

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Friday, February 22, 1980

Time: 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . .
Reading and Receiving Petitions.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Report of the Standing Committee of Privileges and Elections.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. John on a point of order.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C.: I don't know how lengthy the report is, but I wonder if we can't hear it if it is not too lengthy. Could we have an indication of its length?

MR. CLERK: Several pages.

MR. CHERNIACK: No, well then in that case, Mr. Speaker, from my part I am willing to agree to the suggestion by other members; it will appear in Hansard.

MR. CLERK, Mr. Jack Reeves: Your Committee met on Monday, October 22, 1979, and elected Mr. McKenzie as Chairman. The quorum for all future meetings was agreed upon as six members.

The resignation of Mr. Jenkins, because of illness, was accepted and he was replaced by Mr. Boyce. At the conclusion of the first day of hearings Mr. Domino tendered his resignation as a member of the Committee and he was replaced by Mr. Anderson. Mr. Hanuschak was replaced by Mr. Schroeder.

A request was received that the Committee travel to The Pas to hear the submissions of several organizations. However, since the resolution referring the subject matter of the two Bills to the Committee did not contain specific authority for the Committee to conduct hearings outside of Winnipeg, it was deemed improper for the Committee to hold such hearings. Your Committee recommends that in future the authority to hold such public hearings as is considered necessary be given to the Committee.

Your Committee agreed that the sittings of the Committee would be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.. It was agreed that where a brief was commenced prior to 10:00 p.m. it would be permitted to continue to its conclusion, even though the deadline of 10:00 p.m. was exceeded.

Your Committee heard briefs from the following individuals and organizations on Bill No. 22 - The Public Schools Act, and Bill No. 23 - The Education Administration Act, on dates as shown:

October 22, 1979

Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded -

Dr. John Curran

Dale Kendall

The Manitoba Association of School Business Officials Inc. -

D. Cornell

Winnipeg School Division No. 1 -

Mrs. M. Spivak

Special Education Administrators Association of Manitoba -

J. Fradette

Manitoba League of the Physically Handicapped -

Mrs. Paula Simpson.

Henry Enns

Friday, February 22, 1980

La Societe Franco-Manitobaine -
Maurice Arpin, Q.C.
Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools Inc. -
J. C. Stangl
Manitoba Catholic Schools Trustees Associations -
Mrs. Patricia Soenen
Collegiate Division, University of Winnipeg -
Alan Judd

October 23, 1979

Manitoba Association of School Trustees -
N. G. Harvey
Allen Rouse
Mrs. Louise Lamb
Roy White
Ray Whiteway
Transcona-Springfield School Division No. 12 -
John Quail
George E. Marshall
Manitoba Teachers' Society -
Marilyn Thompson
John Enns
Wally Pindera
Kris Breckman
Julien Levesque
Winnipeg Teachers' Association of Manitoba Teachers' Society -
T. Clifford
The Society for Crippled Children and Adults -
Dr. Arthur Majury
Archie Carmichael
Ernie Masiowski
Mike Owen
Manitoba Association of Student Councils -
Deanne Schultz
Stefan Deprez
Michael Miller

October 24, 1979

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg -
Tim Sale
Roy Warman
Manitoba Association for Children with Learning Disabilities -
Mrs. Cornelia Johnson
Heather Grant
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents -
Gordon Newton
Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties -
Garth Erickson
Abe Arnold
Walter Hlady
Fort Garry School Division No. 5 -
R. I. Scarth
River East Teachers' Association -
Derwyn Davies
Mrs. Marlene Buffie - Private Citizen
Concerned Parents of Winnipeg -
B. Plishke
Mrs. J. Konyk
Mrs. Jeanne Plishke
Manitoba Association for Schooling at Home -
Ms. Mary C. Figurel

Friday, February 22, 1980

October 25, 1979

St. Boniface School Division No. 4 -

Mrs. Lucille Huot

Mrs. J. Barker

P. Martel

R. Millier

Manitoba Federation of the Visually Handicapped -

Magnus Eliason

Federation Provinciale des Comites de Parents -

Roger Dubois

P. Laurencelle

Child Guidance Clinic of Greater Winnipeg, Advisory Council -

J. Simpson

Dr. H. Curtis

David L. Jenkins - Private Citizen

Commissionaires d'Ecoles Franco-Manitobaine -

Alfred Laurencelle

Manitoba Branch, Canadian Parents for French -

David Osborne

Conseil Jeunesse Provincial -

Guy Smith

Jim Garwood, Trustee, St. Boniface School Division No. 4

Ken Karlenzig - Private Citizen

Mrs. Evelyn Reese - Private Citizen

Phil Trottier - Private Citizen

October 26, 1979

People's Education Policy, Manitoba Incorporated -

Mrs. Loretta Riedner

Ken Alyluia

Renaissance Manitoba - Terry Lewis

Bill Riedner - Private Citizen

Mrs. M. Andrieshyn

October 29, 1979

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Toews, Virden

Labour Election Committee -

Mrs. Mary Kardash

The Manitoba Community Schools Association -

Lynne Pinterics

Patti Sullivan

The Council for Exceptional Children -

Cathi Hill

Mrs. Guigerre - Concerned Parent

Mrs. Lavoie - Concerned Parent

Mrs. Helen Jenner - Concerned Parent

Mrs. Sybil Plattner - Concerned Parent

Briefs were also received from the following and were distributed to all Committee members:

B.U.S. (Bus Up Safety) Committee, The Pas -

Susan Lindsay, Chairman

Neil McQuarrie - Individual, Brandon

L'Association des Parents de l'ecole Provencher -

Mrs. C. Bouvier

Certified General Accountants Association

Angie Loat, Kenville, Manitoba

Probation Services, Juvenile Justice Committee

Children's Aid Society of Western Manitoba

Legislative Committee of the Local Advisory Council of Fort Garry School Division No. 5 -

Father Mirone R. Klysh

Friday, February 22, 1980

Canadian Alliance of Home Schoolers, Jarvis, Ontario
Rev. James Reaves, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Virden (endorsed by
the Virden and Area Evangelical Ministers Fellowship)
Rev. W. B. Nehring, Virden
W. K. Ziprick, C.A., Provincial Auditor.

The following briefs were submitted after the dates set for the sitting of the Committee and were forwarded directly to the members:

Mrs. Judy Scanlan, Parents' Action Committee

Mrs. Val Friesen, Parents' Action Committee for Transportation.

Your Committee met on November 13, 1979 and on February 12, 1980, to consider its report to the Legislature.

Your Committee is appreciative of the interest shown with regard to the education of our youth, as evidenced by the thoughtful and detailed briefs presented by the various organizations and individuals and the informative discussions which took place subsequent to the presentations. It is clear that the citizens of Manitoba regard the public school system as a vital function and a priority in our democratic society. Your committee also noted that a wide variety of opinions was expressed with respect to not only the function and the purpose of an educational system in our society, but also the means by which the statutes should give expression to the philosophical basis on which our children should be educated.

A major area of interest which was brought to the attention of your committee was the provision of educational services for children with special needs of all types. It was the opinion of many who made presentations on this topic that the legislation should make certain that the services and programs required by such students would be available to them in accordance with their needs. Several briefs suggested that legislation should include a form of appeal mechanism in order to ensure a more effective delivery of such services and programs. Portal-to-portal transportation and easy access to school buildings were other points of concern with regard to students with special needs.

Opinions varied among various organizations and individuals as to the statutory delineation of the rights of pupils, parents, and school authorities.

In the matter of instruction in the French language, several briefs suggested that there should be a clear definition of the right to provide programs in a physical and cultural environment conducive to maintaining, developing, and enhancing French programs in the school system. Although opinions varied as to detail, most of the briefs heard with regard to this topic proposed a form of appeal mechanism by means of which problems arising from the implementation of legislation might be resolved.

Your committee notes that with regard to the rights, duties and responsibilities of teachers, trustees, and administrators, there are varied opinions concerning important matters such as due process, sick leave, and tenure.

In the matter of independent schools, your committee notes that of the several briefs dealing with the topic, opinions varied as to role and function of such schools in the educational system. Some briefs suggested that direct funding by the province should be instituted rather than payment through the public school authorities.

The role and the function of the public school system with regard to the inculcation of values, ethics, morals and religion were drawn to the attention of your committee by several presenters. Concerns were expressed with regard to the censorship of textbooks, the place of religious instruction and exercises in public schools and the availability and support for alternate forms of schooling.

Your committee observes that there are opposing opinions with regard to the effectiveness and impact of The Greater Winnipeg Equalization Education Levy.

A number of briefs brought to the attention of your committee special situations related to the core areas of the city. They pointed out the need for a continual effort on the part of legislators to consider ways and means of making maximum educational opportunities available under all special circumstances.

Various suggestions were made to your committee respecting clarification of certain aspects of rules of procedure for school boards as well as duties and responsibilities of teachers and trustees.

It became obvious to your committee that the general format and arrangement of the proposed legislation were acceptable. However, in addition to the matters raised in the foregoing, there were a number of requests for clarification with regard to the intent of several sections.

Friday, February 22, 1980

Your committee recommends that the Minister of Education, in drafting revised legislation for submission to the Legislature, give consideration to the various matters which were brought to the attention of the committee and which are herein reported.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wish to table Order of the House No. 29, April 6, 1978; and Order of the House No. 56, May 23, 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the Orders of the Day I should like to table with the House an Order of the House No. 1, on a motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, dated March 5, 1979. A copy of this order was mailed to the honourable member on December 14, 1979, but I would like to table it in the House at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JIM DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to, before the Orders of the Day, table an Order for Return No. 2, on a motion from the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet. A copy of this was mailed to the member on November 8, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. NORMA L. PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wish to table Returns to Orders of the House Nos. 2 and 3, on motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood, dated May 8th, 1979. Copies of these Orders were mailed to the honourable member on December 5, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement I'd like to make to the House and I have copies for you, Mr. Speaker, and for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce changes to the department's Child Day Care Program at a total cost of approximately one-half million dollars, an increase of 12 percent over last year. The changes will be effective April 28th, 1980 and are intended to maintain and reinforce Manitoba's day care system. Modifications include the maximum user charge and government subsidy for subsidized children goes up by 25 percent, from \$6.80 to \$8.50 for group day care and from \$6 to \$7.50 for family day care. Day care centres will be able to levy an additional charge to parents, on top of the user charge, up to a maximum of \$1.00. The income levels, which determine the level of subsidy will be increased by 8 percent. The maximum annual audit fee goes up by 10 percent, from \$600 to \$660, and day care centres must be incorporated with a board of at least five persons and with no more than 20 percent of the board made up of employees of the centre.

Group day care centres have been operating with the same revenues for two years and the family day care provides for three, despite rising operating and maintenance costs. A careful analysis has indicated that the 25 percent increase in subsidized maximum daily fees to \$8.50 for group day care and \$7.50 for family day care will be sufficient at this time and not all centres will choose to raise fees to this maximum level. However, the increase will allow certain facilities enough additional revenue to offset the rising operating costs to

Friday, February 22, 1980

maintain their operations. The additional \$1 charge available as an optional funding source for centres will not be subsidized by the government but is intended to provide the small number of day care centres unable to operate at the \$8.50 level with greater flexibility in meeting rising costs. Income levels will be raised by 8 percent to ensure that subsidized parents will continue to receive the subsidy. This will mean, for example, that a two-parent family with one child in day care will be fully subsidized with a net income of \$9,550, rather than the \$8,840 as in 1979-80. The increase is equivalent to social allowance rate indexing and will also apply to the special northern exemptions in the day care income test. Because external audit costs are exceeding the grant level established in 1976 and forcing centres to pay from the general revenue accounts the grant will be increased by 10 percent, from \$600 to \$660.00.

To assist in the provision of day care services to a larger number of families, expansions will be made possible in both the group and family day care components of the program. Group day care centres who have demonstrated a need for day care in their area and who are physically capable of enlarging their programs will have the opportunity of expanding by 10 percent, which is 105 spaces. Family day care spaces will expand by 150 beyond the present level, which will especially accommodate the need for infant day care services.

I am currently discussing relevant by-laws with the City of Winnipeg which apply to family day care. I will be assessing the financial resources of my department as the year progresses to consider giving approval to the establishment of new centres. Board policy will be revised to increase board composition to five members and to limit the number of staff on each board to 20 percent. A clear definition of board membership will ensure greater self determination, accountability in the financial control where provincial funds are involved. The modifications will ease the financial difficulties of parents and facilities in caring for pre-schoolers and encourage parental and community participation in determining fee structures in day care centre operations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Minister for his announcement. Of course we welcome any improvement in the financing of day care centres. This paper, mind you, seems like an argument that the Minister is having with himself. He's saying there wasn't enough in past years, and of course we've recognized that and we're pleased to know that finally the government is paying heed to what we're saying on this side of the House.

We'll be waiting to see if the qualifications are the same. I think that we need more information. Contrary to what the former Minister was doing, will he be ready to license the family day care if need be, himself. The legislation is on the books now but this hasn't been done and I think that this is a way that we can improve the situation.

One thing that is conspicuous by its absence in this report, Mr. Speaker, is - at least I got it late and I've just glanced through it - the Minister doesn't say anything about the maintenance grant and I think that this is actually the best way of doing it and it seems to me that the Minister should, before he finalizes his policy on this, look at the maintenance and the possibility of increasing the maintenance grant. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that today a grant of \$300,000 is being . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Has the Honourable Minister got copies?

MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you pick up the copies please.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that today a grant of \$300,000 is being given to Kristiansen Cycle Engines Limited for the purpose of supporting the company's new technical research laboratory at the company's headquarters at Fort Garry.

In today's high energy cost society, research into fuel conserving internal combustion engines is highly important. The Province of Manitoba supports initiatives being taken by this Manitoba company to expand its technical consulting work. The intent of the government's

Friday, February 22, 1980

contribution is to assist the company in meeting the costs of establishing its laboratory building and technical testing equipment and to encourage the company to seek out contracts for research activities as a service to companies within the province as well as to corporations outside the province.

The provision and export of high technology services can be an important economic development activity in Manitoba. In addition to developing its own engine technology, the technical skills of the company personnel will be available to address other research related to internal combustion engine efficiency, as well as investigations into the efficiency of alternative fuels.

The intent of the grant is entirely consistent with the government's energy policy. It reflects our commitment to developing sound energy policies, as enunciated in yesterday's Throne Speech. I might also add, Mr. Speaker, the building is being opened today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I would welcome the Minister's statement that the government at last recognizes the need to stimulate and sponsor energy research and energy conservation in this province, I regret that two years ago when the government first took office it tended to downplay and in a very negative way criticize the energy conservation efforts of the previous government.

I cannot help but also note, Mr. Speaker, that in the statement the government seems to be deviating from a free enterprise ideology, which it has in the past made known far and wide that it did not wish to interfere or move into the private business sector in any way, shape or form, but here we have an example where the government seems to be prepared to deviate from a pure free enterprise ideology and move in with government assistance to private enterprise.

I believe that this is a very unique development. However, I cannot help ask, Mr. Speaker, whether \$300,000 would be sufficient in the long run to support on a continuing basis this type of venture, this type of research. Because, as the Honourable First Minister may know, and indeed the Minister of Economic Development may know, that this type of research and development is a very costly business and a very long-run type of activity. So it will be interesting to see, Mr. Speaker, whether there will be additional moneys being required in the months and years ahead. At any rate, we will be keeping a very close eye on this particular project.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I'd wish to table a Return Order of the House No. 55, on the motion of the Honourable Member for St. Vital, dated May 18th, 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON, Premier (Charleswood): I have the honour to present to you Gary Filmon, Esquire, Member for the electoral position of River Heights. He has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to our Assembly.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY, Q.C. (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you Victor Schroeder, the Member for the Electoral District of Rossmere, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take his seat.

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the Assembly.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you June Westbury, the Member for the Electoral Division of Fort Rouge, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims the right to take her seat.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: It's a pleasure to have you.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY (Fort Rouge): Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I would like to say to the new members, and to all members of the Chamber, that my office is open for your use. If I can be of any assistance to any of the members at any time please feel quite free to come and visit me.
The Honourable Attorney-General.

TABLING OF REGULATIONS

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day, I wish to table copies of each regulation made under The Regulation Act and passed since the commencement of the last session of the Legislature, being Regulations 25/79 to 248/79 and 1/80 to 15/80 inclusive.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, if I could also indicate before Orders of the Day that the Rules Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I'd like to move a change on the Rules Committee, substituting the Member for Radisson for the Member for Morris.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure this morning of introducing to the House two Members of Parliament Elect, the Member of Parliament Elect for Winnipeg-St. James, Cyril Keeper, and the Member of Parliament Elect for the constituency of Dauphin, Laverne Lewycky, and they are in the company of Privy Councillor and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg North Centre, Stanley Knowles, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg-Birds Hill, Bill Blaikie, and Member of Parliament for no other, Mr. Speaker, than for Selkirk-Interlake, Terry Sargent.

MR. SPEAKER: I should also like to draw to the honourable members' attention the fact that we have 90 students of Grade 3 standing from West Grove School, under the direction of Mrs. Phillips. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable First Minister.

We also have 35 students of Grade 5 standing from the Anola Elementary School, under the direction of Mrs. Kathy Redekopp. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Springfield.

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

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in commencing my questions I would like to first commend the First Minister on looking so fit, tanned, and obviously restful and ready to commence a new session. I would ask the First Minister if he could advise the House whether or not the Throne Speech delivered yesterday was in fact written and completed prior to the results of the federal election on February 18th.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can assure my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition that the Throne Speech that he heard yesterday and the ones that he will probably hear for many years to come from this side of the House were written and were started to be written on the 24th of October, 1977, when sanity was returned to government in Manitoba.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the First Minister, of course, is the best judge of what is sane and what is insane but I would like to then further ask the First Minister, in relationship to his question, whether the negotiations which he makes reference to with the federal government, specifically the one dealing with the federal-provincial conservation agreement, will continue and will be completed in the same manner as he had foreseen at the time that the Throne Speech was indeed prepared and written.

MR. LYON: The short answer to the question is yes, Mr. Speaker, we expect those negotiations to be completed fairly soon. They were undertaken with the previous Trudeau government and presumably will be closed with the Trudeau government elect.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again to the First Minister. In view of the importance of the present debate which is taking place in the Province of Quebec and statements that have been issued throughout Canada by various provincial governments pertaining to that issue and specifically to the papers presented by the Premier of Quebec, Levesque, and by the Opposition Leader, Claude Ryan, could the Premier advise whether or not a statement or paper will be issued on behalf of the Province of Manitoba pertaining to that debate presently raging in the Province of Quebec?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, there may well be opportunity during the course of this session for discussion on the matter that the Leader of the Opposition refers to. At the present moment there is no intention on the part of this government to intrude itself into the present internal discussions going on in the Province of Quebec, although we do expect that probably sooner rather than later, there will be a Federal/Provincial conference called of First Ministers at which I daresay this problem will be discussed.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary. Is the First Minister prepared to consider the establishment, at some vital point, of an all-party committee which will deal with the very important questions that are being raised in the Province of Quebec in order that we can, in a non-partisan manner, develop a response from the Province of Manitoba to this very important question facing Canada at the present time?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I believe my honourable friend will recall that some time ago it was indicated by the government that, as and when it was appropriate to do so, a committee of the House would be struck to consider in particular firm constitutional amendments as and when some consensus had been arrived at amongst the First Ministers of the country as to what we should be looking at. That point has not, of course, been reached as yet but when it is reached, that undertaking remains.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Economic Development responsible for Housing. In the Throne Speech there is reference made to preserving stable neighbourhoods, maintain the quality of housing stock. Can we rest assured, as a result of that statement in the Throne Speech, that the government will now liberalize its approach toward the City of Winnipeg and provide funds for the non-profit housing corporation that is being sought presently by the City of Winnipeg?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we have had, and are still having, very serious and encouraging discussions with the City of Winnipeg on that subject. I'm not prepared at this time to give the results of those meetings but we will be announcing our decision shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Health and ask the Minister whether he and his department agree with the publicly stated assessment of Major Stratton, Administrator of the Salvation Army's Bulloch and Booth Hostel on Princess Avenue in Brandon, that that building is a rundown inadequately fitted fire trap.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Not in its entirety, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I trust in his official capacity the Minister will be less flippant in this particular matter which houses a great deal of people, and the Administrator which believes it is a firetrap. I would ask the Minister then, would he be prepared to immediately conduct an investigation to satisfy himself whether this indeed is a firetrap and that people's lives may be lost?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, there was no element of flippancy in my answer. The honourable member asked me a question, whether I agreed with a statement that had three particular accusations in it. I said, not in its entirety. There is no question that the building is run down and needs replacement.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, is the government then prepared to act quickly and decisively to construct additional personal care facilities, or hostel facilities, in the City of Brandon in order to cope with this serious situation?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, in terms of guidelines for the province the Member for Brandon East would, I hope, be at least be a third or fourth to admit - I can't expect him to be the first to admit - that Brandon does not suffer in terms of personal care beds and extended care beds in relation to other parts of the province.

Many part of the province are looking for replacement of old homes that have deteriorated over the years through a succession of governments, not any one in particular, to blame. We face a decade of the 1980s of replacement of substandard personal care homes and nursing homes and we are moving on that job.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Natural Resources and I wonder whether or not the Minister will be withdrawing the new regulations that have been unasked for and unwanted by commercial fishermen. Would he be putting those regulations in the waste basket where they belong?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): It's difficult, Mr. Speaker, to withdraw regulations which have not been passed.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder then if the Minister, now that the Federal election is over, will be reimposing the regulations that he did announce to fishermen through a formal letter this fall; whether or not he will be advising the fishermen now that those regulations will be once again rammed down the throats of Manitoba commercial fishermen.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the regulations were never imposed, therefore I cannot reimpose them.

Friday, February 22, 1980

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

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could tell me, in his statement announcing that these new regulations the implementation would be postponed temporarily, he mentions that there will be some relaxation in current fishing licencing freeze, and I wonder where, if anywhere, that relaxation has taking place and whether or not any commercial fishermen have received licences since he made this announcement.

MR. RANSOM: I believe, in fact, Mr. Speaker, that there have been some additional licences issued. I'd be happy to take the question as notice and provide the information for the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: M. l'orateur, avant que je pose une question, je pense que les membres iÇi se donne l'indulgence dans cette historique occasion de dire quelques mots en franÇais parce que ceci c'est la première fois qu'un membre adresse l'Assemblée iÇi au Manitoba quand la langue franÇaise est officielle et pas même acceptable. Je veux aussi dire que pour moi-même, ce n'était pas très important. Je prévois beaucoup de difficultés avec cette nouvelle loi et moi je pense que nous avons fait beaucoup de progrès sans un langue qui est ma préférence. Mais j'espère que tout le monde essayera avec son oeur de donner vraiment une acceptation de cette nouvelle situation.

I would like to pose a question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Is it, Mr. Speaker, a fact that the Manitoba Government, in collaboration with the Federal Government, has privateered or assisted in the privateering of 500 acres of land, 400 homes, officers' quarters still used as meeting places, schools, hockey rinks and several big hangars which were owned by the public through the Crown in the name of Canada, to a private organization in Rivers, Manitoba, has that transaction been completed between and collaborated upon between this government and the now defunct Conservative government in Ottawa?

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

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I know of the agreement that the honourable member is speaking of, between the people in Rivers, who are working with the federal government to privatize the Rivers Air Base. The provincial government's involvement with it was a concern that the industries might be lost if something hadn't been done and also the provincial government's concern was that any move that was made or any agreement, let me put it this way, that was made between the industries dealing with the federal government would continue to have the Native Training Program carry on in Rivers, Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, is it a fact that this arrangement which my honourable friend is fully aware of, or appears to be aware of, was done without tendering to the public the assets that were intended to be disposed of, and that there was simply an arrangement between some of the private owners and the federal government to dispose of 400 homes to these people, 500 acres of land, officers' quarters, schools, hockey rinks, and several big hangars, and without giving the same opportunity to all of the industries that were located in Rivers?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I can only state what I said earlier. The arrangements pertaining to the Rivers Air Base are arrangements between the people that are there, the industries that are there, and the federal government. The concern of the provincial government is that we did not have the loss of the industries that are there and that the training programs carried on. We are not in the negotiations between the federal government and the people buying and we certainly don't make the rules and regulations under which the federal government will sell or lease, or whatever, to the private people.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make a correction that was made to me by the Member for Virden - and I thank him for it - there was no skating rink involved; it was a curling rink. May I ask the honourable member to tell me, then, that the Manitoba government was not involved during the process of the negotiations and also may I ask the Minister whether he is able, on the part of the people of Manitoba, to obtain a copy of this document, this agreement, which I understand, Mr. Speaker, was negotiated without public tender with the knowledge and acquiescence and participation of the provincial government, can he get for the people of Manitoba a copy of this agreement?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I must say I am not sure of the procedure to get copies of the agreement but I will make an undertaking to try. I can't give him a direct commitment at the present time. When he speaks of the provincial government involvement, as I said, there was involvement with the provincial government Department of Municipal Affairs when there were discussions, that if it was privatized or when it left the federal government's jurisdiction as to what the municipal status would be, etc., we were brought into those types of discussions. And, again, our main concern is that we did not lose industry in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs. In view of the impending rise in municipal taxation in the City of Winnipeg and the City's expressed dissatisfaction with all aspects of provincial funding, would the Minister be prepared to go back to Cabinet in an attempt to achieve additional funding for the City?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, this government is always prepared to meet and discuss problems of concern to the City and we have, throughout the past year and in 1979, in the early months of this year, concerned ourselves very much so with their problems. I would point out, for the edification of the Member for Elmwood, Mr. Speaker, that in the fiscal year 1979-80, excluding four special grants, \$4 million to the City - there has been an addition to the block grant, excluding \$106,000 which was paid to the City for the development plan review, another special grant of \$2,250,000 to the City for arena expansion and another special grant of \$250,000 to the City for purchase of library books. The total grants in 21 different programs amounted to \$52 million in the fiscal year 1979-80. That amount has been increased in the coming fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, by almost 12 percent, to a total of \$58,595,909.00. And I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Elmwood will appreciate that an increase in grants of 12 percent, excluding any consideration of \$6,606,000 in special grants is a fairly generous and satisfactory response to the City of Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Before we proceed, I realize the urgency that some members have for requiring information and I also realize the willingness of all Ministers to provide that information, however I suggest that detailed technical things may better be handled during the Estimates.

The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also ask the Minister . . . I interpret his answer as "no" for the first question, that he is not prepared to consider additional funding. I would ask him whether he has turned down a specific request from the City, in recent days or months, for additional funds for the purchase of new transit buses?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the facts of the matter are that in January of 1979 when the block fund announcement was made that block fund specifically included bus purchases. In increasing the grant from \$30 to in fact a 33-plus-\$4-million special grant this year, that was again taken into consideration.

Friday, February 22, 1980

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, to the Member for Elmwood, that even if the City wished to purchase buses from Flyer Industries this year, Flyer Industries cannot deliver buses on an order to the City. They have enough orders on hand that they are unable to deliver to the City, so it is simply not necessary that any money for the purchase of buses be included in the City of Winnipeg's budget this year.

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

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether he has either a specific plan for the development of urban transportation in Winnipeg and Manitoba or whether he has a particular interest in supporting the development of urban transportation in the province.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have a special interest and concern that urban transit in the City of Winnipeg be improved and expanded upon, and I think the trend that we see in gasoline prices and energy costs across Canada and North America and the world will ensure that that will happen; and I think the announcements that were made in the Throne Speech, in general, in reference to the Manitoba Energy Council and matters under consideration by the Minister of Mines and Energy policies will be developing in that particular area to assist in the problem for urban transit and many other energy areas.

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

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. In view of his government's policy which has caused a delay in the construction of a nursing home facility for the Village of Winnipegosis, I wonder if the Minister could advise when the construction of this facility will be undertaken.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the officials in the community of Winnipegosis are fully aware that construction of that home is scheduled to start in April. A retendering process was necessary because of the discrepancy in terms of the unit cost that came in on the bid in comparison with other personal care home projects in Manitoba. We felt it was only responsible to retender and explore whether that discrepancy could not be reduced; they have agreed to do that, but on the new bid, construction will start in April.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to another Minister, the Minister of Transportation - and I am not sure which one it is. But, in view of the major contradictions in paragraph 4, on Page 5 of the Throne Speech in regard to rail abandonment, I find major contradictions within the paragraph and I would ask the Minister responsible how rail abandonment will improve. Can he assure the House that rail abandonment will improve a grain handling system?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that the question he is using should be used in Throne Speech Debate.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he can explain to the House why we have a \$31 million revenue drop from the individual income tax yield for the first nine-month period of this fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I think the member is making reference to the fact that is probably explained in the quarterly report. It results in the arrangements with regard to the six-month reduction in the sales tax; and the adjustments from the federal government's point of view were made through the income tax system which makes the income tax appear different in the tally. It is not an actual drop exclusive of that happening.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. USKIW: Yes, well then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether he can explain why there is also a very substantial drop in revenues under the automobile and drivers licenses' section of the revenue department.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet with a final supplementary.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know just what is the amount of hydro surplus to date and projected for this current year, given the fact that there is a subsidy to the Hydro operation.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, about 1200 megawatts of capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Earlier in the question period the Minister indicated he would report back to the House on the number of fishermen who had been turned down for their licence. I would like the Minister to indicate if he can elaborate upon that answer when he returns to the House with it and indicate how many commercial fishermen are actually fishing this year; and how that total would compare with commercial fishermen fishing in previous years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Well, Mr. Speaker, I must offer a correction. I did not agree to provide, nor was I asked to provide, the number of fishermen who had been turned down for licences. I was asked to provide the number of licences that had been issued in the loosening of the freeze on licences and I would be happy to provide that; and the statistics available, with respect to fishermen, will be available for discussion during the Estimates.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I can assure the Minister that there will be discussion during Estimates on this new policy. Can the Minister now, at this time, be prepared to initiate special arrangements to ensure that fishermen who had been previously turned away, because of the restrictive licence freeze, will be personally informed of the suspension of that freeze and will be encouraged to reapply for their licence permits?

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my staff have held approximately 40 meetings throughout the province during the past two months and they have established contact, rather extensive contact, with the commercial fishermen. They are aware of the proposals that were being put forward for discussion with them; they are aware of the announcement that was made on the 29th of January and I am hopeful that my staff will be able to continue to further the communication that they have established during the past two months with the commercial fishermen.

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

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address this question to the Minister of Highways and Transportation and take this opportunity to welcome the Minister to this portfolio. I would like to know if the Minister can indicate to the House if his office is prepared to commit funding for the construction of a winter road into the community of Red Sucker Lake, thereby substantially reducing transportation costs as well as providing needed employment for local residents.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. DON ORCHARD (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, the subject of the construction for a winter road into Red Sucker Lake has been a matter under consideration by my office and we have not finalized the negotiations and the decision on that road.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Honourable Minister of Labour and arises out of the inquest findings of Provincial Judge Dubiensi respecting the fatal gas explosion at 52 Rampart Bay in Fort Garry. We would want to know whether the Minister has had the opportunity to determine what percentage of Winnipeg homes using natural gas have now been converted from the improper unapproved connectors, and can he inform us of the progress of this matter in general.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): I am not sure if I got the entire intent of the question but I will attempt to answer the portion that I heard. There was an estimate made, Mr. Speaker, of approximately 18,000 to 20,000 homes thought to have these type of connectors. If I was to take a guess today I would estimate over 11,000 have been changed and this particular program is continuing as extensively as possible under the circumstances.

I would like to say one further thing to the member, that I do not wish to debate or discuss the particular incident that he made reference to. I understand that the parents are involved in some further type of possible legal implications and I don't think it is my position to get into that here in the House.

MR. CORRIN: Has the Minister implemented any special informational programs directed at possible illiterate groups, such as new Canadians, and if not, Mr. Speaker, will he undertake to do so? This is with respect to the Inspection Program and the Conversion Program. Our concern is that some people who are unable to read English, most notably of course new Canadians, would be unaware of the danger inherent in the faulty connector fittings and therefore may not have had their homes reinspected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I think it's possibly past the stage of the call-in situation; it's at the stage now where the procedure is in place, where inspections in fact are taking place. I appreciate the point that the member has made. That would probably refer better to the original position that we had to take.

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

MR. CORRIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister whether he has now been able to determine how and why information relative to these faulty gas connectors was suppressed by his ministry, since they were decertified in 1961, and can he now advise us as to why his department allowed the faulty connectors to be in use for over 18 years. If not, will there be an investigation into this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I think I started off to answer the first question saying that it was somewhat confusing and, as the questions have gone on, they've got more confusing in the mind of the questioner. These connectors - and I'll make it short, Mr. Speaker - were not deemed to be faulty at the time the government, way back when, chose not to permit them to be used in the future. What happened at that particular time was that a better type of connector came on the market. People in the construction industry were advised they should use the newer type. The connectors were not deemed to be faulty, which is a point that the member, I think, was attempting to make.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere. Order please. The Honourable Member for Wellington with a point of order?

MR. CORRIN: Yes. The point of order is, Mr. Speaker, that I would beg to table before this House the Inquest Report of the findings . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member has no point of order. The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Has the government transferred any land which had been under the jurisdiction of both the R.M. of Whitemouth in the Whiteshell Provincial Park; has any of that property been transferred out of the jurisdiction of the R.M. of Whitemouth and, if not, is the government intending to do so?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have just recently transferred the area that the honourable member is referring to.

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

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, is it then the intention of the government to transfer property in this province out of rural municipalities wherever that property may also be within the confines of a provincial park?

MR. GOURLAY: Excuse me, I wonder if the member could repeat the question, please.

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The supplementary question was, is it then the intention of the government to transfer property out of rural municipalities in this province, wherever that land is also within the jurisdiction of a provincial park, such as, for instance, in the R.M. of St. Clements and Grand Beach Provincial Park?

MR. GOURLAY: Oh, I think, Mr. Speaker, we would be prepared to look at the situations as they are brought forward to us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI (Point Douglas): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. In the light of the fact that the former Premier of the province of Manitoba and presently His Excellency the Governor-General Edward Schreyer is in hospital, I wonder if it would be a proper time to send him our good wishes for a speedy recovery on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that all members of the Chamber would join with the Honourable Member for Point Douglas in expressing warm wishes to the Governor-General for a quick and speedy recovery and return to full health and zest in his new responsibilities in Ottawa. I'm sure that that is a sentiment that is widely shared throughout the length and breadth of this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, a question again to the Minister of Resources. I wonder if the Minister could clarify, for commercial fishermen in Manitoba, his intention in regard to the new regulations which were to come into effect on June 1st, in which he announces suspension. The fishermen are not clear what is going to happen and I wonder if he could take this opportunity to clarify that for fishermen.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: My impression, Mr. Speaker, is that the fishermen are reasonably well informed, but the Member for The Pas doesn't seem to be well informed. The announcement that was made on the 29th of January was one of the suspension of implementation of the proposed policies and that was done because a number of fishermen had felt that they simply didn't have the time to examine the proposal; they didn't wish to see it implemented until they had an opportunity to make further comments and to see modifications made, which was

Friday, February 22, 1980

always the intention, Mr. Speaker, that we were consulting with the fishermen and getting their reaction. That's why we organized 40 meetings throughout the province to meet with them.

I think if the honourable member will refer to comments, for instance, made by the Moose Lake fishermen which appeared in the Free Press on the 30th of January, where they said, "When we had a chance to look at these policies we find that really there are some good points about them. What we think is required is that there should be a delay in the implementation, that we have a chance to discuss them further." Chief Tobacco said, "I think that if the Minister shows some flexibility here that we'll be able to work out a satisfactory policy."

And that's what we've done, Mr. Speaker, and the meetings that my staff have been organizing throughout the province have been continuing since that announcement and we have informed those fishermen that we are quite prepared to listen to what their concerns are and how they feel the policies should be altered. We recognize that there will be different policies in different places and I think the fishermen are quite aware of that, but I would be happy to send a further letter of explanation to individual fishermen, setting out that policy to them, if that seems to be required.

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

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, since the total rejection by the fishermen of the proposed regulations and the suggestion by some fishermen that whole new regulations be drafted, I wonder if the Minister would not just then withdraw the existing regulations and start from square one. Would the Minister be willing to do that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

MR. RANSOM: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if I might refer the honourable member to a report in the Winnipeg Free Press on the 29th of January, 1980, where the administrator from the Moose Lake Band said, for instance, "we could see some good in it but we didn't have time to study it in depth and make our recommendations for changes." This was after our people had had an opportunity to go in and explain the policies to the residents, to the fishermen there. Previously, the only interpretation they had, Mr. Speaker, was that provided by some of the members opposite, and needless to say it was a somewhat biased interpretation of the policies.

Then further on in the report, Mr. Speaker, it also says where I quoted Chief Tobacco, and the paper shows quotation, "If the department is sincere in what it is saying about wanting to consult us, and if Ransom shows some flexibility, we might be able to get somewhere in developing a workable policy". That is precisely what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. We have been showing flexibility; we have been making every effort to meet and consult with the fishermen.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, is commenting from his chair about whether or not staff agree with policies. He has a rather interesting interpretation as to where policy is established and who establishes policy in government.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for questioning having expired, I have one last supplementary for the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear that the Minister, after announcing that he would proceed with the regulations regardless of what the fishermen say, has at least been willing to temporarily suspend these regulations, although the fishermen would prefer to have them withdrawn altogether.

Mr. Speaker, I will put my question to the Minister and hope that I don't get another speech from the Minister. I wonder if the Minister could confirm that fishermen from Lake Winnipegosis, Cedar Lake, Lake Winnipeg, Lake St. Martin, Moose Lake and Lake Manitoba, who have gone and asked for licences since the Minister announced the unfreezing of licences, whether he can confirm that all of those fishermen have been turned down and his staff is saying there will be no new licenses issued?

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I must respond to the first comment that the Member for The Pas made about stating allegedly that I had said that the policies would be

Friday, February 22, 1980

implemented irrespective of reaction. I think if the honourable member would check his facts, he would find that in October of 1979, when we brought in representatives from all the fishermen's organizations into Winnipeg to meet with me to discuss with the policy proposals, it was made clear to those fishermen's representatives at that time that these were policy proposals which we intended to discuss with the fishermen, and that we would be prepared to make changes in the policies as was necessary on the basis of the response of the fishermen.

Now, as these gentlemen may know, the fishing seasons are divided into approximately three seasons during the year, Mr. Speaker; and if you wish to implement a new policy, it is necessary to implement it between those seasons. And therefore, there was a date established of June 1, 1980 as a desirable date to implement new policies. It was not possible to do so in the middle of a fishing season.

When the honourable member asks a question about possible rejection of applications for licences that is quite possible, Mr. Speaker, because there are limitations to the capability of our lakes to produce fish. And there are therefore limitations to the number of licences which might be issued. And it happens that right now prices are fairly high and there is a substantial demand for access to the fishery.

Under the system that existed previously, and is still in place, many people may be applying for licences and still be rejected under that system which the previous government devised.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for question period having expired we will proceed with the Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The first item is consideration of the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. GARY FILMON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I begin by congratulating you on the resumption of the duties of your high office. You've established, Sir, a reputation over the years of presiding over the affairs of this Assembly with fairness and impartiality, and also with courtesy and consideration in difficult times. And I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will continue to enhance this reputation in the forthcoming session.

May I also please extend my sincere thanks to the First Minister and his colleagues of the Executive Council for granting me the privilege of moving the Speech from the Throne.

I would indicate, Mr. Speaker, that although I have had a somewhat similar experience in standing before an assembly - city council, whose purpose is somewhat similar and whose numbers are of this order - it is not without a great deal of respect and awe that I stand here today. And I might apologize in advance to the members of the House if, during the forthcoming few days, I am caught with my gaze up, above and around, attempting to determine the origin of many of the paintings, or to translate some of the Latin phrases using my high school brand of Latin. It is not meant as a slight against them or to be rude during the course of their discussion in the House.

I recall vividly, as a youngster - and it was rather fitting, for me at least, to see the school children here this morning - I recall vividly as a youngster coming here with my school teacher and experiencing the awe and the inspiration of coming to this Chamber to watch the proceedings. Just as vividly I recall - in fact I can't erase it from my memory - the experience of having to look around this House to find our own sitting member, only to spy him in the backbenches, head on the table, fast asleep. I hope that neither the quality nor the quantity of my words induces any of you to slumber here today.

I am also told, Mr. Speaker, that this is likely to be the only time in which I achieve the full attention of the House, so in consideration of that courtesy I apologize in advance for sticking rather closely to a text which I prepared for the occasion, since I don't want to be in a position of regretting having missed the opportunity to say something with full attention.

As is the custom in a maiden speech, Mr. Speaker, I would like to spend some time informing the members of the Legislature about the constituency which I represent - River Heights.

River Heights needs very little introduction to this Assembly because, over the years since its inception as a provincial constituency, it has been represented with honour and distinction,

Friday, February 22, 1980

starting in the late 1950s with Will Scarth, followed then by Maitland Steinkopf and later by the former Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in this Chamber, Sidney Spivak. And in case members are not aware, Mr. Spivak, your former colleague, is ill in hospital at the present time and I hope that you will join with me in extending your prayers and good wishes to him for a hopeful speedy recovery.

These fine gentlemen gave outstanding service and leadership, not only to their constituents but indeed to our province, in the years they served as members of this Legislature. As well, no doubt they kept you informed as to the many merits and advantages of our community of River Heights. River Heights is a very stable residential area and a very attractive one, one which, in many respects, is very homogeneous, consisting almost totally of residential development, most of it single family, with a few semi-detached and a few small apartment blocks, one of Academy road and a few along Taylor Avenue that are within the constituency. It has no industrial development and very little limited commercial development along the east-west collector streets that intersect it, principally Academy, Corydon and Grant. I know from having represented the area on City Council and having lived there this past 13 years that it is considered to have a very stable population. Indeed, as a councillor, I assisted in some demographic studies and a medical research project for which River Heights was chosen principally because of the very low turnover annually in its population. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that there's a great sense of commitment to the community and many of those who were born and raised there return there as a place in which to raise their families. As an example of this, my wife, Janice, who was raised in River Heights and consequently put it on the top of her list when we were looking for a place to buy a home and raise our family, Janice put it at the top of the list. And by this statement I guess I have revealed to you a couple of things: One, that my colleagues, the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs and the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, will instantly recognize that I am not a male chauvinist, that in our home family decisions are made jointly between husband and wife, and now with the children. Other members, of course, will recognize from that that I am emphasizing the attraction of River Heights to its former residents as a good place in which to live and raise a family.

Like many things, Mr. Speaker, I have learned that one becomes much more familiar with the community in which one lives through his family. Because of the participation of my family in community activities I can tell you that River Heights has excellent facilities: public schools from elementary through junior high and high school, indeed some private and parochial schools adjacent. We have, in close proximity, playgrounds, parks, wading pools, outdoor skating rinks, an indoor hockey arena at our major community centre and another one just adjacent to the boundaries of the constituency, and, of course, the magnificent Pan-Am Swimming Pool on the north extreme of our boundary.

As a parent of four children who are actively involved in using all the many public facilities within the community I know through this many more people. I have met many through my children and their activities; through serving on the board of the William Osler Home and School Association; through coaching at the community centre or merely just standing around on cold evenings at the corner rink; driving youngsters to hockey games, swimming lessons and music lesson and what have you. And, through all of this it's been very helpful in giving me an appreciation for the community.

I referred to it originally as being rather homogeneous, which it is in the sense of being almost totally a residential area. If you examine it closely, however, and visiting door to door as I have had opportunity to do in two municipal campaigns and a recent provincial campaign, you find, of course, that there is a great deal of variety. It stretches from the north at the Assiniboine River to the south at the C.N. main line which separates it from the farmland to the south of Wilkes. Probably many of you are not aware that there is still arable farmland that is being operated as such—the Minister of Agriculture, of course, is well aware—well within the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. East to west it spans from the centre line of Cambridge Street approximately to the western extremity of Lindsay, with a little pocket between Mathers and Taylor west of that area that goes to Centennial.

Although some of you probably think of River Heights as an upper-income area, it's not, I can assure you. As a matter of fact, it's probably more properly described as the typical middle-income urban area.

As a matter of fact, I recall friends of mine—they were in the life insurance field—jokingly described the typical middle-class family as being a couple who were

Friday, February 22, 1980

approximately 36 years of age, had been married 12 years, had 1.5 children and lived on Ash Street. Ash Street, of course, runs the centre or the heart of River Heights.

Having walked every block and visited every house in River Heights, I can tell you that it's certainly not stereotyped. To the north, the houses that are north of Kingsway, for instance, are in excess of 50 years of age, for the most part. To the south, south of Grant, almost all the houses are less than 25 years of age.

Consequently, with the difference in the age of the houses there is a difference in the age of the people and the size of the families and the nature of the families and their needs. You find that in the north part you have many people retired on fixed incomes. Somebody mentioned to me yesterday that we didn't have any retired people in River Heights; not so. Those people have very different concerns, perhaps, from the people in some of the other areas of River Heights. They are concerned about rising costs over which they have very little control and the consequent erosion of their buying power. I might indicate, Mr. Speaker, that they are delighted at this government's initiatives to remove the burden of school property taxes from their concerns.

As well, of course, they are interested in preserving the many mature trees that you can see in north River Heights. If you'd like a picture that clearly puts in focus the trees in north River Heights the Free Press recently did an aerial photograph in full colour of the entire City of Winnipeg and north River Heights stands right out because the trees are immediately obvious. They are, of course, concerned with preserving their beautiful trees against the onslaught of Dutch Elm disease and the various programs of information, surveillance and control that have been made available to them in recent years are very important to them.

In other parts of the constituency young families with growing children are concerned with the quality of life and the opportunity for the future of their children. They are encouraged, Mr. Speaker, I might add, by the reductions in personal income taxes this government has achieved; by the increase of more than 24,000 jobs in the past two years, all of which have been created in the private sector; and with the restoration of confidence in our provincial economy. They see the resultant infusions of private capital, better investment opportunities and stimulated manufacturing sector bringing new and better opportunities for them and their families.

So, you see, although homogeneous in many respects, the people of River Heights are like the people of all parts of this province: unique individuals; individuals with a quiet pride in their community which they have demonstrated over the years through their ability to work for their community, either with or without the assistance of government. As an example, I would like to point out to you the River Heights Community Centre. It's an entire city block on which are located soccer pitches, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, playgrounds and an indoor arena. In the early 1950s, when the only arenas in this province were publicly owned, the people of River Heights banded together as a community to provide a major recreational facility for their families, their children, their grandchildren and all those who would come in future. They undertook a massive capital fund-raising drive, which provided them the opportunity to construct the facility which still stands on this site of the community centre an indoor arena which was probably the first indoor community arena that we knew in Winnipeg. It was operated by a community-elected board of directors and it continued to develop the site for recreational facilities, even until today. Only during the past decade has there been any significant input of public capital to this facility, just as times have changed and more recreation facilities became required throughout the community, finally public involvement occurred in the River Heights Community Centre.

Also, there is an interesting story about River Heights. When the City of Winnipeg decided some years ago to replace the street lights with the new modern standards, fluorescent lights and steel structures, the people of River Heights decided that their old-style coach lanterns blended in much more beautifully with north River Heights and its trees and its older homes, and so they went to the City and told the Hydro to save its money and not replace those old coach lanterns with the modern structures and, very happily, the City agreed with them and you can still see a bit of the older as you travel through north River Heights.

I think it goes without saying that a community with all these attributes, as I have described them, is an attractive one in which to live and I'm proud to be given the privilege of representing it here in the Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it may be somewhat symbolic that I, a new member of the Legislature, have the first opportunity to speak in moving the acceptance of the Speech from the Throne, the first Speech from the Throne of a new decade.

Friday, February 22, 1980

As a newcomer, I perhaps bring to the House no pre-established animosities, no rigid and flexible stances, either to justify or defend. The 1980's are looked upon by many with confusion and grave concern. It is indeed a decade that promises us massive problems with which to cope, continuing inflation, a legacy of the Seventies which has not yet been totally subdued and which will require the combined efforts of all governments and all people to see some resolution to the problem.

In addition, of course, it goes without saying that energy, more specifically prospective world energy shortages, a problem that became identified in the Seventies and indeed influenced a great deal of our thinking and economic planning over the past seven years, is another major problem we'll have to face. It will no doubt continue to represent a major stumbling block to our efforts and initiatives for economic growth and expansion. We in Manitoba are, nevertheless, in a unique and in many respects a fortunate position when looked at from the long term. Admittedly, we are not very rich in the presently inexpensive petroleum-based forms of energy upon which the country and indeed the province depends so heavily today.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, it appears as though all of our value judgments, all of our energy-related economic decisions are based upon equating everything to the current domestic price of a barrel of oil in Canada. You might say that we are looking at the world through oil-coloured glasses.

This, of course, is not a situation which can continue indefinitely. Petroleum is an energy source which is non-renewable and whether the experts want to argue that we have ten years supply, or twenty years supply, or fifty years or 500 years supply, one thing is certain: the supply is finite and it's limited.

We, on the other hand, in Manitoba have the potential for perhaps the greatest use of renewable energy in this country. We're all familiar, of course, with the potential of our hydro resources in northern Manitoba. We've developed far less than half of those potential resources. As the Speech from the Throne indicated, our government is committed to the future development of this totally renewable energy resource in a rational, reasonable and economic manner for the benefit of all Manitobans.

As a professional engineer, Mr. Speaker, I am acutely aware of the need for careful cost benefit analyses to be made at all stages along the way when important decisions involving massive capital inputs by the public must be made. We must and we will ensure, firstly, that the demand for our energy exists before we develop it and we must expend every effort to find new markets for our energy so that there can be sound economic justification for the early development of these precious and valuable hydro resources.

We all know the substantial economic benefits which accrue to the provincial economy as a result of these developments but we must temper the desire to proceed with our commitment to keep the costs to our present users of hydro electric energy, the citizens of Manitoba, as reasonable as possible.

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, that this government's demonstrated attitude towards fiscal responsibility and sound economic management will result in decisions that will be of maximum benefit to all Manitoba.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, this province, despite its often cold and harsh winters, has the potential for the development of our abundant solar energy. One only has to spend time on either our west or east coasts in North America to know the difference between waking up to cloudy, rainy, hazy skies or to waking up in Manitoba, even in the middle of winter at minus 30 celsius, to glorious sunshine. The sun's rays hold a greater opportunity for energy production here in Manitoba than in most other areas of North America.

Mr. Speaker, although we did not have any lasting benefits from the presence here in Winnipeg of a professional baseball team, we did learn some things. I recall reading in the newspaper, for instance, an article in which it was stated that Winnipeg had fewer days cancelled as a result of rain or inclement weather than any other baseball city in North America during the two-year period that we had the Winnipeg Whips as a team - or was it the Winnipeg Wimps. The Goldeyes. . . You're showing your age, Bob. Pardon me, Mr. Speaker.

In addition, there has been a brief mention in the Throne Speech of the development of alcohol as an alternative energy source. Some of the members obviously have been deriving some energy from it in the past. To begin with, we intend to pursue the use of alcohol in the form of gasohol, a combination of conventional gasoline and alcohol. I suggest to you that the development and the distribution of this alternate liquid motive fuel holds great opportunity for us as a province.

Friday, February 22, 1980

In addition to the potential for replacement of non-renewable energy with renewable energy, an objective to which we should all be dedicated, it holds a great deal of potential as a vast market for agricultural production in this province. Agriculture is, of course, still our greatest source of production in Manitoba and this would enable us to reduce our dependency on foreign markets which, because of sometimes unstable political situations and varying world production levels, they're not always as reliable as we'd like them to be. To give you an idea of the potential that gasohol holds for our farming community, if in the future we replace only one-tenth of the present Canadian gasoline consumption with alcohol as a mode of fuel, it would require one-half of the entire agricultural production of western Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I have not even touched on one of the most easily achievable sources of alternate energy for this province, that of conservation. The potential of conserving energy in this province, because of our great heat loss in all major buildings, both public and private, is immense. We could probably take the entire heating load of this province and reduce it by more than 25 percent through an active program of insulation, weatherstripping and other conservation methods. It will require active consideration and participation by our government and, indeed, by all concerned citizens to encourage people, through public information programs, to stimulate people's awareness of the potential opportunities available in energy conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it will require the efforts of all of us in government, all who are in positions of leadership and authority, to make everyone aware that energy conservation is not only a very intelligent and easily attainable part of the solution to our country and this province's energy problems, but indeed a responsibility which each of us has to all future generations, to ensure that we do not waste energy and that we convert as much as possible to the renewable forms: solar energy, alcohol energy and of course our hydro-electric energy.

The difficulty, of course, in telling this story and in convincing the public lies in what I alluded to earlier; we all place our value judgments in energy terms at \$14.65 a barrel, the current Canadian price. With the existing technology of all the alternative energy sources which I have mentioned, including our hydro-electric energy costs, at least double the current rate of petroleum energy to produce in Canada, it makes it difficult to achieve any rational and reasonable approach to conversion to alternate forms.

On the other hand, we need only to look at Brazil where the country, due to the widespread development and distribution of alcohol energy, has become totally energy self-sufficient. There, of course, the economic standard of comparison is the world price, \$32.00 a barrel, and the economics become much more realistic for making these conversions. Similarly, mid-western United States is proceeding quickly to adapt to gasohol as a mode of fuel.

I am not advocating immediately proceeding to world levels of price levels in oil in order to stimulate development of our abundant renewable energy sources, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is that we must prepare for the inevitable and indeed assist the rest of the country and the world in its future conversion to renewable energy sources by encouraging the development of the technology that will allow us to take our rightful, prominent place in future energy programs across this nation.

We, in Manitoba, are at least as resourceful and as committed towards energy self-sufficiency and the conversion from non-renewable to renewable energy sources as others who have already begun them and we can use our talents to develop these alternatives.

The government's role will, I'm sure, be one of evaluating the alternatives and assisting in the encouragement of the technological development. I look forward to participating with the members of this Assembly in making the decisions that will help us to face these challenges and overcome these problems in the Eighties.

Mr. Speaker, with energy, hand in hand goes economic development, because without firm, reasonably priced and secure supplies of energy there is no opportunity for developing an economic base in this province. We, of course, have it and the opportunities are there.

As I said earlier, the province, through the initiatives of this government, has seen an increase in employment of more than 24,000, all in the private sector, since the fall of 1977. In addition there has been a projected increase in manufacturing investment of some 34 percent in 1979, both strong indicators of our progress in economic development. I am confident that the efforts, not only of our government but also of the various regional development corporations and the new Winnipeg Business Development Corporation, will continue to attract new private investment to the many opportunities that exist in this province.

Friday, February 22, 1980

The combination of our strong agricultural base, our energy potential, and a business climate which encourages private initiative in investment, will, I'm sure, result in further economic growth and new jobs because, Mr. Speaker, as a native Manitoban, born, raised and educated here in our public schools, I've long believed that Manitoba has a great deal more to offer than most areas of this country.

I am delighted, the more I hear of the confidence being shown in this province by many people who reject good opportunities to move to other areas of the country in favour of staying here. Many of these are professionals and highly skilled people, Mr. Speaker, who believe that our quality of life, our quality of environment, is more important than personal gain. Unfortunately, these stories are often buried by those who prefer to preach gloom and doom and to run down this rich province of ours.

We are a province rich in heritage, made up of people of many cultures, races and creeds but of no one ethnic majority, rather a melting pot of people whose forebearers brought energy and enthusiasm to their adopted province and who continue to do so themselves.

I, Mr. Speaker, am proud to be an example of that cultural heritage. My father was a first generation Canadian who fled military intervention in his native European country in the early part of the century. My mother was a second generation product of an eastern European family. My forebearers came to this province, Mr. Speaker, for one primary reason: it held out the greatest of all incentives, the opportunity to live and to work to the best of their ability and potential, in freedom. I firmly believe that these fundamental goals can still be realized in Manitoba.

We, as a government, believe in maintaining the kind of climate that allows all Manitobans of whatever background or heritage the opportunity to work and to achieve their goals with a minimum of government interference but secure in the protection our government will give them for their freedoms and liberties.

We, as a government, are committed to providing the environment that will stimulate and encourage individual initiatives and effort, not to control or compete with them, because we believe and we realize that no government produces wealth, only individuals can do that. Through their work and efforts they produce the wealth. Government only taxes their individual wealth and we, as a government, Mr. Speaker, are committed to tax away as little as is necessary to provide for the efficient delivery of the services which the people of this province have come to expect from us.

There are far too many examples of people in this province who persisted, despite cynics who said they would not succeed, and achieved great things through dedication and hard work. My earlier example, the people of River Heights and their community centre, is joined by achievements such as the Pan Am games in 1967, the establishment of a world renowned base of cultural activity - the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, our Art Gallery, the Theatre Centre, Rainbow Stage and of course the Symphony Orchestra. These are all examples of individual initiatives and efforts to produce a cultural base here. As well we have two of the top ten festivals in this country, the Festival du Voyageur, and of course our multi-cultural festival, Folklorama. These are all examples of total community involvement of individuals, Mr. Speaker, acting without the constraints and limitations of government, achieving great things.

We continue to amaze and indeed educate the country by accepting new challenges and demonstrating our resourcefulness to achieve these wonderful things. Last year at this time many of you were probably arguing the pros and cons of a professional hockey franchise here in the city. Throughout North America they said Winnipeg was too small to support such a franchise, economically it wasn't viable, on and on.

Private individuals took the risk. With a little assistance from the government in expanding the arena they went forward and they've produced a team that is not only producing some very good results on the ice but as well is obviously sound economically. Although it may take some time to see the final results of those efforts we can say that individuals took the risk and individuals caused that to happen.

Also, we have another unique facility recently completed, the Re-Fit Centre for heart attack victims and heart patients. It's a unique facility, and I think it's used by many of my colleagues here in government, which combines both the medical research and a public recreation facility designed for improving one's health and fitness. It was created almost totally by private funding, by some who saw the need for such a facility and set about to create it; and I might indicate it happens to be located in River Heights.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm really saying to you is that I am proud to be a member of this government, proud to face the 1980s with energy, enthusiasm, and the desire to do my part to help build this province into one of the greatest in this Dominion of Canada. Confident in the

Friday, February 22, 1980

fact that although others may be richer in some resources we are richest in the greatest of all resources, people; people of strength and vision, of a rich and varied multi-cultural heritage who know the value of building a broad mosaic for the future of this province that includes health and community services, cultural institutions, recreational facilities and founded on the principles of diligence, honesty and commitment to our fellowmen.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Emerson, that An Humble Address be presented to His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, as follows:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address us at the opening of the present session.

MOTION presented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson): The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would also like to take this opportunity at this time to extend my congratulations and best wishes through you to the Speaker in his continued position as Speaker of the House. As the Speaker has demonstrated in the past, as well as yourself, you are capable of handling your position in such a way to keep proper decorum and respect in this House.

I would also like to extend my best wishes to the three new members in the House who have joined us since the last session. It is very gratifying to see another one of the fairer sex to help our charming Minister of Culture to brighten up the place here.

I would also like to congratulate the appointment of the three new Ministers of the government. I am confident that they will fulfill their duties capably in the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

Although it is belated I would like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for his official election as the Leader of his party. We all know that he has a formidable task ahead of him and what makes it doubly hard is that the boat that he is steering already has sprung a few leaks.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to second the Speech from the Throne. The Throne Speech again demonstrates the direction that our government is taking, a direction that is instilling stability and confidence in the people, even though economic conditions throughout the world are not very stable. The cries of members opposite in trying to make our government look healthier or heartless are falling on deafer ears all the time. We have demonstrated that all services, better services, can be provided by using common sense instead of giving the impression that government can make money.

The Speech from the Throne indications are that increased capital projects will be able to be undertaken in the health field and services and that services will be provided for special needs and this is especially significant.

Mr. Speaker, being a rural member I would like to take this opportunity to speak about our province's biggest industry, agriculture. We do not have the oil or the potash, we have agriculture. With agriculture we have produced billions of dollars worth of agricultural products, not counting the ripple effect that this has from this industry. What I find amazing or unbelievable about the Leader of the Opposition when announcing his critics, or shadow government or shadow cabinet, failed to find it important enough a month ago to appoint a critic for agriculture in the paper. In the meantime we have approximately four or five critics covering the labour front. The fact that the N.D.P. consider agriculture unimportant is something that we will let rural Manitobans know in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few points that I would like to cover . . .

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't want the honourable member to continue having misled himself. There is a critic in respect to agriculture, the Honourable Member for St. George.

Friday, February 22, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson may continue.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, for the correction of the Leader of the Opposition, the press release that was set out in the paper there was no official critic for agriculture at that time. I suppose later they realized they needed one.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few points that I would like to cover in the agricultural industry; one, is the position that our farmers are in now, what has happened and what must happen.

Just a little over a century ago people began farming in this province here. We are by comparison with European countries a very young country; but just in this little while the farmers have progressed to where they are now the best food producers in the world, bar none. When you consider that only approximately 20 cents of our every earned dollar goes for food in Canada, and anywhere up to 70 cents of every earned dollar in Europe goes for food, it is obvious what will have to happen here, our food costs will have to go up.

It is significant that since the fifties the price of our products have not kept pace with rising costs and we've literally forced the farmers to be more and more efficient. Prices for wheat and cattle have changed very little since the fifties and when you consider the rising costs of operating, the capital investments, etc., you wonder why anybody would still want to farm.

The cost of land in some areas is between \$800 and \$1,000 an acre; tractors costing from \$40,000 to \$50,000 and combines higher than that.

One thing the farming industry does not need is another screwed-up farm policy like the previous Minister of Agriculture came out with in his Beef Assurance Program, we are still struggling with that one.

To date my Minister of Agriculture has shown that he is listening to farmers and is moving in the direction that they need and desire instead of shoving some half-baked program up their nose.

The initiative taken in the grain movement business by our Premier and Minister is a very significant contribution. The movement of grain that we can sell and not move has a very major economic effect on the western provinces.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency programs like the sale of Crown lands, the Brushing Program, Farm Credit programs, hydro freeze, is very significant in the future development of agriculture in my area.

I would like to suggest to my Minister to encourage our research people and advise that we need more and more advanced technology for our farmers if they are supposed to be competitive. Very often the farmers have had to take the initiative on their own before our research people even got off the ground. With costs the way they are information will have to be precise and available to farmers instantly, mistakes are just too costly.

Before I leave the area of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express a concern, along with all dairy farmers in Manitoba, at the present system of milk pricing. It is my opinion and theirs that price changes have to be made. At the present time the Manitoba Milk Control Board sets prices by holding public hearings for and against the increase of the price of milk, and then establishes it according to their own ability, I suppose. This is the only province that I know of that operates in this manner. It would be my suggestion that we allow the Manitoba Milk Producers Marketing Board to work out price increases according to costs and have the Manitoba Marketing Council act as an overriding authority.

The Leader of the Opposition, again showing his lack of concern for the farmers, indicated publicly that he favours the retention of the present system. I suppose he feels there are more consumers than producers, so what can he lose. We'll remind him of that also when the next election comes.

Mr. Speaker, the best friend that a farmer could have, whether federal or provincial, is still the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a brief overview of the general agricultural position in Manitoba and even if the members opposite don't think it is important maybe my rural colleagues will help me debate the issues of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to the session for many reasons. I'm not exactly sure what effect the Member for Inkster's decision will have on him debating the resources of our province, but I've always enjoyed the debates between the seasoned politician and my very capable Minister of Resources who can hold his own any time.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I look with pride to my Minister of Labour who literally walked into the lion's den of the NDP and took away their teeth. It must be a record year for loss of work

Friday, February 22, 1980

hours through lack of strikes and I contribute it all to my Minister and his people. There is now an attitude of negotiation between management and labour, and would you believe it, done by a Conservative Government.

I would like to caution my Minister of Labour about the possibility of a brutal attack again from the Member for Churchill whom the members opposite fly in from the north to lead the fight in the lead poisoning issue here in Winnipeg. I would think that the concerns of the Member for Churchill would deal more with the Port of Churchill, hydro development and resource development in the north instead of being concerned about the city problems. But that is a thing that he will have to deal with with his constituents in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, having digressed somewhat from the Throne Speech, I would like to touch on some of the economic highlights.

It is sort of ironical that the Leader of the Opposition has indicated in this session they're going to push for freeing of capital projects in hydro and in the Throne Speech we have indicated that negotiations are going on and looking favourable for increased hydro sales and, as need is established, more construction will come on line.

You would think that members opposite, after the Tritschler Report, would have learned their lesson but it appears not, as they are promoting the same thinking that prevailed prior to the costly mistakes made before.

If the Conservative Government had not stopped the costly overspending and overbuilding and frozen hydro rates, who knows what rates we would be paying now. The real truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the private sector of Manitoba has created approximately 24,000 meaningful jobs instead of government make-shift jobs.

The significant increase in drilling and exploration makes us very optimistic about the economic future of northern Manitoba.

The tourist industry is another area of potential economic growth and should be actively pursued.

I would just like to caution my Minister that before we spend too much of our money in the north, that we do not forget development of such natural tourist areas as Birch Point and Moose Lake in the southeast corner of the province, which happens to be my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne covers all significant aspects that affect the well-being of residents in Manitoba in a very positive way. Our Conservative Government has proven that the affairs of the province can be managed properly without cutting services and it is with pride that I second the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, that debate do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: I move, seconded by the Minister for Government Services, that this House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Monday afternoon, and the Rules Committee will meet at 10:00 o'clock, Monday morning.