether or not there will be floods will largely depend on the kind of breakup that occurs. With normal early spring thaws extending over a period of time, the danger of floods will be averted. If, however, we continue to get cold weather until late in the spring and the thaws occur in a short period of time there will be floods regardless of the precipitation, regardless of the moisture content.

TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 36th Annual Report of the Manitoba Civil Service Superannuation Fund. There are copies available for members of the Assembly. Also, Sir, I would like to table the Actuarial Report for the period ending December 31st, 1974 as required by statute. There are just five copies. That is all that is normally provided, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills. The Honourable First Minister.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere) introduced Bill 13, an Act to amend The Surrogate Courts Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

MR. SPEAKER: Questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister and it relates to the announcement of the Federal Estimates of Spending. I wonder if he could indicate whether or not the Provincial Government, his office, has done any sort of an assessment as to whether or not the increase in federal spending of 18 percent is going to make it have any impact on attempting to hold the line according to the AIB guidelines that the Federal Government has set and to which the Provincial Government has indicated its desire to join with.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I doubt that I can reply in 30 seconds or less. It's a case of advising my honourable friend that while we have certain contacts in Ottawa we do not have, nor would we acknowledge if we did have, contacts that would give us precise advance notice of the amounts of increase in Federal Government spending. Since they've just come out in the last - what, 48 hours now - we have not yet had time to draw any conclusions in terms of the precise areas of change in federal spending intentions.

I might just say that one area where we are aware of the impact already is that with respect to native communities, northern native communities in particular, and the whole context of problems relating to socio-economic development of these communities that the Federal Government Estimates will have a definite - but, I mean definite, Sir - negative impact.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I note on this same topic that the handout yesterday by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, which was a News Service release of the First Minister two or three weeks ago, that it states that the government intends to apply the controls to provincial government departments, agencies and Crown Corporations, municipal governments and related bodies. I wonder if the First Minister can indicate does this mean that the government would intend to apply the controls to increases in the utility prices, such as Manitoba Hydro.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that there is any case of a precedent being established or looking for a precedent to be established in that regard relative to any utilities in Manitoba. There have already been increases announced and put into effect with the knowledge and consent of the Anti-Inflation Board presumably. For example, in the Province of Ontario hydro utility rate increases in the order of magnitude of 22 to 28 percent for this and the following year have been announced.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister could indicate then, does the increases that they're going to control, as indicated in this news release, apply only to wage settlements and not to the increased prices that might be charged by Manitoba Hydro or the gas company or anybody else out of the Public Utilities Board.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, as I believe the Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows, it was explicit in the Anti-Inflation White Paper that energy product would not be, and agricultural product at farm gates so to speak, would not be subject to the national anti-inflation program. Furthermore there is explicit provision in the program for acknowledgement of the principle of cost passthrough.

I would repeat that at a conference on this very matter in Ottawa some several weeks ago it was acknowledged that any utility that was operating on the principle of cost recovery - in other words no profit and certainly no diversion of profits into consolidated revenue of the Crown - that any attempt to disallow cost passthrough would merely force the utility that much more into the bond market, and the Federal Government has presumably no such intention.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I might ask then a final question on this topic as to whether or not the Manitoba Hydro, as indicated by the Winnipeg Hydro in a recent press release, whether Manitoba Hydro, in fact, is in a position to announce its rate increases

## ORAL QUESTIONS

(MR. CRAIK cont'd) . . . . and if so are they greater or less than the 20 percent increase of Winnipeg Hydro?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear the last four or five words.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, the basic question: Are the rate increases to be announced by Manitoba Hydro, which has been indicated and implied by Winnipeg Hydro, greater or less than the 20 percent which Winnipeg Hydro has now stated will be its increase.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I believe that Manitoba Hydro will be making their official announcement on the matter within less than ten days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to answer some of the questions that were asked of me yesterday.

First from the Honourable Member for Rhineland and his question was: Can the Minister of Health confirm that some 300 doctors have opted out of the medicare plan? There are 1,519 doctors on the Manitoba Health Services Commission registry; 1,300 of the 1,519 regularly submit claims to the MHSC. If all the doctors who have indicated they will opt out do so by May 1, 1976, 304 doctors will have opted out, because as of December 31, 1975, there was 61 doctors opted out and we received 243 letters in January. The next month there will be another three because in February we received three other letters.

Then there was a question from the Member for Assiniboia: I wonder if the Minister can inform the House if the Manitoba Health Commission has arranged for a special home care program by doctors and the medical staff for the people that have been evacuated from the hospitals. And a supplementary: Is it correct that some 700 patients were evacuated from the hospital and 600 more are on the waiting list? On February 4, 1976, there were 1,052 in-patients at the Health Sciences Centre; by February 8th, 413 patients were moved. Of the discharged patients 55 went to Deer Lodge with staff, 16 to Concordia, 9 new born babies were transferred to St. Boniface, and approximately 200 patients who were discharged required no home care at all, and about 150 patients were discharged on the hospital home care program which is a regular program. These figures, of course, vary from day to day and no emergencies are being turned away. The Health Sciences Centre maintains a patient occupancy of approximately 600.

Mr. Speaker, I think that my honourable friend and even the Acting House Leader of the Conservative Party will agree that this is just as humane, as careful, that we've co-operated, as we've shown in all this just as much, my honourable friend will admit, as is being shown in the Conservative province of Ontario in their wholesale closing of beds.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, may I make a non-political, a non-controversial statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? (Agreed) The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

STATEMENT

MR. BARROW: As you all know Flin Flon is famous for Bobby Clarke. Recently we were fortunate enough to host the British Consols and now have another honour. One of our citizens yesterday or today has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor. Monsieur Jobin, commonly known as Bud.

Bud has spent many many years in the political field provincially. He served as a Cabinet Minister; on the local scene as a councillor and for the last two or three years as mayor. And now he's our Lieutenant-Governor. The north will miss Mr. Jobin but we and I hope you will wish him well in his new post. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORAL QUESTIONS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I had intended a question for the Attorney-General but perhaps in his absence I can direct it to the First Minister. Considering the serious implications of the authorization of a wire tap in the Judge Pilutik affair, could the First Minister indicate whether in fact the Attorney-General or his Department authorized any other wire taps on any other persons related to the case and if so authorized were those wire taps in fact used?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge would appreciate the fact that I am not Attorney-General. I am only a farmer's son and I don't know much about all these topics of wiretapping. I'll have to take it as notice.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, if I may direct a supplementary towards the honourable farmer's son, further a barefoot farmer's son. There are further questions in this matter I would like to have him take as notice. That is whether the Attorney-General would then satisfy the House that there were no unauthorized wire taps conducted in this case and that the Attorney-General's Department investigated any possible unauthorized taps, and furthermore whether the Attorney-General would provide information to the House about the number of wire taps that have been authorized in the Province of Manitoba since the timing of the last public report, and further what safeguards . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That last request should be an Order for Return.

MR. AXWORTHY: All right, Mr. Speaker, I'll issue it as an Order for Return. But I have a further question then that perhaps the First Minister could take as notice. That is what safeguards the Attorney-General would provide or give assurance to this House that any information that was collected in the process of this wire tap that relates to other cases in the judicial system would in fact not be used as evidence in those cases.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, we can take the honourable member's question under scrutiny and attempt to provide him that information bearing in mind that he is probing away at the gray zone which I daresay will always remain a gray zone as between the right of privacy and on the other hand the right of those charged with the responsibility of the administration of justice to attempt to obtain relevant information. All of this matter, Sir, has to do with certain problems of excess in urban society and my honourable friend being head of the Urban Institute could perhaps study it as well.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Wellington and the amendment thereto by the Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, as I concluded my remarks last night at 9:30, just before taking of the vote on the second amendment to the Throne Speech and Reply, I had quoted a paragraph from the Cattlemen's Association brief that was sent out to all members of the beef industry in the Province of Manitoba. From that phrase I indicated particularly to the Minister of Agriculture the problems that are going on in the agricultural industry.

I'm merely quoting one example of our dairy industry not only in Canada but in Manitoba today as well and a concern, Mr. Speaker, that dairymen are now having as to just where they are going in that particular industry. I am not going to make any further comments at this time, Mr. Speaker, other than to say that when we deal with the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, I have a number of questions that I will be interested in posing to the Minister and finding out more detail about the policies that he has brought about in the past recent months.

I want to dwell also, Mr. Speaker, for a few moments on one committee which I was not a member of but have heard a great deal about and that is the Land Use Committee. I understand that the Minister has had a number of hearings in Winnipeg, in northern parts of the province and one in the west. While the Minister of Mines and Resources is not here today, I would have found it more interesting had he been able to

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . . be here but he probably is on other duties that are probably important to his department and to his government. They talk about the government getting into the purchase of land and we've been more in concentration on what the Department of Agriculture is doing. But I would like to say to the members of this House that the Department of Mines and Resources is also involved in the purchase of farm lands in the Province of Manitoba.

I know in certain parts of Manitoba the Department of Mines and Resources have purchased quarter sections of land for the purpose of preservation for the wildlife that we have in this province. I know when we get into the Minister of Mines and Resources estimates, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be interested in asking questions and finding out more details as to why and what the purpose, the real purpose of this whole program is. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I've been informed of part of this policy where farmers have been asked to work up some of this land, prepare it for sowing it down to grass, and you know, my experience---(Interjection)--could well be. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is now starting to give me some information as to what this is all about. Perhaps we can pursue it further in later days.

But I'm told, Mr. Speaker, that the instructions have gone out by the departments, and whether it's from the Mines and Resources or whether it's from the Minister of Agriculture, I am still not sure. But they have been where it's possible to work up this land, prepare a good seed bed and reseed it down to grass maybe for deer and as the First Minister says, maybe for prairie chickens, little red hens and what have you. The First Minister is saying that.

But I am given to understand, Mr. Speaker, that this grass seeding program, it's the thing that alarmed me. Normally when you sow down grass, that is if you have a mixture of alfalfa, brome, and maybe red fescue, the rate of seeding is about eight, eight pounds to the acre. But when I was told, Mr. Speaker, that they've been instructed to use 25 pounds of this grass seed per acre I wonder what is going on here. You know my colleague from Sturgeon Creek was talking about robbing from Peter to pay Paul. I'm also now wondering when I heard this story, does McKenzie Seeds fit into this picture. Is the Minister of Agriculture relieving the Minister of Mines and Resources or the Minister of Mines and Resources or the Minister of Industry and Commerce of his embarrassing, burdensome problem in the way of his economic situation insofar as McKenzie Seeds is concerned? Mr. Speaker, they were given instructions, as I am given to understand, to sow three times the amount of grass seed that is normally necessary to provide a good catch of grass for the wildlife preservation or for the purpose of providing our wildlife. Mr. Speaker, this was alarming to me, but I merely want to mention this. Mr. Speaker, whether this is the kind of information the Minister of Agriculture is giving to his colleague from the Mines and Resources Department, I don't know.

But having listened to the Member for Ste. Rose and telling us how difficult it was for him to operate a thousand acre farm, merely to provide support for himself and his wife, it doesn't surprise me that I hear this kind of a story coming from the government side, Mr. Speaker.

I want to go on to one other subject, Mr. Speaker, that not only is a concern to my constituents but I think to many people throughout the province and that is the Mineral Acreage Tax Act.--(Interjection)--The First Minister has asked about the grass at Ste. Rose. I was referring to the fact that the Member for Ste. Rose found it difficult to make a living on 1,000 acres of land for himself and his wife, and I can understand that when I'm pointing out another area of the kind of farm practice that is being applied within the departments of this government. It's no wonder.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention another matter that I find is very important and that is legislation that was brought in by this Government two years ago, namely, The Mineral Acreage Tax Act. Last fall I know the postal strike was on and it was a difficult situation but many farmers, particularly those who are maybe retired or semi-retired, received notices about the fact that they owed this government some money for something that they've had no revenue from: namely that if they owned the mineral rights to their property but were not actually farming their land, they were

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . subject to a tax by this government. They were also told that if they didn't pay that tax the Crown then would forfeit their mineral rights, or I should say maybe, confiscate their mineral rights, Mr. Speaker - I think it's a more appropriate word when I have to refer to this administration.

I want to register a protest once again, Mr. Speaker. Because when I spoke on this matter two years ago I protested very vigorously that where people - it's merely a principle of right - and it's a principle that I'm really talking about now. But just because farmers owned the mineral rights to their property I didn't feel that this gave the government any justification to tax them and they were taxing them 10 cents an acre. I have seen some of the bills as high as \$250 that the very people which are senior citizens and this government profess to be helping, have put maybe a dollar in one pocket and are now maybe taking two out. I am speaking on behalf of ever so many farmers in the Province of Manitoba, that they are unhappy with this government and the procedure they've taken on collecting money because they own the mineral rights to their property.

You know, Mr. Speaker, having mentioned a few of these situations, I have to quote from the newspaper here and it refers to an answer that the First Minister gave to my Leader, the Member for Riel, in regards to an official who was once in Manitoba developing the hydro development of this province. His answer was, and I'm quoting: "Premier Ed Schreyer told Acting Opposition Leader Donald Craik, PC Riel, on Tuesday, he would advise Mr. Cass-Beggs not to return because he is of an age where he shouldn't have to suffer fools any longer." You know, Mr. Speaker, this amazed me. I didn't think that the First Minister would refer to his colleagues on both sides of him as fools. This amazed me, Mr. Speaker. But, you know, I've illustrated a couple of examples of what's going on in the departments of the First Minister's Government and I want to say to him that whether he classifies himself in that situation or not, I don't know, but I want to say to him that he has a responsibility far greater than he is accepting at the present time.

I have one other matter, Mr. Speaker, that I want to bring to the attention. I see the Minister of Highways is not in his seat; he was here a few moments ago. It's an unusual situation, Mr. Speaker, that I've never had the experience before and we're dealing with the highways in the Province of Manitoba. Before I get into this I want to say to the Minister I look forward to working with him and dealing with his Estimates and hopefully that his health will permit him to do just that. I want to say too, Mr. Speaker, that we did miss the presence of the Minister in the last Session while dealing with his Estimates which we found rather difficult when we were not able to relate to the Minister of the department.

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from my constituency on a certain highway which runs north and south from the west side of Rock Lake Constituency. The petition I have here, Mr. Speaker, I want to read and it goes as follows:

"In view of the deteriorated and very hazardous conditions of Highway 258 between Glenboro and Cartwright, we, the undersigned, extensive users of this road, hereby petition the Minister of the Department of Highways to take whatever action is deemed necessary to improve these deplorable conditions."

Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here that I have just read, signed by some 735 people, and I, Mr. Speaker, want to commend the few citizens in my constituency who took a lot of time and a lot of work to get the signatures of this petition. I think it illustrates, Mr. Speaker, very forcefully the kind of condition and the kind of maintenance that has been given to our road system in the Province of Manitoba, particularly in the southern part of the province. I haven't been up into the north in the areas that some of the honourable members represent but the money must be going somewhere, and certainly we're not getting it in the south. You know, after six years the people in the southern part of the province are starting to say, "We're taxpayers as well. When are we going to start to see some of that money?" I think it is rightfully ours as much as any other part of the province.

In connection with this road situation on 258, last May 29th in one of my local papers it was written up about some Americans who came from North Dakota, were going to Rock Lake on a fishing expedition for the weekend. The article reads: "Last Friday

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) . . . . a boat overturned while trying to navigate the choppy gravel sea of No. 258 Provincial Road north of Cartwright. The boat fared not too badly but the boat trailer was extensively damaged. The towing vehicle didn't upset but was turned completely around. We don't know where the boat intended to put into port but if it was going to continue north it would have faced rough going for 25 miles or so. A number of people here figure it did well to stay right side up for the three miles or so on No. 258."

I wanted to indicate too, Mr. Speaker, that this petition has - the majority of the signatures are from the constituency but it also has a number of signatures of people from Winnipeg, from Brandon, from Gillam, Manitoba, and also a few from North Dakota who feel as concerned about the road system as the local people do. I want to say on Provincial Road 258, we can talk about that highway that runs right from the Gulf of Mexico and comes north through Cartwright and north and goes right on up to Flin Flon, and that is the only area, with the exception of five miles from Glenboro to Cartwright, that is not hard surfaced. I'm hoping sincerely that the Minister will give some consideration to this part of the road system in my area.

Mr. Speaker, I merely want to say and mention that there's a number of other matters that concern me, not only from my own area, but for the people of the Province of Manitoba. Hydro development is one of real concern and as my Leader made mention of it, I think in a way that I don't think it has to be repeated. I believe the people have got the message as far as our party is concerned and they are very concerned as to just what is happening in Manitoba Hydro because of the increased costs that are being placed upon the users.

There are other matters that we will want to deal with Mr. Speaker, but I think as the estimates come before us, I think that is a more effective - and now that the rules have been changed, we are able to deal with many problems in the various departments in a more effective manner. So with those few words Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to make my contribution to the Throne Speech Debate at this time, and while something is fresh in my mind I would like to say I was somewhat surprised at the vote last night. I am sure that distinguished lady that's engaged in Ottawa at the Convention, Flora McDonald, will be shocked to have learned that the party to my right have voted against such things as financial assistance to municipalities and such things as the housing crisis, and I'm surprised that the party to my right should vote against that. Now they may have some reasons, I don't know, but I don't feel - and they may have an opportunity to perhaps form the government in some years ahead. But I don't feel they can form the government with the kind of approach they are taking in the House at the present time with socialism, scare tactics and so on. Because it has been tried by the former Premier, Walter Weir, and it did not work. I think what they need is to present alternative programs, to present and tell the House where they can eliminate the waste that this government is wasting. I think that is a much better approach than the approach they have taken last night.

In fact, I would be surprised that their real Leader, Mr. Lyon, would accept what they did last night. Did he not say in the acceptance speech of his nomination that the people didn't come from Europe, from other parts of the world to this country to live in rented houses, to live in government apartments, and here I find that the party here they vote against the housing proposals.

They also talked about many other things and I'm sure that it would not be acceptable to him and I'm quite certain that he probably did not advise the party to vote in that way. There must have been other reasons and the reasons of course were because there was an amendment to the motion amendment. In my opinion, I myself, would feel much more comfortable in a political party that is not locked into an extreme of the political spectrum, not locked into an extreme right or extreme left. Because when a party is locked into extreme right its blind adherence to the free enterprise system preserves much and changes little, changes little, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes what we talk about as free enterprise for one is a slave enterprise for somebody else. On the other hand I would

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . reject with vigor the pre-set structures of ready-made answers of an extreme left government. I would take the middle approach borrowing from the spectrum of political experience and finding solutions and answers to the social malaise. I think it is a much better approach than getting locked into extreme positions, Mr. Speaker. Now in my opinion what happened yesterday was callous disregard for the real issues that are before us in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I would at this time like to say that I regret very much that the Member for Souris-Killarney is not in his seat. I certainly enjoyed his time in the House and I miss him. I hope that he will regain his health and be with us very soon. He certainly enjoys a fight and he can give it and take it and at the same time he certainly enjoys a little bit of humour and I think this is the way to approach the problems and I hope that he is back soon.

Mr. Speaker, when one takes part in the Throne Speech Debate it's usually customary to pay respects to you as the guardian and protector of the rules of this House. I again would like to extend my good wishes to you in this high office for this coming Session. I also wish to congratulate the Mover and Seconder of the Speech in Reply. I listened very closely and I certainly enjoyed the remarks of the Member for Churchill. I believe that he was able to communicate to this House - he certainly had the attention of all members - the problems that he's confronted with in his constituency with the native people in these areas. Not only was he able to communicate but I think he did a good job in presenting the problems to the House.

I also wish to congratulate the two new members, the Member for Wolseley and the Member for Crescentwood. I know that both of them have had experience in municipal office and I'm sure that they can make contributions to this House and worthwhile contributions.

Perhaps at this time I wish to also just pass some mild compliments to some of the Ministers that make themselves available when the Session is not on when MLAs have problems and they're reached, because some are reached much more easily than the others. So, Mr. Speaker, having observed these pleasantries I wish to come and deal with the Speech that is before us.

When one examines the document very closely there is not too much to cheer about. The Speech is more deficient (sic) for what it omits than what it says. Because in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, I believe that inflation and cost of living is probably the biggest issue that is before us. Yet the government has not outlined in the document how it will deal with these problems. There is some qualified support for the price and wage control guidelines but still the government has no program of its own. I think inflation is a problem for many people living on fixed incomes, low incomes, on pensioners, unorganized workers, and I know there is no simple answer as far as inflation goes. Because, Mr. Speaker, I am told that over half of our inflation and costs are higher world prices on the goods that we have to import. But still I feel that there must have been some areas that the government can present legislation and come to grips.

I will not excuse as well, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government for their lack of leadership in this area. I wonder if the medicine that has been proposed in October is too late. I know I listened to the Member for Logan the other day where he blamed everything on the Federal Government. But does he not remember that his Premier, his Leader has been advocating some price and wage controls as far back as 1970. Perhaps maybe he should get together with him once in a while and discuss these things. That's a fact.

I'm not so certain that the Prime Minister himself - maybe he listened to the Premier in this House when he did move on the price controls and wage controls and profit controls. So I'm not so sure that I agree with everything that the Member from Logan had to say. I wish he would communicate a little more with his own Premier.

I believe some measures were required. Perhaps the Premier of this Province was right three years ago and four years ago that something had to be done. Because, Mr. Speaker, if we review some facts and statistics, in 1973 the wage settlements in this country increased at some nine percent more than the previous year. In 1975 wage settlements leap-frogged to 20 percent. Well one would ask, how long can this pattern

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . continue?--(Interjection)--Well probably the same way, somewhere in-between in those statistics. The consumer price index, Mr. Speaker, 1973 increased at the rate of seven percent, in 1975 it accelerated to 11 percent.

So what is more interesting, Mr. Speaker, is the effect inflation is having on the growth of our economy and our position as a trader. Can we export or are we pricing ourselves out of the market? Now I believe the growth and prosperity that we have enjoyed for many years, Mr. Speaker, may be disappearing. Because in 1973 our GNP expanded at the rate of 6 percent, 6.9. In the second quarter of 1975 the GNP dropped to one percent and ended the year with zero growth, Mr. Speaker. So in 1973 we had no trade deficit. In 1975 our trade deficit is in the billions, Mr. Speaker. So I cannot accept the total remarks of the Member from Logan because he doesn't seem to understand. I hope that he would take a lesson from the Premier when the Premier did talk about some controls a few years ago.

Now I believe we are pricing ourselves out of the competition and running the risk of massive unemployment, Mr. Speaker. I can illustrate you one example and that example is I had an opportunity to discuss this matter with a contractor just recently. He said he was talking about an overhead door that's manufactured right here in the city and an overhead door that he imports from the United States. He said the price of the Canadian door last year was \$205, for a Canadian manufactured door, and \$195 for one that was imported from the United States. He says now this year the one that's imported for about \$205, the Canadians manufacture it right here for \$285 and he says the one that is manufactured in the States and imported is probably better made. Which one are you going to buy? Naturally the consumer is going to buy the one that is approximately \$90 cheaper, and that's the fact, Mr. Speaker. So we can't continue at the rate we are going. Not only the example I used, Mr. Speaker, multiply that into every sector of our economic field.

Unemployment. We had unemployment in 1973 somewhere in the area of five percent and at the present time it is seven percent, a little higher than seven percent. Even in the Province of Manitoba this has increased now to five percent and over on the new formula that is used. I don't know if the formula is acceptable to the First Minister or the government here or not but what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, the indication is quite well proven to everybody that we are pricing ourselves - and I'm not blaming everything on the labour, Mr. Speaker, because I believe these were some of the considerations that the government had to act, had to act to bring in some measures and some controls. In my opinion I think they were brought in a little late, Mr. Speaker, so I do not excuse the Federal Government from lack of leadership in this area as well.

I think the Anti-Inflation Board, Mr. Speaker, should deal not only with wage and salary restraints, I believe it should deal with price and consumer goods; it should deal with profits and should deal equitably with each group, Mr. Speaker. I also do not accept when I hear one of the Ministers in the Federal Government running around and saying that we have over-production of milk when in many areas of this country you can't put the milk on the table for many families. I think this is wrong, Mr. Speaker. I will not go into that area but I think it is completely wrong to say that we've over-produced, the prices may drop.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Government I believe should have addressed itself to one of the major problems facing the province, the economic problem. I believe there should be a clear statement of how the government intends to fight inflation and help bring it under control. Certainly we did not have this outlined in the document that is before us. I think there must be restraints in government spending with clear determination to limit the growth of the Civil Service. The government did not tell us if they're going to limit it to one percent, two percent or three percent. I understand that some other provinces have limited it to one percent or to zero percent. I understand that the Federal Government has limited to one percent. If we look at the new report that was just tabled - I haven't had a chance to look through it - but we have 21,000 civil servants in this Province. That's total. In all Crown corporations and everything. That's what there is and that is a pretty large proportion of our labour force, Mr. Speaker. So what is the . . . .

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MR. SCHREYER: Would you permit a question?

MR. PATRICK: Sure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Honourable Member for Assiniboia if he accepts or wishes to check out further the following statement: that in terms of civil servants per thousand population which is the only way to measure it across Canada, that Manitoba has the third lowest ratio of civil servants per thousand population and that in terms of government spending per capita - per capita again the only fair way - that Manitoba has the second lowest government spending ratio per capita. Does my honourable friend accept that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, before I accept that I would like to know the source of that statistic.

MR. SCHREYER: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue 7-0027.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, if that is a correct statement I'll accept it. But I would still like to know what is the restraint this year for the coming year, for 1976. Is there any restraint as far as the growth of the Civil Service? Because we've never heard from any of the speakers; we've never heard anything in the document, Mr. Speaker. But I'm sure that every department can find places to cut expenses; every department can probably do away with some programs. But I'll be the first one to say don't close the hospitals; don't cut out the programs that would put a burden and hardship on many people, some of the senior citizens. I would not like to see programs like that cut. But on the other hand I'm sure there are programs in some Ministers' departments that they can cut.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps there are some good points in the Throne Speech. The Throne Speech makes reference to the review of The Labour Relations Act. I accept that and the whole point of this review is to establish some machinery which will avoid industrial strife and strikes and I feel that the government should have acted on the Woods Committee report, because it certainly makes some good recommendations as far as the public service is concerned. Also some of the recommendations could work in the private sectors as well. There is many areas - such things as giving some power to the conciliation officers. They should have some power to get the two parties at dispute to the negotiation table early and to continue to negotiate when the dispute breaks off. They haven't got that power at the present time. Such things as a skeleton staff or minimum services as far as the public services are concerned. Some of these areas you will have to try some different methods because I am not prepared to say at this time that I would be against collective bargaining. I am not - because I don't believe it will work.

But I think we will have to try and make the present work better. It was indicated to the House already we have the distinguished record of having the highest man hours lost through strikes, second in the western world, second to Italy. Certainly for a developing country, for a developing country, for a developing country like Canada, young country, this is certainly a poor record, Mr. Speaker. If this is the problem that we have with productivity, which has been indicated, that is somewhat 15 to 20 percent below that in many industries in the United States. And I think it's the responsibility also of labour to try and come to some solutions in this area and to offer solutions and suggestions instead of having sheer opposition, Mr. Speaker.

We have made a series of suggestions designed to bring about improved labour relations, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that some of these suggestions will be adopted. They have not been adopted to the present time, and I know the First Minister and the Government knows that they've had the report before them for a couple of years. I still believe in collective bargaining and I think that we have just to improve the system, Mr. Speaker.

The other point I wish to make at this time, that one of the major issues, I believe that we have as many strikes and disagreements because I believe that the major issues, which we must address ourselves to at the present time, is the relationship between governments and citizens. I think that we are living in a society of bigness, big government, big business and big unions, and I'm not against that because big government has created a welfare state, a state that has given us some social measures that we should be

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . proud of. On the other hand the big business has also given us prosperity and at the same time the big unions have perhaps given us better working conditions, Mr. Speaker. But citizens are becoming frustrated as our institutions seem incapable of any response to the citizens, and I'm sure that's true, because that's what the Member for Churchill indicated and I believe he's correct.

Another point that I would like to make at the present time, Mr. Speaker, is what's happening in the business community of this province and city. It seems to me that the small businessman is disappearing. And the other day I posed a few questions in regard to the supermarket and concentration of trade and I did not get satisfactory answers from the Minister of Consumer Affairs, but I feel that there should be a program available to extend credit to small businesses, which in my opinion employ over 75 percent of the people in this province.

The other one is, this type of program, Mr. Speaker, would represent a valid use of the MDC or some similar institution, which I don't believe has been used at the present time for small business. I believe that the jobs could be maintained and created in higher proportions when dollars are expended on small businesses instead of large projects that we have had in the last few years.

I also wish to, Mr. Speaker, in a small way to compliment the government action of some Ministers, the actions that they have taken and made a start for government decentralization of this province, because I feel that it is easier to have contact with the citizens, and I feel that this should be continued and expanded. I'm told that in the United States there's only 12 percent of the federal public servants around the capital, the national capital, only 12 percent, while in Canada there's only 12 percent outside the national capital in Ottawa. And I think that force should be brought to bear on the Federal Government to decentralize where certain offices would be closer to the citizens and I'm sure that this would help, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: I wonder if I may interrupt the honourable member for a moment, and I apologize, but in the loge to my right we have the Honourable Dennis Timbrel, Minister of Energy for Ontario as a guest. On behalf of the honourable members I welcome you here this morning.

The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

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MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, I believe, also has omitted any mention of financial assistance to municipalities and school divisions to meet the sharply increased costs of their operation, and in my opinion, facing municipalities to place the school costs on the property owner. I've talked about this last year and the year before and it seems to me that the government is not listening to this side, and surely they have to be cognizant of the fact that this is happening. The City of Winnipeg is having an \$18 million deficit and I could tell the Minister of Urban Affairs, I don't need any statistics, but all I have to do is look at my own tax bill which only five years ago was less than half, 50 percent of what it is today or what it was last year in 1975, and I'm scared what it will be in 1976, Mr. Speaker. So certainly the concept of equal opportunity that the government talks about in education does not exist, Mr. Speaker. What happens to the less fortunate municipalities and the school divisions with not very high assessments, what happens to them? Can they offer the same equal opportunity in education as the ones that have more assessment? Certainly not, Mr. Speaker, so as far as I'm concerned the property owner suffers and education suffers in these areas.

Now the Minister has not answered in this House as yet, and I hope he will, as far as lack of interest by this government in respect to the increased costs in operations of education in municipalities, because certainly the Foundation Grant that covered at one time 80 percent of the school costs is now down to approximately, or a little over 50

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(MR. PATRICK cont'd) . . . . percent. I hope that the Minister will have some answers, Mr. Speaker, in this area.

Mr. Speaker, the other area, the housing - I know that there's a program laid out in the Throne Speech about housing, and I know that my colleague has talked about that so I will not dwell on that, but in my opinion there is a program as far as the Federal Government is concerned in housing through the AHOP Program. I know that the members on this side keep talking about reducing the interest rate, the interest right now can be reduced to eight percent for people earning up to \$12,000 and higher, 14,000 a year. It's a very attractive program, for the interest is subsidized - anyone buying a home, making a salary up to \$15,000, the interest will be subsidized and reduced to eight percent. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, the housing shortage has been created by shortage of land, by shortage of lots, serviced lots, and I do not feel the present attitude of the government to buy land for long term land banking for 25 years from now, I don't think it's the solution. I think if the Minister would have put 1,000 or 2,000 lots on the market, serviced lots, he would have solved the housing problem very quickly.--(Interjection)--Well, there is land around the city, Mr. Speaker, you have to install services, Mr. Minister, that has to happen.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are some good points in the Throne Speech, such as housing, industrial safety, changes in the labour legislation, and I'll wait with anticipation to see what the legislation is. There's also - the Minister talked about rent control, which was presented by my colleagues some time ago and asked for, and again we'll wait to see what kind of program that will be, Mr. Speaker.

The other point I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of Health and Social Development - he's not in this House - but there's a great concern expressed by many people and has been expressed to me, over child abuse, Mr. Speaker. There are many children arriving at the Health Sciences Centre with bruises and fractures which reveal child abuse. And, Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated that at least five to six children die each year of child abuse, so it is a serious matter, and at the present time I'm told that there are not proper facilities and proper staff to deal with this problem. I would like to know what happens if there is definite proof, what steps are taken, how are diagnoses made, Mr. Speaker. We don't know these questions. Is there a report made? Are these things being repeated? Is it repeated a second time, a third time, by the parents? And at the present time there is no such statistics, there is no such report. I hope that the Minister will check this, because this is certainly an important matter, and I would like to know what kind of preventative measures there is built in to see that those things do not repeat themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, these are a few of the points that I wanted to bring to the attention of the Ministers and to the House and I will await with anticipation the legislation that will be presented.

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

HON. IAN TURNBULL (Minister of Consumer, Corporate and Internal Services) (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I enter the Throne Speech Debate. I have so far in this debate missed the contributions of some members from the Conservative Party, and therefore I thought that some well chosen remarks by me now would give them the stimulus to get up and address the House.

Sir, I want in these opening remarks to say that it is a pleasure to see you there in the Speaker's Chair once again. I look forward to the informal gatherings that you organize for the members of this Legislature, in particular, Sir, the Speaker's reception which I have always enjoyed in the near seven years I've been here now, and the luncheons that you organize for members as the Session progresses. These are very pleasant and they serve a very very useful function. They enable members of all political affiliation to meet in an informal and social way with their opposition and get to know one another, and that is always a useful function because I've always believed that personal contact is more important than ideology, more important than programs, more important than anything else.

The speakers that we have heard so far in this Session from our own side, the Member for Wellington, the Member for Churchill, I think delivered very good speeches representing well the backgrounds that they have, and I enjoyed their presentations as well.

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . Members opposite, too, particularly the two new members, have given birth to speeches of really quite contrasting style. I heard the speech of the Member for Crescentwood and thought it was well done, he made a couple of good points. Unfortunately I did not hear the speech of the Member for Wolseley. I can't say I read his speech - I looked at it, I found it impossible to read, but it might have been a good speech for a new member. I did notice in the Member for Wolseley's speech though that there were several references to my department as he is the Consumer Affairs critic for the Conservative Party, and one of these references in his speech was to the fact that perhaps I never consulted anybody about what my department was doing. I thought it was ironic and perhaps indicative of the kind of study, the kind of research that he puts into his speeches, that while he was here on Tuesday night last delivering himself of this remark about me, I was at the International Inn speaking to a group of businessmen about legislation that is proposed, not this Session, but is proposed I hope for some years in the future, perhaps next Session or the one after that. But it is my intention, and has always been, to maintain an open door and to consult with people who would have the impact of legislation proposed by my department; and I want to say that if the Member for Wolseley does his homework, perhaps he will not deliver himself of such erroneous remarks in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is, I think as all members recognize, a matter of regret that we do not have this Session so far one of the members of the Conservative Party, namely, the Member for Souris-Killarney. He of course has delivered himself here in this House of very fine aggressive, energetic speeches, and I've always - although I never agree with him of course - always enjoyed those speeches and I do wish that he would quickly recover and come back into the Legislature here so that we can all enjoy both his company and his personality, and of course his thoughts on legislation on what this government is doing.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech debate has been rather interesting this year because it has led to the articulation, the enunciation of what I thought we were always gathered here to do, namely, to dissect policies of this government and to present clearly to the people of Manitoba the alternate choices that they have when they go to the polls. Certainly I have tried in the past to be very clear about my conscience and what the reasons are for my being a member of this Party and for supporting the kinds of legislation, the kinds of programs that we have introduced. And if that hasn't been going on here all these years, I don't know what the members are being paid for, because clearly that is the process of a representative democracy, to make clear in an either/or kind of situation what the choices are for the electorate. But this Session, I gather, the Conservatives are getting on their feet and saying, "We want to differentiate ourselves from the New Democratic Party Government." Well, that's marvellous - if you haven't been doing that in the past then, as I say, you shouldn't have been receiving your pay.

Mr. Speaker, I have always felt that this Party has been clearly rooted in its conscience, in its belief that there are certain programs that must be introduced to alleviate the problems that some people in the community experience. Our social conscience I do believe is consistent with the principles that we have about government, and so we believe that where old age pensioners are suffering from the fires of inflation, that we should do something to alleviate that - and consistent with the belief, with the conscience, with the compassion, goes the programs that we have introduced.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my practice to canvas in my riding, to go door to door, literally, between elections, in order to get the views of the ordinary man; to tap the grass roots; to find out what the ordinary person in my constituency is thinking, what they believe - and believe me, Mr. Speaker, I think it's paid off. I think that I do have a very clear understanding of what it is that my constituents want. And I can tell you that as recently as last Monday, pensioners in my area were telling me: thankfully the New Democratic Party Government has introduced a Pharmacare Program; it has introduced a medical care program that has resulted in the reduction of medical care premiums which the previous Conservative Government imposed on them. And there have been other programs such as senior citizens' housing which have been put up in this city. And these programs, Sir, have resulted in a larger government, there is no question about that. You

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . . have to have a larger government in order to administer a greater range of programs but I tell you that the conscience of this party and the principles under which it acts are consistent and we act on the basis of conscience and principle.

Now what about the people sitting across the aisle from me. How do they operate? How do they operate? I listened to the grass roots; I tapped the grass roots and I say to you that now in Manitoba people went rent control. There is no question about it. It is the program that perhaps has the greatest support of any program that this government might introduce.--(Interjection)--I'll deal with that in a minute. The fact is that the conscience of our party will clearly talk to us and lead us to rent control and we will introduce rent control. Now the members of the Conservative Party, they seem to think that that's somehow political and "political" in their mind, I gather, is a bad word. One shouldn't do things for political reasons. Well that's utter nonsense, Mr. Speaker. That's what they're here for, that's what they're paid for, to go out to their constituencies to listen to the grass roots, to act on the basis of conscience and to introduce legislation which will alleviate the problems and I might say in some cases the sufferings of the people in their areas. But do they do that? No, Sir, they certainly do not. They want to write off the grass roots; they want to write off their conscience. I don't even think they have a conscience. My conscience talks to me, Mr. Speaker, and I act on it. When the Conservatives listen, I don't think they hear their conscience. What they hear is money, they hear the sound of money. For them it's not their conscience speaking but money talking. I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that is why so far in this debate we have not heard the Conservative members standing on their feet and saying, yes, in conscience the government should introduce rent control legislation and we will support it as they supported it in other provinces in this country. They can't act on the basis of the grass roots simply because they do the bidding of the influential, they do the bidding of the wealthy, they do what Simon says as the Minister of Mines indicated to us last Session. And the Conservative Party hasn't changed, it's changed its leaders but it certainly hasn't got to the point where it will do what it should do in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people. It is still acting on the basis of what the power brokers in its party tell them, what the monied people in the province tell them to do. That is the basis on which they will act. Otherwise they would support rent control and they would get up in this House and tell us that they support it.

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that our party acts on the basis of conscience and principle and the two are consistent, the two go hand in hand. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite in the Conservative Party they have a principle, too.--(Interjection)-- Now the Member for St. Vital asks me, "They do? They do have a principle?" Well I want to tell him that they do have a principle. It isn't the principles of the great Conservative tradition in this country; it isn't the principles of John A. Macdonald, you know; it isn't the principles of a national policy and I mean a national policy for the whole country; it isn't the principle of large governments; it isn't the principle of progressivism; it isn't the principle of anything but this one idea. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this is the distillation of listening to these fellows opposite in the Conservative Party for seven years. If you go back in memory, Sir, you will see that the principle on which they normally act is the principle of small government - the less government the better in their mind. That is the only principle. There is no other. There is no action on the basis of conscience, only the action on the basis of the less government the better. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, they oppose the government getting into a medical care premium plan because that could mean larger government; they oppose the government getting into a pharmacare program because that would mean more government; they oppose the government getting into car insurance because that would mean more government; they oppose even, Mr. Speaker - remember this, you know, this is what I mean when they say they don't listen to the grass roots - they opposed even the introduction of a property tax credit plan, a plan which would reduce taxes for property owners and they voted against it; a plan, too, that would have reduced rents in effect for renters and they voted against it. Why? The grass roots want a reduction in taxes, there's no question about that. Why wouldn't they vote for it? I tell

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . . you it's because of this principle that they have, it has to be a principle, I suppose, the principle of small government. I don't blame them for having that principle, I think it's a valid one. I think it's one they should act on. I think if they acted on it consistently that then they would make some gains with the electorate in this province. But do they act on the basis of this principle? When it comes to rent control - no - with one exception which I'll get to. They won't oppose rent control in this Throne Speech. They don't come out strong and say, no, we're not going to support rent control. Not them. Why not, Mr. Speaker? Why won't they oppose rent control? Why won't they stand up now and say we oppose rent control I ask you because I don't know. If they were consistent with the principle of small government they would do so because clearly rent control is going to mean larger government. No question about it, no question about it. I would like them in this Throne Speech Debate to get up and tell the people of Manitoba where they stand on rent controls - for or against. Because it's not very clear where they are. It's not very clear where they are.

Mr. Speaker, I guess he's a leader - that representative leader of the Conservative Party will not act on the basis of conscience and declare outright that he supports rent control. He will not act on the basis of principle and declare outright that he is opposed to rent control, they will only act on the basis of expediency, that is all. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that expediency is no leadership at all, and they should realize that in not making a position clear they have not really been fair to the people of the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, if you go through some of the press reports of what's been going on in this Legislature, you see that this party over here really is in a state of utter confusion. If you look at the press reports you will see that their newly elected Leader - and some have said he's the best leader money can buy - and that may be, I have no idea - that man is saying that they will wait and see when the bill is introduced on rent control and when the bill is introduced then they will decide. Well I ask you, is that acting on the basis of conscience? Is that acting on the basis of the grass roots? Is waiting and seeing - is that really, Mr. Speaker, what leadership is all about? Is it acting on the basis of principle, the principle of small government - waiting and seeing when the bill will come in. This is not an issue that you wait and see about. You either act on the basis of conscience or you act on the basis of your principle, one or the other. We are being consistent, we are acting on the basis of conscience and principle and the bill will be in here. But what about you? Where are you? In a state of utter confusion? Your leader should really take a leaf out of the book of our Leader. Our Leader, our Leader, Sir, has on a number of issues such as wage and price control stated quite clearly that in conscience something has to be done about inflation and on principle he is willing to go along with it and he's taken on literally the people in the community who are opposed to wage and price control. He did it straightforwardly; he did it with conviction; he did it with conscience and compassion and he did it in a principled way. I say to you that that is a vast contrast to what we have opposite here, the newly elected Leader of the Conservative Party who has not stated clearly whether he supports rent control or whether he's opposed to it and he should.

Mr. Speaker, as further indication of the confusion in this party across the way, let us take the remarks of another member, the Member for Sturgeon Creek. Now here's a man, Mr. Speaker, who, although I don't agree with his principles, I gather has stated without equivocation that he is opposed to rent controls, that he in his remarks attacks rent controls. Now I think that is a fair reflection. Members opposite aren't indicating that that is not correct so I assume that in fact they made a good strong pitch for no rent controls. He's acting on principle. Why don't the rest of them do that because I think they owe it to the people of Manitoba and certainly if they want to get elected in more numbers than they are now, they'd better start acting on the basis of conscience and principle and quit acting on the basis of expediency.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is another person over there who, not during the Throne Speech Debate but before that indicated, you know, a rather peculiar position I thought for him. That is their House Leader, the Member for Morris. The press was doing some time ago a survey of what was going to happen during the session and I must admit

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(MR. TURNBULL cont'd) . . . . . the press are getting awfully good. I don't know if members opposite realize just how good they're getting but they dig out information and they hustle around this building like - well I can't believe it frankly - and they're getting together information about everything. One of these people got together an article on what was going to go on in the session and it was rather interesting because there was a statement that there would be rent controls. Frankly I thought that was a controversial piece of legislation and certainly, you know, if it had been introduced at any other time, I think it would have been pretty clear which position the Conservative Party would have taken on it. But here we have their House Leader, a man of many many years' experience in elected legislative assemblies saying that even though there was going to be rent control there would be nothing controversial happen during the session, it would be a quiet session, I believe that was the sentiment of his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, we have their newly elected leader saying we'll wait and see on rent control. That I believe to be a crass, political opportunist position. We have the Member for Sturgeon Creek attacking it and we have the House Leader saying that it doesn't matter, it's, I gather, not controversial. Mr. Speaker, that has got to be the most confused position that the Conservative Party has ever put forward in such a blatant way. Now I have believed in the past that they have been pretty confused but it's been, you know, they've covered it up pretty well. But now it's out in the open; it's clear; it's in the press that they don't know where they're going to go on this bill even though it's been a part of our program, announced as part of our program since last fall.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the Member for Inkster when he was speaking kept talking about the PCP Party. I guess that means something else in my mind than it means in his mind because with all the confusion going over there on that side of the House, really I think what PCP has to mean is a "progressively confused party" because that's what I see through the development of this debate on the Throne Speech. Come out and state clearly where you are.

Mr. Speaker, there is another bill that will be introduced in this session of the House which again I thought would have been, you know, rather a significant measure. It's a measure to tighten up the effectiveness of The Trade Practices Inquiry Act. That Act was used first in August of 1973, about a month after I became Minister. We used it in an attempt to get the bread companies to hold down their announced rate of increase in the price of bread and we have reason to believe it worked. But it was pretty obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the bill lacked a certain, well lacked teeth.

We are now going to bring in legislation to this very old statute which will enable us, in effect, to freeze prices. Well where do you stand on that across the way there? You know, in conscience can you say that we should do this or on principle are you opposed to it? Where are you because your new Leader has not really given me any indication whether he's going to support that bill, whether he's going to wait and see what the bill has to say or whether we can expect support or lack of support on it, on price freezes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Member for Rock Lake about the bill and I think that is he doesn't know by now he either hasn't been reading the papers or he can't read. Because, as I say, the media has done a very good job and they've extracted just about every possible detail there is on that bill because it is, of course, rather a small amendment to an already existing statute.

Mr. Speaker, you know, I can only be amused by the members opposite. I think they realize that and I wish their armchair admiral, the Leader, was here. He normally sits in the loges and I can look him right in the eye when I stand up although sometimes I have to stand on my tiptoes because he's so short, he's down below the railing over there. But I wish he was here because I want to propose to him a way that he can get around his problems. He has a very great disability, you know. The greatest disability is that he is not in the Legislature. Because if he was in the Legislature I don't think perhaps we would have this lack of statement on the rent control bill. We would have instead presumably a straightforward accounting to the people of Manitoba what the Conservative Party would do on rent control.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(MR. TURNBULL cont'd)

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite have in the House someone who, as I said earlier, made a speech that I found very difficult to understand because of the confused way in which it was presented. That was the Member for Wolseley. I have to refer to his speech, Mr. Speaker, because although I couldn't find it in the Hansard I did notice in one of the daily newspapers, the Tribune, that he said, the Member for Wolseley said that I, as the Minister for Consumer Affairs responsible for the introduction of rent control, had made a deal. Mr. Speaker, if the Member from Wolseley think that or if the Conservative Party caucused that, if they caucused that and he made that speech then I say to you not only do they suffer from a lack of conscience, not only do they suffer from a lack of principle, not only do they suffer from crass, political opportunism but they suffer the disability of a liar. Because, Mr. Speaker, when that bill on rent control is introduced the Member for Wolseley will be proven to be a liar because if he thinks that the rent control bill will set a date of October 14th as the period back to which rents will be rolled, then he will be wrong. His allegation, unfounded, that a deal has been made, clearly will put him in the position of having fabricated the truth.

So I suggest to the Conservative Party, that rather than suffer the disability of a liability of this liar from Wolseley, that what they should do is ask the Member for Wolseley to resign and that would vacate a seat for their new Leader, and their new Leader I'm sure could get elected in Wolseley. Well, he may not get elected in Wolseley because as you recall, Mr. Speaker, last night the Minister of Education did give us some election statistics on Wolseley, and we find that even the past Leader of the Conservative Party in Wolseley got a very small percent of the total number of electors, in the neighbourhood of 20-25 percent, and if that is the percent that the Conservative Party gets in Wolseley, then maybe their new Leader might have trouble in Wolseley.

But the solution to their problem, the solution to their lack of clear statements on principle on rent control, is to get their new Leader into the House - and the best way to do that is for the Member for Wolseley to get out of here, have the new Leader get elected in Wolseley and then we will have it clearly before us where they stand. Because I want to know where they stand, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to wait until the rent control bill is introduced to see what the Conservative Party is going to do, as their new Leader suggests, I'd like to know now, that's what a Throne Speech debate is all about.

You know, the government's program is put forward in principle, and you should stand up and talk about it on principle rather than this blackbird socialism that the Member for Rock Lake so often likes to get involved in - that sort of statement on principle from the Conservative Party. Because I tell you, Mr. Speaker, if their conscience is only the sound of money talking to them; if their principles are the principles of expediency only, then I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they are in serious trouble; that they will be in even more trouble come the next election, Mr. Speaker; and I think that if they can't be straight with us, they can't be straight with the people of Manitoba, and if you can't be straight in politics, you are through.

## THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I just want to make a few comments for a few minutes on the Throne Speech. Before doing so I, as I have done before - and as has been done in this House traditionally over a period of the years that I have been in the House - offered the usual pleasantries, shall I say, to the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, to the mover and seconder, and to members that have newly come into the House. I think that this has been consistent with all members, or practically all members, Mr. Speaker, in all the years that I have been here and through the many Sessions I have been through - not quite as many, I don't think, as the Honourable Minister of Labour. I think he mentioned about 28 Sessions the other day that he has been through - you can tell by the look of him he has been through something anyway - but I believe about 28 he indicated. However, there have been some exceptions. I'm sorry that the Member for St. Boniface is not in his seat today because he has been the one exception, Mr. Speaker, who for some reason or other has waived constantly in the years that he spoke on the Throne Speech from this side of the House; he has waived the pleasantries of congratulating you, Sir, or your Chair, and the others that I have mentioned, because in his opinion he had more important things to bring before the Legislative Assembly. And it is so apparent, Mr. Speaker, that since he abandoned the derelictship of the Liberal Party to swim across, or however he got across into the socialist - no, that's a bad word "socialist" - into the camp of the ND's, or is it the NDP's, I'm not sure now. After the debate between . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. WATT: . . . the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and my colleague the Member for Lakeside, I'm not sure now what socialism is, so we'll just talk about the ND's. Anyway, I want to say that the Member for St. Boniface has been conspicuously quiet on the Throne Speech since he moved into that seat, since he was elevated to that lower side of the House as it stands now, on the front bench, and for some reason or other he doesn't seem to find anything important to say as Minister of Health and of Lotteries. --(Interjection)-- That's right. However, Mr. Speaker, I think it is something that adds to the decorum of the House when speaking on the Throne Speech - which there has been an absence of since the Throne Speech debate began - I think it does add to the decorum of the House to make a few comments in this direction. So now, I want to congratulate you, Sir, and I wish you well, you and your Deputy Speaker, who unfortunately is not in his chair at the moment. But I do wish you well. I do want to say to the Deputy Speaker, while I certainly agree with the way that he has conducted the chair that I one time sat in, there is one thing that I do not quite agree with him on and that is that he consistently stays with Beauschene, I believe it is, that is, the parliamentary rules that were set down by the House of Commons in Britain and the Federal House of Commons. When I was in that chair I felt, you know, I should be using the House rules that we ourselves in Manitoba had established - and when that didn't work why I simply made my own rules, as my Honourable Friend will recall, and I had no complaints from the Opposition at that time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish also to congratulate the mover and seconder, I think they did a good job under the circumstance. I think that I also share their disappointment - I think they both were capable of moving something a little more than the weightless Speech from the Throne that they had to move, I'm sure they are both capable of moving something of a little more substance. And this is evident, Mr. Speaker, of the lack of substance in the Throne Speech, because it has been evident throughout this debate that nobody seems to be referring to the Throne Speech. The debate has developed and was started on that side and is simply an exchange of political positions of who was a socialist and what was a socialist, and who was a free enterpriser and what was a free enterpriser, until there has been nothing come out of the confusion and simply a political debate. (I hope my honourable friend comes back to his seat because I may have a few words for him before I am finished.)

I would like to say to the mover that I have a great deal of respect for the mover, he and I have had a very friendly relationship through the years that we have

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . been in the House together. I think there was only one time we were at variance momentarily when I sat in that seat down there, and I believe at that time, as I recall, the Honourable Member for Wellington was speaking on pollution. At that time, you know, I had to listen to all that the Opposition members had to say, so I didn't do too much sleeping at that time in the House. I had to keep awake and listen to what they were saying, and tried to keep them directed in the right direction as according to our rules and the rules I had made myself. Of course my honourable member is agreeing with me - we don't often agree, but he is agreeing with me now. But the Member for Wellington at that time was speaking on pollution, and it seemed to me that he had wandered somewhat afield because it was pollution in Manitoba that we were speaking about, and he had wandered across the Atlantic Ocean past the Rock of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, and from some time he dwelt around, swimming around in the Mediterranean, and I thought it was about time that I should try to bring him back to Manitoba and shorten up the debate as much as possible. But since that time Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I should have, because it seems to me now that the world has become smaller and that probably maybe my vision has broadened a little, and I can see now that possibly there is and there was at that time some connection between the pollution in the Mediterranean and the pollution we now have in Manitoba, that maybe I should have allowed him to go at length on the Mediterranean, because I can see now there is a possibility that the pollution in Manitoba may have been caused by the pollution in the Mediterranean. So much for that, Mr. Speaker, I just mention this in passing. But I do have to say Mr. Speaker, I think I am correct in saying that the Throne Speech was really a weightless document, if you could call it that, because no one has been referring to it in the House as I have listened to the debate in the last days.

Mr. Speaker, I think I should say just a few words about the Constituency of Arthur, and I think I have reason to assume that the Constituency of Arthur is one of the most important in the Province of Manitoba. In fact I have good reason to believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is the most important constituency in the Province of Manitoba, politically and geographically. Let us have a look at it for a moment, Mr. Speaker, geographically. Southwest Manitoba has through its long history borne the brunt of the onslaught and the onslaught of drought and flood, of pestilence, grasshoppers, and army worms, and from the south the deadly rust spores that emanate from the mulberry bush in Mexico. All this, particularly during the 30's, which caused many hundreds of our people to leave for greener pastures. However, there were those with self-determination and foresight that remained and survived to build a community that I am proud to represent, a community that is known throughout this province and across the western prairies as one of the strongest that there is in western Canada.

And from a political standpoint, Mr. Speaker, I believe that our people are even stronger. Arthur constituency, linked and bolstered by the Constituency of Virden; to the North, further north, Birtle-Russell constituency held by the Conservative Party; Roblin held by the Conservative Party; Swan River held by the Conservative Party; The Pas and Flin Flon held by the Conservative Party until just recently and no doubt in my mind will come back into the Conservative Party fold. All up and down the Saskatchewan border we have formed a barrier against the ominous cloud that appeared in the horizon carrying that, shall I say, insidious diabolical disease that is known - not as a socialistic disease - shall we say the octopus. Maybe that isn't the proper word, maybe I should say the diseased octopus of the NDP.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry the First Minister is not in his seat, because I am sure up to this point he would be agreeing with me. I am sure he would agree with me when I have made the statement which I have made, that politically Arthur is the most important constituency in the Province of Manitoba. Because Mr. Speaker, during the last election the First Minister did make the statement that if he could take or destroy - whichever way you want to put it - if he would win the constituency of Arthur, that he would win or destroy, if you like, the total rural Manitoba. I say it - and I'm sorry that the First Minister is not in his seat at the moment, but the Honourable Minister knows now as a result of the last election, and it is apparent and

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . . was apparent then that he was determined at all costs that he would go to no end to win that constituency, but he knows now that he first must undermine and he must destroy the foundation, self-determination, and the right to freedom from government shackles before he can win that constituency - in fact, the task that he did undertake at that time was probably infinitely greater than Sir John A. Macdonald's railway. Since the government must first take the constituency of Arthur, I think that he should take up the challenge that was extended to the Minister of Labour when he and I visited the Province of New Brunswick, where at that time he declared to a Conservative member from Halifax that he was there to bolster the ND Party's policies and at that time the challenge was put to him that he could first walk across the Bay of Fundy in a pair of cement boots.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk just for a moment about provincial roads. I'm sure that the Minister of Highways has heard me mention provincial roads in this House before, as I think I have consistently since 1970, but to no avail. We still, Mr. Speaker, are pleading with the Minister of Highways to reinstate the policies that were laid down and the formula that was laid down by Walter Weir when he was Minister of Highways. I'm sure that the Minister recalls what that formula was, I'm sure he does. As I recall, the grading of the provincial roads, the roads that were taken over by the province at that time, the formula was that they should be graded one and a half times per week, more or less, depending on weather conditions. And his former colleague, the former Minister of Highways, immediately reduced that maintenance by one half, and to my knowledge, and my understanding is, that that policy has never been changed.

And while the Minister may say that I have, and on this side of the House, that we have constantly belaboured him on the upgrading of these roads, and he has consistently said that in his opinion that there is - well if the standard of grading the roads is as high as it was before this is not the opinion of the municipal people, it is not the opinion of the Member for Ste. Rose. In his speech the other day he made this clear and I want to quote from Hansard, Mr. Speaker, on Page 97, and I am quoting now the Member for Ste. Rose; "The public has to look after the roads which are not - well No. 20 to Winnipegosis is not that bad of a road, that's a pretty good PR road." PR road, provincial road I guess. "They probably have to be upgraded if the branch line to Winnipegosis is removed, and the road to Rorketon which is the end of the rail going north to Ste. Rose, the road there would certainly have to be upgraded at a considerable cost to the people of Manitoba to accommodate a heavier and more traffic on that particular road."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister of Highways that his colleague has just indicated that the provincial roads which were established to carry heavy loads, to take the heavy loads off the municipal roads, to take the tax burden off the shoulders of the local property tax owner, and be assumed by the province, have not been properly graded, let alone upgraded. The Member for Ste. Rose has made this clear, it's in Hansard for his reading, that the provincial roads are not being maintained to carry heavy loads, which means as he has set out here, in Hansard, that if the railways go the provincial roads are not fit to carry heavy loads, that we will be bogged down. Now again I say to the Minister, Mr. Speaker, and to the government, that they had a policy and a plan laid out by the Conservative Party to grade and upgrade the provincial roads that were taken over by the province, to keep the heavy traffic off municipal roads and municipal taxpayers. And what do we find, Mr. Speaker? That since 1970, and I'll give you the figures of the increased costs to the municipal taxpayer in rural Manitoba, a taxpayer that was supposed to be relieved of his local tax by the government take-over of provincial roads: In 1970 - I'll give you approximate figures - the taxes collected by the municipalities in the Province of Manitoba was \$148 million; in 1971, \$164 million; in 1972, \$180 million more or less; these are approximate. I'm just giving you the figures in millions. \$192 million in 1973; in 1974, \$213 million; and in 1975, \$280 million taxes on the property taxpayer in rural Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. And I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the Government, and particularly to the Minister of Highways, that it is difficult to break down

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . . percentagewise how much of this increase was caused by the municipalities having to spend more money on provincial roads, not on provincial roads but on municipal roads, to carry the heavy loads which are by-passing the provincial roads. And I can give you examples, Mr. Speaker: In my own municipality where I live, where the heavy traffic and the oil hauled from the oil fields in the southern part of the province through to the Cromer pumping station, have been deliberately by-passing the provincial roads because in the words of one trucker, "The provincial roads are not fit to put a truck over." They pass my farm, Mr. Speaker, they pass my farm on a municipal road when they are within two miles of a provincial road which they have consistently refused to travel on because of the downgrading of the road, not the upgrading, the lack of grading. We're not asking, particularly now, that the roads be upgraded, we want them to be at least graded the way they were up to 1969.

The Honourable Member, the Minister of Highways, has consistently denied that this is a fact, but I want to refer him again back to the resolutions that have been passed by the rural municipal conventions, not only the annual convention, but the regional conventions in southwest Manitoba and western Manitoba, in fact, in all of the regional conventions resolutions have been passed asking the government to please bring the roads up to the maintenance that they found them in in 1969.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister will take some cognizance of what I have said and what we feel on this side of the House. I am sure that he will be looking into, at least the grading of the roads, on a reasonable basis, grading more or less depending on weather conditions.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Rock Lake has spoken on agriculture. I do not intend to go at length on agriculture at this moment, we will have an opportunity when the estimates come up on that particular department, but I do want to point out, Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend the Minister who has just spoken has been talking about principle - I intend to have something to say about that in a few minutes - but he has been talking about principle, Mr. Speaker, and I am wondering where the principle of the Minister of Agriculture is when he comes out into rural Manitoba to sell his cow-calf five year plan, where speaking at my home town at Reston, he made the statement there, as he has made consistently throughout the province, that it is a five year plan and a five year plan only, and that it is on a voluntary basis and that it will stay on a voluntary basis, when at the same time when he took office we had in the Province of Manitoba a hog marketing plan, on a voluntary basis, and at that time we were handling through the Government teletype system of marketing hogs, approximately 60 percent of the hogs on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Speaker, it was operating well, it was working to stabilize and to establish a fair market for hogs. Mr. Speaker, that wasn't good enough for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and the Government, there was the legislation, there was the vehicle by which to use the first club that this government exercised on the farmers of the Province of Manitoba; by order-in-Council, not by going to the people for a referendum, not by going to the hog producers or the meat producers, or the pork producers, none of these organizations, but by Order-in-Council it became a compulsory marketing commission.

Now, in principle, Mr. Speaker, where does the Minister stand on his argument to the farmers of the Province of Manitoba, and particularly in this case to the cattlemen, to the cow-calf operator, when he can come out to the country and stand on platforms and tell farmers, "You can take it or leave it, the plan is there for you, it's on a voluntary basis." To my knowledge at no time has he made comparison between the cow-calf five year plan and the Hog Marketing Board, now the Hog Marketing Commission, on a compulsory basis, at no time. Is it going to be compulsory? Or is the honourable member going to wait for five years to announce, or is he going to announce it at all, or is it simply going to be Order-in-Council? Who knows!

The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources told me the other day -

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . I'm sorry he's not in his seat - when I asked him what I thought was a fair question, and his answer to me was vague and ended by saying, "God knows". How he knows that God knows, I don't know; maybe he's got some communication with God that I haven't got; maybe he should be asked to table that communication so that we could all read it - maybe the Honourable Minister has some communication, but we would like to know what is going to happen to the five year cow-calf operation plan. Is it the same thing that happened to the Hog Marketing Board, now the Hog Marketing Commission, which is now compulsory, that no farmer can raise a hog and sell it in the Province of Manitoba to the private sector, he has to sell it through the Department of Agriculture, he has to sell it through the Department of Agriculture; he has to sell it through the Hog Marketing Commission which was established by the Minister of Agriculture. --(Interjection)-- Oh, yes, yes. These are some of the things, Mr. Speaker. Where is the principle involved here?

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend stood for half an hour and talked about principle. Was there a principle involved when this Government was elected in 1969, when they did not tell us that, that it was going to be compulsion in the case of the Hog Marketing Commission; is that principle? Was there principle involved when the government were elected on the basis that they would give freedom to the people, and the land takeover then proceeded, was there a principle involved there? Mr. Speaker, I say to you I have seen more principle demonstrated by the pigs lined belly-up in the gutters in my back barnyard. It's principle. Let my honourable friend talk about principle. We're trying to get a little principle involved here.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other things that I would like to talk on today - probably my time is getting short - but I want to talk about Autopac for a moment and try to see where principle is involved in Autopac. Mr. Speaker, in 1969 the Government was elected and drew a considerable number of votes from our youth. I think bribery was involved there rather than principle, bribery I say, Mr. Speaker, because the youth, and particularly our boys, were told that when they received their driver's license that their rates of insurance would be the same as anybody else's. And for some time - and I'm sorry that the Minister for Autopac is not in his seat. It's unfortunate that the Minister from Autopac is not in his seat right now, and it's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that that gang of hyenas over there can only laugh when you start to talk about principles, because that is something they don't know anything about.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I'm sure the honourable member doesn't wish to reflect upon members in this House in the fashion he did a moment ago.

MR. WATT: I apologize if I have made any direct reference to any individual, Mr. Speaker, we were just discussing principle. But I want to say to my honourable friends that the Government knew very well what the statistic was on the 25 year old and under driver at the time that they were elected. There is no question about that. The First Minister knew, I am not saying that the Minister for Autopac knew because he's a boy, still wet behind the ears, he's a boy still wet behind the ears. There is no question about it in my mind that he probably did not know that statistics had been established years and years before this government came into . . . if you could call them a government. Mr. Speaker, I say really we have no government in Manitoba. Manitoba is airborne, not Saunders Aircraft, but Manitoba is airborne without a pilot, without a navigator, but surely with a rear gunner. There's no question about that.

However, Mr. Speaker, let us take a look at --(Interjection)-- Oh sure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): . . . you indicate to the House these statistics you made reference to with respect to automobile insurance for the age group under 25.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Not too long ago the Minister for Autopac made the statement that the youth, the 16 year old boy until he was 25 years old, would now have to pay a

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(MR. WATT cont'd) . . . . penalty because of the fact of his age, that statistics have now shown the NDP Party, the NDPs, the NDs then, that now the driver under 25 years old, that is the boy under 25 years old, was causing the majority of the accidents or a large percentage of the accidents, and that they would now have to up the penalty, apply a penalty - my honourable friend shakes his head - but it is a fact that he did make this statement. So up goes the rate. Now my honourable friends knew in 1969 that that was the case that it would be the case, that they would establish a penalty, if you like to call it that, I call it a penalty, which has been applied now. After two elections, Mr. Speaker, after two elections, it is now applied, it's a deterrent.

MR. USKIW: Is he not aware that you can categorize age groups within about 10 groupings and arrive at a different rating on an actuarial basis?

MR. WATT: That will still not deter me from pointing out that in 1969 there would be no penalty or a nil-deterrent, or whatever you want to call it, to the 25 year old. I suggest to my honourable friends that I knew that they would have to come to this, but the principle in effect is not correct.

And I want to make some suggestions to my honourable friends that in my opinion it is not fair to a 16 year old boy, who the government has issued a license to drive an automobile, and immediately say to him then, "You are now guilty, that you are now guilty." I think that the youth should be given a chance, and that he should be innocent before . . . and if he becomes guilty then is the time to raise his premium the same as mine. My honourable friends are applauding but why don't they do it, they haven't done it.

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

MR. WATT: That's okay, Mr. Speaker, I'll get through, I still have time.

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that the government side of the House are agreeing with me. I think that it would be a fair proposition to a 16 year old boy who has just been issued a licence to drive, who has proven that he is able to drive a car, which he must now. I think that it would be fair to give him the chance to prove that he is innocent before he has committed a crime. I hope my honourable friends will take that into consideration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I guess I've reached the end of my time. There are a few things that I would like to have commented on here before I sit down.

Mr. Speaker, I think probably I will leave some of this clutter to take up with the members when their estimates come up, and I do hope that they will take into consideration the remarks that I have made in regard to principle. When they get up to speak again on principle, which my little friend the Minister of Labour has done so often in this House, that he would recall the words that I . . . that if you want to talk about principle you should have a little on your own, that a little should be taken into consideration on your own part. Do not, please, point your fingers across here and talk about principle, which you have evaded constantly since you have been told on that side of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is some disposition to make different hours for the House, to be announced by the House Leader. Before we do so, I wanted to raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and that is that this morning in the earlier debate the Minister of Consumer Affairs has in this House called one of the members in the House, who was absent at the time . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, if it's a point of order on privilege, pertaining to the action of a member of the House while he's on his feet, the Honourable the Acting Leader of the Conservative Party should have taken it up at that particular time, and it's not provided for in the rules of the House for a grievance as to the action of a member to be taken, subsequently it should and must be taken at that time.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, what I intended to say was that I think if it would be possible for you to review the Hansard on this, it's not usual for such a reference to be made.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. One gentleman at a time on a point of order.

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(MR. SPEAKER cont'd) . . . . The Leader of the Opposition, then I'll hear the House Leader.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the member accused of being a liar was unable to be in the House, or was not in the House at the time it was made, there is some difference here, and in view of the seriousness of such a charge, I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to have a look at the record and make a determination as to whether the member accused will have the right upon his return to defend that matter on a matter of House privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm somewhat surprised at your ruling because I rose to challenge the fact or not as to whether there was a point of order and not to enter into any exchange with my honourable friend and you, Sir. The rule of this House has been established and is indoctrinated into tradition that where a person wants to establish, or does establish, that a member who is speaking is not in accordance with the rules, the time is then. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition on behalf of his absentee colleague, and I'm sure his absentee leader as well, should have taken that point up at the time that the Honourable Member, the Minister of Consumer Affairs was on his feet.

There is a remedy however, as I understand it, by a substantive motion in the House for this matter to be raised and referred to you, Sir, and I say that it is out of order, it's improper for the request to be made of you to consider something that was not taken into account at the time of the incident.

MR. CRAIK: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, my request to you was to give consideration to the fact that the member not present and accused would have a legitimate point of privilege to make upon his return to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: All members have an opportunity to present their views in this House and if they feel they have a matter of privilege, they may do so at any time. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Brandon West, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate some of my honourable friends opposite who, I understand, want to journey to countries afar for an event that is taking place and as a gesture of goodwill to them I'm prepared to move the adjournment of the House until Monday, providing it has unanimous agreement.

Hearing no objections, then, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Monday.