

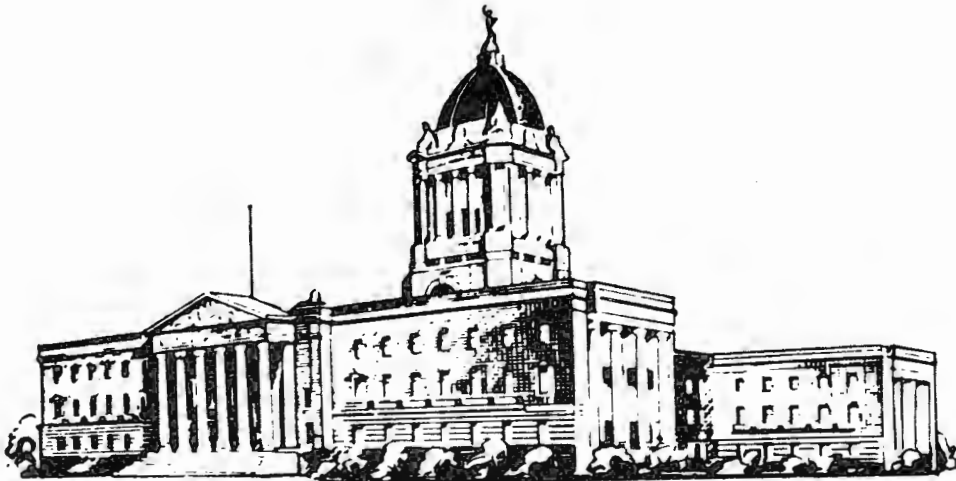


**Third Session — Thirty-First Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

28 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**2:30 P.M. Thursday, May 24, 1979**

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, May 24, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER** by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell):** Before we proceed, I should like to draw the members' attention to the fairly full gallery today.

We have 22 students of Grade 5 standing from the Hamiota Elementary School, under the direction of Mrs. Irwin. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

We have 30 students of Grades 7 and 8 standing from the McDonald Junior High School in Yellowknife, North West Territories, under the direction of Mr. James Smith. These students are sponsored by the students of Acadia School in the constituency of Fort Garry, the Honourable Minister of Health.

We have 50 students of grades 8 and 9 standing from McKenzie Junior High School, under the direction of Mr. McCallum. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Dauphin.

We have 54 students of Grade 6 standing from the James Nisbet School, under the direction of Mrs. Kart. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

We have 30 students of Grade 5 standing from the Birtle Collegiate, under the direction of Miss Goytan. This school is in my constituency.

We also have 25 students of Beliveau Junior High School of Grade 9 standing, under the direction of Mrs. Koswen. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Radisson.

On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions .

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. ROBERT G. WILSON:** Mr. Speaker' I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development.

**MR. CLERK:** Your Committee on Thursday, May 24, 1979, to consider the Annual Reports of Moose Lake Loggers Ltd., and Channel Area Loggers Ltd.

Mr. Orville H. Minish, President and Chairman, and Mr. R. Kivisto, General Manager, of Moose Lake Loggers Ltd., and Channel Area Loggers Ltd., provided such information as was required by members of the Committee with respect to the Companies.

The Annual Statements of Moose Lake Loggers Ltd., and Channel Area Loggers Ltd., were adopted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Dauphin, that the Report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**HON. DONALD W. CRAIK, Minister of Finance (Riel)** introduced Bill No. 60, The Energy Rates Stabilization Act. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor)

**HON. KEITH A. COSENS, Minister of Education (Gimli)** introduced Bill No. 45, An Act to amend The Teachers' Pensions Act.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Acting Minister of Economic Development, can the Acting Minister of Economic Development confirm information that Electro-Knit Fabrics is in fact laying off scores of employees and is in the process of moving machinery to Montreal?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport.

**HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye):** Mr. Speaker, I'll take that particular question as notice. I think there has been some move afoot for the last year. I think the member asked me that question when I was Minister last year. I think there were some explanations brought forward at that time for some of the moves that were being made, but we will endeavour to check into it and get back to the member.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, just to further add to the Minister's comments, these are recent developments within the past few weeks. I wonder if the Acting Minister of Economic Development would advise Electro-Knit and other companies in Manitoba, that in fact they enjoy the fine spirit of Conservative government here and that they ought not to depart Manitoba for the climate of separatism in Quebec.

**MR. BANMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that will be done and we will also inform them that we now have a national Conservative government and maybe they won't have to move out to Cuba and places like that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. SIDNEY GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Finance. I believe the Minister of Finance has indicated that there are increased mining revenue expected from previous estimates. I wonder if that revenue would be expected for the taxation years that preceded 1977, whether the increased revenue that is expected would be as a result of revenues which are payable for years prior to 1977 or 1977?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**MR. CRAIK:** Mr. Speaker, I presume the member is referring to the revenues expected in the current year 1979-80. Mr. Speaker, I'll attempt to provide the member with that information.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister should check for estimated revenues for 1978-79 and see whether that revenue is expected as a result of taxes that were imposed and profits or other charges such as royalties for the years previous to 1978-79.

I would also ask the Minister the same question with regard to increased revenues from federal-provincial sharing which he referred to in his Budgets. Are the increased revenues that he was expecting from the federal government part of the accounting for years preceding 1978, that is for 1977 or before that?

**MR. CRAIK:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that there has been a statement made in the Budget of course about the revenues for 1979-80, and of course I would undertake to clarify the source of those revenues. If the member now wants to be introduced two more questions based on something that's happened historically, I suggest to the member that he ought to file either a written question, or an Order for Return,

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know what we are talking about historically. I'm asking about the revenues that are referred to in this year's Budget. Does it come as a result of accounting for years in 1977 or 1976 or 1978? The Federal-Provincial sharing would be in respect of years. Is the moneys that he's referring to in the Budget as a result of accounting differences that have occurred prior to this year?

**MR. CRAIK:** Well, Mr. Speaker, there are two questions. The first one I'll undertake to get the information; that is with regards to mining revenues anticipated in 1979/80 that have been mentioned in the Budget. The second question the member's asked, is whether or not the Federal-Provincial transfers, equalization, whatever —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe the member, if he's talking about other than equalization or other federal transfer payments, then perhaps he'll clarify it. As I understand his question, he wants to know whether in 1979/80 there are moneys that have been brought forward from other years in these transfers. That, Mr. Speaker, I think would be a fair question, as long as we're clear that that's what it is.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to check on that too or is he . . . Mr. Speaker, Question in French (no translation provided).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. Perhaps the Honourable Member for Inkster could provide us with a translation of the question.

**MR. GREEN:** Question repeated in French (no translation provided).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day. The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne):** Mr. Speaker, my difficulty is that I only understood about one-half of the question from the Honourable Member for Inkster. I would ask him if he would be kind enough to do so, Mr. Speaker, to perhaps put the question in English.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the reports that the Court of Appeal is making a decision or appears to be making a decision that French and English are equal languages in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Manitoba, I am asking the Attorney-General whether it is his intention to see to it that instantaneous translation is provided to members in the Chamber, so that proceedings can be carried on with equal facility in both languages?

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, what has occurred is that the Manitoba Court of Appeal have now issued a Certificate of Decision in the Forest case, and today counsel for the Province of Manitoba have served notice of an Application for Leave to Appeal that decision to the Supreme Court of Canada. That Application for Leave to Appeal is expected to be heard in the Supreme Court on June 4th, but further to the question of the Member for Inkster, Mr. Speaker, simultaneous translation is not the only area that would have to be considered in the event that the decision of the Manitoba Court of Appeal is upheld in the Supreme Court.

We would also have to consider the obligation to print Orders of the Day and Votes and Proceedings in French as well as English; we would also have to consider the obligation to print the Acts of this Legislature in both official languages; we would have to also consider the publication of Hansard in both languages; the printing of bills in French as well as English; and in the courts of the Province of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, we would have to consider the right of litigants to testify in French before the courts; provision for possible simultaneous translation in the court system; the provision for translation of documents in court notices; the right to use proceedings perhaps even before quasi-judicial bodies, Mr. Speaker, including a number of other areas.

Those are, therefore, Mr. Speaker, some of the areas that bill have to be considered by our government and by this Legislature in the event that the Court of Appeal decision is upheld.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware that there are other implications — I merely asked about instantaneous translation.

I would also ask, Mr. Speaker, whether it isn't a fact that all of this appears to be a direct implication of the problems that have been created by virtue of the Federal Government's suggestion that the Province of Quebec does not have the right to make French the official language of the Province of Quebec?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Speaker' that question would call upon me to ascertain the motives of Mr. Forest in the present case in bringing forward his case, and I'm not prepared to do that. But I do say, Mr. Speaker, that this decision of the Court of Appeal is being appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada because, if it is not, there's every likelihood that some other person will re-litigate the matter through the courts in a year or two or three or five or whatever, and eventually a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada will be required to rule upon the constitutional authority of a Province in this particular area, and that's one of the main reasons why we have instructed Counsel to appeal to the Supreme Court. :

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. LEONARD S. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Acting Minister of Economic Development. Inasmuch as Dun and Bradstreet has reported that the amount of total liabilities associated with business failures declined by about 25 percent in the first 10 months

of 1978 over 1977 in Canada will the Honourable Minister ask the economists in the Department of Economic Development to look into the reasons why liabilities associated with business failures in Manitoba have doubled during the same time?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport.

**MR. BANMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I'll take that under notice and have some people check into it. Of course when you start to talk statistics, you have to deal with registrations as well as the other things that the member is talking about.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to ask a question now to the Minister of Agriculture, who I believe is interested in the Branch Line question in Manitoba. I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Agriculture could advise the House whether the government has a specific position on the need to implement the Hall Commission Report respecting Branch Line abandonment now that it appears that we will have a new Minister of Transportation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. JAMES DOWNEY (Arthur):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that the Member for Brandon East recognizes the fact that we will have a new Minister of Transport, and when that particular Minister of Transport is announced, I'm sure that he will be coming forward with his policies. We will be quite prepared to meet with him and discuss the very issue that he is suggesting, and Mr. Speaker, we have clearly indicated as a government how we are prepared to support the Branch Line abandonment. We are prepared to support those areas that have a Rail Retention Committee, and we will go to work to support them in the retention of those lines.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I'm asking the Honourable Minister a very fundamental question going back to square one. Will this Minister be prepared to recommend on behalf of the Province of Manitoba to the new Federal Government that we start back and eliminate the present system, and go back to the original recommendations of the Hall Commission Report? This is my question. Will the province be prepared to recommend to Ottawa that we go back to square one and attempt to implement the Hall Commission Report?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, if we were to go back to square one, then we would be doing the job that should have been done by the former government in Manitoba. We've been doing that, and I'm sure that we will continue to act responsibly to retain the lines that the people in the Province of Manitoba feel that they want retained. We will fully support those communities.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Speaker, is the Honourable Minister telling the House now that the Government of Manitoba is not prepared to recommend to the new Minister of Transportation in Ottawa that we abolish, entirely abolish, the so-called Prairie Rail Line Action Committee, which was set up by the former Minister, Mr. Otto Lang?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Prairie Rail Line Action Committee has already reported. It is now the Canadian Transport Commission that has the authority whether to retain or to make the decision on the retention of those lines, or whether or not they are allowed to be abandoned, not the Prairie Rail Action Committee. It has already reported and performed its job, which by the way, I would have to indicate, and I've indicated earlier, that I'm not totally pleased with the report that the Prairie Rail Action Committee came out with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a fourth supplementary.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)— Yes, it is questionable. Is the Minister of Agriculture not appreciative of the fact that there is a need to make such a representation? My question to the Minister of Agriculture is that, in view of the fact that the Prairie Rail Action Committee involves abandoning several hundreds more miles of lines in Manitoba, compared with the Hall Commission Report, does he not think it essential to make representation now by this government to the new Minister of Transport, to go back to the Hall Commission and abandon the entire process of using the Prairie Rail Action Committee in its recommendation process to the CTC?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Brandon East is asking for the implementation of the Hall Committee Report, which I'm sure a lot of the rail lines that were put

in suspension, if I can use that terminology, were suspended and have already been abandoned; and to implement some of the Committee recommendations would be to reverse some of the actions that have already been taken by farm people and would cause a lot of inequities to certain communities.

I do not support the removal of the rail infrastructure that has been provided for the people of Manitoba and western Canada. I do think if the government of the past had been responsible that they would have put up a stronger position as far as the retention of those rail lines. We now take the position that we are prepared to retain the lines that those communities themselves feel should be retained and if, in fact, there were to be some removal of rail lines, that the federal government participate in building of roads to facilitate the movement of grain, which in fact the rail lines had moved in the past.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. DAVID BLAKE:** Thank you' Mr. Speaker. While we are on the subject of rail line abandonment, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Highways, in view of the rail lines that have been abandoned in my particular area and ask him where the talks with the federal government now stand in connection with providing funds for the improvement of the road structure, in my particular area I refer to Highway 250, if he could tell us where those particular talks now stand in relation to funding, now that the government has changed?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

**HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Honourable Member for Minnedosa because it does give me the opportunity to point out that while they speak a great deal of rail line abandonment there has been, of course, as much abandonment of delivery centres by such organizations as the Manitoba Pool and private grain companies, and in the particular area in question, on Route 250, that precisely has taken place. I am concerned about the development of that road. I am hopeful, along with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, that when we meet with the new Ministers yet to be announced, of the new government, that they will have an understanding of the problem and that at least some of those moneys that heretofore were subsidized and were given to the rail carriers will in fact be diverted to enable the necessary infrastructure and roads to be included.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, on May 10th the Honourable Leader of the Opposition referred to a newspaper report with respect to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Student Program and asked me if, in fact, students do have access to shotguns while on patrol and in fact have carried same on their patrol.

Mr. Speaker, the special constable in question apparently removed the shotgun from the locking devices on three occasions, acting on the instructions of the regular member of the force who was in the vehicle, at no time used the gun or pointed the gun at anyone. It was simply for the benefit of the regular member in the car with the special student constable. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, the Acting Commissioner and the student have indicated to me that the report in the newspaper was very misleading as to the comments of the special student constable.

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

**MR. BILLIE URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of He indicated, in his remarks to the Member for Brandon East, that he did not accept all the recommendations of the PRAC Committee. Could he indicate to this House which recommendations he does accept?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, the member refers to the PRAC Committee Report — the recent report that was tabled by the committee, which recommendations I support and which ones I don't.

I think that the people of the Province of Manitoba that live in the particular areas of Manitoba that are affected have spoken out that there are certain areas that they want to retain their rail line; they, as a community, know in fact that they want to retain that; we have indicated that we will support those particular retention committees.

The Minister of Highways has already indicated in his answer to the Member for Minnedosa that, in fact, there have already been facilities removed from some of the rail lines that we are referring to, or you are referring to, in some of your questions. That, in fact, to replace the rail line or to retain it, would provide no service whatsoever as far as the provision of services to farm people in the communities. The elevators have already been either moved or are out of service.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate whether he and his government are prepared to repudiate the report of the PRAC Committee, and indicate at least now — because after several weeks of questioning in the Agricultural Estimates, the minister would not give us a governmental position with respect to the Mall Commission Report — could he at least now get up in this House and tell the people of Manitoba their position with respect to the Mall Commission Report and vis-a-vis the PRAC Commission Report, and at least put a clear and concise position of the Government of Manitoba, rather than beating around the bush as he has done?

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. George refers to the Hall Commission, the Hall Commission had many recommendations in it, and in particular one of them being the use of off-line elevator services that could be left to service the people of Manitoba, or western Canada. Is that what he's referring to? That was one of the questions he refers to that was, in fact, answered in the Agriculture Committee. If it was the retention of a particular line, maybe he could specify those particular lines — whether they're in suspension or have been in suspension waiting for the CTC to make a decision, or in fact, whether it was a line that had a life until 1981. He should be more specific, because the Hall Commission did cover a lot of areas as it relates to the Rail Line Abandonment in western Canada.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I will be more specific. The PRAC recommendations added another 500 miles, or approximately 500 miles, of rail line to be abandoned in the Province of Manitoba. I want to know from the Minister of Agriculture of this province whether they support those recommendations, or whether they're prepared to indicate to their counterparts in Ottawa that they do not support those recommendations. They supported the recommendations in part of the Hall Commission; and that the recommendations of PRAC be suspended and those 500 extra miles of lines be not carried on as recommended by PRAC. That's what I'm referring to.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the member again refers to the Federal Government. We all know that the authority lies with the Federal Government as far as the Prairie Rail Action Committee Report is concerned — the CTC. And after in fact, the new Minister of Transport is appointed by the Prime Minister elect, Joe Clark — which I'm also very pleased to see happen — I'm sure we will be able to work very co-operatively with them to retain those lines that the communities in Manitoba have set up a Retention Committee to support; we will be working with them; we'll be providing them with support staff; I don't know how many more times' Mr. Speaker, we have to tell the members in Opposition that we are working for the farm people, that's the first time in 8 years that people have been worked with.

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

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. I'm glad that he is at least carrying on part of the policy of the previous government, but we have yet to learn, we have yet to learn in terms of helping the communities, but we have yet to learn, and I ask the minister what the policy of his provincial government is vis-a-vis the two reports? We have not heard it, and I ask the minister to enunciate as such.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Hall Committee Report has been available to the public for some two years. The Federal Government did not act on the recommendations of the Hall Committee; a lot of the recommendations are now history because of the fact of the removal of some of the infrastructure, the grain companies have removed their elevators. As far as the Prairie Rail Action Committee is concerned the Hearings are now taking place; I'm sure the new Minister of Transport who is going to be responsible for the CTC will deal very capably with that on his appointment.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson):** Mr. Speaker, the Member for The Pas asked a question yesterday in relationship to when Red Sucker Lake airstrip would be open. It was opened Tuesday; and Ste. Theresa Pointe airstrip — the question was, when will it be open? — We expect it to

be open tomorrow.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. WILLIAM JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. The Milk Control Board made its announcement with regard to the increase in the price of milk. Could the honourable minister inform us who gets the 1 cent per litre of the metrification cost that were in effect until April 1st? Do they go to the primary producer; do they go to the wholesalers of milk, or to whom does the 1 cent metrification go? Because according to the reports that the Milk Control Board has brought down that 1 cent per litre is still in effect? Now, can the minister inform us to whom does that one penny go at the present time under the Milk Control Board recommendation?

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

**HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report of the Milk Control Board as yet, I've not had an opportunity to look at it. The only thing that I'm sure of is that 1 cent does not go to the cow; but I hope to be able to get the report from the Milk Control Board, perhaps later today, and I will perhaps be able to provide an answer to my honourable friend tomorrow.

**MR. JENKINS:** Well, I don't know whether the minister was trying to be funny or facetious — I don't know, I just didn't quite catch what he said. Did he say it wasn't going to the cow? Well, I don't know. I mean, the minister could clear that up. There was a bunch of noise and I didn't hear exactly what he said.

**MR. JORGENSON:** I regret that my honourable friend's attention was distracted by the noise that emanates from the other side of the House, but I was attempting to point out to him that I have not seen the report of the Milk Control Board, and until I have had an opportunity of looking at it, and I hope to be able to do that later on this afternoon, I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment upon it until I have seen it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

**MR. WILSON:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. With the arrival of warm weather, does the minister intend to re-activate the electric cars and, if not, could he possibly consider putting one on display as a tourist attraction for the upcoming season?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to find out for myself whether my predecessor, the Minister of Government Services, had in fact found an eventual resting place, or disposition, or disposal of these cars, or indeed whether I'm still responsible for some of them. I will undertake to find out whether or not some of these vintage vehicles are still within the possession of the department and if, indeed, they are, then perhaps that suggestion could be entertained.

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

**MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a further question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him, in view of the fact that Mr. Jack Murta, re-elected M.P. for Lisgar, may be the next Minister of Transportation at the federal level and, Mr. Speaker, who indicated that he commended the Prairie Rail Action Committee's recommendation, in view of the fact that Mr. Murta had indicated agreement with at least the recommendations, does the Minister also agree with Mr. Murta's position?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly do want to say that I'm glad that the Member for Ste. Rose has some wishful thinking on his mind. One thing that he left out was the fact that Jack Murta totally whitewashed the NDP candidate in the Lisgar constituency. But if, in fact, that were to take place, that Mr. Murta were to become the Minister of Transport, I'm sure we would be quite prepared to sit down with him and discuss their policies as they relate to Manitoba.



**MR. ADAM:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Minister has skirted around the question again, as he usually does. I would ask the Minister again if he supports the position of Mr. Murta in regard to the Prairie Rail Action Committee recommendations.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The question is repetitive. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**MR. THOMAS BARROW:** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Labour. It's that old . . . question of jurisdiction problem in the Flin Flon area. It has become quite acute there. You well know they are neither under Manitoba law nor Saskatchewan, and they get very very little satisfaction from the federal people. And with the change of government it will be much worse now. Could the Minister give any sign of any answer to this problem?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**MR. MacMASTER:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for Flin Flon says that the situation is much more difficult now with the change in federal government. I wonder, could he be more specific.

**MR. BARROW:** Mr. Speaker, the former federal government, the Liberal government, at least went a little way or halfway, but the brainpower now in the federal government is obsolete. We expect no co-operation. So this question becomes imperative.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I understand there was a question directed to me about Electro-Knit in Selkirk and I am prepared to answer the question at the present time regarding that, if the member wants to put it in front of me.

Mr. Speaker, Electro-Knit in Selkirk started back in 1971 or 1972 in this province and they make a product that is double-knit or velour. Their machinery is directed to making those two products only. At the present time there is no market anywhere in the North American continent or in the world for double-knit or velour. We have had our staff in Industry and Commerce visit the factory on three occasions since they came to us about this problem. We have made application and worked with them with the Federal Development Board and the Federal Development Bank. They did not, themselves, want to take up the application. They have asked a trust company in Manitoba to be their sales agents for the company and if it's not sold by, I believe, June 15th, it will be mothballed.

It's simply a situation where there is no market for the product that they are manufacturing and their machinery that is in the building is not adapted to make any other product. So the owner of the company has decided that he doesn't want to stay with a losing proposition.

I am very interested to know that the Leader of the Opposition is interested now, because I am informed that he has only been in the plant on two occasions since it started, which is very interesting at this point.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. WILSON PARASIUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development. In reviewing the Minister's Estimates, he undertook to find out if K-Cycle Engines, which had a very promising future, or appeared to have a promising future, are leaving Manitoba because they could not get financing to carry out the further research and development of the K-Cycle Engine concept and are leaving Manitoba to go to the United States. The Minister undertook to find that out in the Estimates; I have not heard from him yet.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, two and a half weeks ago, approximately — it might have been three — we had dinner with the Department of Industry and Commerce people and Mr. Snyder, the Chairman of the National Research Council, and we discussed that particular problem as one of the most important problems facing us at the present time; the other being Dr. Kisner in the University of Manitoba.

We identified the K-Cycle Engine as one of the very much importance to Canada and the Province of Manitoba. Dr. Snyder undertook to have his staff look at it. He undertook to have my Deputy be the co-ordinator between K-Cycle Engine and other people in Manitoba who might be interested in that engine. He also undertook to let us know very soon what the federal government was willing

to do with the Province of Manitoba in order that that research remain here, instead of going to the United States. We have not said or we have not been in a position or put ourselves in the position of saying we will let it go. We are working hard to keep it.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Can the Minister then confirm that it would appear that the major means of trying to get K-Cycle Engines to stay in Manitoba will be through the public sector, mainly through using the provincial government or the federal government National Research Council and that there is a big problem because private venture capital isn't available to provide financing for a very important scientific discovery made in Manitoba?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, I said that my Deputy was given the position by that committee that met of co-ordinating it, and he also has the duty, direction, I should say, from that meeting to work with people in private industry who could possibly be interested in the K-Cycle industry, to put them all together with government and private industry to do what we can to keep the K-Cycle Engine here.

The Province of Manitoba is not in a position at the present time to direct the amount of money required by itself to the K-Cycle Engine. It's a research situation that may or may not be something of value, and we certainly want to find out if it is. But, Mr. Speaker,

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Minister of Economic Development for his answer. I do wish to indicate that I've only been in the Manitoba Rolling Mills twice, but the Manitoba Rolling Mills is still there and is still operating. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Economic Development if he would like to elaborate to the House as to the reasons why there is no market presently for the product of Electro-Knit?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** Well, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, because the ladies up there, the men up here, the men sitting down there, and the ladies up there, aren't buying doubleknit, and if you can force them to, maybe they'll buy it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, with a final question.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Minister isn't demonstrating a little bit more concern in dealing with the overall problem relating to the closure. It seems to be rather a flippant approach to the entire question. I would ask the Minister if he could advise the House as to how many employees will be lost, how many jobs will be discontinued as a result of this closure?

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I'm not sure of the exact figure of the jobs, and I'm not going to make a statement that I'm not sure of. I'll get those figures for the honourable member. But this government is not one that will continue to put money into losing operations as the previous government did, keeping things open for the sake of keeping them open. There is no market at the present time for velour or doubleknit in the North American continent. —(Interjection)—

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please. The time for Question Period having expired . . .

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY — BUDGET DEBATE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Adjourned debate on seventh sitting day of the proposal of the Honourable Minister of Finance. The Honourable Minister of Mines, Resources and the Environment has 23 minutes.

**HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday afternoon when I opened my comments on the Budget Speech, Mr. Speaker, I had ended up by congratulating, in fact, the Minister of Finance, the Acting First Minister, on a number of points in his Budget, but particularly that which dealt with Hydro rates, and we had outlined the situation in terms of how there had been 150 percent increase over the past five years, and how his move to stabilize that rate was going to have such a positive effect.

I also had pointed out circumstances, Mr. Speaker, that we were saved from by the increase in world oil prices, which in fact have made Hydro rates competitive today because of those increases in world oil prices, but they would not have been competitive had those oil price increases not taken place. It's not a situation that we want to be thankful for by any means in terms of the increasing energy prices, but it does still allow us today to be competitive with our hydroelectric power.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I was moving on to a comment about the aspects of this Budget that deal with job creation. The members of the opposition have criticized the Budget as not having anything

in it for job creation, and that's exemplified now by a number of comments that were made in the Press, or made to the Press, and I note now that it's interesting that when some items are reported in the Press now, when they refer to the NDP being sceptical about anything, they list Dick Martin, the President of the MFL right along with Howard Pawley and Saul Cherniack, so I guess the perfect union has now been completed and we know precisely where we stand now.

I had said, Mr. Speaker, when I closed my comments yesterday, that the Budget in fact had everything to do with job creation, but the honourable members don't wish to accept the facts that have occurred in the past year. Yes, there's a — it's just been passed to me, Mr. Speaker, a little sticker which says, "The Perfect Union — Me and the NDP." That must have been the CLC that had those, and I pointed out yesterday how in Ontario the union, the perfect union, had in fact resulted in a decrease in the number of seats in Ontario that the NDP held to 6 from 8, and I in fact suggested yesterday that this was really not the perfect union; it was more like the odd couple.

The Opposition doesn't wish to accept the facts with respect to job creation, Mr. Speaker. Over the past —(Interjection)— Yes, I'll tell you, I'll tell you. Mr. Speaker, I now must put on the record what has happened in physical fact, which we've known all along during this Session. The Leader of the Opposition is now sitting in the back row on the other side, and that's one of the dilemmas that the opposition members have been faced with during this Session, is just who is their Leader?

Well now, that brings up another interesting subject, Mr. Speaker, because they ask me where is my Leader? Well, yesterday we heard the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks telling us how, in his view, the First Minister, the Premier of this province, had degraded the position, and he then goes on to make statements and to commit what I regard as rather a hypocritical type of comment, which in fact creates exactly the impression that he was trying to attribute to the First Minister. He says, and I have an advance copy of his comments from yesterday, and he said, "I gather the First Minister is off to Europe." He said, "I suppose he has business to attend there which is more important than the business of Manitoba."

Now Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is that the First Minister is on the business of Manitoba. He is there on the business of Manitoba. The Member for Seven Oaks said, "I suppose that he has business which is more important than the business of Manitoba," leaving the distinct impression, Mr. Speaker, that the First Minister is off in Europe on personal business. He is not on personal business; he is there on government business, and that is precisely the type, an example of the misleading statements that are continually being made by the members opposite.

Now if we could return to the matter of job creation, Mr. Speaker, the honourable members opposite are fond of saying that the economy in Manitoba has been stagnating. Well, just look again at some information that was published in the Financial Times in February, and I used this in my response to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, but I must use it again because the honourable members opposite don't seem to have comprehended the significance of the information that's here.

In 1978 it points out that there were 11,000 new positions, increased number of positions, in Manitoba — 11,000; in 1977 there were 3,000; in 1976 there were 9,000; in 1975 there was a net loss of 2,000 jobs. .. The total net in 1975, 1976 and 1977 was less than 10,000 jobs, Mr. Speaker. In the one year following those three years, there have been 11,000 new positions in the job market in Manitoba. And those honourable members have the hypocrisy to stand up and say that the economy in this province is stagnating. The whole period from 1973 to 1977, the average growth during that entire period, during the inflationary and boom period of 1973, 1974, 1975, the rate for those five years, Mr. Speaker, was a 2.1 percent increase. Now in 1978, the increase was 2.6 percent.

That's the sort of statement that the honourable members opposite continually attempt to impress upon the people of this province, and they have had some success in doing that, just as they had some success in convincing the people of Manitoba that Medicare was threatened. You know, it's not the facts as anybody in politics knows, Mr. Speaker, it is not always the facts that are important, it is the perception. And the honourable members opposite are very good at getting the perception across, which does not often coincide with the facts of the matter.

There are a number of other indicators, Mr. Speaker, in terms of private sector investment and manufacturing, shipments and that sort of thing, which I have covered before and the Minister of Finance has covered, the Minister of Economic Development has covered. I won't bother to go through them again, but the indicators are there of what is happening in a positive way to the economy of this province.

To the members opposite though, job creation seems to be a matter of spending money on make-work types of undertakings. They seem to believe that if the government is spending money, then the economy has got to be better off because of that. And yesterday we had a number of

comments from the Member for Seven Oaks, asking questions of us, of the First Minister, such as: Is he forgetting that throughout Europe the kind of economic policies that we espouse are being followed today in West Germany, in Sweden? And he was attempting to get across the idea that through government spending in those countries that they are better off, that their standard of living is higher than it is in this country. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that if we asked the people of this country, would they be willing to swap the circumstances that we have in Canada today, in Manitoba today, for the circumstances that they have, for the standard of living that they have in West Germany or Sweden? I don't think they would, Mr. Speaker. And we didn't get to where we are now through government spending. We got to where we are now through the initiative of individual people, and groups of people in putting together ideas and technology and energy, to create the wealth that governments are then able to tax, to provide the kinds of services that we all agree that people need.

**MR. DOERN:** . . . the people's government.

**MR. RANSOM:** We'll come to the people's government, the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

And yesterday, as the Member for Seven Oaks was also going through a list of other nations, where government spending was taking place at rather high levels, and he indicated, or when I suggested to him perhaps that Israel was one of the countries that had a very high level of government spending, he agreed, he said yes, that was one of the countries that indeed had a high level of government spending. But what he didn't point out was that Israel is now faced with an inflation rate today that is running between 50 and 60 percent. And they expect that by the end of this year the inflation rate in that nation is going to be approximately 100 percent, and they attribute that, Mr. Speaker, to the high level of government spending that is taking place. The amount of outside borrowing, and we know some of the sorts of things that they find it necessary to expend money on. But there is now recognition in that country, that government spending must be limited if inflation is to be limited.

The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks said yesterday, could we possibly believe that through our efforts to reduce government spending that it was going to have any effect on inflation? Well, Mr. Speaker, this government and other governments in Canada, and all governments in Canada, are going to have to move to control the level of spending, to reduce that portion of the gross national product, the gross provincial products that are consumed by government, if in fact we are going to contain inflation. And the remarks of the Member for Seven Oaks seemed to indicate, although he decried the effect that inflation had on the poor and the people on fixed incomes, he seemed to imply that somehow we should simply go ahead and fuel the fires of inflation, because we as one government would be unable to control it by ourselves. Mr. Speaker, that is a proposition that we reject entirely.

They also, I believe, would need to hear once again, the remarks that were quoted in the Budget Address by the Minister of Finance, the remarks that were made by Mr. Callaghan, the former Prime Minister of Britain, and I recall that when the Minister of Finance read these remarks out during his Budget Address, the honourable members opposite were shouting that it sounded like Herbert Hoover, and the Member for St. Johns was, as a matter of fact, quite upset when he discovered that it was Jim Callaghan, who'd made these comments. It was also interesting at that time that the Leader of the Opposition remarked that Callaghan was too far to the right, or too far to the left I guess it was, Mr. Speaker, because he was not accepted by his people, by his unions, who managed to defeat him in the election in Britain.

So for those of us who understood what was going on, or had some understanding of what was going on in Britain, it's hard to imagine that a man like Callaghan would be regarded as not being far enough left for them. He said, "When we reject unemployment as we all do, then we must ask ourselves unflinchingly, what is the cause of high unemployment? Quite simply and unequivocally it is caused by paying ourselves more than the value of what we produce. It is an absolute fact of life, which no government, be it left or right, can alter. We used to think you could just spend your way out of a recession, and increase employment by cutting taxes and boosting government spending. I tell you in all candor that that option no longer exists and that insofar as it ever did exist, it worked by injecting inflation into the economy and each time that happens the average level of unemployment has risen, and each time we did this the twin evils of unemployment and inflation have hit hardest those least able to stand them, our own people, the poor, the old and the sick."

Mr. Speaker, that apparently has been realized by the former Prime Minister of Britain. Apparently it is not yet realized by the honourable members opposite. And perhaps that would happen because in Britain they have had an opportunity to apply the socialist principles at the national level and they have seen what a disaster has resulted from that. These honourable members opposite have

not had an opportunity to apply their principles on a broad enough scale to witness the sort of results that ultimately could occur from those principles, Mr. Speaker.

The Member for Seven Oaks and the former Minister of Mines, the Member for Inkster, have commented on changes that we expect to make in mining taxation, and commented perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it really doesn't describe what we saw take place here, at least not in respect to the comments from the Member for Inkster, because we were treated — that's perhaps not the right word either — we were subjected to a tirade by the former Minister of Mines as he stood in his place and shouted and yelled that we, the government, and I, as the Minister, would be prepared to kiss the ankles of the mining industry. You know, I was reminded of a situation where the former Minister had evidently remarked to one of our members at one time; he said: "Your argument is weak — shout like hell." And that surely must be the theory that the honourable member was then putting into practice and I was sorry to see him act in that way, really, Mr. Speaker.

But we should review for a moment, we should review the NDP mining strategy, we want to make no mistake what that strategy was about. The strategy was to raise the level of taxation on the mining industry to the point where the private sector would then not be able to respond. The taxation from the present mining operations would then be used to finance the take-over of those operations by the government and through being able to demonstrate failure of the private sector, and using those high rates of taxation, the government would ultimately be able to control the mining industry.

And that is what brings us, Mr. Speaker, to the very heart of the difference between the honourable members opposite and us, and the Member for Seven Oaks acknowledged that yesterday. But we must always make it clear to the people of Manitoba and of Canada that when you deal with a socialist government you are dealing with a group of people who believe that the means of production should be in the hands of government, that capital should be —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Speaker, they don't want to believe that; they don't want to acknowledge that. That was precisely what they attempted to do during the federal election. They attempted to pretend that they were not socialists, and it failed; it failed miserably, and now you are going to see a resurgence to the positions of the socialists. And the definition of socialism that's in my dictionary, Mr. Speaker, is a theory or system of social organization which advocates the vesting of the ownership and control of the means of production, capital, land, etc., in the community as a whole. Mr. Speaker, that is what socialism stands for, whether the honourable members here wish to acknowledge that or not.

The Honourable Member for Inkster is honest enough to say so; he acknowledges that and I respect him for that, but there should be no misunderstanding that that is the situation and that when we talk about socialism and we talk about egalitarianism, the sort of egalitarianism that the socialist talks about, Mr. Speaker, is equality of results, not equality of opportunity. What we on this side talk about is the equality of opportunity, that every man and woman have the opportunity to advance themselves to the best of their ability. The honourable members on that side talk about equality of results, and equality of results can only be achieved by the levelling of people down to a common level. And when the Honourable Member for Inkster has the courage to stand up and say, I believe in the principle of: "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need," then he is being honest in what the socialist policy really stands for.

And the Leader of the Opposition, in summing up his comments in response to the Budget Address, Mr. Speaker, he said, "What the Opposition will strongly urge and work towards is the restoration to this province of a government that will be committed to the fullest and fairest distribution of the good things of the province, to the improvement of the quality of life to all Manitobans, not just for the few and the privileged and the social elite of the province." There it comes out again. Couple that with, "from each according to his ability; to each according to his need," and "the fullest and fairest distribution." Determined by whom, Mr. Speaker? Not by the capabilities of individual people; not by the market, but by some bureaucrat, by some government, the government that has been intended to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals but will instead then be placed in the position of controlling the lives and destinies of people. And that is what happens if the principles of socialism are pursued.

The honourable members think that perhaps a little socialism is all right; we should only own half of the mining companies at this point. If it's good to own half, Mr. Speaker, why isn't it good to own the whole thing? Those honourable members —(Interjection)— Well, there's the Member for Flin Flon is honest enough to accept that too. That's what we're talking about. —(Interjection)— You want to stand up; let's hear the honourable member stand up in this Budget Address then and tell us what socialism really stands for. What is the economic basis of socialism and how is that going to improve the lives of people in Manitoba or in Canada, God forbid that they should ever have the opportunity to implement their principles.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

**MR. HARVEY BOSTROM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is interesting to hear, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister's definition of what the social democrats in Canada and in this province stand for because, Mr. Speaker, to use his definition of what this party stands for is just as ridiculous as if one of our members stand up and say that his party is directly akin to the Fascist Party that was led by Hitler in the last World War. And, Mr. Speaker, if that's the kind of definition that they are going to use for us, Mr. Speaker, it would be just as ridiculous for us to use the definition I just mentioned for their party.

Mr. Speaker, their party happens to be a certain measure above, I believe, that definition of a Fascist party. They sometimes, as my honourable colleague has mentioned, may give us some doubt, but, Mr. Speaker, I have faith at least that the Conservative Party believes in the democratic process and therefore should accept the democratic process when the democratic process speaks. They hate to admit, Mr. Speaker, the results of the recent election, in Manitoba, where the New Democratic Party knocked off three sitting Conservative MPs. Three sitting MPs were defeated and not only defeated, Mr. Speaker, but defeated soundly. Because in those constituencies — in four of the five constituencies where the New Democratic Party were victorious in this province — we got over 50 percent of the vote; in Selkirk-Interlake, we got over 45 percent of the vote. And, Mr. Speaker, if you go into those constituencies poll by poll and you look at the results you will see that some of these members in this Legislature are pretty worried about the results. You look at the results.

The Honourable Minister of Education is looking very down in the dumps these days when he looks at the results from the Gimli area, and when he looks at the results in the polls that are in his constituency, Mr. Speaker, I believe he has good reason to be worried. And Mr. Speaker, in the north, where I have just returned from yesterday, I believe that the people there spoke very clearly on what they thought of Progressive Conservative government, period! They make no distinction between PC government federally or PC government provincially. They see a Tory as a Tory whether he's provincial or federal, and, Mr. Speaker, they sent this government a message and that message is that their party and their government is bankrupt of policies that can deal with the special problems of northern Manitoba — bankrupt. They have no idea at all what to do about the special problems of that area of the country.

Mr. Speaker, northern Manitoba was an area that was traditionally, federally, Tory. It has voted in Progressive Conservative members traditionally. This is the first time that the northern part of Manitoba voted for a New Democratic Party member, and Mr. Speaker, in 1974 the PC candidate in that election, Cecil Smith, won that election with a 2,500 vote majority, and in this election he lost it with a 5,000 vote plurality. Mr. Speaker, that's a 7,500 vote turn around in just that period of time. And I would say, Mr. Speaker, as far as their attitude towards federal Conservatives, that attitude was developed over the last eighteen months, because until 1977 when the Progressive Conservative Party was elected in Manitoba, I wouldn't have given anybody a chance at beating Cecil Smith in northern Manitoba. That man today is still very personally popular in northern Manitoba. I happen to like him myself. Mr. Speaker, he's a personally a very nice guy, but the people in northern Manitoba put their party politics above personalities in this case, and even though they liked this particular individual, they voted out the Progressive Conservative Party in northern Manitoba with a vengeance. And it was —(Interjection)— yes, Mr. Speaker, they had no confidence in a Progressive Conservative member assisting them even if that Progressive Conservative member happened to be in government, because, Mr. Speaker, they know that we have the Member for Thompson, who is a northern member sitting in this Legislature, they know how much a Conservative member can help their area. It's absolutely zero, Mr. Speaker. They know that they have slipped back. They know they're slipping back as a result of the bankrupt policies and programs and lack of programs of the Progressive Conservative Government in Manitoba.

And all we have to do, Mr. Speaker, is look at the lack of action by this government in northern Manitoba to see why the people of northern Manitoba decided in the way they have decided in this election. Mr. Speaker, if you look at the report we saw this morning in the Economic Development Committee, Communities Economic Development Fund, in the last year they dealt with 65 loans; they approved some 20 loans, that were all of some piddly amounts that did not in any way effect in any significant way the economic development of northern Manitoba. They've reduced the Economic Development Fund which is supposed to be working to promote private enterprise in northern Manitoba, that's why it was established by the New Democratic Party government, and this is what makes the argument of the Honourable Minister of Mines so ridiculous. Because while we were in government, Mr. Speaker, we demonstrated the kind of philosophy that we as a party have towards development; we believe — and it was made public then and our members give you the definition now of what a New Democratic Party government will do — we believe in private

enterprise; we believe in public enterprise; we believe in private enterprise doing what they can do best; we believe in public enterprise doing what they can do best.

And, Mr. Speaker, we had a good example this morning in the Economic Development Committee. Here is a public company, Moose Lake Loggers, that although it was in trouble for a number of years, is now making a profit in the harvesting of the pulpwood resource, the forest resource, in northern Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in the Committee this morning, that company would not be operating there if it was not for the government intervention. If it were not for an Act of government, taking a step into a community and establishing a company which had the management expertise in there; which had the direction in there to organize that community and give that community the opportunity to have useful productive employment, there would be no enterprise in that community. Private enterprise was not working in that community before, and it would not be working in there now.

So, Mr. Speaker, unless the government takes action in cases like that, and moves in and uses its ability to move into a sector to do something, then nothing will happen. And that's why we say, Mr. Speaker, that as a government this party, the Progressive Conservative Party, is much more dogmatic and much more — what is the word? narrow-minded in their approach, inflexible because, Mr. Speaker, they only believe in the private enterprise doing something. They have no concept at all of government going into an area and doing something where something must be done. And, Mr. Speaker, in northern Manitoba, this is one area where unless the government is an activist government, unless the government is able to go in and take an active role in economic development, then economic development in the main will not take place.

Even in the mining sector, Mr. Speaker, we heard the Honourable Minister of Mines saying that under the Progressive Conservative government mining activity will increase so greatly. Well, Mr. Speaker, he can say that but the people of northern Manitoba that are affected by mining policy don't believe him. They don't believe him; they don't believe the Progressive Conservative Party. Because, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's the first time in the history of northern Manitoba the New Democratic Party won in Thompson, in the City of Thompson. They won the mining centres of northern Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, because they finally realize the bankruptcy of the Progressive Conservative philosophy, the Progressive Conservative policies which emanate from that philosophy; they finally realize that they are absolutely bankrupt, that they just do not work.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned in the Legislature here some weeks ago that there is a significant find indicated in northwestern Manitoba, in the extreme northwestern corner of Manitoba, where a coany is now exploring for uranium; and that company indicated to the group in a meeting which I intended that they would not have been in Manitoba if it had not been for the New Democratic government's program to go 50-50 partnership with a company doing exploration in Manitoba. They said they simply, as a small company, did not have the funds to be able to come in and do the kind of exploration, the kind of exploratory work that was necessary.

And, Mr. Speaker, as a result therefore of the New Democratic Party program, of the New Democratic Party government program to assist and take an active interest in mining exploration in Manitoba, we now have that example of a potential mining find in northern Manitoba.

And there are other examples, Mr. Speaker, near Flin Flon where the Manitoba government, in co-operation with the private sector, has now discovered or is on the verge of discovering a very significant find in that area. —(Interjection)— And, Mr. Speaker, here is an example, as my honourable friend from Flin Flon points out, that here is a private mining, HBM and S, operating there, presumably exploring there, since 1930s or earlier, and, Mr. Speaker, they didn't find this ore body. It took the New Democratic government, in co-operation with private industry, to search out that area and find that significant mineral development, potentially significant mineral development.

Mr. Speaker, the mining companies were not complaining about the NDP government's program in that area. Mr. Speaker, they complimented it. Even after the government is no longer in power, we have a senior executive of a mining company at a function here in Winnipeg saying that that was a program that assisted them in being able to make this discovery in northern Manitoba.

And, Mr. Speaker, the long-run result, the long-range result, of the program that the NDP brought into Manitoba was to give the people of Manitoba the opportunity of achieving the long range benefits from mineral developments in this province. Because being in the game at the exploration end it would have meant they would have been in partnership also in the profits from any mining development. And, Mr. Speaker, this is one thing that the Progressive Conservative government is cutting out and they are cutting Manitobans off from the possibility of getting an economic return from their own resources. These are resources, Mr. Speaker, that you and I own. We own them now, they are on Crown land in Manitoba. They are 100 percent owed by the people of Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, with the Progressive Conservative system of allowing the mining companies to go in and explore and then, by reducing the taxation on the profits from mining companies, what

it means is that they are practically giving away the resources of northern Manitoba.

And then, to add insult to injury, Mr. Speaker, we have the example of the Inco mine in Thompson, that when they have the opportunity they take their capital and they run. They go to the more, I suppose, for them, more profitable areas of the developing countries. They take the money that they made in Canada and they take it to other countries and create jobs in other places.

If, for no other reason, Mr. Speaker, we should have control over our resources; if for no other reason than simply to protect the jobs that are associated with those industries we should have control over our resources.

And, Mr. Speaker, we see the example of the Province of Saskatchewan again blazing the way, pioneering a new concept in government, in the way government operates in Canada. First of all, Mr. Speaker, they were the first government in Canada to bring in hospitalization, under the CCF. They were the first government in Canada to bring in Medicare. And both of those programs have been universally accepted by Canadians. They have forced the governments of the day at the federal level to adopt those programs. It was that kind of farsighted thinking that resulted in those very beneficial programs being adopted in Canada, where we have now, in Canada, one of the best health systems in the world, a system that's universally available to Canadians, at least until recently. It is under some threat now from the reactionary forces of the Progressive Conservative governments in this country. But, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that it's universally accepted, it costs less than the private enterprise system in the United States. So much for private enterprise efficiency, because here we have a system that's more widely utilized and more available to people and yet it costs less.

And, Mr. Speaker, now we have the New Democratic Party government of Saskatchewan pioneering the way in resource ownership. Mr. Speaker, I see this as the way of the future, as far as any rational, any logical development of Canada's resources. If the people of Canada cannot get a proper return from their resources why develop them? Why give them away?

Mr. Speaker, it has been suggested that the policies of the Progressive Conservative and Liberal governments in this country in the past have been akin to someone coming home to his home and finding somebody robbing his house and then, Mr. Speaker, instead of calling the police and stopping this robbing, he proceeds to assist them in loading up the truck and taking out his own furniture and loading up the truck.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the same thing, the same way in which the Progressive Conservative and Liberal governments in this country operate with respect to Canada's resources. It's the same as if they were to assist somebody in robbing their own household, because those resources belong to all the people of Canada and it simply should not be that those resources are taken out of the country without proper return to the people of this country that own them.

Mr. Speaker, we see that the Communities Economic Development Fund, which was established by the New Democratic government, is now being just shunted aside by this government because it has been made largely ineffective. They make a few token loans in northern Manitoba and that's it. There are no major private industries, even, that are being created by the Communities Economic Development Fund any more.

We see that they have cut out the economic programs that we had to assist communities in developing their resources, such as the Special Northern Employment Program. It's simply not available, as far as I know, any more. We see them rejecting the idea of active government involvement in resource development in northern Manitoba, and yet the honourable members opposite, in particular the Minister of Mines when he was speaking, seemed to give the indication that he was concerned about inflation. Well, Mr. Speaker, what can be more inflationary than the giving of money to people in the form of welfare, which they use to buy goods and services, when they are producing nothing? And, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what this government seems to be promoting in northern Manitoba. They are now the welfare party of Manitoba, the welfare government of Manitoba, because they are doing nothing to assist northern communities to develop their resources to produce the jobs that the people there want to have.

And, Mr. Speaker, I could just use the example of one of the corporations that we established, as a government, the Moose Lake Logging Company. Now that company, Mr. Speaker, is employing some 60 people, as we found out this morning in the Economic Development Committee, 60 people that are all making in excess of \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year, some of them as high as \$30,000 a year. These people are no longer on welfare, Mr. Speaker. They are no longer a drain on the public purse. They are producing some 100,000 cords of pulpwood a year which, at \$40 a cord, I believe it is, landed in the Town of The Pas, is a production in the Province of Manitoba. Now instead of a group of people receiving money for welfare they are now producing a useful, usable product for the people of Canada and the world.

And the same in Berens River, Mr. Speaker. We now have 50 people employed in a company which we established as a government, that's cutting some 20,000 cords a year of pulpwood which



are valued at, I believe, \$60 a cord landed at the Abitibi Plant at Pine Falls.

And the point is, Mr. Speaker, even if the government had to take those 50,000 people and pay them \$5,000 a year subsidy to maintain those jobs that are producing something useful for society, it would be less. In fact, it would be anti-inflationary, because you would be spending the money and you would be getting some production for the money that you were spending.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, in all other communities except those two, where I'm happy to see the government at least has not shut those companies down, if they were to follow the advice of the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce they would shut down Channel Area Loggers because last year it lost over \$100,000, and, Mr. Speaker, they would shut down CFI or, as they call it, ManFor, now, they would shut that down, which produced I don't know how many jobs last year. But, Mr. Speaker, if you were to shut those industries down using the Conservative economics, it would cost Manitoba more because instead of having 50 people producing pulpwood in Berens River you would have 50 families on welfare, which would cost about \$500,000 a year and, Mr. Speaker, where would the production be? There would be no production and yet now we have those same 50 people supporting their families through the production of a useful product. So much for Conservative economics, Mr. Speaker. Conservative economics is clearly inflationary because they do not believe in assisting the people in our country, whether they are on unemployment insurance or on welfare, to find useful and productive work. They say, "Oh, leave that to the private sector. Let them do it."

Well, Mr. Speaker, there are areas in this country, in this province, that the private sector is not operating to produce jobs. They are not moving in to build up the industries, to establish the industries that could be established, that could produce useful products, that could employ people in the production of useful products. The private sector is simply not moving in there. So what does government do? Government cannot afford to sit back on its hands and simply provide welfare and unemployment insurance to these people. They should be taking an active interest. They should be doing something to create jobs in those areas, and yet we have nothing happening in northern Manitoba.

And that is one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that the people of northern Manitoba sent this government and the Progressive Conservative Party and the people of Canada a message by soundly trouncing the PC candidate in northern Manitoba with a 5,000 vote margin. Virtually every poll in northern Manitoba came in with a plurality for the NDP.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the communities in northern Manitoba that are suffering, the private sector are suffering. You cannot win seats like Thompson; you cannot win the towns of Thompson and Lynn Lake and Leaf Rapids and Flin Flon and The Pas and these places where there are a lot of active business people, without having some, if not a great deal of support from the business community. And, Mr. Speaker, the business community is not very happy with the Progressive Conservative Government. Mr. Speaker, they found out in very short time, 18 months, that this government is bankrupt of policies to assist small business in this province and the small businessmen, Mr. Speaker, who were supporting the NDP in this province until they were fooled by the Conservative campaign of 1977 into thinking that a P.C. Government was going to make everything very rosy for them, better than it was under the NDP, are finding out that times are tough, Tory times are tough because, Mr. Speaker, there is simply not very much money in the rural and northern areas of this province. In fact, you just have to look down the street here, right here within walking distance of the Legislative Building there are buildings that have been up for lease, for sale, since the Conservative Party came into power and they are still up for lease, they are still up for sale.

Mr. Speaker, this government is doing nothing to promote the business community in Manitoba to fill those buildings, to create the kind of business atmosphere in this province that can give the small entrepreneur a chance to build up his business. Right in my constituency — I used to go out for office hours, Mr. Speaker, which I still do, to the community of Grand Beach, Grand Marais, and I used to stop in at a certain little restaurant there to have a coffee on a Saturday morning after my office hours and, Mr. Speaker, this winter I couldn't do it because they had closed down the restaurant. I asked the owner, "Why did you close it down?" He said, "Well, there's no business." He said, "Ever since the Conservatives have been in government, there are no jobs around here in the winter time; there are no people with any money to spend. People used to come here and have their lunches, their meals, their coffee breaks, while they were working in the area, now there is none of that." And here's a business, Mr. Speaker, a small businessman, a private enterpriser who was fooled into thinking that the Conservative Government would be a good government for him.

**A MEMBER:** How's Great-West Life doing?

**MR. BOSTROM:** Well, Mr. Speaker, they obviously look around and they realize that the Conservative Government is quite good for the big guy. I mean, he's really in a good position when the economy is depressed, so they can keep their wage costs down, they can bully their unions and their minimum wage workers into accepting the lowest wages possible. The big companies don't suffer under Conservative Governments. Why do you think they support them with thousands of dollars, hundreds of thousands, Mr. Speaker? I don't think the Abitibi Company in eastern Manitoba will suffer under a Conservative Government. They certainly supported the Conservative candidate in my constituency in the last election. He was a highly-placed official in the Abitibi Mill. He was given the time off with money and all kinds of expenses to travel around and campaign in the constituency of Rupertsland and now, Mr. Speaker, I understand he is involved in some way in the negotiations with the government for the new long-range contract that Abitibi is negotiating with the government in Manitoba.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we can fully understand what is going to happen and why that particular industry supported the Conservative Government so heavily. They will get a good return on their investment, I'm sure, Mr. Speaker. They will get a very good return. But, Mr. Speaker, the small businessman in Pine Falls, the small businessman in Great Falls, the small businessman in Grand Beach, the small businessman in Thompson, the small businessman in The as and Flin Flon are suffering because of the policies of this government.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot chase 10,000 people out of this province without it having a very significant impact on the small businessman. The small businessman depends on people having money in their pockets to be able to spend in their small business. Mr. Speaker, just the fact that there are 10,000 people who left this province, you can calculate, and even at an average industrial wage of \$10,000, \$100 million of potential spending that moved out of this province. Even taking a very small multiplier factor of say even five, there's \$.5 million of potential economy generated by that kind of a move, that just moved out of the province. And, Mr. Speaker, how many small businesses would that have created in Manitoba, \$500 million worth of business? How many small businesses would it have created, and let's consider a small business with \$100,000 sales? Mr. Speaker, what's a lot of small businesses that have been eliminated in the Province of Manitoba since this Conservative Government took over.

Mr. Speaker, I have to comment on things that I have seen in northern Manitoba in terms of government services that have been cut back. I see the Provincial Road 304 that leads into my constituency, which I have been bringing up in this Legislature and pointing out to the Minister of Highways that it's in the worst condition that it's been in 20 years. Mr. Speaker, I have never seen that road that bad since it was first constructed. Last year in the Estimates process, we saw the Minister of Highways have in his Estimates a certain amount for rebuilding of a portion of that road. That was never done, Mr. Speaker. That money — wherever it went, I don't know — but it was never allocated to that road. No construction took place and, Mr. Speaker, now I notice in the Highway Minister's Estimates that that money is eliminated. So, Mr. Speaker, obviously they don't intend to do anything with that road.

It was rather sad in a way, Mr. Speaker, that just this week I received from my constituency, letters from school students in the community of Bissett, and I think it is worthwhile reading into the record, a letter from a Grade 3 student in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, who writes to me and says: "Dear Sir: I am writing this letter because of the poor roads from Pine Falls to Bissett. Our class was going to the Shrine Circus but we didn't make it. Today it started to snow. We started going just fine and then we came to a part where there was snow, water and mud on the road. Soon a gentleman came out and he was talking to our driver and he said the roads were terrible. He said that we were going to have to turn around and go back home. Then we were going through ruts and we had to go back and forth and we almost went into the ditch. We wanted to go badly but it turned out that we couldn't go to the Shrine Circus. Yours truly, Brenda Bilcowski."

Mr. Speaker, a Grade 3 student who can't go to the Shrine Circus because of the poor road conditions in this province. Mr. Speaker, I brought this matter to the Minister's attention some month ago or more in this Session. I asked him if he couldn't please do something for that road. Some of the same students from this community go back and forth to the high school in Wanipigow every day and they had to stop going because of the road conditions. There was material only a mile away, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have several letters, the same kind of letters from other students at that school. Mr. Speaker, they are learning at a very young age in my constituency not to have much faith in the Progressive Conservative Party, in a Progressive Conservative Government that can't even keep a road passable so that students can go back and forth to school and, you know, so that some students who were counting on the one great trip of their school year to go to the Shrine Circus, had to turn back. Mr. Speaker, the students in my constituency will learn at a very young age of the many disappointments that are in store for them when there is a Progressive Conservative

in power.

Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative Government was saying, before they got elected, that they were going to create such an efficient government that would provide all the services the NDP were providing and they would do them even better. Well, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out here before, and I think it's worth the Minister of Highways knowing what is happening — here is a situation where his department has supposedly taken over the administration and maintenance of airstrips in northern Manitoba -- one of our colleagues asks a question in the House of the Minister of Northern Affairs and he answers a question about airstrips. We ask a question of the Minister of Highways; he answers a question about airstrips. They don't seem to know who is looking after them.

Mr. Speaker, a classic example of this is in the community of Bloodvein last winter. There was a contract let to a gravel crushing company to crush 6,000 yards of gravel for the airstrip at Bloodvein. That contractor was paid \$11.50 to crush that rock for that airstrip. That contractor moved in, crushed it and moved out. About two weeks later, three weeks later, towards the end of the winter road season, the Department of Northern Affairs sent another gravel crusher into the same community to crush 3,000 yards of gravel for the community roads. You know what they paid that gravel contractor? — \$27.00 a yard for doing exactly the same kind of work. And that call this efficiency? Here is the Minister of Highways doing one job in the same community as the Minister of Northern Affairs. The Minister of Highways pays \$11.50 a yard for crushing rock; the Minister of Northern Affairs pays \$27.00 a yard for crushing rock. Well, Mr. Speaker, if the contractor could make money at \$11.50, you can imagine what he was making at \$27.00.

Mr. Speaker, why can't they get their act together? What kind of efficient government is this? —(Interjection)— What happened at Berens River? Mr. Speaker, the airstrip at Berens River has been closed down for 18 days since April 15 because this Minister can't get his act together to keep that airstrip in shape. It has been closed 18 days since April 15, and I brought to this Minister's attention that there was an airstrip that was covered with snow in Poplar River and there was a broken-down grader there and he took the question as notice and said, "I'll get back to you." Two weeks later, I go up there on constituency business and the grader is still sitting there; it hasn't turned a wheel.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is certainly neglect; there is certainly inefficiency in this government. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the terrible part, that this government is not only inefficient and careless, but they just do not seem to care and that is the real tragedy of the way in which this government is operating.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Emerson.

**MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before addressing myself to certain items on the Budget, I would just like to take a few minutes, and that's all it would take to refute some of the arguments from the Member for Rupertsland. He spent a certain amount of time lauding the election of the Federal NDP member in the north. I would just like to throw a question at him: What happened in the Provencher Constituency where the P.C. member came up with over a 7,000 vote majority? So the policies of the provincial government can't have had that dramatic an effect, because his own constituency was involved there.

When he spent a certain amount of time discussing the adverse effect in the mining industry, I'm sure that he must have read the reports of some of the key mining companies in terms of what the Budget is going to be doing for the mining industry in the near future. In fact, I wonder from some of the statements that he made whether he has really read the Budget Address as such. If he has, he should realize that it has predicted a stronger economy. Another thing, in his reference to jobs, over 10,000 new jobs have been - created in the last year and you talk of no job creation policies.

However, Mr. Speaker, this could go on for a long time. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Minister of Finance for this year's Budget. In spite of the fact that members opposite are having a tough time trying to be critical of it I think it is a very positive Budget, and I'd like to express some views on it in terms of the way people back home see it, not as politicians do.

What has it done for them? No. 1. It has frozen the Hydro rates for five years. One of the most contentious issues over the last years, with the previous government and with our government, has been the Hydro rates, the dramatic increases in Hydro rates; and the fact that it has been frozen now for five years has affected dramatically every single taxpayer in Manitoba. —(Interjection)— For the freezing of the Hydro rates? Certainly. Other intended side effects are assuring the business people and the investment people, of a guaranteed energy supply, and here in Manitoba we're trying to create an environment for employment and for investment. The opposition is crying about people

leaving the province; we hope that this is the kind of stuff that will help turn this loss of people around. The other intention, as the Minister of Finance indicated, was to try and stop inflation, and possibly this kind of approach is going to be most meaningful in that direction.

The second item which I think is meaningful, exempting sales tax on children's clothing to Age 14. Maybe it doesn't seem that dramatic but it most certainly affects all people with children, who invariably have been getting caught in the inflation squeeze.

Another simple little item like the raising of exemption of meals to \$4.00. Again, Mr. Speaker, nothing dramatic, but affecting positively the people on the lower wage scale, the lunch-pail workers, and those who are working away from home and eating in restaurants. Items of this nature, Mr. Speaker, are the very items that are affecting the people who the members opposite are hoping to be champions of. I can see where it's very hard for them to be critical of the Budget, and that's why there's very little discussion about the Budget itself.

Another dramatic significance with the Budget is that this is all being accomplished without raising the taxes, this at a time when inflation is steadily escalating. Therefore, when I'm speaking of my area I'd like to compliment the Minister of Finance again on his capable foresight in case some of the ravings opposite are getting to him. I find it almost ludicrous, Mr. Speaker, some of the criticisms that are coming from the members opposite, especially from the Leader of the Opposition, who finally spoke after two days and ended up floundering around for an hour, and being concerned with things like raising of green fees, raising of park rates, and that didn't actually create too many Brownie points in my area for him, but I suppose that kind of criticism is the kind that we have been getting all along, the cry of doom and gloom. It's this kind of politics that makes me take little note of some of the criticisms.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to review what has happened in the last 18 months. Last year we fulfilled a certain portion of our campaign promises members opposite were criticizing. Most of those things have happened, affecting the people positively. Having taken over from a government that was running rampant with spending and provincial debt we've gradually turned the province around with lowering or freezing of taxes, prudent fiscal spending, and have created a feeling of — how shall we put it — a secure feeling in the farming community, a positive feeling.

It's unfortunate that the previous Minister of Agriculture is not here. It seems that he is out making use of the system that he has been criticizing so much. I was one of the few people that have at certain times criticized the previous Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and I would like to possibly correct the record. It is my impression that maybe we have falsely accused him, that we should be putting fault where the fault lies. I think he was the front man for the previous Minister of Agriculture. It was his policies that he was presenting. The Member for Lac du Bonnet always used a sort of a quiet back lane approach, while his Deputy Minister was getting the criticisms for the beef policy, which has created a lot of turmoil among the agricultural people. I'd like to compliment our Minister on the way he has been handling the situation. He inherited the problem, and I think we have it under control and resolved to the point where there's at least some feeling of security among the beef industry.

I'd like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to maybe project some of the things that I see for my constituency. I'm very optimistic. We have a lot of problems there. It is a constituency that I feel possibly has been overlooked for many years. I'm pleased that the present Minister of Agriculture is regarding it as the possible new agricultural frontier. Anticipated programs of sale of Crown lands, land development, I think will probably work out to be a very strong asset in that area, in the development of the area. We have a lot of land that can be used for agricultural purposes. There's also much room in my constituency for the possible development of Tourism. We have three major lakes there that have been overlooked in the past, and I would hope with optimism that this can be turned around and Tourism can be exploited.

Mr. Speaker, considering the latitude that everybody uses in the Budget Debate, I would like to use this opportunity to compliment both the Provincial Government and the Municipal people in the handling of the flood situation, the flood disaster, and I'd also like to put in a special thanks at this time to all the volunteers who have been involved. Every time we put out calls for people to go out and help in a certain community we had scores of people out there helping. What has happened in the disaster? We had a synchronization of the government departments and the municipal people in such a way that they had very few problems in getting the evacuation taking place and up to now when the people are going back, and I feel that this is the kind of thing that should happen between the provincial and municipal people, working together.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I feel very strongly that our government is heading in the right direction, and that it is important for us to get our message home to the people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

**MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To begin with, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Honourable Minister of Finance for the very few good things in the Budget, but I'm sorry I can't say anything more, but as I said, only a few good things. The exemptions of certain items from the sales tax will be of some help to families on low incomes.

Removal of the sales tax from restaurant meals under \$4.00, Mr. Speaker, is likewise a move in the right direction. But the Finance Minister should have kept moving a little farther. During the time this government has been in power the cost of meals has gone up considerably. I don't know many restaurants where one can get a full course meal for under \$4.00. Maybe the Minister should have provided us with a list of such restaurants — if he knows of any.

However, even these very small concessions to people on low incomes will be of some benefit. I recognize that under a Conservative government the poor must be thankful for small mercies.

And Mr. Speaker, I was listening the other day to the speech delivered by the Honourable Minister responsible for Manitoba Development Corporation, and he was amazed — he was surprised looking at this side that our members had nice red carnations and he was asking: "Why are you so happy about this little thing?" Well, some of my colleagues answered him and said, "Well, because after the election we gained three new seats in Manitoba," but according to his opinion, Mr. Speaker, he said, "This is a little thing." If you will take under consideration, Mr. Speaker, that we had only two MPs from Manitoba, and now we have five, so if you will just multiply this I am talking about 150 percent, and he said that this is a little thing. If this is the case, Mr. Speaker, if he thinks so, and if his colleagues think that this is a little thing, let the Premier call an election tomorrow so he'll find out how little a thing that it is.

But, besides this situation, I would like to come to the most important issue which we have here in Manitoba. The most serious omissions from the Budget are provisions to help provide employment for thousands of unemployed, and particularly the young unemployed, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, we had before us a Resolution on Capital Punishment. At that time I raised the question: To what extent is our society responsible for the existence of widespread crime? I pointed out at that time that 80 percent of the people in our jails come from the 12 percent of the population in the lowest income group. I mentioned the fact that the sharp increase in crime among young people corresponded to the sharp increase in unemployment since the end of the war years.

There is much talk about human rights and human freedoms; yet thousands of people are denied the most basic — the most fundamental right — the right and the opportunity to earn a living

Young people leave high school and university and then come up against a stone wall when they look for opportunities to go to work and earn a living.

Our private enterprise society denies, Mr. Speaker, thousands of young people the opportunity to earn money legally and honestly. But if they resort to other methods of getting money, we throw them in jail. This is a tragic thing, Mr. Speaker, because once they have a criminal record it becomes even more difficult for them to get any job.

Mr. Speaker, the worst crime any country can be guilty of is to deny to a large number of its citizens the opportunity to earn their own living. No government faces a greater responsibility than that of creating conditions of full employment.

I am therefore disappointed that there is nothing in the Budget that would show this government is seriously concerned about the people without jobs. Mr. Speaker, in 1977 when the election was called, our present First Minister, his platform was nothing else but promises — jobs for everybody. But it didn't work. Maybe right now he is in Europe, Mr. Speaker, and maybe he will make the same kind of a deal as former Premier of Manitoba, Duff Roblin, who went to Switzerland and came back — I remember there was a picture; I don't remember exactly whether it was the Free Press or the Tribune — he was holding a contract, free enterprise, \$100,000,000. I hope and pray to God that he will not do the same kind of a thing now, our Premier who went to Europe, to take taxpayer's money and create, as we call, free enterprise jobs. Let's hope it will not be the case.

Mr. Speaker, here we are in the summertime which should normally be the busiest season, yet we have the largest number of unemployed in this province since the depression years. But the previous speakers today they said we created so many thousands of jobs, but they are forgetting one thing, that even they became the government, the present when Premier, he was firing people instead of creating or getting them a job he was firing the people.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, this is not a simple problem with a simple solution. But when the New Democratic Party was in power we did consider unemployment as a major concern. We put into

effect many programs to ease the problem. There were certainly less unemployed under the New Democratic Party government than is the case right now, without even counting those who have left the province. And, Mr. Speaker, not only the elderly people or people without professional skills, no, well educated people, they left this province. They left everything, whatever they had, here. They went looking, as we call in our Lord's prayer, for daily bread because the atmosphere which was created by the government — they can't afford it — to find out — they can't find a job.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP government was hampered in its efforts in dealing with unemployment because we did not have an NDP government in Ottawa. We could not put into effect a national plan to deal with the problem which we have with the unemployed people.

However, for over a hundred years we have had Conservative and Liberal governments in power, in the provinces as well as in Ottawa. They have had unlimited power, provincially and federally, to put into effect their policies, yet the results have always been the same, always a large standing army of unemployed except during periods when the country was at war, then the army of unemployed became regiments of soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, when a young man promises a young woman that he will marry her, the young lady has a right to expect the wedding day to take place within a reasonable time, not 50 or 60 years later when she is ready for the old age pension.

Mr. Speaker, Conservatives like the Librrals have in election after election promised to end unemployment. But when will that promise ever be fulfilled? I doubt it very very much. The First Minister in the last election, as I mentioned already, assured the voters that a Conservative government would perform miracles in job-creating. You were going to solve the problem by encouraging private business. Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a sector which they strongly believed. Nobody else can do it, any government, just the private sector — that's what they are depending on.

In spite of the failures over the years you keep on saying leave it to the private sector. They will do it. Leave us alone. Don't interfere with the businessman. You keep on saying let private enterprise end unemployment but private enterprise is not listening, Mr. Speaker, this is the tragedy. Private enterprise is not concerned about unemployment.

I doubt whether the board of directors of a private corporation spent even two minutes at their board meetings discussing the unemployment problem. They don't consider it their problem. Their problem and their only concern is to make maximum profits.

I earnestly suggest, Mr. Speaker, if this government believes so strongly in private enterprise; if they are so firmly convinced that private enterprise can solve the problem, then you should put them to the test.

I ask this government, Mr. Speaker, to arrange a conference of the heads of leading private enterprises in this province. Arrange a conference with the heads of the Chambers of Commerce, the Manufacturers' Association, the Bankers' Association. Call together the heads of such major concerns as Eatons, the Bay, Canada Packers, and other big business employers and ask them to face up to the problem of unemployment. Tell these gentlemen of big business that the private enterprise system is on trial. Tell them, let them prove that they will do something, that they will eliminate unemployment. Tell them if they believe in their system, but you know and I know, they don't believe. If they want this system to continue then they better show some sense of responsibility for such a major problem as unemployment.

If all these powerful men of big business will not do anything to end unemployment it can only mean one of two things. Either they don't care about the problem or they are incapable of doing anything about it. Either way. But in either case we will have to consider an alternative. We will have to stop relying on private enterprise and resort to greater government intervention in the economy.

Mr. Speaker, one picture usually tells more than a thousand words. This was proven by the cartoonist Kamienski's comment on the Budget. I believe that everyone in this Chamber saw this cartoon. This cartoon in the Tribune pictures the Horn of Plenty with three peanuts falling out of it.

Those in the low or average income groups are indeed getting only peanuts out of this Budget. Especially my people in Point Douglas, Mr. Speaker. But there are generous handouts to big corporations amounting to millions in tax concessions. Why this generous treatment of big corporations? Two days after the Budget there were big headlines in the Free Press, "Industry Profits Soars By 58.3 Percent." So why do these big industries need such generous tax concessions? Why? Are they so hungry? They are in such a great need.

You say industry must be given these tax concessions as an initiative to create jobs. That, Mr. Speaker, is pure bunk. A man in my profession doesn't dare to use stronger language. Where in heaven's name is the evidence that any tax concessions to industry are being used to create jobs? I didn't find out anywhere. Maybe it's only on paper. All these tax breaks simply mean more money

in the coffers of big business.

Under the NDP government subsidies were provided for small business who provided jobs for some of the unemployed. But this government is helping to pay the wages of some big employers who should be well able to pay the wages of any workers they take on. This government really believes in pampering big business in a big way.

There is another matter about which I am greatly concerned, Mr. Speaker, and that is the strict enforcement of the Manitoba Liquor Act. I would like to talk about this thing. I hope this will not be adversely affected by what is in the Budget. But I have reason to be concerned, Mr. Speaker. I know this government has never been too keen on enforcement of this Act. I know some leading members of the government, when in the opposition, when they were here, used to be critical of Liquor Control enforcement under the New Democratic Party government. They had few kind words to say for the liquor inspectors who have the difficult task of enforcing our liquor laws. I recall the present House Leader who used to denounce the liquor inspectors as the "Gestapo". That was his word.

Strict enforcement, of course, cuts into the profits of the liquor industry. Like any other business the liquor industry likes to flood the market with its products in the name of maximum profits. But the consequences to society have been disastrous.

We know that liquor abuse results in broken homes. It results in battered wives and abused children. It causes carnage on our streets and highways. The 1978 report of the RCMP lists alcohol as "the prime contributing factor in many crimes of violence."

Apart from the human costs in sorrow and suffering, there is the financial costs to the province and the municipalities in the way of hospital services, social agencies and police protection.

There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker' that "whiskey has killed more men than bullets, but most men would rather be full of whiskey than bullets."

I have already stressed the point that people who are too full of liquor cause all kinds of grief for themselves, their families and society. When I see a man staggering out of a beverage room, I know the Liquor Laws of this province have been violated — I know a man was served liquor well beyond his capacity.

I know this is not an easy law to enforce, but I urge this government to intensify its efforts to enforce this law rather than to relax enforcement. I understand liquor inspectors have already seen their ranks reduced since this government took office.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, this is one area where no restraint is justified at all. More liquor inspectors should be employed and they should be urged to be more vigilant in enforcing The Liquor Act.

In closing, there is one cheerful bit of news I would like to call to the attention of honourable members.

A few days ago, before the Honourable Minister of Finance introduced his budget, there appeared in the news the election results in Austria. There the Social Democratic Government was re-elected with an increased majority. Austria has what we call a mixed economy — private enterprise, co-operative enterprise and public enterprise. The Government of Austria, led by Prime Minister Kreisky, follows pretty much the same policy as that advocated by the NDP.

And, Mr. Speaker, whenever the First Minister speaks here in this Chamber, he's so angry. And when he's coming to the point and using the word "Socialism", he doesn't know what to do with it — he's so scared about the socialists.

He would like to see, Mr. Speaker, only one way — Conservative and, on this point, Mr. Speaker, I am seriously scared. If this is the case, that he believes what he is saying, he is the most dangerous person, not only in Manitoba, but in Canada and in free society.

He reminds me also of a short fellow, just before World War II, whose name was Adolph Hitler. He believed only in one way — Uber menshen. We know the results, Mr. Speaker. Whoever, — not only somebody from other nations, but among his own nation, in his own country, his fellow countrymen — if they were against what he was doing to them, he started concentration camps, because he believed only in his philosophy. He didn't recognize anybody else.

If the First Minister wants respect from this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, he also should respect our philosophy. This is the only way — this is a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in commenting on the election results in Austria, the Winnipeg Free Press in an editorial of May 12th said, and I quote: "The reasons why the Socialists have retained power in Austria are not difficult to see. Austria is prosperous." Then the Free Press lists the following economic facts about that country. It points out that unemployment is only 2.1 percent. How happy we would be in Canada if our unemployment rate were down to 2.1 percent, Mr. Speaker, not only in Canada, but here in Manitoba.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is a Social Democratic Government, not Conservative. And I'm repeating again — they have only 2.1 percent unemployed.

The Free Press editorial also mentioned that in Austria inflation was held down to 3.5 percent, and their Gross National Product had increased by more than 6 percent over 1977.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Free Press editorial that I have referred to, the per capita income in Austria for 1978 was \$7,730 in terms of US funds. Furthermore, the editorial pointed out that while our Canadian dollar has been failing, the Austrian shilling has remained stable. The Free Press said, "This is a record of performance on which any western politician would be happy to campaign for election."

But Mr. Speaker, they were honest — when they said that they would create a job, they did create a job. They were hiring people — not firing people, like we were witnessing here in Manitoba.

I was quite surprised, Mr. Speaker, to see an editorial in the Free Press that was so favourable to a Social Democratic Government in Austria.

I am, of course, a partisan politician who likes to point out success stories about governments with similar policies as the New Democratic Party, but I assure my honourable friends on the other side especially, that if there was one Conservative government anywhere in the world with a better record, efforts. I would be very glad to praise its

I said "if" — but you are not.

**MR. ENNS:** We are. We are so.

**MR. MALINOWSKI:** You are not, and Mr. Speaker, in this case, I wouldn't mind being called by the Free Press from time to time, either PC or RC, but as I said, if they will perform in such a way, if they would put down the unemployment like the Social Democrats in Austria, imagine. I hope that maybe our Premier will go to Vienna and see his friend, the doctor . . . what was the name of the doctor who took \$30 million from Manitoba?

**MR. BARROW:** Dr. Jekyll.

**MR. MALINOWSKI:** No, no a different one.

**A MEMBER:** Cass-Beggs.

**MR. MALINOWSKI:** That's right, how do you like that? So maybe they will have a nice dinner, you know, down there on the expense of the taxpayer's money of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, I again want to urge the government, through the Minister of Labour, to arrange a meeting of leading businessmen and employers in the province. I plead with the government to call together representatives of the Chambers of Commerce, the Manufacturers Association; the Bankers Association; Heads of the Construction Industry. Invite employers to meet with the government and members of this Legislature, to discuss with them the urgency of the unemployment problem and to confront them with the responsibility they should assume.

Surely if all the big employers of this province assumed some responsibility for the unemployment problem, they could create many more openings for workers in many fields.

During this Session we have discussed the minimum wage. But the minimum wage means nothing, Mr. Speaker, to those who don't get any wage because they have no job.

We discussed "Right to Work" resolutions also, but we know for thousands of people there are no opportunities to get work. So the right to work again means nothing.

Most businesses this past year have shown record profits. With such a rosy profit picture I see no reason why this shouldn't result in more jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I have no idea how useful such a meeting or conference, which I am proposing, will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my time is running out, I will be almost finished.

I am not even sure whether we could get leading businessmen and employers of this province to attend such a gathering.

I am not sure if this government could get the co-operation of the major business firms in this province in any plan to reduce the number of unemployed. But I want to give them the benefit of the doubt. I think the least this government can do is to try to get their co-operation by inviting them to a meeting such as I have proposed.

At the very least, such a meeting would be a further test for free enterprise. It would show whether this government is justified in placing such a strong reliance on private enterprise to end unemployment, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the honourable members will realize how the person who is without a job, without money, and he has to support a family, what kind of an atmosphere he has at home with his family. What kind of a future he has. So let's, Mr. Speaker, not talk only on the piece of paper, that we will do it, let's go and do it — don't promise, but prove it, do it.



Take care of the people of Manitoba. You got this mandate to take care, not only for a few, especially those who are not in need, but rather for those who are hungry. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. DOWNEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say how pleased I am to be a member of a government that has just introduced a Budget, Mr. Speaker, that contains for the people of Manitoba, some real direction, some real financial policies for the people of Manitoba. And in listening to the echoing of the empty barrels from the other side of the House really makes me feel that over the past few years, as we have lived in Manitoba under the guidance or the misguidance of the past government, really makes me appreciate the work and the effort that the Minister of Finance, the Premier of this province and all my colleagues have put into the development of policies and direction for the private sector, and for the total population of this country.

I think that it is very appropriate to make mention at this time of the recent federal election where we have seen the election of a Prime Minister-elect, in Joe Clark and his colleagues, who will put this country back on an economic base, provide economic policies that will see Canada oove ahead as a leader in the economic free world in this particular world. I think that we have to really commend those particular people who have worked hard to get Canada back on the track, that will get people working and doing things that are productive.

Under the leadership of the last Prime Minister, I think that we have been totally lead down the drain of social programs that aren't really the real problems that we were lead to believe, or the people of this country were lead to eelieve. We are now back to the types of programs or the type of a government that are going to govern for the people, to provide the people with the freedom of opportunity to do things for themselves. And I think that we've seen it in Britain, we've seen it in several provinces, and Manitoba took the lead. And I really feel . . . well, Mr. Speaker, there's somebody mentioned the word Saskatchewan across the way, and I would like to make a comment briefly on Saskatchewan, and I'll do that a little bit later in my speech. But I think that we really have to feel, as a province that makes up this country of Canada, very proud that we are a government that can work with people, a government that will work with people, to provide us with the opportunity and the freedom for our children, and for our old people — the older people, the elderly to live and retire and have something that they are very proud of, and that is the basic freedoms that we've enjoyed or hope to continue to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, the policies of the Provincial Government, the policies that we will be working on and working with, I'm sure will give the confidence to the total community that is required. And a true indication of that is the freezing of Hydro rates for five years. And you know, I was really amused at the comments by the members opposite when they really couldn't take a grasp of really what happened the night that the Budget was introduced. They really didn't know what had really happened — with the comments that came from the Member for St. George being, "Loading it on to the backs of the taxpayers." Well, Mr. Speaker, there isn't one person in Manitoba, from the time he wakes up in the morning until he goes to sleep at night, that doesn't use Hydro. And, Mr. Speaker, I think the effect that the freezing of the Hydro rates on the people of Manitoba will assure us, will assure the people of the province, that they will be able to develop and enjoy a resource that at one time was a fairly reasonable source of energy, but under the misguidance and the misleadership of the members opposite, lead us to be one of the highest cost sources of energy that we are now looking at in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the emptiness of the replies from the members across the way truly indicate their lack of leadership, their lack of ability to really take grasp of what is really happening in the province. We just have to look at some of the statements that were made by members opposite and hearing how they campaigned in the Federal Election, that in fact they were using the same old scare tactics that people were losing medical support, they were losing, there was a tremendous loss created by the provincial government. Mr. Speaker, what was lost by the people of this province? We have seen increased expenditures in medical services. Mr. Speaker, we have to really look at the total health programs that are in this province. Mr. Speaker, the people of this province probably have a better-run, a more responsive medical and doctor service than they have ever had since the implementation of the government medical program.

I think, Mr. Speaker, we really have to take a look at the falsehoods that were spread by the members opposite. They really didn't take a hold of an issue that they could for very long substantiate, because, Mr. Speaker, when the people of the Province of Manitoba look at the financial policies and the direction that has been given by our government, the real facts that we are going to be looking at a stable Hydro rate for every Manitoban for the next five years, Mr. Speaker —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition says we would have had it anyway. Well, Mr. Speaker, what we really had was a 150 percent increase given to us by the members

opposite, the users, every taxpayer in this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, when he says we would have had it anyway, well, I think, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the potential production in Manitoba, the desire of the people to go to work and, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about people who want to go to work and we look at the foofaraw on the unemployment, well, Mr. Speaker, unemployment statistics are nothing more than numbers that are assembled by a group of people. As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous amount of job opportunities in this country. We have a land of unlimited resources. We provide the economic environment. The government's obligation is to create the environment where the private industry can, in fact, provide jobs for those people who want to go to work.

And, Mr. Speaker, there is a tremendous difference in unemployment and people wanting to go to work. I think, Mr. Speaker, that when we look at some of the examples that have taken place in Manitoba in the last year, and I'll refer to one of them, and that's when the construction people were on strike last summer. The most opportune time to work and build any type of structural work in Manitoba is the summer and they, Mr. Speaker, their organization, the organized labour, wouldn't provide a service to the people who wanted to do something, wouldn't provide it. What did those particular workers do, Mr. Speaker, while they were on strike, on an organized strike? They went out as individuals, Mr. Speaker, and got a job. They got a job because there were jobs available to them. They were using a regulated power to inhibit the development of people who want to do things.

There's a perfect example that is taking place right today and it really relates to the economy of western Canada — 450 dock workers going on strike in Montreal. We have a situation, Mr. Speaker, where we have western Canada full of grain, having to be held up because a small collective group of people with a regulated power in their hands to inhibit the development or the continued sales of product from this country. Mr. Speaker, that is all we have seen in the past few years. I would hope that we can, as a provincial and a new federal government, look at some of the regulatory powers that have been given to not only the labour groups — there are certain regulatory powers that have been given to some of the agricultural producers and I think we could take one example and it is an example of something that probably has more influence than any government has ever got, it has more power than any government has been ever given, and that, Mr. Speaker, is the Canadian Wheat Board.

We look at the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker, as an instrument or as a tool for the farmers of western Canada to sell their product collectively which, Mr. Speaker, I support and support fully. But, Mr. Speaker, we have developed, through regulation, through government Acts and regulations, a body which is answerable to no one. Mr. Speaker, there is a misbelief by the people of Canada that the Canadian Wheat Board answers to a Minister of the Federal Government. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would say that that Canadian Wheat Board destroyed the Minister it was responsible to. Why, Mr. Speaker, with a man who has the power to control the largest marketing organization in the world, and if he was controlling it properly, representing 150,000 farmers properly, why, Mr. Speaker, was he in third position in the last election? Mr. Speaker, it is not because the Canadian Wheat Board is answerable to the farmers or to the people; it is answerable to no one. It is a self-contained bureaucracy that makes its own rules and regulations and runs what is known as a total monopoly marketing system.

Mr. Speaker, I think we really have to take a look at what we have created, we as farm people who are paying the shot. We are looking, Mr. Speaker, at an organization that has been given the legislative, the regulatory power to implement such things as total control over all grains. Wheat, oats and barley, for example, are the grains that the Canadian Wheat Board have control. Because, Mr. Speaker, of the inability of the Canadian Wheat Board to satisfy some of the needs of some of the people, the feed grain producers and some of the inequities that were being paraded, how did they decide that they should resolve this problem? Instead of going out on a more aggressive approach to loosening up the system and providing a system which could provide the farmers with more outlets and more opportunities and maybe allowing the farmers the excess to some of the markets that are available in foreign countries, or some of the marketing organizations, Mr. Speaker, what did they do? They implemented more regulations onto the farm people who wanted to sell their product.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the farm people should have the opportunity to use an alternative grain marketing system. We have a modernized agricultural industry and, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that this modernized agricultural industry should be strapped with a government-created organization that is answerable to no one and that, Mr. Speaker, is the position we are in in western Canada today with the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Speaker, I think when they look at the chart that is made up of how many regulatory bodies or control systems that a bushel of wheat or a bushel of grain goes through to an export market, we look at something like approximately 10 to 14 regulatory bodies, whether it be government —

and they all relate to government — regulatory-type organizations, a bureaucratic system. Mr. Speaker, I think that instead of placing more obstructions in front an industry that provides billions of dollars for the total economy of Canada, that we have to look in the other direction for a change. We do not continually need to throw more roadblocks or more gates in the way of people who want to develop and do things for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I totally support the collective system, the Canadian Wheat Board system of marketing of grain but, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying, it has to be accountable to the people who are paying for it; it has to be accountable to the people who are paying for it, and that is the farmers of western Canada. I think there is evidence before us that it destroyed the last Minister who it was supposed to be responsible to. Mr. Speaker, it ran him; he didn't run it or have any control or influence over it. And the true indication, Mr. Speaker, the true indication was the implementation of quotas on grains that weren't affecting the system one iota — oats and barley — to throw a further regulatory control over a product which was moving fairly freely from western Canada to eastern Canada between producer and user of the product. No, Mr. Speaker, we had to put on further regulations and further quota. What do we do with it, Mr. Speaker? We leave it sit on the farms. We leave it sit on the farms and, Mr. Speaker, what does that do to Manitoba? Well, last year in Manitoba the agricultural value of production was something like \$1.5 billion. Mr. Speaker, western Canada sat with \$300 million to \$400 million worth of grain that could have been sold. The Wheat Board said they had sales for it. They say it was the transportation system that couldn't get it there.

Well, Mr. Speaker, really and truly why don't we, in a modern-day society, in a modern-day country, have a system that will service two marketing systems? Why do we have to regulate people through one channel that is plugged, plugged, Mr. Speaker, with government regulations and an agency that is accountable to no one. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is high time that a federal government gave the responsibility to one Minister, one man, to wrestle that Wheat Board to the ground and to look at the regulatory power that has been given to it and totally make it responsible to the people of western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some criticism from the members opposite about discussing compensatory rates, that we were totally going to remove the benefits of the Crow rate for the farmers of western Canada.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let us really take a look at where we stand in Manitoba, as far as some of our production is concerned. Well, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba produces something like 250,000 acres of sunflowers. Mr. Speaker, those sunflowers don't come under the Canadian Wheat Board; they don't come under the statutory rates. Mr. Speaker, we produce 95 percent of the sunflowers that are produced in Canada. Mr. Speaker, those people that are producing sunflowers are producing them not because they are getting a statutory rate; not because they are marketed by the Canadian Wheat Board, but in fact they are free to make a good living out of them and they are able to do so without regulations.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at some of the other special groups. Let us look at sugarbeets. Manitoba produces something like 40 percent of the sugarbeets in this country. Mr. Speaker, they don't come under the control of a regulatory government-regulated body. Mr. Speaker, they are a self-disciplinary organization that provide a service for themselves and do not build in government bureaucratic roadblocks.

Let us look, Mr. Speaker, at flax. We produce, in Manitoba, well over 50 percent of the flax in Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, there are quotas placed on flax but, Mr. Speaker, if a farmer wants to sell all the flax he can grow to someone in the United States or someone in Europe he is quite able to do that through any organization that he wants; he doesn't have to depend on an overentangled bureaucratic system to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have been somewhat lead down the drain in Manitoba, and that's where I will refer to Saskatchewan. We, in Manitoba, cannot live with Saskatchewan grain handling and transportation policies because, Mr. Speaker, the NDP Party, the government of Saskatchewan, believe totally in total control of farmers' product.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot live with those kinds of policies. Mr. Speaker, the organizations that governments set up for the betterment of people and farmers and the betterment of our economy have to be accountable to those people. And today, Mr. Speaker, that is not working. It has to be competitive, Mr. Speaker, so in fact we are getting — we, as taxpayers and we, as people who are paying the cost of the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board — we are getting our dollar's worth.

Who, Mr. Speaker, made the decision for the Canadian Wheat Board to buy hopper cars? Mr. Speaker, who has told us we need more hopper cars? You know who told us, Mr. Speaker; it was the Canadian Wheat Board. They wouldn't even let their advisors go out, when they were campaigning for election this summer, to tell the farmers, to tell the farmers they were proposing

to buy more hopper cars. Well, Mr. Speaker, the thousands of dollars that were involved, the decision was made by a government-structured bureaucratic system that is answerable to no one.

You know, I really have to think that when we're looking at the development, the economic policies that we, in Manitoba, particularly in agriculture, we have to really have some input into what happens at the federal government level. And, Mr. Speaker, we have had very little of that.

But I must say, Mr. Speaker, that our Premier of this province, at a First Ministers Conference last November, got support from the rest of the country and the First Minister of the country at that particular time to look at, to really look at, some of the problems that were in the way of the movement of some of our grains out of this country. And, Mr. Speaker, I commend them for that. Mr. Speaker, that was one of the most significant meetings that took place — it was last January — that really and truly there was action followed because of that meeting. We saw more co-operation from some of the railroads; we saw co-operation from the government of Alberta and from the consortium of people that were considering building a new terminal at Prince Rupert. And what are they doing, Mr. Speaker? They are proceeding to do something.

But the real problem, Mr. Speaker, is not totally a mechanical one. It's a people problem; it's a regulatory problem and I would have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I will be working with the new Minister, who I hope will be appointed very shortly, to discuss some of the problems as we have seen them, as we have seen them in Manitoba since we have been in office.

Let's look at the real responsibility of government and what we feel is really our obligation as Conservatives, as a government that should provide the essential services to people. And I really believe that when you look over the history of Manitoba that there has been a responsible role played by past governments in the provision of the Hydro service to rural people; in the provision of telephone service to people throughout the province; in the provision of a road system that I would say, over the past numbers of years — not over the past eight years but prior to that — we could be very proud of our road system that we have. We had a very good educational system in Manitoba. We had a system that I thought, and I'm sure the people of Manitoba thought, was providing the necessary education inputs for our children.

But what happened, Mr. Speaker — and we've heard it in the debates over the past few weeks — the kind of material that was proposed to be distributed to the children of Manitoba, the Co-operative Development Program, where, in fact, Mr. Speaker, the type of material, the type of real material that was to influence our children, Mr. Speaker, when we have to introduce that kind of indoctrinaire material to the people who are going to be future Manitobans, then I think that that message has to be told. That is a far more real of problem for the people of Manitoba than the falsehoods that have been spread by the members opposite about the loss of medical care to the people — complete balderdash; you find one person who has lost anything as far as medical care is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the members of our government are providing the essential services and providing the needs.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Point Douglas, you know, I really think that people who are in his profession, when they blame politicians for not creating jobs, for the hard line that has to be taken in certain areas where government's responsibilities really aren't to be involved.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, order please. May I point out to the honourable member he will have 16 minutes left when we reconvene at 8 o'clock.

The hour being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair, to return at 8 o'clock.