

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, 3 March, 1982

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. D. James Walding (St. Vital): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. ROLAND PENNER (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the First Report of the Special Committee of Seven Persons appointed to prepare a list of members of the Standing Committees ordered by the House.

MR. CLERK, Jack Reeves: Your Special Committee of Seven Persons, appointed to prepare a list of members of the Standing Committees ordered by the House beg leave to present the following as their First Report:

Your Committee prepared the following list of members to compose the Standing Committees ordered by the House:

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Pawley, Penner, Messrs. Anstett, Banman, Brown, Corrin, Fox, Harper, Mercier, Santos, Sherman.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: (11)

Hon. Mrs. Hemphill, Hon. Mr. Schroeder, Hon. Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Anstett, Blake, Eyder, Lyon, Malinowski, Manness, Ransom, Scott.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Evans, Mackling, Parasiuk, Mrs. Dodick, Messrs. Doern, Enns, Eyder, Harapiak, Lyon, Orchard, Ransom.

AGRICULTURE: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Adam, Uruski, Uskiw, Messrs. Bucklaschuk, Carroll, Downey, Gourlay, Harapiak, Manness, Orchard, Plohman.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Adam, Desjardins, Kostyra, Uruski, Messrs. Banman, Bucklaschuk, Carroll, Driedger, Gourlay, Mercier, Plohman.

LAW AMENDMENTS: (30)

Hon. Mr. Evans, Hon. Mrs. Hemphill, Hon. Messrs. Kostyra, Mackling, Parasiuk, Pawley, Penner, Hon. Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Corrin, Doern, Mrs. Dodick, Ms. Dolin, Messrs. Downey, Driedger, Enns, Eyder, Filmon, Graham, Mrs. Hammond, Messrs. Johnston, Lecuyer, Lyon, Manness, Nordman, Mrs. Oleson, Ms. Phillips, Messrs. Plohman, Santos, Steen, Storie.

PRIVATE BILLS: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Adam, Desjardins, Hon. Mrs. Hemphill, Hon. Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Ashton, Mrs. Hammond, Messrs. Harper, Hyde, Malinowski, Sherman, Steen.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS: (11)

Hon. Messrs. Cowan, Kostyra, Schroeder, Hon. Mrs. Smith, Messrs. Blake, Enns, Mercier, Nordman, Ms. Phillips, Messrs. Scott, Storie.

STATUTORY REGULATIONS AND ORDERS: (11)

Hon. Mr. Penner, Messrs. Bucklaschuk, Carroll, Ms. Dolin, Messrs. Fox, Graham, Harper, Kovnats, McKenzie, Mrs. Oleson, Ms. Phillips.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (11)

Hon. Mr. Cowan, Hon. Mrs. Smith, Hon. Mr. Uskiw, Messrs. Ashton, Brown, Ms. Dolin, Messrs. Filmon, Johnston, Lecuyer, McKenzie, Scott.

RULES OF THE HOUSE: (8)

Hon. Mr. Penner, Messrs. Anstett, Corrin, Fox, Graham, Kovnats, Ransom, Santos.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MR. PENNER: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain that the Report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . . Oral Questions.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PENNER: Before Oral Questions, may I make an announcement, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, and that is the Special Committee on Elections and Privileges will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning in Room 254.

POINT OF ORDER

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

MR. BRIAN CORRIN (Ellice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear you and it may be my hearing, I didn't have my hearing aid on when you were calling out, but I didn't hear the calling of Ministerial Statements. I was wondering whether you omitted to do that. I believe there is a statement to be made and I didn't hear the calling.

MR. SPEAKER: There was a report given at the time of the calling of that. If it's the wish of the members to resort back to Ministerial Statements. If it's agreed. (Agreed)

The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. MAUREEN L. HEMPHILL (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to be standing before this House to make my first statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Opposition House Leader have a point of order?

MR. A. BRIAN RANSOM (Turtle Mountain): I just wonder if there are copies of the statement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Honourable Minister make copies available to the Chair and to the Opposition.

MRS. HEMPHILL: We will make copies available.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. It is our practice that when a Ministerial Statement is given that there are copies provided at the time for the Opposition. If the Minister does not have them would she be willing to make her statement tomorrow?

MRS. HEMPHILL: I ask leave of the House to make the statement and distribute the statements after. I have an urgent time problem related to getting information out to school divisions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, we would be quite prepared to revert back to Ministerial Statements at the end of the Question period if the Minister could have her statements available by then.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister.

MRS. HEMPHILL: We are in the process of having copies delivered to the House immediately. They will probably be here while I'm making my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: It would be satisfactory to the House to report back to Ministerial Statements at the end of question period if that is convenient to members. Perhaps we can proceed then to Oral Questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STERLING LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable First Minister. Could the First Minister advise the House, Mr. Speaker, to whom the Information Services Branch of government is now reporting?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the Information Service Branch reports to my office—Executive Council.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that up until November 30, 1981, and for many many years preceding that, the Information Services Branch of

government reported through either the Department of Government Services or one of the forebearers of that department, could the First Minister explain why there was a change made in the reporting of the Information Services Branch, the Information Services Branch being the branch that is responsible for all publications, for all news reports that go out under the name of the Government?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, from time to time there is a change in respect to different responsibilities insofar as government is concerned. Insofar as information services are concerned there has been a transfer of responsibility to myself, indeed, there has been no change in respect to policy pertaining to the Information Service branch.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, could the First Minister then tell the House the person on the Executive Council staff to whom Information Services is now reporting.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would thank the Leader of the Opposition for his questions but we could most fruitfully discuss the reasons for the transfer of responsibility during the time of my Estimates.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I again repeat the question, could the First Minister not advise the House the name of the member of his staff to whom Information Services is now reporting?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again, all matters pertaining to the department that I am responsible for, including Information Services, can be best dealt with during the normal process of such discussion as to detail.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might perhaps then refresh the Honourable First Minister's memory by asking, if I may, I'll go right through his staff, is the Information Services Branch now reporting to Mr. Michael Decker, the Clerk of the Council? Mr. Speaker, is the Information Services Branch now reporting to Mr. William Regehr, the Principal Secretary of the First Minister?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would ask you whether or not, indeed, there is not a rule against repetitious questions. I do not intend to be repetitious, Mr. Speaker, by responding, as I have responded before this is a matter that can be more appropriately dealt with under Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe that all members are aware that any Minister may choose or choose not to answer any question. I was not aware that the questions had been repetitive.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, then I will ask a different question. Is the Information Services Branch of Government now reporting to Mr. Dan O'Connor, the Communications and Co-ordination Secretary of the Premier, who was described in a recent article as being the best political strategist that the Premier has on his staff, is that who Information Services is reporting to now?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Speaker, having had that marvelous display of open government, on behalf of the First Minister refusing to answer a question with respect to the propaganda machine that he has established in government after only three months in office. Perhaps we can get on to the regular business of the House and ask the First Minister to tell the House what other propaganda changes he and his colleagues have made in the three months they have been in office; how many other new PR people have they brought on staff to propagate their rather funny ideology among the people of Manitoba?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I find it indeed very very puzzling coming from the Leader of the Opposition that indeed was the architect of a brand new scale of propaganda over the last four years, the hiring of communicators, which we have discussed at great length in this Legislature before, massive advertising campaign, which was launched during the previous fiscal year, that the Leader of the Opposition now has the audacity to indeed impinge upon the integrity of people that are now working Information Services. Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition has specific complaints in regard to any change of policy pertaining to the Information Services Branch let him now bring forth those complaints in specific form but, otherwise, Mr. Speaker, I suggest it is highly unfair to the public servants within the Information Services Branch for the Leader of the Opposition to reflect on the personnel in that Branch.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, far from reflecting on the personnel of the Information Services Branch, my honourable friend, by his intemperate behaviour this afternoon, is reflecting on his own office and indeed is causing great questions to arise among all of us as to why this change would be made. Would the Honourable Minister be willing enough in this movement of free and open government that he talks about all the time to advise the House and the people of Manitoba why he thought it necessary to change the Information Services Branch from reporting to Government Services to reporting to his department?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again, I am quite ready, in fact, quite anxious to deal with this in detail during my Estimate Review. Mr. Speaker, I ask you whether indeed there are any rules insofar as questions of a repetitious nature?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable First Minister. Knowing the First Minister's awareness and concern for the plight that a group of working Manitobans find themselves in and being set upon by the Winnipeg Taxation Office, namely, that group of commissioned automobile salesmen in the Province of Manitoba who are being reassessed by the Winnipeg Taxation Office for retroactive taxation years, I would like to ask the First Minister what he and his

good office are doing to help that group of working Manitobans in their current financial distress?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate but the Member for Pembina doesn't appear to be conscious of the fact that he is asking a question that would be better posed in the Federal House of Commons.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I believe that anytime a group of working Manitobans are being beset upon by the Winnipeg Taxation Office, that is a matter of interest for the government of the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, my question quite simply to the First Minister is that in view of the fact that any additional taxation which the Winnipeg Taxation Office will glean retroactively from these people becomes a share of the Province of Manitoba taxation revenues, I suggest the question is quite in order. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what the First Minister and his good office are doing to assist that group of working Manitobans.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again, we're hearing repetition of previous questions. The question relates to a ruling by the Federal Department of Revenue in regard to the collection of taxation in the Province of Manitoba. The processes, the decisions that indeed have been made, have been made on the part of public servants in Ottawa so that the honourable member is asking his questions in the wrong Chamber. Mr. Speaker, you should indeed, I suggest, point that out to the honourable member.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under ordinary circumstances I might find some semblance of agreement with the First Minister but when the Province of Manitoba has been singled out by the Federal Taxation Department for this retroactive review of commissioned salesmen — only Manitoba — I suggest it is in the interest of the Manitoba Government to protect those individuals. I ask the First Minister why their request to his office for assistance, which is now two months old, has been completely ignored by his office and staff?

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, again, I have to repeat, because apparently the Member for Pembina did not hear accurately, this is a matter that is of federal jurisdiction, a matter which must be dealt with in respect to the Federal Government of Canada is concerned. It is a matter that is the responsibility of the Minister of National Revenue at the federal level. There are serious questions indeed that should be raised pertaining to this matter. Those questions should be raised in the Federal House of Commons rather than the Member for Pembina appearing to wish to some way or other to draw a great deal of attention to himself in this Chamber by raising matters of a federal nature.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I find it indeed unfortunate that this three-month-old government, claiming concern for all Manitobans, is prepared to abandon a group of working Manitobans to an arbitrary tax

rule singling out Manitoba alone, and I ask the First Minister —(Interjection)—

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The Honourable House Leader on a Point of Order.

MR. PENNER: I would ask that you rule as to whether or not the Member for Pembina is not simply repeating, in the same words almost identically, the question already raised, and whether this is not in abuse of the House. How many times can the same question be asked by the same member? I would ask you to rule on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly from the Chair it seems that the same, or very similar question, is being posed by the Honourable Member for Pembina. I'm attempting to give all members as much latitude as possible within their questions, hoping that they will be questions and not be speeches to the Opposition. I believe it would be fair to say that the question period is generally looked upon as time belonging to the Opposition. If the Opposition wish to use their time in whatever way they wish, that is not too far from the rules, I'm prepared to allow that to happen.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, then might I ask the First Minister if he, or his office, or indeed the Minister of Finance for the Province of Manitoba, are aware that the Winnipeg Taxation Office has singled out Manitoba as the only province in Canada and singled out a group of commission salesmen retroactively to reassess their taxation and, if he is aware of that, does he have any concerns whatsoever for those Manitobans who are being asked to pay additional taxes at a time when he well knows that all Manitobans would dearly love to keep additional income in their pockets to maintain their families?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. VIC SCHROEDER (Rossmere): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Pembina asks whether we are aware that Manitoba is the only province in which salespeople are being audited and in which there is a change with respect to the federal imposition of income tax. I was not aware of that. I can assure the honourable member that I will look at it this afternoon and, if that is the case, then certainly we will be making representations to Ottawa to request that our citizens be treated in a fashion no different from the citizens of other provinces in this country, that salespeople be treated in Manitoba in the same way that they would be treated in other provinces in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin-Russell): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Finance. I wonder, can the Honourable Minister of Finance tell us if the government plans to change the ad valorem formula of gasoline taxation in the province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, that is a policy matter that is before the government.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I don't think I heard the Honourable Minister's answer. I wonder if he would repeat it, I am sorry I did not pick it up.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member has been a member of this Chamber for what, 25 years? I am sure that in that time he has learned that Budget items are discussed at Budget time.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder then if the Honourable Minister can advise the House or Manitobans if it is the plan of the government to adjust the ad valorem tax because of the fact that gasoline went up 10 cents a gallon this week in our province. There are a lot of people phoning and inquiring if we can expect an adjustment or a change in that policy.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, the changes in our taxation rates and policies will be announced as they take effect as has happened in the past.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance I think will be aware that approximately on a six-month basis the assessment of the tax has been adjusted as the price of gasoline has risen. There has recently been a rise in the price of gasoline. Does the Minister intend to have an assessment done of the average price in Winnipeg in order that he might increase the tax?

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, that is a policy matter. It is always under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Further to the question of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, I am not asking the Minister to divulge any policy changes he may have in mind. I am asking the Minister whether he and his colleagues intend to obey the law of Manitoba which is that the provincial tax will be adjusted after other taxes have gone up or other price increases have taken place. Does he intend to obey the law or is he going to change it?

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, like all members of this government, of course, I intend to obey the law.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, a question to the same Minister, I wonder if the Minister could inform the House whether or not the Manitoba Government will be adding a new tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, again, that is a Budget question which I am sure the honourable

member can wait until Budget time for an answer too.

MR. BANMAN: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if the Minister could confirm that the government will be levying a new tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for the setting up of ManOil.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I have already answered the question, I believe, about six times.

MR. BANMAN: Another supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could confirm that the government will be paying for ManOil by levying gasoline tax which the consumers in the province will have to be paying for.

MR. PENNER: On a point of order again, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader on a point of order.

MR. PENNER: In terms of the question period, that is, word for word with one change of phrase, the question which was just asked and answered for the second time, I suppose that the honourable members opposite just don't have questions they care to ask that have any meaning.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not intend to tell the members of the Opposition what questions they should ask.
The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. LLOYD HYDE (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. Have the tenders been called as originally promised for construction of a new multimillion dollar indoor recreational complex on the grounds of the Manitoba School for Retarded in Portage la Prairie?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HYDE: To the same Minister then, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the tenders were to be called in February, can the Minister advise this House when the project will go to tenders?

MR. EVANS: The matter is under review, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HYDE: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I did not hear the answer.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I stated to the honourable member and to the members of the House that the matter is under review presently.

MR. HYDE: A further supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are several hundred residents of the Manitoba School whose conditions mean that they can never be accommodated anywhere outside of that building, can the Min-

ister assure those residents and this House that construction on this long-awaited recreational complex will get under way soon?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I don't what else I can add to my last question. We are very cognizant of the problem and we believe that the residents of that particular school should have the best recreational facilities available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. D.M. GOURLAY (Swan River): Thanks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and ask him if he can advise the House as to when he will be announcing the amounts, payments, of the 1982 municipal tax sharing payment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A.R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): In response to the Member for Swan River, I will be making that announcement when I am ready to make it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GOURLAY: I wonder if the Minister . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please.

MR. GOURLAY: I have a further supplement to the same Minister, I wonder if he could indicate the amount of the payments which he expects to be announcing soon.

MR. ADAM: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GOURLAY: I would just like to remind the Minister that the municipal people are anxious to get this information I might add.

I wonder, another supplementary to the same Minister, if he could advise the House whether or not he will be making any adjustments to the urban supplement that we initiated some two or three years ago.

MR. ADAM: The Member of Swan River will know that the Department of Urban Affairs now is under the Minister of Urban Affairs, my colleague.

MR. GOURLAY: I would like to rephrase this question. I'd like to ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the urban supplement was paid to all of the municipalities, not just the City of Winnipeg and I'm just wondering if he is planning on changing the formula that has been established some two or three years ago.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder whether the Minister could indicate whether he's in favour of selling Local Government District vested land.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. ADAM: That is a policy matter, Mr. Speaker, and it's under review at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the same Minister. There is a policy in place right now that he is administering through his office. I'm wondering whether he is in agreement with that kind of policy.

MR. ADAM: Again to repeat, in answer to your repetitive question, the policy of Crown land sales is under review at the present time.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a correction in this. The question was whether the Minister was in favour of selling Local Government District vested land, not Crown lands. I wonder whether he could possibly clarify that.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, the policy to allow LGD, Local Government Districts, to sell their land was initiated back in 1975. It was a policy that was undertaken by the previous Schreyer administration. There was two years of negotiations with the LGD's to bring about that program and was followed up by the outgoing administration and that policy will still continue as far as we're concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately yesterday the time for Question Period expired while I was in the midst of questioning the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and so consequently I'd like to continue with my questions to him. I'm aided by the fact that I can confirm through the use of Hansard that although the Minister gave us a rather lengthy review of what his department has done with the problem of urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, he did not respond to the question which I asked, Sir, which was, what does the Minister intend to do on behalf of thousands of Manitoba homeowners who are faced with the problem of having a house that is unmortgageable and unsaleable because of the existence of urea-formaldehyde foam insulation in their homes given the fact that the federal government has offered only \$5,000 in compensation for a job that may require anywhere from \$10,000 to \$20,000? What does he intend to do on that problem on behalf of these Manitoba homeowners?

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

HON. EUGENE KOSTYRA (Seven Oaks): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I indicated yesterday in some detail the position that has been taken by the Province of Manitoba to the Federal Government so that they accept their full responsibility. I might add that the position of this government is the same that was advanced by the previous government and is the same position that's

being advanced by all provinces across Canada, saying that the Federal Government has a responsibility in this area and should accept that responsibility and we will continue on behalf of Manitobans to press the Federal Government to accept their full responsibility.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I hope that he's a lot more forceful about it than the Minister of Finance who has been a doormat for the Federal Government at recent meetings and his First Minister as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Question please.

MR. FILMON: My second question, Mr. Speaker, is in view of the fact that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs the other evening announced to the Manitoba Landlords' Association some of the details of his proposed rent control legislation, can he share with the House today the context of the legislation that is proposed for rent control in this province?

MR. KOSTYRA: I think that will be better discussed when the bill is introduced to the House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FILMON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, well then I wonder if the Minister could tell the House today just what exactly is the Rent Regulation Bureau.

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in response to the previous question that will be part of the legislation that will be introduced and discussed and debated at that time.

MR. FILMON: I wonder then, in view of the fact that he does not choose to share with the House today what exactly the Rent Regulation Bureau is, would he tell the House why the Civil Service Commission is advertising under the heading of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Rent Regulation Bureau for 10 positions at the present time.

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that there is going to be legislation with respect to rent control in the province and it's obvious that there's going to be staff needed to implement that legislation once it is passed.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, are we to understand that these 10 people will be hired to do nothing until the Minister decides what the text of his legislation is and presents it to the House, and then takes it through all of the committee procedures and the various parts of legislation, in addition to the people who are presently on staff in the Tenancy Arbitration Bureau and the Rentalsman's Office? These additional 10 people will sit and do nothing?

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a question out of that speech by the member opposite.

MR. FILMON: My question is, will these people do nothing until he decides that he can get his legislation through the House?

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, no.

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

MR. G. W. J. (Gerry) MERCIER (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Attorney-General. Mr. Speaker, in view of his directive to the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission that South African wines and spirits be removed from the shelves because of that country's policies, will the Honourable Attorney-General advise whether the public of Manitoba can expect any action with respect to wines and spirits from Russia, Poland, Hungary, Chile and other countries?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, let there be no doubt that this Government, and I hope the members opposite with this government, will protest racism and the denials of civil liberties wherever they occur. Whether they occur in Chile, El Salvador, the Soviet Union, Poland, wherever, the USA; yes, in Canada, we will be prepared to protest them. The question will always be in what form and under what circumstances and I want to, for example, advise the House that at the time that martial law was declared in Poland, I was the Duty Minister and I was called upon by the Canadian-Polish Congress to make the facilities of this House available for the demonstration which in fact took place and I did it.

It may be, and I deliberately use that hypothetical, that I would not necessarily approve of the particular form of demonstration there or elsewhere, but I thought they had the right to demonstrate and that we as a government — and the First Minister made our position very clear on that with respect to Poland — but you see what is forgotten in that question is that the position of South Africa is uniquely abhorrent; it has been recognized as such by the United Nations; it is the subject of resolutions by the United Nations and I think this House should be aware of what those resolutions are because what I and the government are following are the resolutions of the United Nations.

South Africa is the only country which is the subject of a U.N. boycott and a U.N. exclusion and part of that resolution I would like, and on a suitable occasion I will read the whole of that resolution into the record, to read the penultimate part: namely, that the U.N. requests all governments and organizations to cooperate with a special committee in the implementation of the present resolutions which embody the notion of boycott. So that with respect to South Africa which is recognized as having, not only as a matter of law but as a matter of constitution, a racist policy embedded into it and has carried this out; 20 million blacks exploited by 4 million whites; that this is uniquely abhorrent and we recognize that in the step that we took and we make no apologies for it . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I'm sure all members are aware that the question period should not be used for making speeches as it is a time for questions.

· The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable

Attorney-General not having answered the question whether he would take any action with respect to wine and spirits from Russia, Poland, Chile and other countries, I can only presume that he supports the policies of those countries.

Mr. Speaker, I'll move onto another matter. There is a Throne Speech reference to the Law Courts Building. Can the Honourable Attorney-General indicate whether there has been any substantial change in the plans or proposed site for the construction of that building?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, no I'm pleased to advise the House that there has not been any substantial plans and that what is going forward in fact is a complex which has originated many years ago, first with the present government and carried forward, I will readily admit, by the members opposite when they were in government but we are the party, as government, which has finally given the go ahead.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that my clear understanding that the plans for that project were to be complete in late 1981 or very early in January 1982, can the Honourable Attorney-General explain the reasons why the project will not be proceeding until late fall of 1982 as indicated in the Throne Speech rather than immediately?

MR. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, the reason is that in fact the plans are not yet ready for tendering. We are advised by the Department of Government Services and the architectural consultants in that department and by the architects themselves, that the plans will be ready for tendering one hopes by the end of May or just before the end of May, and that based on that time line and the time taken to get and analyze tenders, it is expected that we will be in a position to go ahead with the construction just about the end of August, the beginning of September, so it's just a question of the preparation of the plans.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health. I would ask him whether the Manitoba Health Services Commission has submitted a counter proposal on fees to the Manitoba Medical Association as of yesterday, March 2nd, in keeping with the 30-day agreement under the existing contract?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): No, Mr. Speaker, but as soon as the Commission is advised that meaningful discussion will continue, they certainly will accommodate the MMA.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether the Manitoba Medical Association has indicated to him that it considers the Health Services Commission now to be in breach of

the 30-day clause in the existing contract?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, yes it is fair to say that they have informed me that they feel that we have broken the agreement. I have also said publicly that I felt they had broken the agreement by changing a discussion that is no longer meaningful — I think this is the word that is used, that a meaningful discussion should be held. I think that the member answered this in the Throne Speech debate of yesterday. It is impossible to negotiate with a gun at your head. It is impossible to negotiate with a group that say that even if there was an agreement reached that they would not forward it to their membership unless we agree to bring in legislation that they're seeking to have.

MR. SHERMAN: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House whether the Manitoba Medical Association has indicated to him that because in its view the Health Services Commission has breached the agreement; that there now are no obligations on the part of either side to move off the polarized positions that they're in at the present time?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Speaker, I might say that as far as the government is concerned we're anxious to see the negotiations resume as soon as possible, as long as it's going to be meaningful and fruitful negotiation. I would hope that this start fairly soon.

As far as the Manitoba Health Services Commission, the Commission is ready to have a counter proposal anytime this evening, tomorrow, anytime at all, as long as they resume negotiations.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired. The House agreed earlier to revert to Ministerial Statements. Is the Minister of Education now prepared to proceed?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Education.

MRS. HEMPHILL: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House, first of all, for giving me very special permission to speak at this time. It just proves that not all learning takes place in the classroom. I wish to announce significant measures to ensure greater equity in the allocation of provincial support to school divisions. The Education Support Program will be retained for 1982, and, as prescribed by regulations and legislation, it will be increased by \$46.5 million to \$469.1 million to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index.

The total direct provincial contribution to education of \$332.8 million will cover 54.4 percent of the projected \$611.3 million public schools will spend in 1982, up from 53.3 percent of school expenditure last year.

While retaining the Education Support Program in its current form, the government will implement significant changes in education financing through supplemental grants, to help correct certain identified weaknesses in the distribution of grants under the existing Education Support Program.

These weaknesses include:

Disadvantages in raising special levy revenues faced by divisions with low property tax assessment bases. Balanced assessment per pupil, by which the tax base of divisions can be compared, ranges from a high of nearly \$26,000 to a low of under \$8,000.00.

Disadvantages faced by some lower-spending divisions because their 1980 expenditure levels are used to define the ceiling of "eligible expenditure," which in turn, is used to calculate 1982 support under the Education Support Program. Eligible expenditure under the Educational Support Program for 1982 ranges from \$2,133 per pupil in Dauphin-Ochre School Division to \$3,244 per pupil in Winnipeg School Division No. 1.

The "mill rate crisis" which results when such divisions must try to remedy disparities in educational opportunity with special levies from a relatively low tax base, and/or with grants artificially limited by the eligible expenditure ceiling built into the Education Support Program.

The changes in education financing which our government will introduce takes the form of supplemental grants totalling an estimated \$12.4 million and composed of:

Equalization Supplements for divisions with a balanced assessment per pupil of less than \$22,000; and

Eligible Expenditure Supplements to offset the widening disparities and eligible expenditures between divisions under the Educational Support Program.

In addition, adjustments within the Educational Support Program are made as follows: - Basic Operating Support has been increased by \$10,200 - from \$87,400 to \$97,600 per basic operating unit. - Transportation support has been increased from \$310 to \$350 per transported pupil; and the mileage for loaded miles on a school bus in excess of 50 miles (80 km) per day has been increased from 60 cents to 80 cents per mile. - Print and Non-print Materials Support has been increased from \$25 per pupil to \$30 per pupil. - The 90 percent of eligible expenditures limit on operating support has been eliminated.

The Public Schools Finance Board will be incorporating the above changes in its estimate of support payable to school divisions and districts for 1982, and the complete estimate will be provided to each school division with return of its financial budget as has been the practice in recent years.

Also in 1982, the government will implement two special grants programs to provide assistance to: - the almost 300 "small schools" in the province; and - to establish a student travel program to enable students better to experience Manitoba's rich cultural and geographic diversity.

I will be announcing details of these two programs later.

All of the above measures are designed as improvements upon, or supplements, to the Education Support Program for the current year, during which time the government will conduct a thorough review of education financing.

I wish also to announce a special grant to the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. A special grant of \$2 million to the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 in recognition of the special needs of the inner city students they are serving through enriched and special programs.

The Winnipeg School Division contains schools in communities where over 45 percent of family heads are unemployed, where over 60 percent of students come from single parent families, where there are student transfer rates of up to 80 percent in a year, where Native students make up 14 percent of the division's population and immigrants make up 9 percent of the division's population. The division has responded to these needs with enriched pupil-teacher ratios, language development programs, increased community liaison and development, nursery and alternative programs.

The special grant is a recognition of the Winnipeg School Division's unique level of need and program commitment, both of which are significantly in excess of other divisions in the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, although I haven't had time to peruse in detail the announcement in the text of the increases and compare them to similar announcements last year in last year's Estimates, it is always a welcome announcement to hear of greater support to education in this province. It strikes me, of course, that last year our government put through increases in excess of \$70 million on the same basis, a much higher percentage, something approaching 30 percent, to restructure the whole Public School Education Financing Program in this province. The Minister refers to intentions to further alter the structure of public school financing in the province and I remind her that the report of the Assessment Review Commission is due momentarily. It would be wise not to make such structural changes until she sees what effect any moves to adjust assessment throughout the province may have on her financing plans. Obviously, the Minister has indicated that she is going to carry on the program commitments in approximately the amounts that were announced by the former Minister of Education last year in his endeavour to increase the provincial support for education. I have not had an opportunity to compare whether it meets the expectations of what that Minister said, but I also know that the Minister is fighting for dollars amongst her Cabinet colleagues for other programs which presumably have priority as well. So I commend the Minister on her announcement and say that we will be interested in the Budget to see just exactly how this will come out of the taxpayers' pockets in the future. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Before the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could substitute some names on a committee. On Privileges and Elections I would like to substitute the Member for Virden for the Member for St. Norbert, and the Member for Turtle Mountain for the Member for La Verendrye.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Hon-

ourable Member for The Pas, a proposed amendment thereto by the Leader of the Opposition.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek has five minutes remaining.

MR. JOHNSTON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I only have the five minutes and I probably will do a little summing up. But first I would like to say that it was pretty obvious at the caucus meeting today of the government side. They decided to go back in the room and say, "Question, don't answer those fellows, take it as notice," and the Premier has obviously shown that he can't stand the heat in the House because he's produced some arrogance today that he used to accuse other people of.

Mr. Speaker, let us go back to what I was saying about the complaints that we had from the government for four years that nothing was being done, that people were leaving the Province of Manitoba and for three years there was a plan worked on to provide jobs for the people in the Province of Manitoba, for children of those people and the grandchildren of those people for years to come. Let us picture, Mr. Speaker, a potash plant in the western part of the province worth \$400 million of construction, that would have 1,200 people working in construction for three years and, Mr. Speaker, a permanency of about 500 jobs in the area. Let's take a look at the work that was being done to see the Manfor expanded to increase jobs in The Pas, and it certainly should be done. Both of those, by the way, were going to be joint ventures; government, industry working together; the Federal Government being involved as far as Manfor was concerned; a joint venture. So we have several million dollars there; about \$150 million with an increase in jobs in the construction period. A refinery that would cost in the neighbourhood of \$600 million produces about — if it goes the same as Granby in Quebec — about 1,500 permanent jobs in construction for four years and then permanent jobs of about 500 to 600 in the plant; \$700 million approximately at today's dollars.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Power Grid that would have increased employment in Manitoba by several million dollars, over maybe 200 million or better being spent in this area and you add up when you take Limestone into it, the construction of Limestone, another \$2 billion, this province was looking at \$3- to \$4-billion-worth of expenditure which would create jobs in this province for the long-term future, and have a long-term construction on the Nelson, would probably last for 25 years, uninterrupted.

What's the consequence if we lose it, Mr. Speaker? Well, the consequence is this: we just heard from the Minister of Education that she's going to be spending more money. We know from the Federal Government that your transfer payments are going to be less. We know that the economy of Manitoba, the car sales and other things are down. You're going to have less tax dollars coming in.

All of these things are happening and the most important thing of all, Mr. Speaker, is that we will export. We will continue to export our young people to work in the resource provinces elsewhere. Does anybody on that side of the House believe that ManOil or any other oil company, private or public, is capable of doing what that plan is that we had before? —

(Interjection)— and the Alcan one. I repeat, Alcan was a tenant, would be a tenant in a hydro plant owned by Hydro and they would pay \$600 million approximately toward the construction of that plant, and they would only have a guarantee of power for 35 years. And as the member, The Minister of Energy and Mines wants to argue, the price of the power has not been set. Mr. Speaker, when 40 percent of the cost of making aluminum is hydro power —(Interjection)— Thank you, Sir — And you're spending \$700 million to build a refinery in somebody's province, you're going to make sure your power is not cut off. The Quebec Government when it nationalized and took over the power plants in Quebec, left Alcan with their own power plants in that province. It is a policy of theirs that they do and must have a security of power.

So, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the socialist philosophy wants to see advancement in this province because they don't know how to handle that kind of people with initiative. But it's on their heads, Mr. Speaker, and it better happen fast, because your financial problems within this province are here and they're going to get worse very fast and now is the time to move. Let's forget the dreams and the fantasies that we're talking about and the visions. Let's act now for the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. JOHN PLOHMAN (Dauphin): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek discuss once again the Conservative dreams and fantasies as he referred to them of megaprojects and I'm going to at this time discuss the serious concerns and problems facing Manitoba and facing the Dauphin constituency today.

I consider it a great honour and privilege, Mr. Speaker, to be able to give my inaugural address here this afternoon. I say this sincerely, that it is an honour to be here with so many distinguished people on both sides of the House, that's true and as the representative in the 32nd Legislature and because of the Dauphin Constituency have chosen me as their representative.

I want at this time to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker. I genuinely believe that you will bring honour to your position here. I want also to congratulate our Premier, a very special person, members of the Cabinet and all MLA's on both sides of the House, who make up the 32nd Legislature. I especially want to mention and congratulate the Honourable Member for The Pas and the Honourable Member for Burrows for their eloquence in moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here I'm mindful of the great challenge that lies before us. It is a challenge that I take seriously and with a sense of great responsibility. The challenges before us have never been greater and I believe the Throne Speech read by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor demonstrates that this Government is willing to tackle those challenges and problems in a realistic way and that we are not going to sit back and watch like the Conservative Government did before us.

Before I speak briefly about some of the greatest problems facing my constituency of Dauphin, I want

to briefly share some of my background and my concerns and my personal feelings with you.

I proudly speak of my days on the farm where I was born and raised, the trees, the breeze through the leaves, the animals, the sweet smell of freshly cut grass and the stones I picked. —(Interjection)— That's right, from the Interlake. I learned to love the land and in our family of seven children, I learned to share, to compromise and to be strong when I had to. Later, I had the privilege of working in Manitoba's North. I worked with pride on the longest direct current transmission line in the world at that time, climbed those majestic towers and experienced the true serenity 200 feet in the air with the cool northern breeze blowing in my face. Mr. Speaker, I experienced firsthand the harnessing of the mighty Nelson. After graduating from Red River Community College and the University of Manitoba, I moved to Dauphin where I taught school for eight and one-half years and served as a town councillor there. During this time that I spent in the North and between the time of my university days, something very beautiful happened to me —(Interjection)— right, I met and married my dear wife, Pat, and we now have three children, Rochelle, Jody and Robbie whom we love dearly.

I want to talk briefly about the sacrifices a family must make when one member of that family is involved as a politician. I want to talk about this because as the Honourable Member for Elmwood said Monday, politics has been described as the highest calling, the noblest profession, yet politicians are always abused, never really trusted and the sacrifices they and their family make not very often talked about. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that all of my honourable friends here can identify with that sacrifice. Each of our situations is different; but for me, I must say goodbye to my three children on Sunday night when the House is in Session; I say goodbye, they say goodbye; yet they do not know why I go and do not return until Friday. We, as do many of you, my honourable friends have a very close and a very loving family. Yet our children who are making huge sacrifices had no say in the decision and know not why they make them. They just know, Mr. Speaker, that daddy is not there to tuck them in, to hold them close, to listen to their oh so important problems, to cry with them, to sing with them, to laugh with them and to pray with them. That hurts me deep inside but I know that I must do what I have to do and I hope that they will one day understand that because of their sacrifices life will be a little better for all of the other Rochelles and Jodys and Robbies in our province, yes, and wives and husbands too. That's what politics is about, but it is not what it's talked about.

But why did I become a politician if the pain is so great? Why? Because like you I have a duty to my province and to my country because we only live once on earth and life can be so short, as I found out when my brother was cruelly and savagely crushed and twisted by the power take-off of his tractor and stack-mover on his farm while his wife and children waited at home preparing for Christmas for the husband and father who would never come back; and, yes, because my calling came and I was needed and because I was inspired to go into public life by people like our Honourable Premier, His Excellency Ed Schreyer, the Honourable Stanley Knowles, Ed Broadbent and yes,

for the interested Members Opposite, the late Right Honourable John Diefenbaker. But, more than that, I was inspired by one event, one event more than any other and by one person more than any other in a very different way. The event was the provincial election of 1977 which saw the defeat of the Schreyer Government and the person was the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who is unfortunately not here right now.

On that night of the '77 election, things changed in Manitoba. The power that was humane and compassionate in the hands of the Schreyer Government became painful and cruel in the hands of the present Leader of the Opposition.

For inasmuch as he can lecture so disdainfully, so condescendingly and so indignantly the Members of the New Democratic Party here on Reaganomics and on his version of fairness and justice and free enterprise, this professor is incapable of comprehending the simple needs of average people. He cannot comprehend, Mr. Speaker, because he has, I believe, never experienced the simple needs of average people. Yet, he has the audacity to single out backbenchers here and tell them they have made a mistake, that somehow they have made a horrible mistake in representing the New Democratic Party; that, in his words, the Schreyer retreats are responsible for the policies that went into the Throne Speech.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this wet-behind-the-ears backbencher wants to inform the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that we all contributed to the formulation of that Speech, the Honourable Member for The Pas, the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, the Honourable Member for Burrows, the Honourable Minister of Education — all of us. In a demonstration of democracy that you will never grasp, that you will never comprehend, Leaders of the Opposition and you my honourable friends on the other side, we all had a part. We are part of that Speech and we are very proud of these Schreyer retreats because they first put the Honourable Leader of the Opposition on that side of the House. We are not naive little creatures gone astray, led blindly by some doctrine. We know where we are going my honourable friends and we are not afraid to stand proud and tall and tell the people of Manitoba of our beliefs. So more than anyone else the Honourable Leader of the Opposition inspired me to come here to be part of a responsive compassionate party that works and cares for all of the people of Manitoba and I can assure my honourable colleague that I will be inspired to work ever harder for the people of Manitoba whenever he rises in this House and I will be inspired to work to ensure that he stays on that side of the House where he will remain relatively harmless. Period! Paragraph! I want to make it very clear to the honourable members that even though he inspired me to come here, Mr. Speaker, I don't think he inspired you, and I am sure you are going to tell him that very clearly in the near future.

I wish now to turn briefly to my constituency. It is a beautiful constituency nestled at the foot of the Riding Mountains to the south, the Duck Mountains to the west, stretching to Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba at the north and down and including Dauphin Lake on the east.

A MEMBER: Good fishing down there?

MR. PLOHMAN: There used to be.

It is ironic that the setting which gives my constituency such great beauty also is the source of great problems for it lies directly in the path of the Riding and Duck Mountain watersheds. Mr. Speaker, we recall the Honourable Member for The Pas saying in moving the Speech from the Throne that every MLA thinks his or her constituency is the best, that the lakes are the clearest and that the fish are the biggest. Well, Mr. Speaker, I no longer can say that about my constituency because I know differently. Dauphin Lake used to be crystal clear with the best pickerel in the province, but it has been largely destroyed by the carelessness of man.

All levels of government have contributed to improving drainage in the area over the years, but in a largely unplanned way ditches were joined to rivers and in some cases rivers were widened and deepened in the upper reaches but not in the lower reaches. Now in periods of excessive runoff, heavy rains, a quick thaw, the water gushes down from the mountains, down into the natural portions of the waterways which cannot take the increased flow and over the fertile farmland taking with it the rich soil of the Dauphin Valley and depositing it in the Dauphin Lake forming deltas and marsh areas in the mouths of the rivers. About twelve streams and rivers flow into Lake Dauphin, Mr. Speaker, and only one, the Mossy River, flows outward draining Lake Dauphin into Lake Winnipegosis at the north end. That one outlet channel cannot handle the water as quickly as it enters the Lake and therefore it is currently impossible to accurately regulate the level of the Lake.

Dauphin Lake is sick right now. Heavily silted in the river outlets, fish can no longer get up the rivers to spawn and a thriving fish industry has been lost, hopefully temporarily. The Lake level cannot be effectively regulated so consequently must be maintained at a lower than desirable level to accommodate sudden rains or excessive runoffs. There are serious problems, Mr. Speaker, problems that must be addressed by this government, problems that will test the sincerity of our conviction to conserve our natural resources and our natural environment. It will test the sincerity, Mr. Speaker, because it is going to take money to turn Lake Dauphin around and then to begin to undo the damage that has been caused by human beings.

The citizens of the Dauphin Constituency are concerned and they want action on this severe and acute problem. Action, Mr. Speaker, that will be constructive and long lasting, not merely cosmetic as that prosed by the previous government. They were proposing to raise the Lake level, as the story goes, against the protests of the farmers — this is not a story — and they were going to buy up all the surrounding farmland which would be flooded. So much for free enterprise, Mr. Speaker. Their proposal would not address the long-term problem of the Lake and would not effect a long-term solution, so while I give credit to the Opposition for trying, Mr. Speaker, I say long-term solutions are needed and I am confident this government will find those long-term solutions.

Firstly, the outflow channel, the Mossy River, must be opened up, excavated so that it can handle the

volume of water required to effectively regulate the Lake at a desirable level.

Secondly, and while this is taking place, conservation districts must be set up on the west of Lake Dauphin on the Duck Mountain watershed to facilitate proper management and planning of the whole area, not municipality by municipality as has been done, but the whole area must be planned, and then with dams and catch basins the waterways can be controlled to halt the buildup of the silt into Lake Dauphin which comes about when the water rushes unimpeded from the Riding Mountains and the Duck Mountains.

Thirdly, the excess silt must be dredged out of the river outlets so that fish can once again thrive in the Lake and the recreation potential of Dauphin Lake can be restored.

This is a serious conservation and environmental problem, Mr. Speaker, that becomes more acute each passing year. If we fail to take action to correct it now we will fail on many more in the future. I will be asking my government to take such action so that the beauty of the Lake and the confidence and pride of our people in the Dauphin Constituency can be restored once again.

Many of our other problems in the Dauphin Constituency are being addressed by the Speech from the Throne. Increased educational funds for low assessment school divisions is very important in my constituency and the announcement by the Honourable Minister of Education today in the House will go a long way to alleviating the disparities in the former government's education support program, which really left gross inequities. It is particularly important in the Duck Mountain School Division which has suffered disadvantages for many years because of low property tax base. The complete review of educational finance is necessary and I am pleased that it will be conducted this year. It is necessary so that a meaningful and equitable means of financing education can be put in place for the benefit of future generations.

I am pleased as well to see the review of the municipal social assistance taking place this year as well. You know under the "welfare is cheaper than jobs" philosophy of the previous government municipal and social assistance costs in the town of Dauphin have skyrocketed. The town has become the regional centre for municipal welfare and it is now seeking special help from the province to offset the staggering administrative and pay-out costs to the town and I am working presently with the Minister on this problem.

The emphasis by my government on construction is needed facilities will bring great benefits to Dauphin, hopefully a new senior citizens home and the renovation and construction of the Dauphin General Hospital delayed by the previous government. I find it, Mr. Speaker, rather ironic that the Honourable Member for St. Norbert was just asking about a delay of a few months on the Law Courts Building when his government delayed the construction of the Dauphin General Hospital for four years. Hopefully they will proceed this year, Mr. Speaker, in fact they must proceed.

We have a high number of senior citizens in the Dauphin area and the Critical Home Repair Program expansion will bring much needed repairs to their

homes and at the same time provide jobs for the unemployed.

I am pleased as well to see that first contract legislation will be brought in by my government. This hopefully will come in time to assist the workers at Blackwoods Beverages who have been on strike since December of last year in their efforts to gain a first contract.

Mr. Speaker, the increase in funding to regional development corporations will be particularly significant in my constituency. The area I represent is currently one of the most economically disadvantaged in the province; an industrial base is sadly needed. The former government's policy of handing out interest-free forgivable loans to certain businesses has not addressed this problem.

One of our greatest hopes for regional industrial development lies in the Parkland Regional Development Corporation. With its energy and enthusiasm coupled with adequate government support, it should be successful in bringing industry and permanent jobs to the Parkland region. Areas of my constituency such as Winnipegosis, Meadow Portage and the Waterhen can benefit immensely from fish and timber processing industries.

The Native people in those areas, too, are anxious to be a part of this development, to work to be self sufficient; I am pleased to see that this government is addressing the problems of our Native people. The natural and human resources are there, Mr. Speaker; they need only be harnessed.

Agriculture is the backbone of my constituency. Farmers have suffered tremendously under the inaction of the previous administration. A beef stabilization plan was overdue even before the November election. Beef producers are now frantically trying to hold on, while my government makes careful plans for a program that is needed to make up for the lack of action by the previous administration and by the Federal Government on this serious problem.

The burden on farmers is heavy and the people of the Dauphin constituency are about to receive another staggering blow. If the Federal Government has its way, Mr. Speaker, they will continue their crusade to undermine the rail transportation system of Western Canada. A hearing is scheduled for March 30 in Fork River in my constituency at which time the Canadian Transport Commission will hear an application for the abandonment of the rail line from Sifton to Fork River and Winnipegosis. Twenty miles of rail line that will hurt the small farmers of my constituency considerably, all for the saving of a few corporate dollars. This, at the same time, that the Federal Government wants to bow to the CPR and increase the statutory Crow rate.

When the resolution comes before the House, I will show that the federal proposal could eat into as much as 50 percent of grain farmers' profits in my constituency and it is a simple matter of dollars and cents, my honourable friends, Mr. Speaker.

Our small rural farmers cannot afford an increase in the Crow rate. I will fight with my colleagues to turn aside the Federal Government's attack on farmers and on the farmers of Manitoba, in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my support to those of my colleagues who believe that MLAs need more resour-

ces to serve their constituents in the professional manner they deserve. I have been fortunate in Dauphin to be able to share a constituency office with my MP, Laverne Lewycky. Since the end of November I have worked on over 250 individual cases received in my office by phone, mail or in person. I have met with more than 75 individuals in my office by appointment. During the past three months I have spent an average of three days a week in that office and needless to say the response has been overwhelming, but that is as it should be, Mr. Speaker, that is why I was elected. Now that the House is in Session, however, I cannot spend the time required in my constituency office in Dauphin.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that adequate resources to provide for the hiring of staff are necessary and justifiable and I am pleased that we will be looking into this matter. I ask the members of the Opposition to work with us on this issue in the public interest, in the interest of serving our constituents well.

Mr. Speaker, we, in the Dauphin constituency need access to government service; we need increasing adult educational opportunities; we need increased decentralization of our government services in our communities; we need the kind of human and humane services our people deserve.

Our recreation and tourism potential must be developed and I can assure my honourable friends here and the people of my constituency, Mr. Speaker, that I will work for all of these principles and programs during my term in office.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, it has been an honour and a privilege to address this House this afternoon. I look forward to working with each of you, my honourable friends, to make our province a better place for our children.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am indeed pleased to stand in my place once again and renew the acquaintance, friendship of this House, this beautiful Chamber and wade into the debates of the subject matter that is before us this day which, of course, is the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, I rise very quickly to support the amendment that is proposed by my Leader. I hope that I can explain my reasons for supporting this motion before I sit down.

Mr. Speaker, before I do enter my Address I must bring greetings to Her Honour from the people of Roblin constituency, she and her aides who carried out their duties and responsibilities so skilfully and so ably and with all the decor that's known to that high office, especially her being the first lady Lieutenant-Governor in our province, I feel real proud that I happen to be a member of the House when that history, change or benchmark, or change in history took place.

Always, Mr. Speaker, I am impressed again by the 21-gun salute that we get on opening day. There's not many veterans left, I guess, in this Chamber. One is the Member for St. Boniface, the Honourable Member for Concordia, Fort Rouge, Minnedosa, Virden, there's about six or seven of us left. There was at one time quite a number of Second World War veterans, in fact

some First World War veterans sat when I first came into this Chamber. I noticed, Mr. Speaker, that the number of ladies that were in that Honour Guard that day, which I think was a first for me to see that number, and there was quite a substantial number of ladies in the Honour Guard when Her Honour was inspecting the guard. I also noticed in the band as well that there were two or three of the fairer sex blowing horns. That made me feel good because I'm an old time musician; I've blown horns half my life and I always felt that some of the military bands could use a lot more ladies. When we used to play in bands, very very rarely that a girl would play in the band; but the music I think is much better now that the ladies are taking part and parcel of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all the members who are in this Chamber that have come back here and now are taking their places as we proceed through the proceedings of this First Session of this particular Legislature. I am indeed pleased again to see so many of the fairer sex adorning these Chairs. While over the years that I have sat here, we've had a lady Speaker; we've had a lady become one of the First Ministers of the Crown and a lot of firsts in that field. I am very comfortable here to be with all the beauty and charm that, you, of the fairer sex bring to this room. I look forward to working with you and look forward to your contribution in the Debate. I think many times over the years that the male side of the issue, the stale thing that's been going on in the British parliamentary system in this Chamber for many many years deserves the words and the wisdom of only a woman can provide. I'm sure Manitoba is going to be better; Canada is going to be better for the experience.

Mr. Speaker, I note some of the new members reading their speeches in this Chamber and you'll learn maybe after — of course, it will depend on how the Speaker rules — but I recall when I first came in here and I think I was sitting up in one of those seats up there. I worked, it was a Trans-Canada Pipe . . .

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member reflecting upon the speeches of other members, he should be aware that is not according to our rules and I would hope that he does not do that in the future.

MR. McKENZIE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear you, Mr. Speaker, I'll put on the hearing aid.

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member has his ear piece in place now, I believe I heard the honourable member referring to other members of the Chamber in the manner in which they had made their maiden speeches in this House. I'm sure that the honourable member is aware that is not according to our rules. I hope that he does not repeat such remarks.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, if in any way I impeded upon any of the members, I withdraw and I apologize to Mr. Speaker. All I was trying to refer to is in the Debates sometimes, as we sit in this place, precedence will lead us to believe that in many cases we can conduct our Debate in a more meaningful manner by just speaking off the top of our head. The incident I was going to refer to was my first speech and I worked like a beaver at it, got it all printed out

and sat over there and read it into the record. I think the subject was the Pipeline Debate and after the speech was over, I remember getting a note from the former Premier, Mr. D.L. Campbell — sitting down at the end there — the Member for Selkirk, Mr. Hillhouse. Anyway, the messages said, "McKenzie you made a fantastic contribution to the development of this province but unfortunately we never understand one word you said." So, about six weeks or a month later, I finally got my courage screwed up and rose in my place again to speak on another day and this time I had the subject rehearsed and was able to speak without notes. These same two gentlemen and a couple of others on this occasion — a note came across, "McKenzie, thank you kindly, we understood this one." I often think of that, Mr. Speaker, when I rise in my place and while I'm not a great orator or debater, I like to find that there are times when I can rise in my place and speak without the help of a written speech. Of course, everybody is entitled to his own opinion.

Mr. Speaker, I was kind of alarmed the other day when I picked up the Monday, March 1st issue of the *Winnipeg Sun*. There is a picture of a couple of old centurions, my long-time friends and constituents in Russell, a Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. They celebrated their 100th and 101st birthdays last year and they're tied into an article here about discrimination about old people. I, for the life of me, can't understand why the newspaper in its wisdom would tie this lovable old couple who are as madly in love today as they were some 70 years or more after they were married than they were the first day they were married, but there they are in this article with *The Sun*. It did disturb me somewhat because I know of no discrimination in any way, shape or form that's ever been imposed upon those people or that they have ever imposed upon anybody.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of the MLA's I haven't had the honour and privilege to meet yet. I look forward to sharing your acquaintance. Maybe some of you have never had the privilege of visiting the Roblin-Russell constituency which I always call God's country. It's one of the nicer parts of the province, rural Manitoba, because I have the Duck Mountains on the north side of it and Shellmouth Dam; lots of water; and then the Riding Mountain Provincial Park. Two-thirds of the Riding Mountain Provincial Park skirts the southern part of the constituency; it's an interesting area, good fishing grounds. If any of the members or their families are ever in the area, I hope they would be kind enough to start about Binscarth, or Shoal Lake, or Rossburn and ask where I live and most people will guide you accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, first, in my sending notice to my constituents as to what this Throne Speech said and what it didn't say, I am at rather mixed feelings as to the way it was put together and some of the thrust of the Throne Speech. I heard the Honourable Member for Dauphin, who preceeded me a few minutes ago, telling all the members of their caucus took part in the preparation of the Throne Speech. That's been the tradition on our side for many years. I have had the honour and the privilege of preparing a Throne Speech for a long time when we sat on government side, so it's nothing new.

But the questions that are being raised to me, Mr.

Speaker, by my constituents today and, of course, the Honourable First Minister during the election campaign, never spelled out how we are going to pay for all these services that he has laid through the medium of this Throne Speech and where the money has come from. No doubt, the Budget will come down in due course, Mr. Speaker, and likely give us some insight as to what is going to take place as far as the finances are concerned but a lot of people are asking now what's going to happen or where are we going to raise the funds for all these various programs. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister when he responds to this message on closing the debate on Tuesday, can provide me with enough answers to the questions that I am going to raise today, he might even get my support, but I am not sure as I stand here yet until he speaks, unless he will tell us if they are going to increase the sales tax in this province. Is that going to be part and parcel of the programs that we can expect? Are we going to return to the highest income tax rates of any province in Canada? Is that part and parcel? Are there going to be massive new capital taxes imposed upon the people of this province? I would like to know that and I am sure every citizen in this province would like to know. Are we going to go back to the mineral acreage taxes that we were so familiar with when they were in government before? Are we going to have the succession duties levied on the people of this province once again? Are we going to have the gift taxes levied again on the taxpayers of this province? Those are a few of the questions, Mr. Speaker, that I hope the First Minister will answer when he rises in his place on, I believe, it's Tuesday night.

The options, Mr. Speaker, are rather interesting. But I think the province has listened to them very skillfully; they have elected them as government; the government is in place and I think we deserve some answers to those questions. Mr. Speaker, I can only refer to an editorial from the *Rosburn Review* which crossed my desk this week on this same subject matter, and it is interesting what this man has to say about the conditions in our province today and Canada, and asking basically the same questions that I am asking earlier on this Throne Speech. This learned editor says, Mr. Speaker, "The economic events presently occurring in Canada in a worsening situation are certainly a flashback to pages from the past. An earlier generation lived through difficult times 50 years ago and people also were losing their homes in the cities, foreclosures were a common event and keeping the farm operating became a serious struggle. Of course in the thirties there were few jobs, little money was available but the costs of the goods were very little. Today's prices are sky high and surging on towards the moon; over a million unemployed and farming is once again caught in the squeeze. Every paper and political party knows who to blame the problem on, as long as it's someone else. Our suggestion is that we must pass a message on to government at all levels from hard-pressed taxpayers right across this country: 'Please remove your hand from our pockets. Let us spend that dollar first on consumer goods and the services and machinery we require for our farming operations.'

"Government will still get their hands on that dollar but let it be spent first on things that are needed and

get the economy back on the track. Then, and maybe then only, will we find people getting back to work in our country without it being accomplished the way government bureaucracy knows best to accomplish it. Their answer is make-work projects whether the goods and services are needed or not, or of any real value. Yes, we must remind you, the government way, of course, is only paid one way — by another dip into your pockets through tax money. Certainly, the ideas make more sense than people arguing over which party has the political answers. It makes little difference which political sentiment we believe in. None of the political parties really merit a passing grade when the final examinations are written. They would have been admirably dressed for a social ball back in the bygone era."

That is the reading the editorial of the Rossburn Review into the record and it certainly is a privilege and an honour for anybody in this House to read policy or read from articles into the record, no problem with that at all.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the First Minister in his wisdom, could hopefully give us some ideas as to what is going to happen as far as that gentleman is concerned who wrote that editorial. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, what our agricultural people are saying after they have heard of this Budget, or the small business, or the homeowners, Mr. Speaker.

One of the first questions that was raised to me on the weekend to ask the First Minister and his government: what are they going to do about the hydro rate? Are you going to take the freeze off the hydro rates? I know, Mr. Speaker, the First Minister went around this province stumping the election and he said some nasty things about the hydro freeze, and I should read a couple of them if I could. It's from the New Democratic Party Caucus Paper No. 12, where it says and is signed by Howard Pawley, Leader. He says here, "The Conservative Government has wasted millions of tax dollars on a needless Manitoba Hydro-rate freeze." That is the First Minister who said that. The Conservative Government has wasted millions of tax dollars on a needless Manitoba Hydro rate-freeze. He goes on further down in the article and he says, "The Tory freeze on Hydro construction has hurt the Manitoba economy, time has shown that the phony" — now listen to this — "the phony hydro-rate freeze is needlessly hurting Manitoba taxpayers." — statement of the First Minister. Now I am sure on Tuesday night when he rises in his place, he will explain to the people of the province what he meant, and if, in fact, they are going to take the freeze off Hydro. I hope that the First Minister will dispatch my words to them and make sure that he includes that in his reply, Mr. Speaker.

Another problem, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to address to the First Minister and to his caucus and that is, my constituency has been blessed with one of the new, thriving industries in the province. CSP Foods Crusher Plant is almost completed west of Russell at Harrowby and we are indeed most pleased to have that development, and the spin-off effects are already in place. But, Mr. Speaker, there are some concerns being raised by the crushing industry, not only in this province, but all across Canada, I think that deserve the attention of the House and should be brought into this debate. This is an article that came out of the

February 10th issue of The Russell Banner, and it says, "Western crushing almost through," signed by some chap by the name of Smyth. Mr. Speaker, apparently the rapeseed-crushing industry is facing real problems in Western Canada, while at the same time it says here, "A rapeseed granola crushing plant has been recently built in Windsor, Ontario, and another 600 tonne-a-day crushing plant has been announced at Hamilton recently." And the crushing industry goes on and says here, Mr. Speaker, "That was the gloomy word that came from general manager John Smyth of United Oilseeds Limited. He said, "Crow is coming home to roost and if it isn't changed the western crushing industry is through. In fact," he said, "there can be no meaningful economic development in Western Canada agriculture until Crow is reformed." Mr. Speaker, this learned gentleman went on. He said, "Western rapeseed crushers have been betrayed. They have built their plants in Western Canada, and the encouragement of the Provincial Government, but mostly because of the Federal Transport Minister at the 1970 Western Economic Opportunity Conference, that they would end this discrimination against processing in the west and put processed oil and rawseed on an equal transportation basis with the east."

Ottawa hasn't reacted. I am wondering if the First Minister and his government and this Minister of Agriculture, are going to react to this problem because it goes on here in the article and this gentleman says, "Because of Crow, crushers in Europe, Japan, Korea and Brazil can import Canada's rapeseed; they can crush it and then they can undersell Western Canadian crushers in world markets with Western Canada's oil and meal.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the First Minister will address that subject matter when he responds or, if not, that this Minister of Agriculture will reply to it at the earliest date and see if we can't help save the oil crushing industry at Harrowby and at Altona in this province, a very viable industry and one that deserves the full attention of this government.

Mr. Speaker, also in sorting through the election material that the New Democratic Party kept putting at my door when the election was, I finally got time to read some of it here just in the last few days and there were some very interesting promises made in this document if one was to read through it. They say here, "with ManOil and Hydro we can develop programs to guarantee," listen to this, "guarantee that no Manitobans lose their homes." Now, when is that going to start taking place, "that no Manitobans lose their homes, or farms?" It adds farms, due to high interest rates; that no farms and no homes are going to be lost. Now when, and that's a promise. It says down at the bottom, "that we can guarantee," and I hope the people in this province take a look at this document. The First Minister's picture is there and it's signed and guaranteed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask him, what should the farm community be doing, the number of people that are having problems today economically? Does the Minister think that the program that's already been announced is going to handle all these problems? Did you read the number of bankruptcies that's proposed in today's newspaper? Can you imagine that you can

handle all those things; it says there they are guaranteed that they will be handled and they'll be dealt with.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that they would give some meaningful answers in the reply, especially from the First Minister when he responds on Tuesday night to that subject.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture is here and the Minister of Co-operative Development — yes, he's still here. I wonder can I raise the problems of the Manco Industry at Rossburn and Pilot Mound, the cheese plants. I know the Member for Ste. Rose is quite familiar with cheese plants; he had the Glenella Creamery for some two or three years on a brochure that it was closed and we got blamed for it. That brochure covered this province that the Glenella Creamery was closed and the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose spelt that wisdom around this province. Finally, Mr. Speaker, when we did get a chance to find out what happened, apparently they closed the creamery up a couple of days to repaint it or put in new furniture. But anyway he is an expert on creameries and I'm quite familiar with how creameries close in his constituency.

I have the unfortunate experience to have Rossburn Creamery sitting idle today with all that stock of cheese there and to the best of my knowledge the Minister of Co-operative Development hasn't been out there yet, nor have I heard of the Minister of Agriculture visiting that plant and I wonder maybe if they had been at Pilot Mound. But, Mr. Speaker, there are about 25 workers that are laid off at the plant in Rossburn alone and I'm surprised that the Minister of Co-operative Development especially hasn't been out there yet.

I am told they are hauling the milk from that area now to Saskatchewan which is most unfortunate, that they are hauling the milk from Manitoba into Saskatchewan. I wonder if the First Minister can give us some answers on that when he replies and what are they going to do with that plant at Rossburn and the one at Pilot Mound which are now closed, have that vast stock of cheese in place. When you read the pledges and the promises that they made at election time, I'm lem. In the meantime those 25 people are out of e they must have a solution for that probwork and I am told this morning that unless that matter is cleared up by the end of this month, at the latest, those markets will be lost to Rossburn and Pilot Mound for all time. Those cheese plants will not get those markets back.

So, I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the First Minister of this province, when he rises in his place on Tuesday, will tell the people of Rossburn and tell the people of Pilot Mound what this government or these two Ministers have in mind, or how they're going to resolve this problem, or when they're going to resolve it, if at all? I know that the honourable member, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Co-operative Development is certainly familiar with the problem because he went through the Glenella one, so he knows how difficult the problems that can leave in a community.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder about the beef industry? I can recall last year the speeches that were made by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose. The Minister of Agriculture down here, the Minister of Highways, and I was leafing through some of those speeches the

other day about how they're going to look after the beef industry in this province and, Mr. Speaker, they're government now. But I listened very keenly to what the Minister of Agriculture has put in the record already; he says he's studying it. They weren't studying it when they were in Opposition, Mr. Speaker, they had all the answers, they had all the solutions and they told us exactly how it should be done. I wonder why they're not doing it today; I wonder why they're not doing it today.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, it says here cattlemen today are frustrated by the lack of action on this new government, waiting for an announcement. On which base to base production decisions this spring has still not come from the new government. Producers are losing money daily and are beginning to be pressured by their banks and not a word; the matter is being studied. "The urgency of the situation is illustrated by the closing of feed lots, the increasing number of cow herd dispersals and the concern of packers over the stability of the industry," an association news release said today. The article goes on and says, "action by the Provincial Government is necessary, hopefully it will not come too late," the organization concluded.

Mr. Speaker, that's a fair question, why can't we apply the band-aid solutions, at least try, that they offered last year when they were in Opposition? Is there any reason why the Minister of Agriculture can't come out in the open and say either he can solve the problem or he'll apply those measures and those suggestions that him and the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose offered to the industry last year?

Mr. Speaker, it's scary, it's scary because that's not what they said when the election campaign was on; that's not what they told the beef producers at all; that's not what the First Minister has got in this document. He said there would be immediate action taken by this government to deal with these matters.

So, again, there's another one that I hope the First Minister will lay on the Table of the House next Tuesday night when he rises in his place to close the beef debate on this subject matter.

Mr. Speaker, another interesting proposal that was laid on my desk this week, and that is the matter of an ethylene plant some place in the province. I haven't had any chance to discuss the feasibility of it but apparently it is feasible to put wood chips and barley as a base and produce ethylene alcohol. The reason it came to me is because I guess we have a goodly share of the wood chips of the province in Roblin-Russell Constituency and because that constituency has been known for many many years to grow the best malting barley of any jurisdiction in the world. They finally quit the malting barley contest because that area took the trophy every year.

I would just ask the Minister of Agriculture if in his wisdom he could take that and check it out and see if it is feasible for some place because there's lots of barley in the province and we have no problems with the wood chips. I believe somebody told me the other day that the Government of Saskatchewan is considering a plant in Canora, I believe it is, so if it's feasible there I don't see why it isn't feasible in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, those are about all the things that I had. I would like to have carried on further today and dealt with some matters related to education; to the

health delivery system in our province. I would like to question the Minister of Health on the development of Rosburn there; the new hospital is just about completed, and when we can expect the announcement of that. There are many questions raised about the need for personal care home beds in some of the larger centres of Roblin-Russell Constituency which I can raise at a later date.

The Minister of Education, I thank her kindly for rising in her place today and giving us some insight as to educational financing that we can be expecting because I have had several calls from school boards wondering just where they are at and when we could expect an announcement, so I thank the Minister today for putting that into the record.

So, with those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'll take my place but I'll be looking very keenly on Tuesday night to what the First Minister of this province says in response to my questions and if he gives me the answers that I expect that he should give me and that will satisfy the people, he might get me to support his Motion, but in the meantime I'm supporting the Motion of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition until I hear the First Minister's Address.

I thank you and I wish you well, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. JERRY T. STORIE (Flin Flon): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, although I'm on this side of the House, I've noticed a tendency for my chair to tilt to the left. I don't know what that means but I've noticed it.

I rise in my place for the first time, Mr. Speaker, to offer my comments to the Assembly. It is indeed an honour and I must, as precedent dictates, congratulate you. It is a pleasure to congratulate on your election to the Chair. I know that you will serve us well. The task before you is an onerous one and a crucial one to this Assembly and I know that the breadth of your experience and your wisdom will serve to enlighten and guide us when we stray from the prescribed course. I know that we all thank you for your duties as Speaker of this House.

I would also like to congratulate, needless to say, the Honourable First Minister on behalf of myself and the people of the Flin Flon Constituency. We as northerners have the utmost faith in the ability of you and your Ministers to lead this province in such a way as to be of benefit to all Manitobans, and if I may speak on behalf of all northerners, we anticipate a great revitalization of the northern communities by way of opportunities and social services.

I must also praise and congratulate the members on both sides of the House for their election or their re-election as the case may be. I concur with the statements made by the Honourable Member for Virden the other day when he commented on the serious nature of the job that we have all undertaken and it is certainly a commitment, as the Member from Dauphin has said, that has ramifications for our family and our friends and it is a commitment that we must, I think, take seriously.

I also would like to say at this time that like the

Member from Dauphin, I in some ways have to thank the Honourable Leader of the Opposition for becoming involved in this. I must say that the first time I met the then Premier of the province, his first comment to me, without any word of introduction, was "Don't you know that socialism is dead?" Well, some five or six months later we find out that that is not true at all. I guess perhaps that, without gloating, makes victory that much sweeter.

Anyway, particularly for new members, and I include both sides of the House, it is an honour and a burden to serve in this Chamber and I know that none of us take it lightly, and none of us should.

For my part it is an honour to serve the Constituency of Flin Flon, partly because the former Member for Flin Flon who served in this House from 1969 to 1981, a period of 12 years, served with dedication and integrity. Mr. Tom Barrow, and I know that many of you knew and respected him, served as I said from 1969 to 1981 and that is a long time when you consider that unlike members from the centre of Winnipeg who travel to this Assembly day by day, when you live in a constituency such as Flin Flon which is 500 miles and more away from the Assembly, it's a sacrifice.

The former Member from Flin Flon was a northerner both by personality and by residence. He was an affable, good natured and warm-hearted man and yet he was bold and action-oriented. If Mr. Barrow was anything, he was tenacious when he represented his people and I only hope that I can follow in his footsteps in that regard.

Mr. Barrow continues to live in the community of Cranberry Portage which is 30 or 35 miles outside of Flin Flon. He chose to remain living in his constituency and it was a conscious decision for him as it is a conscious decision for the Member from The Pas or the Member from Turtle Mountain or wherever, and we make those decisions knowing that it is a sacrifice.

I know also that it will sadden you to know that Tom has been suffering some ill health and that's extremely unfortunate because I don't think anyone deserved his retirement more than the former Member from Flin Flon, Mr. Tom Barrow. I know you will all join me when I wish him good health and enjoyment in the months and years to come.

The riding which Mr. Barrow represented and which I now represent is the third largest in the province. When I'm serving my constituency it's more than a 20-minute walk. In fact, from Flin Flon to one of the communities in my constituency is a distance of 300 miles; the community of Nelson House is about 60 miles outside of Thompson. In fact, I have to travel through Thompson to get there. It's an onerous task; it's a task that Mr. Barrow did, as I said for 12 years, and which he did with style. The centre of the constituency for me, probably because I live there, of course, is the City of Flin Flon. Flin Flon, for those of you who aren't aware, is a community of about 10,000 people and it was first established in 1927 by the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company. The City of Flin Flon, we consider it — those who live there — an urban center. It shares many problems in common with other urban centers across Manitoba and it has certain problems in common with other communities in northern Canada. For example, Mr. Speaker, as some of the members will know, the older sections of

Flin Flon, the uptown area we call it, is literally perched atop of bedrock. It was built there partly because the people wanted to be close to their work and out of necessity the homes that are perched on those rocks are connected by sewer and waterboxes that run on top of the ground, right on top of the bedrock, and the sewer and waterboxes are encased in these boxes and they run together. It creates a lot of problems, and the City of Flin Flon at this moment — and I know they spoke to the previous government about the need for the upgrading of this system that's been in place for 30 years and is in dire need of some upgrading and development.

One can only marvel really at the ingenuity and determination of the early residents of Flin Flon. One cannot help but be amazed at the persistence that they must have needed to create a town and a community and a home for their families in a place that must have seemed at least initially to be a very inhospitable place. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Flin Flon can and should be proud of their heritage and determination for their efforts have created a viable and a stable community with much to commend it.

Now, having said that about Flin Flon and, of course, I'm biased, I also must say that I have travelled rather widely throughout the province and actually lived in southwestern Manitoba and share a farm background with many of the members on both sides of this House, a heritage which, of course, I'm proud of. As a matter of fact, my parents still live in the Member for Turtle Mountain's constituency and I have a great deal of concern and interest in those constituencies and I'll be watching with interest how the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain represents those people who are still very dear to my heart. — (Interjection) — Good Tories! We all have our downfalls, we all have our downfalls. Mr. Speaker, — (Interjection) — that's right as the Honourable Member for Concordia said, "It's not a perfect world but we're working on it."

Mr. Speaker, Flin Flon has looked forward to working with the new government to create an even better place for their families and for their families' families to live.

I think the people of Flin Flon remember only too clearly, and remembered on November 17th only too clearly, the fact that in 1977, 1976-1977, Flin Flon had been promised a provincial building. Unfortunately, we never got a provincial building. In fact, several days after the election the provincial building sign was taken down and not only was our provincial building in serious jeopardy — in fact it no longer existed — our personal care home which had also been scheduled for completion in the next year was delayed for several years. However, all things can be forgiven in time and the people of Flin Flon right now are looking forward, as I said, to working with the new government, to working with myself and my colleagues in a spirit of co-operation and a spirit and a feeling that I'm sure that they have that this government will listen to their concerns and will react to their interests.

Now, as a mining town, Mr. Speaker, we are vitally concerned with the future of mining in the province and at the same time we're worried about our own futures in centres like Snow Lake and Flin Flon. We're worried in light of the recent problems that the mining

industry has experienced in Canada and certainly in Manitoba and we're worried that our futures need to be secure. As a mining town again, one whose major focus in the community is Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company, which is also a major polluter, we're concerned about the need for economic security and the security of our future with our pressing need for environmental protection and for our need to protect the health of our families from the effects of air, ground and water pollution.

As a northern centre again, Mr. Speaker, transportation and transportation costs are a major factor in the increasing disparity we see between the cost of living in southern Manitoba and the cost of living in Northern Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, just as Flin Flon as an urban center has problems in common with other centers, particularly northern ones, the rest of the riding has similarities with other rural and northern constituencies.

Within its electoral boundaries there are two Indian reserves; one at Nelson House and the other at Pukatawagan. Now these centers are — as I mentioned Nelson House is 300 miles away; Pukatawagan is somewhat closer, it's only 75 miles but there is no road. So when you serve a constituency and when you serve a community like that you have two choices; either you charter your own plane or you take a three-day train trip — not a three-day train trip, the train trip there is relatively brief but you have to wait the three days for it to come back. So, those are additional problems in serving such a constituency.

Anyway, I met with the Chiefs of these Bands during the election and both of them, Chief Rodney Spence from Nelson House and Chief Mathias Colomb from Pukatawagan, have extremely high expectations that their needs and their opinions and their concerns will be dealt with fairly and openly with this government. It would not be an exaggeration to say either, Mr. Speaker, that the unemployment on these reserves reaches 90 percent and more. Nor would it be inaccurate to say that they feel that they have been neglected and ignored over the past four years. They are desperately wanting to be consulted and listened to on matters that affect their daily lives.

The Constituency of Flin Flon also has four communities within its boundaries who fall under the jurisdiction of Northern Affairs; the Metis community at Nelson House, the community of Wabowden, Herb Lake Landing and Sherridon. Now these communities range in size from 700 or 800 at Wabowden down to 11 people, I think it is, at Herb Lake Landing, but they're communities nevertheless and they're important. They're important to me and I would hope and I know that they will be important to this government.

I visited these communities in the last month, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you that they look forward to this government's support for their communities. They look to this government to provide assistance to them so that they can provide their residents with recreational facilities. They need and they want improved health and educational opportunities and job opportunities. I can also say that in my meetings with them I noticed that there is a new sense of hope in these communities, the hope that rather than being ignored, or even worse, insulted with offers of welfare, that they can work with and for their own people in

their own communities; that they can work with government to help them bring up their standards of living to give hope to the young people and the young families who wish to keep the unique lifestyles of their own communities. Mr. Speaker, where there is hope, there is happiness. Where there is no hope, there is only despair.

In travelling throughout my constituency I have sensed the growing spirit of hope amongst the people there. Partly, I suppose because someone was there listening to them, but also, Mr. Speaker, because they have faith in the Honourable First Minister and his government; they have faith that this government is committed to social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I have been outlining some of the unique problems which face my constituents. The past four years indeed have been fretful ones for many northerners, but as I have said there is a new hope in the north. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Because the present government set out very clearly during the election some forthright and honest policies to help northerners in their fight to improve the disparities which exist between them and their neighbours to the south. They are looking for improvements in terms of educational and health opportunities, in terms of access to housing, in terms of social and health benefits, in terms of access to cultural events, and I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker.

The Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, contrary to what some members opposite feel can only add to that spirit of confidence in the new government. Because this new government has clearly shown, unlike some other governments, we do in fact intend to keep our election promises, these people do indeed have reason to be hopeful.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition may decry the fact that the Throne Speech simply outlines that we intend to fulfill all election promises, promises we made. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition should remember that it was those promises, that glimmer of hope if you will, which turned the electorate back to this government and away from the dogma, if I may use the word, of the do-nothing Conservative Government of the past four years.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, if I might digress for a moment, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is the Leader of the Opposition because he believes that the government's main task, its main duty, is to sit on its hands. The results of the last election clearly show that the people of Manitoba do not want a government that will sit on their hands. The Conservative *laissez-faire* government contrasts distinctly with our own policy of making government work for people.

Mr. Speaker, if I may use an analogy, the province is like an automobile, albeit a moderately priced one at the present time. The present government intends to keep its hands firmly on the wheel and to steer a course through the economic and social side streets of this province. We will be keeping our senses about us; we will be listening to cues along the byways to make sure that we arrive at our destination and our future in good shape. The former government, on the other hand, preferred to drive with no hands on the wheel, the "look ma, no hands" approach. They tried for four years to drive with no hands and what was the result, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government

careened into a brick wall on November 17th; that was the result.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you may ask what is in the Throne Speech to stir northern hope? There are many things. This government has indicated in its Speech from the Throne that it intends to create a Department of Crown Investments to review and co-ordinate the investments of various government departments and agencies. The government's investment in Trout Lake Copper Mine in the Flin Flon area is a good example of the kinds of investments which can contribute to the wealth of this province and which should be reviewed by this kind of government agency to ensure that such investments and the terms of those investments are indeed in the best interest of the people of this province.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that over the next several years that the province's investments in the Trout Lake Copper Mine will mean an additional \$30 million, Mr. Speaker, of benefit for the Province of Manitoba. That is considerably more, Mr. Speaker, than the amount of taxes that HBM&S has paid over the same period of years, I would hesitate to guess. Our government's intention to examine the cyclical nature of the mining industry and to suggest ways of modifying the effects of such cycle is a meaningful undertaking if you happen to live in a mining community.

This government is proposing to introduce rent controls to prevent landlords from capitalizing on low vacancy rates. Mr. Speaker, in Flin Flon the vacancy rate is and has been zero for the last several years. It is almost impossible to find adequate housing, rental or otherwise, and this is an important measure for the people in Flin Flon.

The government also intends to revitalize and expand the Critical Home Repair Program to help upgrade housing in such places as Flin Flon where housing is such a problem. There is hope also, Mr. Speaker, for the young men and women in areas such as Snow Lake and Flin Flon who desire to take advantage of the increased apprenticeship training programs promised in the Throne Speech. There is hope as well for the Metis and Native people in my constituency.

The Throne Speech and indeed our party at its last Convention has clearly indicated that many of the Native peoples concerns will be addressed in this Session of the Legislature. Our government has suggested the establishment of the Native Land Claims Commission to undertake to deal with this issue promptly and fairly. There will be new training initiatives for Native people and the expansion of student aid for Metis and Native students. These are meaningful and worthwhile endeavours. They do give hope to Native people that the future can and will be better.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made a commitment in the Throne Speech to work quickly towards examining the many environmental issues which face us. This gives the average person the hope that their health and the health of their children will not be sacrificed because introducing solutions to such problems would be too costly. The working people, many of whom work in the mines, mills and smelters in Northern Manitoba will be gladdened to see this government's intention to increase workers' participation in workplace safety and health committees and to

see, finally the appointment of a chief occupational medical officer.

Most of you here do not come from mining communities nor have you ever worked in mining operations, so you cannot know how important it is to these workers to feel that someone cares about their environment and their working conditions. It is extremely important.

Mr. Speaker, if I may speak sincerely, Canadians are a people of compromise and co-operation, and if I may move away from my speech for a minute I would like to comment on an additional issue, one which is also mentioned in the Throne Speech. It is not simply a parochial concern, it is something that concerns us all as Manitobans; it concerns us all as Canadians, and that is on the issue of the federal-provincial relations or the idea or concept of co-operative federalism. Mr. Speaker, Canadians are a people, as I said, of compromise and co-operation. Most Canadians, and I have heard many Manitobans say quite proudly that they are Canadians first and Manitobans second, find a combative and antagonistic posturing of the previous government offensive and reprehensible.

I believe the people of Manitoba will be proud of our stand. They will accept our voice in federal-provincial affairs as the voice of reason and the voice of the people. We have always solve our internal differences with dialogue and mediation and few people could tolerate the self-righteous and inflexible position taken by the former government.

Mr. Speaker, if we are to remain a united country and a strong country, then federal-provincial differences must be solved by dialogue and discussion and the principles of fairness, the principle of fairness which is a Canadian tradition.

I will conclude only by saying that as a member of this government I am extremely proud of the energy and the scope of the Throne Speech and I know that it gives a ray of hope to many Manitobans.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas): The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to participate in the Debate here today.

I'd like to make one reference to the previous speaker and endorse his comments about Tom Barrow. I think all members of the House previously have found Tom Barrow to be a man of his word and man of strong principles.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I hope that you would convey my congratulations to the Speaker when he comes back and I would just like to say that I am very pleased to have Mr. Speaker acting in that role. In my affiliation with him in the last years I have found him to be a very fair man and I think he will continue to do that. I would just like to indicate to him that knowing the members on this side of the House that we will not be the problem that he will be encountering, it'll probably be from the government side.

I'd also like to welcome all the new members to the Legislature here. I have enjoyed some of the speeches, some of them are pretty testy, and I think it's going to make for good debate.

I'd also like to possibly give a word of encouragement to the backbenchers on government's side. It's going to be interesting. I've had that experience for four years.

I'd also like to compliment the new government on their election. I personally can't really agree with what has happened, but then that is the choice of the people and we have to live with that.

I'd like to also compliment the Mover and the Seconder. Quite a bit of reference has been made to the Seconder on his touching on the morality issue and I think it'll probably be referred to again from time to time and if he wants to be the policeman for morality on the government side, he's going to be busier than the Premier will possibly be.

I would like to sort of caution the members opposite or the government of the day not to be too conceited. The difference in the election was 3 percent and my feeling would be that you've lost that already and from here you're going downhill and that's a very close margin.

I'd like to preface some of my remarks by making reference to my riding, with is the Emerson riding which is a rural riding. It starts off bordering the floodway on the Winnipeg side, so I'm a neighbor to the city members here. It goes all the way down to the American border and all the way down to the Ontario border. It covers a big geographical area and it's basically agriculture and we have 40 small communities and the biggest one probably has a population of about 1,500, so it makes it a challenge to cover this area.

When I looked at the Throne Speech, being a rural individual, I cannot be like the Member for Roblin who indicated that he could possibly, if the First Minister would clarify some points, be tempted to support it. I have absolute no confidence in the Throne Speech at all.

When I read through the Throne Speech I think it's sort of a motherhood type of thing and I think the people of Manitoba are going to be deceived. They will be deceived by what they are reading into the Throne Speech.

What have we got in the Throne Speech that basically affects the rural areas? The one thing that was a big issue prior to the election was the Interest Assistance Program for farmers, small business people and homeowners. I personally, in my area, I think we have within a week, I suppose after the announcement of the Interest Assistance Program for farmers, all kinds of applications flowed into the ag rep offices and in checking with the ag reps — (Interjection) — names have been submitted, let's put it that way. What has happened though is, I made some statement to one of my ag reps, I said, you know, with the criteria that is submitted here possibly one out of 25 would maybe qualify in my area. Then I read that 12 out of 1,000 have qualified so far.

Many of the farmers are in dire straits and they really are, but with the restrictions on these programs very very few of them will qualify, but they anticipated with this government with their announcements some kind of a relief. I don't want to call it the big lie, no; I want to call it deception.

My apologies, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see you in the Chair.

I also have in my communities, 40 small communities, there was a certain amount of elation; finally there's going to be a program for the small businessman, some interest relief. I've checked with some banking and borrowing institutions and I have yet to find one who will qualify under this. I don't know what the statistics are but we will be asking on this side as this program progresses, how many people qualify, who they are and where they're from? Because that's going to be interesting. That's going to be very interesting. It's just since yesterday that I had to change my prediction, one in 25 of the farmers would qualify.

The other thing that I read in the Throne Speech is my government will pursue the economic revitalization of rural Manitoba communities. I was elated. You will be asked for funds for the Main Street Manitoba Program which will involve towns, villages and local businesses and fresh development.

Well, I'm waiting with anticipation the amount of money that will be pumped into this because I have so many small communities that are just hanging on by the thread and with this new program, the small communities, the business people there are anticipating this government of the day will pull them out of the dire straits that they are in now, and if you don't, if the government fails to do that, we will be there to have reckoning with you.

Most of my comments basically should refer to the agricultural community and I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will relate some of this information to the Minister of Agriculture when the time comes.

Where are we at in southeast with agriculture? As you realize possibly we have the rich Red River Valley coming along the Red River and then we go past the escarpment into more marginal lands, which has been sitting there for many years more or less undeveloped. During the previous administration we called it the last agricultural frontier and we started developing programs that were suited for developing of the area. When you consider that between 50 and 80 percent of the land in some of these areas does not belong to private ownership but belongs to the LGD's and to the Crown, then maybe you can, you know, appreciate why I asked the questions of our Minister of Municipal Affairs.

We had developed a program of sale of the LGD vested lands, which was moving along well; we had also developed a program for the sale of agricultural-leased Crown lands, which was moving along well; and then in conjunction with that we had developed what we called the Tree Land Program, which I understand after review that it's going to be expanded to the Interlake and it's a good program. I want to compliment you if you want to expand that, because during that time in conjunction with the sale of Crown lands, LGD vested lands and the Tree Land Program, we, in my area, developed over 16,000 acres that got into production and we just scratched the surface.

A MEMBER: How much?

MR. DRIEDGER: Over 16,000. Well, it's not that much in some of the areas, but in my areas it accounts for a real buildup because we have a limited tax base out there and we need this kind of activity.

Now what has happened though; three weeks after

the election I understand that the Crown Lands Review Commission was suspended or fired and the program stopped, supposedly for review. You know, with the comment that the Minister of Municipal Affairs made, that he is supporting and continuing with the program of selling LGD vested Crown lands, I'm wondering how they differentiate between the two now. The Minister himself was confused because he thought it was referring to Crown lands and there is a big difference in the terms of how it's being handled. One is handled by the councils and one is handled by the government. For awhile there was some concern expressed that even the Tree Land Program would be stopped, but I understand though that it is not being stopped and it will continue.

Now what has happened has happened to the role of MACC, Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation? When we took office in 1977 we revamped the program; we allowed farmers to borrow under the program to buy farmlands to expand their farm operations. We stopped the State Farm Program at that time - that was part of the platform why we got elected in 1977 in the rural areas was because we opposed the state farm approach. What do we hear now? We hear that Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation's priorities have changed again, they will not borrow for the purchase of land and by indication — I missed that question period yesterday — but I understand that the present Minister of Agriculture is again debating whether to go into the state farm. Well, I'll tell you something, that 3 percent looks awfully small, you know, between 47 and 44 on the popular vote and certainly in the country.

I have concerns about our Minister of Agriculture. During the campaign and right after, our First Premier and the Minister of Agriculture indicated a Beef Stabilization Program — the beef industry is in a quandry. We all agree, and that was going to be a priority. What do I read — with anticipation that people have been phoning, I have a big beef area, they say "When is that program coming out?" I waited till the Throne Speech came out and I read, "My ministers believe that the most prudent approach to the problems of the beef industry is to develop a meaningful stabilization program on a national basis." — (Interjection) — Man, for four years we cleaned up the Beef Stabilization Program that you guys had in place. That's what we did; we cleaned up that mess that you had in place and for the benefit of the Minister of Natural Resources, our Minister had a committee in place to establish a program for the present time and here he is — thank you very kindly — and the present Minister of Agriculture fired them all and has been sitting on his hands since that time.

I had the opportunity yesterday to visit with 250-some-odd farmers in the southeast. They were dealing with special cash crops because the beef industry is going down the pot, and they asked me, "When is this Minister going to do something about it?" I didn't have the guts, really Billy, I didn't have the guts to tell him what was in here, you know. You would have thought after the Beef Income Assurance Program that was initiated by them, prior to 1977, the mess that our Minister cleaned up after he got in, that you would stay away from tying in the farmers over a period of time and Mr. Minister of Agriculture you will fall into

the same trap again. In fact, I don't think you've learned a thing.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. D. James Walding (St. Vital): Order please. Does the Honourable Member for Springfield have a Point of Order?

The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ANDY ANSTETT (Springfield): I was going to ask the member, Mr. Speaker, if he would permit a question?

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, I'm usually not given to long speeches and stuff like that, but I can assure him at the end if I have time I'll try and accommodate him.

Now that I have my favourite Minister of Agriculture in his seat I want to continue with him a little bit. Here is a Minister who is going to bring the farmers out of their dire straits. He himself lives under the umbrella and protection of supply management as do about ten different agricultural commodities in Manitoba. We have a very capable Hog Stabilization Program in place. Now what is the Minister of Agriculture at the present time stating about the Beef Income Program, about the beef farmers period? Why is he not promoting supply management? Why is he not taking a position? The Federal Minister, Mr. Whelan has indicated that if the provinces want it he will institute supply management nationally. You say in here that you will promote that but I haven't heard a word from him. I know why and he knows why because they're waiting for him out there to make some kind of a commitment. Actually, in all fairness, I will expect that after four years of Conservative Government — we now have the NDP in again — that we are exactly where we were prior to 1977; with agricultural programs we're exactly where we were prior to 1977. It won't take you six months to get back into all those things again.

Concerns that have been expressed to me by the people in my area and during the campaign with these promises, with Pawley running around, you know all the good things that they're going to do — somebody asked one of the NDP supporters "Whose going to pay for all this?" This guy wasn't stuck at all, he says "The rich farmers will pay." I am running around looking for rich farmers in my area. If that is a concept that you people have with all those giveaway programs you're working on, think again, think again.

Seriously, Mr. Minister of Agriculture, I would like to suggest to you that we possibly jointly start looking at things a little differently for agricultural communities. Things are tough; operating costs are high; many of the people are over-capitalized and what we have in North America is a cheap food policy. When you consider that we're paying 18 cents of the dollar approximately in Canada for food out of the earned dollar, compare that with the European countries where they are paying up to 60 cents, we have to revise our position, our attitude towards food in this country so that food is the main priority. When you consider that agriculture is our main industry in Manitoba, we should be leaders in promoting a different attitude towards food. What bothers me, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have people saying we should not have supply management; it's a bad thing. You know, it is

terrible really when you have to control the production of farmers because if we could turn our farmers loose, if they could see some profit in it, we could feed half of the world in Canada. We are holding back our farmers and they will not produce if they cannot make money. What does our Minister of Agriculture do? He is sitting under this umbrella and he is not taking that position, you should be pushing for it, pushing for different policies and attitudes towards food production. Anyway, I could — (Interjection) — pardon me — (Interjection) — well, we hear nothing from you. In fact, people can't even get to see you properly.

Now, I want to continue on a few other things — (Interjection) — okay, now I want to go on to another area, I want to review the health services in my area, in the southeast. We have a hospital in the Town of Emerson. We have a very capable, serving hospital in St. Pierre, which is sometimes stretched to the limit, because we have recreational facilities in St. Malo where we have thousands of people on a weekend and we have very capable facilities in St. Pierre. However, when we look to the extreme southeast we are running into great difficulty. We have a hospital system in Vita with one doctor, very old buildings, very limited facilities, serving approximately 5,000 to 6,000 people, supposedly. You have one doctor for approximately 600 people in the urban areas here; we spend millions of dollars for hospital facilities here and it should be that way. I don't argue with that, but at the present time we have one doctor with poor facilities serving the whole southeast. At the present time most of the people in my constituency out there go for medical services across the line and as long as we have this great honeymoon with our First Minister and the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Trudeau, I suppose that the borders will always be open to us. What happens though if that honeymoon ever comes to an end and we get to be on an unfriendly basis with the Americans? How do we supply health services for the southeast? I would want the Minister of Health to address this problem; it is dramatic enough.

Now, the other thing that I found most interesting is that during the nominations, when we were all gearing up for an election, the present First Minister was attending a nomination in my area and he made some interesting observations there. He made some observations that Pawley criticized the Conservatives for freezing the construction of personal care homes, spending money on constant TV advertising, et cetera, et cetera. An NDP government would resume the construction of care homes, Pawley said. — (Interjection) — Hang on a second, I want to get this straight here. Okay, for the record, and I checked with the previous Minister of Health, 1,240 personal care home beds were committed while we were in government; 27 new personal care homes were constructed or authorized; 577 were replacement ones and 663 new beds were established. This is what I talk about deceit, this man gets up there and he says we froze construction of personal care homes, and we had more constructed than ever before. How can we have faith in a man like that, that is leading the government opposite? This is where the Member for Burrows is going to have his hands full with morality, believe me.

If the government is going to be true to their word, if they want to consider construction of nursing homes

and personal care homes, I might suggest that they review very closely the application from St. Malo and St. Pierre because in my area we have a real split of the ethnic people. We have four basic ethnic groups there and I think most of you realize, especially in communities like that. If you would take some Ukrainian or Mennonite-speaking or French-speaking individual and move him out of his community where he has his friends and home, stick him into a different nursing home where he cannot understand the language in most cases, where he feels alienated, I would suggest that the Minister of Health look very closely at establishing — based on the information that has been said by the First Minister — construction of nursing homes certainly could be used in my area there.

I would like to touch just briefly on the resource aspect. We have the Minister sitting there, he just got his backside I think whumped a little bit yesterday on the Garrison thing but, you know, with all fairness I think that his concerns and our concerns are very much the same and genuine in terms of we don't want Garrison. I think the previous administration was working towards that end of it and I think the present administration is as well. I have no argument with that. I also want to compliment them when trying to work with the federal people to try and avert it as much as possible; the one thing I don't agree with is the establishment. What are you going to accomplish by spending \$150,000 to set up a lobby shop in Washington? Anybody that has ever been affiliated with Washington knows that it's throwing money away. You have no option but to work through the Federal Government because I don't think they will even listen to you as a province because of the agreements, the way they stand. However, I want to encourage you — (Interjection) — whichever way you can do it and I will be the first to — (Interjection) — Has the gentleman in the front seat spoken already?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The Member for Emerson may continue.

MR. DRIEDGER: I just want to say to the Minister of Resources that I will be the first to apologize and compliment you if you can accomplish what has been set out to do. In conjunction with Garrison, I also want to draw to your attention the fact that the Roseau River project which was capably stopped by the then Minister, the Member for Turtle Mountain. I want to caution you to keep an eye on this situation developing out there. I understand there is activity starting again; I will be very careful to watch it and I hope you do the same thing.

To the Minister of the Environment, I want to suggest that if you have any concerns at all, as you have for four years raised the question here with us in the House about the environment and all these kind of things, I want to just bring to your attention the fact about the hazardous waste disposal site in the Kitson County across the line. I don't know whether you have been working on it or not — (Interjection) — you are well aware of it, but that will not suffice to our people who are writing and saying, what are we doing about it? I am aware of many things, I am aware of many shortcomings on the other side too. What are we going to do about it? We will be watching you very

carefully and I will be sending you correspondence. — (Interjection) — Well, we will wait and see.

A MEMBER: You won't be helping me? You will be helping me on that one?

MR. DRIEDGER: I missed that, Sir.

A MEMBER: I said, you'll be helping us on that one?

MR. DRIEDGER: Oh yes, oh yes, very much so, very very much so. In fact, we have groups formed there right now that are going to be on top of it.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, I'm carrying on longer than I normally do and I'm just getting warmed up.

I also want to encourage development of recreational facilities and tourism in my area. We have some beautiful country in the southeast. The Minister of Resources developed the Cat Hills Forestry out there, that has a story by itself, but aside from that we have facilities, we have the land there close to the city, great forest lands; we could develop the snow tobogganing, the skiing, many of these things out there.

We also have the Moose Lake area and we have made improvements on that; we have made improvements at the Birch Point, and I would encourage the Minister of Parks that he possibly consider looking at long-range plans on the Moose Lake area there.

What has happened for years, and it took us a little while to change it, is that all the action went to the Falcon Lake area and my little corner there, which is right close to the Americans, was totally overlooked all the time and we have a tremendous amount of fishing going on in that area. — (Interjection) — And they bite, yes. I think we should gear towards trying to promote that kind of tourism in such a way that we get maximum dollars out of the area. We agree on that, right?

In fact, I would even suggest that we should possibly review our rates for out-of-province fishing people. I have no problem with that at all because they come to reap our benefits here; in fact what happens out there, and I have a lot of friends and they are my neighbors on that side, but they come and fish on the Canadian side with two permits, the Canadian and the American one and where the dividing line is, and these are things that I will want to caution you and I want to work together with you on that, okay.

Now I want to get serious for a few minutes here, Mr. Speaker. Being a very fair and open minded individual, soft spoken even, I've been bothered to some degree about this business of socialism. We have the two party system here, we have Socialists and Conservatives; so I said basically what is our difference? You know, we've had differences in debating to some degree, but I did a little bit of reading, you know, actually what is the meaning of Socialism and Conservatism. Interestingly enough, when I read the ideology and philosophy of some of these things I found that, hey, it wasn't that bad.

But, then I check in history and wherever Socialism has been established it has not worked the way the ideology says in the book. It has not worked out that way and I know members opposite, they like to sort of laugh when we talk about these things — I said I was getting serious. Where do you stop at socialism? It

never stops. It keeps on creeping and creeping and finally you have destroyed capitalism, free enterprise, and then you have Communism.

Ah! Ah! Ain't that something! Well, just a minute, just a minute. It bothered me a little bit, because when we consider what has happened in some of the European countries where socialism kept running rampant, and before you know it you have Communism creeping in, and we have a lot of — let's be serious — people that are moving into Canada, as many as can, from some of these countries where they've had extreme Socialism, bordering on Communism. They liquidate what they can, they come here. They want to be here. Why? Why? And I have talked to many people that have bought land in my area, Europeans, and you know what they say? What a country! What a country! What freedom! What beautiful opportunities here! Because where they come from — Father Malinowski agrees, yes.

It's to the point in some of those countries where they get told the color of paint to use on their house, they are so regimented under this system. Then all of a sudden I finally, after assessing the whole situation, realized that I could never be in love with Socialism or people with the ideology of Socialism. Not necessarily — hey, I don't want to cut out some of the people out of this, I'm saying the political end of it.

Why am I so sensitive about this thing? I'll tell you why. I've had the opportunity to do some of the centennial presentations, centennial farm presentations, in the last couple of weeks. I think it's a very commendable project, and you get to talk to these people who have been on one piece of property for 100 years. They tell you how when they came here all they wanted to do was work and make a living. Please leave us alone. Government leave us alone. As long as they could make a living, raise their families, they were happy.

What has happened? What has happened? Even the Member for Elmwood, every once in a while when he gets emotional he wants to get tied in with the people from the country. He came up the other day and he said, "I used to live out there at Overstoneville, you know." He doesn't even know where it is anymore.

The people that came to this country asked very little and why I'm concerned, you know what is happening, what government is doing to our country, we're destroying the initiative of people; we're taxing to death. The work ethic is gone. Everybody's got rights nowadays. It is a shame to make profit. It is a shame to make profit in your eyes, in Socialistic eyes. If anybody makes profit let's tax the heck out of them. Everything that goes with profit you affiliate to big corporations. It is destroying the country and when you get up here and you make all these statements about all the lovely things you're going to do in here, the misconceptions, because we'll be watching and if you don't you'll get judged and that 3 percent is not there at the present time already as I indicated before. We will hold you accountable and the people of Manitoba will hold you accountable for the promises you have made and you will have to explain where you're going to get the money from. You're going to have to explain where you got the money from.

My sympathies are with the Minister of Finance. He'll be bald before this one is over, really he will and I

can already see by the pallor on the First Minister's face that he's having terrible reservations about what's going to happen.

Anyway, — (Interjection)— my partner here, the Member for Niakwa, and myself, we're not used to sitting on the same side of the House. So, I find it interesting when I get heckled on my right hand side.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that I'm looking forward to a very interesting Session. I think you know that by and large everybody's concerns are to some degree the same except we differ in our ideas how we're gonna' go at it. We know that if we cannot change your ideas in the next years, two, three, four, that we will then defeat you anyway, so we'll be looking forward to sitting on that side of the House and in the meantime we'll be watching the shortcomings of your government.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member indicated a willingness to answer questions and I was wondering when he made reference to the former Minister of Agriculture's Beef Stabilization program for which he had appointed a committee half-way through the election campaign, why he hadn't told the people of Manitoba about that program some time prior to the election rather than putting all the blame on Ottawa for coming up with a program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, I don't quite, I think we have a misunderstanding here somewhere along the line. The previous Minister of Agriculture had a board appointed that was reviewing the thing. There was no Beef Stabilization Program announced or in place; we were talking about reviewing and establishing, and the moment the present Minister of Agriculture came in, he fired them.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. JAY COWAN (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, before offering my customary and traditional congratulations to you, I want to make special note and offer special congratulations to the Member for Emerson in his latest contribution to the debate in this House. It appears as if being in Opposition has done wonders for him and that was the best speech that I have heard him give in this House and I take to heart his concerns and his advice which he had offered to us regarding the Kitson County Waste Disposal Site or the potential for the Kitson County Waste Disposal Site and I'll address that a bit later in my speech. That was an excellent presentation and I hope that he has many long years in Opposition to refine and to build upon that speech.

Mr. Speaker, I'm extremely pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the highest office within these Chambers. I am confident that you'll exercise your duties and your responsibilities with both integrity and expertise. In the years

that I've known you and worked with you, Mr. Speaker, I've learned to trust not only your sense of fair play and your perceptions as to fairness, but your extensive and your intensive awareness and knowledge of parliamentary procedures. Of course, as I have done on every occasion that I've had the opportunity to rise to speak to these Throne Speech Debates and congratulate the Speaker, I will assure you that I will do all that is in my power to abide by your decisions and to abide by the rules of this House and to add as much as possible to the decorum of this House. However, I must be quick to add that from time to time, Sir, I may stray and when that happens I am confident that you will provide me with both fair but firm advice and I will accept it, Sir, I assure you in the manner in which it is given. So, I can assure you that I will accept your guidance and your advice both enthusiastically and in good faith.

I also wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the many new members who have been recently elected to this Legislature. I hope that they find their experience as elected officials as rewarding as I have found my own to be and I wish them every success regardless of their political stripe, at least up until the next election and then I'll be a bit more specific in my wishes, but now I wish them every success in the responsibility which they have taken on to themselves to represent their constituencies and the people of this province.

Having listened carefully to many of the speeches of new members in this House to date, I'm looking forward to learning from them, because I think that they have a lot to offer both the Cabinet and the Government and the Opposition and this whole Legislature as well as the people of this province. So, I expect that I will be learning from them and I want to assure them that I will, from time to time if called upon, provide whatever help or assistance that I may be able to provide and which they may ask of me.

At the same time, I think that it is also appropriate to extend my specific congratulations to the Member for Emerson to all the members who have been re-elected to the Chambers, re-elected to the Legislature. I think it's appropriate as well as a pleasure to congratulate the returning members and many of those have been here much longer than I have, Mr. Speaker, and I too am looking forward to learning from them as well and if I can from time to time of course providing whatever bits and pieces of advice I can.

I expect that from time to time I'll be the recipient of their criticism and —(Interjection)— no. I want the record to show very clearly that the front bench on the other side, at least one party, which had said, no, that I won't be criticized and I certainly appreciate the faith and confidence which he has shown in me. Alright, I won't hold him to that, but I'll be the recipient of both their advice and their help.

The Member for Emerson has already agreed to provide whatever help and assistance he can in respect to one specific concern of his and I'm certain that from time to time we'll be working on other concerns as well. I welcome both the advice and the criticism equally. I think they're both important and I will try to accept both with grace and openly, at least as openly and honestly as possible.

Finally, I want to offer my hearty congratulations to

the Member for The Pas and the Member for Burrows, the Mover and the Seconder of this Throne Speech. Now I have to say that their job was made so much easier, Mr. Speaker, by the calibre of the speech which they had to work with. However, they did an excellent job and I think that every member in the House will agree with me when I congratulate both of them on their excellent contributions to this Debate.

Having given these customary but sincere congratulations, I want to address first, Mr. Speaker, not the specifics of the Throne Speech but rather I want to talk about a general theme which has surfaced on occasion, both during this debate and the Question Period. I want to put this general theme, that is, the theme of the approach of this administration and the previous administration to federal-provincial affairs in the specific context of the Garrison Project, a project which has been addressed most recently by the Member for Emerson in his speech.

As you are all aware, the Minister for Natural Resources and the MLA for Inkster and myself met with the Minister of External Affairs and the Minister of Manpower yesterday in Ottawa to discuss a co-operative, and I underline and emphasize co-operative, a co-operative approach to this longstanding problem. Now, exactly what we did during that meeting was to hold what I thought was an open and an honest as well as a productive and positive discussion as to how we are going to address this mutual concern. I hasten to add that we did not agree on everything. However, instead of dwelling on the disagreements which we had during that meeting, we chose to seek common ground; we chose to try to work from the perspective of our mutual concern in a co-operative way. In other words, we recognized the differences which we had, but at the same time, we know that we must work together where it is possible to do so. So, as I want to ensure that the record be clear, and there has been some different reporting in respect to that meeting, I want to use this opportunity to say very distinctly and plainly that Manitoba will honour its commitment to initiate and maintain a provincial presence in Washington when it comes to the Garrison Diversion. That is a commitment which we made in the heat of an election campaign but, Sir, I assure you that it supersedes any partisanship and it supersedes any electoral commitments. It is a commitment that we have made to the people of this province; a commitment which we have made to the future of this province; and it is a commitment that we intend to keep. —(Interjection)—

The Member for Emerson says that one did not get us elected and we all know his position in respect to that office. He has put his opposition into that office distinctly on the record. We did not make that commitment to gain office, we made that commitment because we believe that action is the right and proper action to take in respect to fighting this serious and ominous problem. That is why we made that commitment and that is why we will stand by that commitment. Having said that, certainly we would hope to do so with the co-operation of the Federal Government, because we did not say that we were going to initiate and maintain this presence in order to undercut the longstanding historical efforts of the Federal Government in respect to dealing with the Garrison problem.

That was not our purpose, we did so in order to enhance the federal efforts; we did so in order to expand the federal efforts. We did so in order to ensure that Manitoba had the type of presence which is necessary in Manitoba to protect the long-term interests of this province. I think every member of this House, including the Member for Emerson, will agree wholeheartedly with that sort of approach and that initiative.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to accomplish our goal of doing this in co-operation with the Federal Government if the Federal Government responds to our approach with flexibility and in a co-operative spirit. I can assure them through this Chamber, as I assured them yesterday in person, that we are approaching this problem from the perspective of flexibility on our own part and in respect to a co-operative effort on both our parts. They have responded in like, to date, and I fully expect that they will respond to our latest initiative in like as well. But, nonetheless, should we decide to disagree, and that may happen, let there be no doubt we are not going to always agree on all the specifics. If we should decide to disagree, then we will want to continue to work with the Federal Government co-operatively where it is possible and we will be forced to work on our own where it is necessary. In other words, Sir, if I can paraphrase, we shall be equal but separate. That is not the goal which we seek, but that is a commitment which we have made to the people of this province, and a commitment that was made in good faith and a commitment which we expect to keep.

So the record is clear, there will be a Manitoba presence in Washington in respect to the Garrison Diversion. We will work wherever possible in a co-operative way with the Federal Government; we are optimistic and confident that we will be able to do so. However, we have a commitment to the people in the province which supersedes any electoral commitment, which supersedes any partisanship and it is a commitment which we intend to keep.

Now, I said that we were going to discuss the context of the general problem and address it to the specifics of Garrison. Let us use that example to talk about this government's approach to federal-provincial relationships compared to the previous government's approach. I just need to refer to yesterday's Hansard, Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition was talking about our efforts in Ottawa yesterday to try to develop that co-operative and flexible approach with the Federal Government. He addressed it as this, and I quote, "He asked whether the First Minister of the House would the people of Manitoba whether this is another election promise that he intends to break or whether he is going to knuckle under to the Federal Government and to Mr. Axworthy, in particular, who says that this will be a test of this government's willingness to be a doormat to Ottawa." That is the type of attitude they have carried with them for the past four years; that is the type of attitude which, in large part, lost them the election and that is the type of attitude that even now, having suffered that defeat and should know better, they are unable to divorce themselves from.

We looked at that meeting as a test of our willingness to co-operate with each other. That implies give

and take, that suggests we are not going to go in there, bang the table, call them a bunch of dirty S.O.B.'s, and say we will have it our way or no way at all. That implies that we are going to recognize their concerns which are legitimate and we are going to try to develop an approach which takes into account those concerns, takes into account our commitment and tries to provide Manitoba with the best possible presence in Washington when discussing the Garrison project. That is not being a doormat; that is being a government which wishes to work together where it is possible to work together. Where it is not possible to work together, we will in fact ensure that the best interests of the people in this province are adhered to by this government, so we shall be firm but kind.

Mr. Speaker, having said that we intend to pursue that course of action, having said that we intend to proceed from basis of co-operative federalism where possible, versus what they did, which was combatted federalism at every instance and at every turn, I wish to assure you and through you, the people of the province, that we will proceed wherever it is possible in that co-operative and flexible way, but that we shall not bend to the extent that their concerns are ever overlooked. And when we talk about federal-provincial negotiations and federal-provincial relationships, I think we have to talk about other areas as well. I've used the Garrison Project and the Washington presence of Manitoba in respect to the Garrison Project as an example.

However, I also want to talk about another example, one which is more specific to the North, but important to the entire province nonetheless and that's the Northlands Agreement. The Northlands Agreement, which should have been signed by now, which could have been signed by now, but is not signed by now. And why is that? Why is that? I'm just informed by the people doing the recording that I can't move around quite so much because the supersensitive microphones are not picking up all that I have to say and I would not want them to miss one word, one comma, one sentence, one period or one concept which I'm addressing, so I will try to address more clearly the microphone and through the microphone to you, Mr. Speaker.

We have no Northlands Agreement and it's difficult to negotiate the Northlands Agreement right now because of the type of atmosphere, the poisoned atmosphere which that government left in their wake, left in their defeat, but we're going to overcome that. We're going to overcome that because we know that we must, wherever is possible, work with the Federal Government to ensure that the best interests of the province are looked after.

So, we are negotiating with the Federal Government right now in respect to Northlands and I expect that the Member for Rupertsland will have some more to say about this because, Mr. Speaker, he has been essential in the consultation process which has brought us to the state of negotiations which exist today.

Let me just for one moment talk about that consultation process because that too illustrates a difference between the previous administration and this administration. You know we might have been able to have proceeded farther along the negotiations to date if

that consultation had been undertaken in a systematic and a comprehensive way previous to our taking government. However, it was not, so when we came into government we found that we were forced to begin basically at the beginning in respect to consultation and we have had a series of consultation meetings throughout this province. We have allowed those persons who are going to be most affected by the Northlands Agreement, the opportunity to provide us with, not only their criticisms of the previous agreement, which are important and valued, but also with their suggestions for the new agreement which are essential and necessary if that agreement is to truly reflect their aspirations and their needs and that's what we will have when we have that agreement, Mr. Speaker.

So we have met during that period with several Cabinet Ministers from the Federal Government and we have begun to commence negotiations at this point, just recently after the consultations were finished, in what I would call an enhanced and an extended way to ensure that as much as is possible we will have a new agreement in place with minimal disruption in existing services which are ongoing as part of the agreement now. We're going to do that in spite, in spite of the legacy which that government left when it came to the Northlands Agreement.

I also want to address a number of other initiatives in respect to Northern Manitoba and my own department, the Northern Affairs Department, which are outlined in the Throne Speech. I want to provide a bit more background on them and as well I believe to lay the basis and the foundation for what I consider will be a productive dialogue within these Chambers in respect to when we come to discuss these items during Estimates and during the Question Period and during the other opportunities which present themselves to us as legislators.

The first, of course, is the Native Land Claims Commission. For far too long now, and I don't blame that government or any government in specific when we talk about the fact that we have been unable to resolve the issue of Native land claims in this province. It goes beyond any one government, but the fact is for far too long now, these claims have been outstanding. For far too long now we have not had an acceptable and rational approach to dealing with these claims. Now the previous government had their nine-point program, but you recall I said an acceptable and a rational approach to dealing with these claims and that nine-point program was anything but acceptable to the reserve communities which were going to be most affected by it, to the Federal Government which has to play a vital role in any land claims activity and to, I would add, a large section of the general populace.

As well, it has to be a rational approach; that is why we as a government have chosen to proceed with a Native Land Claims Commission which will sit down in an open way and allow those individuals who are going to be most affected by our policy and opportunity to come forward and to speak to the issue, an opportunity to come forward and tell us of their concerns, an opportunity to come forward and provide us with their advice and their suggestions and their expertise and we need that if we are to make the type of decisions which we want to make, the type of deci-

sions which will benefit those individuals and the province as a whole.

So we are looking forward to developing that Native Land Claims Commission; we are looking forward to be able to provide the House with more specific information on it as it becomes available and we are also looking forward to the constructive suggestions and criticisms which the members in the Opposition may be able to provide to us when we do begin to discuss that very important and very essential subject.

As well, we know, on this side, as I think those on the other side have recognized, that the North will never truly be strong unless there is strong local government in place in the remote northern communities. The Member for Flin Flon addressed the issue, others have addressed the issue and it is one which is of extreme importance to those individuals who reside in the 49 northern remote communities which come under the Northern Affairs jurisdiction.

So, during the Estimates, during other opportunities, we will be discussing those exact proposals which we plan to put in place to ensure that northerners in those communities have an opportunity to develop on their own the type of strong local government which is necessary to their continued survival and is necessary to all the province.

You know, we're talking only about those communities in this instance that come under Northern Affairs jurisdiction. However, if those communities are not in their own right self-governing and are not in their own right strong and powerful voices in their own affairs, then we all suffer for that. So, we must provide for that type of advice, that type of assistance, that type of help we are requested in order to ensure that that goal of strong local government in Northern Manitoba is a goal which we are able to meet and I know that the members on the other side are prepared to help and assist us, because they too want to see a strong a province as is possible. So another goal.

I don't think that I can in better words display the type of sentiment that the Member for The Pas displayed when he talked about the Port of Churchill because of the strong effect it's had on his working life. However, I am pleased and honoured that the Port of Churchill has played such a prominent role in the Throne Speech Debate. It has done so, because we fully intend to promote that Port as aggressively as is possible and to ensure its greatest use. We're going to need the help of the Opposition; they have always been pleased to provide their help in the past, and I anticipate that they will continue to do so on every opportunity in the future. So I am expecting that they will come forward with some positive and concrete suggestions as to how we can meet that goal because I know that particular point, among others, but in specific that particular point, of the Throne Speech is one which we all share. That particular objective is one which we all share and working together, we shall make it happen.

There are many other areas of concern to northerners and northern Manitobans which we will have an opportunity to discuss over the next few months, indeed the next few years, and I'm looking forward to that. But for the time being, that the time being limited as you know, Mr. Speaker, and I'm sure you will remind me in respect to our opportunity to participate

in the Throne Speech, I'd like to move on to another area for which I am responsible and that is the area of Workplace, Safety and Health.

You will note again that our objectives in respect to providing safer and healthier workplaces are outlined in this particular Throne Speech, and there are two items which I wish to address at this time. The first is the need for workers themselves to participate in the development of healthier and safer workplaces. We can't do it for them as much as we would like to; none of us can do it. The division, the Workplace Safety and Health Division can't do it for them, the government can't do it for them, but what we can do and what we will do as a government, Mr. Speaker, is provide them with the opportunity to develop those skills and that expertise on their own. We know that workers need the power of legislation to assist them in developing those safer and healthier workplaces. We know that employers need the help of the government in developing safer and healthier workplaces, and we know that government has a role to play in assisting and encouraging those two parties to co-operatively work together where possible and to resolve their differences in a rational and effective way and we have based our program in respect to safety and health on three major principles.

The first, Sir, is the right to refuse to do work which an individual believes is unsafe or unhealthy. Now, that right has always existed. A worker at any time could refuse to do work which he or she believed to be unsafe or unhealthy and the employer could, in fact, acknowledge that belief and change conditions, acknowledge that belief and allow that worker to change jobs, or not acknowledge that belief and fire the worker.

And what happened in September of 1977, when The Workplace Safety and Health Act which was developed and passed by the previous administration went into effect, was workers then had a legitimate right to exercise their right to refuse without fear of discrimination. It was a good principle but in practice we have found that it needs some strengthening and some clarifying. So, we have made that commitment to strengthen and to clarify the legislative right of a worker who refused to do unsafe or unhealthy work. We believe that is essential, but a worker can only truly refuse to do that work which he or she believes is unsafe or unhealthy if they know what is unsafe or unhealthy. It's fairly easy to tell what is unsafe or unhealthy if it's a physical structure which is about to fall in upon you or if it is a hazard which you can plainly see, but when we start to talk about some of the new work processes, when we start to talk about some of the substances which are introduced into the workplace, it becomes a more complex subject. So, what we are committed to doing is to developing a mechanism whereby workers can have a realistic right to know, a true right to know, about the hazards which they may confront as a part of their working lives. So we will do that as well, but finally this all has to be put together.

Remember a few moments ago I said we can't create safer and healthier workplaces as a government, as legislators. No matter how well meaning we may be, no matter how interested we are in doing it, no matter how committed we are and no matter how long the

hours we work may be, we can't do it on our own. The workers can do it. They are the ones who firsthand have learned of the dangers which they face in the workplace. They are the ones that firsthand have learned how to avoid those dangers as much as is possible, and we intend to provide them with the mechanism to use that first-hand knowledge through their safety and health committees so that they can begin to build the safer and healthier workplaces for which every member of this House yearns and wants to see be developed in this province. So we have it there — the right to refuse, the right to know, and the right to participate in developing safer and healthier workplaces. Three principal rights.

As well, government can play a role in other ways and one is to make certain that we have in place expert persons who are able to assist them when they do have questions in respect to some of those dangers and hazards which they may not be as familiar with as they are with the physical dangers or hazards. So, as demanded by the legislation, and it is a demand that the previous Minister of Labour rejected for four years, we are going to have in place a chief occupational medical officer to assist them when it comes to dealing with occupational diseases. That would not be that much of an accomplishment if it were not put in the perspective of the fact that for four years that government was unable to bring itself to live up to that very basic requirement of the legislation. They said it was necessary; they said it was needed; they said they knew why it should be and they never did it. Well, we are going to do it because we too know it's necessary.

Finally in the area of occupational health, Mr. Speaker, and I don't mean to say that this is all that we are going to do, but rather this is what I want to address at this time. We have indicated that we are going to expand the Research Program into occupational cancer. We are going to put in place a program which will provide the government, the workers and the general public with an increased awareness of this growing problem and we are going to do so because it is necessary that those workers indeed have the right to know, and that we all, because we all must pay the costs of that occupational cancer through our health costs, through our loss of production, that we all know as much as is possible about this particular hazard. But we're not doing it just to gather raw data and in respect to academic research, we're doing it so that we can use that program to develop the type of legislative protection and regulations which are necessary to ensure that workers are protected as much as is possible at their workplaces from carcinogenic substances and from work processes which may in fact expose them to carcinogenic hazards. So that, we will do as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have but a few moments left today and I believe probably a few more when we next sit, so rather than get into the next area, and that is the area of what we intend to do in respect to the environment, someone is suggesting that we call 5:30, however, before we rise, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure them that I'll speak out the clock. I want to use the last few minutes which are available to me to just address those issues, to make certain that the record is clear in this because I think it is important.

We will have that Washington presence in respect to

the Garrison Project. It will be a Manitoba presence and it will be done, Sir, as much as is possible in co-operation with the Federal Government and it will be done in such a way as to ensure that the best interests of this province and this country are looked after when it comes to dealing with that very serious and ominous project.

We will make substantial gains in respect to providing an opportunity for northern communities to become stronger communities through self-government.

We will continue the Northlands consultation so that we can reach an agreement so that northerners can benefit by that longstanding agreement between the federal and provincial government.

We will, in fact, have a Native Land Claims Committee which will bring a rational approach to a very specific and longstanding and historical problem.

As well, in the areas of workplace safety and health we will go over the initiatives which I have just addressed and we will do so in such a way to ensure that we are always listening to the people of this province, and that includes the Opposition, and we will do so in such a way that we are always consulting and relying upon people for their good advice and their constructive criticism, and that includes the Opposition as well. We shall have to reserve the right to determine whether or not we believe them to be wrong from time to time, but we will not refuse to listen to them. We will always listen to them and we will accept their advice and the good faith in which it is intended or in the way in which it is intended, whatever the case may be.

We will do those things because we all must work together if we are to accomplish the objectives and the goals which are so necessary to sustain the progress of this province, Mr. Speaker.

So, when we return to the Chamber, I believe tomorrow, I'll take the opportunity to address the area of our initiatives in respect to the environment. I will talk about the Waste Management Program, which has been suggested might be taking place in the Kitson area and provide more information for the benefit of the Member for Emerson and other members of the Legislature in respect to that difficulty and others.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. When we next reach this matter the Honourable Minister will have five minutes remaining.

The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is accordingly adjourned and will stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).