

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, June 8, 1989.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of personal privilege. There will be a motion asking the House to take certain actions following that statement.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before the House today using my rights as a Member of this Legislature to demand from the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) an unqualified, unequivocal retraction of her statement in this morning's Free Press with respect to the unwarranted attack on Manitoba's highest ranking public servant.

As our Civil Service has no way of defending their actions against malicious attacks, I am using this mechanism to say that my privilege and, therefore, the privileges of all well-meaning public servants have been breached. The Leader of the Opposition has gone on record many times as an advocate of a professional rather than a politicized Civil Service, a sentiment with which we as Government do not disagree.

It was with shock and dismay then that I read comments attributed to her to the effect that documents prepared by my Deputy Minister, Charles Curtis, "aren't worth the paper they are written on." Mr. Curtis is the epitome of a professional public servant. Having served this province for 22 years, 13 of them as Deputy Minister of Finance under four different administrations, he has come to be known as the dean of the public service, not only in Manitoba but nationwide.

To try to justify the Member's own inaccuracies and incomplete research by attacking this man's integrity is to call into question the integrity of every public servant throughout the province. I recognize that the Liberal Party is having great difficulty in deciding whether to reject or accept the 1989 Budget. But it should not and cannot be allowed to attack indiscriminately senior staff, having in this case followed my instructions to provide to me a chronology of events surrounding this Government's effort to attain for Manitoba taxpayers reduced tax deductions at source as of July 1, 1989.

I am a politician, Mr. Speaker, and am legitimately subject to political attack. Charles Curtis is not.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I move, seconded by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), that this House direct the Leader of the Opposition to apologize to Members of this House, to Mr. Charles Curtis, and indeed to all public servants, for an unwarranted and malicious attack on their integrity.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my remarks yesterday with regard to Mr.

Curtis are not worthy of remarks to be made about a public servant of this House and I, therefore, apologize without any qualification on that apology whatsoever.

* (1335)

But I do want to say very clearly that when I entered this House yesterday afternoon, the information that I put on the record was information that to the very best of my ability was correct information, that my conversation with Clyde Wells specifically asked the question, would deductions be made to pay cheques in Newfoundland beginning July 1, and he answered in the affirmative.

Now it appears that information is inaccurate and I want that to be on the record, but I make no controls whatsoever on my apologies to Mr. Curtis. That apology is totally unqualified.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a motion before the House and I would like to speak to it very briefly.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Brandon East, as long as it is relevant.

Mr. Leonard Evans: I agree with the statement made by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and the motion. It is a very serious matter, particularly when we are talking about a person such as Mr. Charles Curtis, a man who I have known for 20 years as an MLA in this House and as a Member of former Governments, one who is highly respected, who is highly qualified, excellent. We, in Manitoba, should be very proud of someone such as Mr. Curtis, who can give us the type of service that he has.

I am pleased that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has unequivocally apologized. She has withdrawn any remarks that may have been made by way of attack on the individual. I would just say that it is so tempting for us in this House to play games and to seek opportunities. There is a lot of high drama that goes on from time to time, but we do have to be as strict as we possibly can be with the facts. So I appeal to all Members to put the facts ahead of our feelings. It is important to have some degree of civility. I know all of us, including myself, get carried away from time to time but it is important, particularly when we have young people in the audience, in the galleries. I think they sometimes must wonder what we think down here, what really goes on.

I wanted to take the opportunity to say that the New Democratic Party certainly appreciates and highly respects Mr. Curtis, senior Deputy Minister of Finance,

one who has served this province well for many years and, I hope, for many years to come. I am very pleased that we can resolve this matter as we have in a very sensible way with the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) making her apology. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their advice and, most important, I would like to thank the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) for her most gracious apology. The Chair is satisfied that this does conclude the matter of privilege which has been raised by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Rosann Wowchuk, W. A. Blaikie, Brenda Blaikie and others, calling upon the Attorney General to uphold all Manitoba laws and to issue a public statement that he will uphold The Business Names Registration Act, and that the Government actively support established Manitoba firms.

Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba humbly sheweth:

WHEREAS small businesses have created over 90 percent of all jobs in Manitoba over the past five years and a strong small business sector is essential if Manitoba is going to grow and prosper in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, in order for small businesses to succeed in this province, there must be provincial acknowledgement and support of their endeavours; and

WHEREAS laws respecting mandatory registration of business names were enacted to protect businesses who have established in this province; and

WHEREAS there have been many instances of large firms from other jurisdictions opening branches in this province and then attempting to force Manitoba firms to abandon their hard-won reputable name; and

WHEREAS one firm, Brick's Fine Furniture, has had to spend thousands of dollars to protect its name, despite having been in business in Manitoba for 25 years; and

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon the provincial Government to ensure that the laws of the province are upheld; and

WHEREAS the Attorney General has refused for over a year to prosecute a national firm which has refused to properly register in this province; and

WHEREAS by abdicating his responsibility to uphold the law the Attorney General is putting in jeopardy the reputation and future of many other small businesses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly request the Attorney General to immediately uphold all Manitoba laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Legislative Assembly request the Attorney General to issue a public statement that he will uphold The Business Names

Registration Act and the Government of Manitoba will actively support established Manitoba firms.

AND as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray.

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Rural Development): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was going to table the department reports.

Mr. Speaker: Under Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees, the Honourable Minister of Rural Development.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

* (1340)

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to table the Report of the Municipal Affairs for the year 1987-88. It also gives me pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to table the report for 1987-88, the Manitoba Water Services Board Report, also the Annual Report for the Municipal Board.

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I want to table the Annual Report of The Trades Practices Inquiries Act, the Annual Report of The Insurance Act, the Annual Report for 1988 of the Workers Compensation Board, the first ever Quarterly Financial Report for the first quarter of the Workers Compensation Board.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 27—THE FISCAL STABILIZATION FUND ACT

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): introduced, by leave, Bill No. 27, The Fiscal Stabilization Fund Act; Loi sur le Fonds de stabilisation des recettes. (Recommended by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor.)

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the rules, I am pleased to table a recommendation just reported to the House.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the loge to my right where we have with us this afternoon, Mr. Arnie Brown, former Member for Rhineland. On behalf of all Honourable Members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

I would like to draw Honourable Members' attention to the gallery where we have, from the Murdoch MacKay School, twenty-nine Grade 9 students under the direction of Mrs. Sally Shwetz. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak).

Also with us this afternoon from the F. W. Gilbert School in Pinawa and the Parkdale School from Flin

Flon and their guests, we have ninety-one Grades 4 to 6 students under the direction of Mrs. McDougall. These schools are located in the constituencies of the Honourable Members for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik).

Also with us today from the Dakota Collegiate, seventy Grade 11 students under the direction of Mr. Lorne Barske. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme).

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you all here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Health Care Anesthetist Shortage

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Our health care is facing another impending crisis, this time in the field of anesthesia services. According to a study prepared for the Manitoba Medical Association, 14 anesthetists will reach the age of 65 this year and another eight are expected to retire in the next five years. In rural communities, the number of physicians providing part-time anesthesia services has declined 64 percent over the past ten years.

Can the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) tell us what specific steps he has taken to ensure that there will be adequate numbers of anesthetists to fill these vacancies created at hospitals over the next few years?

* (1345)

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, indeed I can. The responsibility is a co-operative one in which the Faculty of Medicine has the lead role in the training function of anesthesiology in the Faculty of Medicine. Over the last number of years, a number of different attempted programs have been tried with the idea, particularly for enhancement of rural anesthesiology, to provide a shortened upgrading course so that general practitioners from rural Manitoba might become skilled in application of anesthetics. That has, to some degree, helped in rural Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the Budget that was tabled on Monday by my colleague is an amount of money which we hope, when properly programmed through the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, will address a number of physician issues in rural Manitoba. The approach this Government is taking is one very much of co-operation liaised by the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower with the Faculty of Medicine in rural communities.

Anesthetist Recruitment

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), over the past 20 years, only 50 percent of the graduates of our very excellent Anesthesia Residency Program have been attracted to remain in the Province of Manitoba. In the last decade,

we have only been allowed to attract four from other programs to come into the Province of Manitoba.

In that the current medical program that has been outlined in the Budget is less than the rate of inflation, can the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) tell us how he intends to attract anesthetists to practise in Manitoba, in that we are not competitive with other provinces?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has made a number of assumptions of fact which deserve a great deal of investigation, i.e., the lack of ability to attract anesthesiologists to the Province of Manitoba.

What is again happening from time to time, because bear in mind the graduation time for specialists in medicine is a significant lead time. We are facing in Manitoba, as well as in other jurisdictions in the specialty of anesthetic services, not an abundance of professionals in the field. Opportunities cannot be denied to professionals when they graduate. We do all we can to keep them in rural Manitoba. Enhanced programming, through the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, will hopefully assist in addressing that shortage of physician manpower in rural Manitoba.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell the House that if you can only attract four in 10 years, and if you lose 50 percent each and every year that you train, what he is going to do specifically to ensure that more of that percentage, 65 percent, 70 percent, 80 percent, 90 percent, hopefully 100 percent of those anesthetists trained here will remain here?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I will obtain for the House tomorrow for the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) what 50 percent of the graduate anesthesiologists number, because we have not been graduating from the Faculty of Medicine an abundance for this province of anesthetic specialists. What we are doing in an attempt to retain and attract anesthetic specialists to Manitoba and to rural Manitoba is, as I have outlined, in terms of an enhanced program availability through the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower which we hope, with the co-operation of the Faculty of Medicine and rural communities, will be successful.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, with a new question in the same area to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), this study very clearly indicates that we could be facing 20,000 fewer surgeries per year because of the lack of anesthetists in the Province of Manitoba. Can the Minister tell us, in that the Manitoba Health Services Commission fee schedule for anesthetists is 12 percent less than surgeons with whom they work and 20 percent less than their western colleagues, how he intends to make Manitoba competitive?

* (1350)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, again if my honourable friend was familiar with the settlement between Government and the MMA, she would be aware that there is in the last two contract settlements an annual shoring-up fund,

which is a volume of unallocated dollars in the settlement which the MMA uses to enhance the salary opportunity, fee for service or otherwise of specialists who are "purportedly underpaid."

Mr. Speaker, that is the whole purpose of the shoring-up fund, and that issue is addressed by the profession themselves through their professional organization, the Manitoba Medical Association.

Mrs. Carstairs: The question is, how can they do that with only a 3 percent increase?

Health Sciences Centre Anesthetist Shortage

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Specifically, can the Minister tell the House today how his Government will honour their Throne Speech commitment of bringing the Health Sciences Centre to a level of surgical excellence when there are insufficient anesthetists at the present time to provide services in demand?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I am going to check my honourable friend's facts of insufficient anesthetists at the Health Sciences Centre. Not that I question my honourable friend's facts today, but I certainly want to make certain that her statement is a correct one. I do not believe, Sir, that it is.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend is making the case that there is only 3 percent for the MMA. That is correct. That is exactly the agreement that they negotiated and signed some year ago with a year and a half left. In addition to that, as I attempted to explain to my honourable friend, there is an additional and separate fund called colloquially "the shoring-up fund" by which the MMA provides additional reimbursement to specialties above the 3 percent that included everybody to help take away some of the underpaid specialists. It is the MMA, in their professional opinion, that have the responsibility to do that.

Mrs. Carstairs: These are not my statistics. These are the statistics of the Manitoba Medical Association as presented to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

Day Surgery Program Expansion

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a final supplementary question to the Minister of Health, it is well recognized that a movement that surgical units are both patient and cost effective. This cannot take place without sufficient anesthetists. How will surgical day services be expanded under the present conditions, particularly in light of the very limited increases in revenues that have been given to our hospitals that will be establishing these surgical units?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, let me attempt with my honourable friend in

the brevity of Question Period to try and explain a process that could have been very well and fully debated last year in Estimates, when we dealt with the Manitoba Health Services Commission and the \$1.2 billion of spending that they took only 30 minutes and no questioning of these very issues.

I would be willing to take the rest of Question Period, at your liberty and at the House's liberty, to explain to my honourable friend some of the initiatives that will achieve success in that area. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to indicate to my honourable friend, the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) that if she believes that the simple solution to every health care problem is as has been described by others of backing up the Brink's truck to the system, then she has to ask herself why is the system in the crisis she alleges after two decades of doing just that?

Mr. Speaker, the only way the system is going to be reformed and put onto the agenda of health promotion, illness prevention and out-patient services away from high-cost institutions is with full co-operation of those institutions. I am pleased to say that in the last year we have attempted and succeeded in gaining that kind of participation and co-operation from the facilities in this province.

* (1355)

Liquor Control Commission Cheque Cashing Privileges

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): My question is for the Acting Minister of Justice (Mr. Manness). Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot lately about this Government's commitment to combatting alcohol abuse and bringing in tougher penalties for drinking and driving in this province, which is one of the reasons why the Budget cuts to the AFM came as such a surprise to us. I am wondering if the Acting Minister of Justice can tell this House if the Liquor Control Commission is still considering the idea of instituting cheque cashing privileges at liquor outlets, credit cards, and gift certificates to encourage the buying of liquor and if they are in favour of this plan.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), I will take that question as notice and I am sure the Minister of Justice will provide full response to the question.

Services Promotion

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): I am wondering then if the Acting Minister of Justice perhaps will want to take this as notice too, but according to the Liquor Control Commission's confidential strategic plan, they plan to introduce gift certificates, cheque cashing courtesy cards, and credit cards to facilitate the purchase of alcohol. Can the Acting Minister of Justice (Mr. Manness) tell us why it is their Government is cracking down on drinking and driving, on the one hand, and promoting and pushing the drinking of alcohol on the other hand, through the credit cards,

through the lifestyle advertising, that they approved last year, that takes place through the dinner hour when families are watching?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I cannot give the full response to that question. I will take it as notice, but certainly part of the preamble is definitely wrong. This Government is not pushing lifestyles that are supportive of drinking and driving. But furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I think the comment has to be made that the Member talks about a confidential document. It seems to me that was requested by way of freedom of information to the Liquor Control Commission and, now that Act has been proclaimed, is and will be attainable in the proper channels.

Ms. Hemphill: Yes, we are pleased to obtain the information through The Freedom of Information Act.

Wine Sampling

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): With a supplementary question to the Acting Minister of Justice, the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) has been on television a lot lately talking about not drinking, talking about the beer commercials and saying "don't do it," telling people not to drink. To quote him, he is saying, "drinking and driving is wrong; don't do it." My question to the Acting Minister of Justice is that, as most Manitobans drive to and from their liquor store to get their liquor, how can the Minister allow the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission to develop plans for the sampling of wine, liqueurs and spirits in liquor outlets as revealed in their plan? Is he prepared to have their newly purchased ALERT Mobile parked outside the liquor stores to test customers that have been plied with alcohol?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Again, I cannot give a full response to the gold mine of questions that the Member opposite has happened to fall into. But let me say, Mr. Speaker, this Government believes that moderation is the best course to follow with respect to any social activity, and again let me state again that this Government does not support drinking and driving.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Logan, with a final supplementary question.

Ms. Hemphill: We know they do not promote drinking and driving, but they are promoting the additional consumption of liquor.

Government Policy

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): A final supplementary to the Acting Minister of Justice, can the Acting Minister of Justice also ask the Minister to explain whether or not there has been any communication with the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission? I recall when they were changing members of the boards, they were saying it was so they would be in tune with the philosophy and the policies of the Government. Clearly, their action plan is totally opposed to the policies that this Government has brought out. Has the Minister of

Justice (Mr. McCrae) communicated that this plan is totally unacceptable to the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission?

* (1400)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice on behalf of the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae).

Winnipeg Revitalization Program Co-ordination

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying I am grateful that I am up on my feet today.

I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). Downtown Winnipeg is in trouble. For sale or rent signs clutter the streetscape of Portage Avenue on both sides of the main thoroughfare through downtown Winnipeg. A record vacancy rate in the housing market has led to a default on the mortgage, threatening the housing component of the North Portage Development Corporation. Meanwhile, we have another major planning development at The Forks at the same time. Will the Minister finally agree that we have lost sight of the focus of major downtown redevelopment in Winnipeg and agree with us that it is time to have one single downtown development corporation so the left hand knows what the right hand is doing?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first of all, the impact on the building referred to is an unfortunate situation in North of Portage. However, in 1988 the city created an ad hoc committee to help examine the south side, which he is probably referring to that there is a problem on the south side. However, this south side did not just form as a result of the north side building up.

We must also look that there has been also two positive effects that have happened, and notable, and that is the Eaton's store that is investing \$2 million in upgrading their store on the south side and then also the Gendis Property has been purchased, purchased adjacent, who will also benefit the south side of Portage Avenue. So let us not let the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) show you that it is strictly negative. There are positive aspects to what is happening along Portage Avenue.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to feel positive about Portage Avenue if you just take a little stroll along the street. Maybe the Minister should get out of his office and have a look for himself.

The Forks Development Planning

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): What is this Government's plan for The Forks renewal? Is it this Government's plan to add more commercial and office space that we do not need? Is it this Government's

plan to add more housing which we do not need? Can the Minister give us assurances today that he has a co-ordinated plan for the redevelopment of The Forks and make it public in this House right now?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): If the Honourable Member across the way would listen to the remarks coming out of The Forks people, including the remarks made by this particular Minister, we are very fortunate we received 70 acres of land that is a very, very nice piece of property, and we are in no hurry to just build for the sake of building. Whether it takes 10, 15 years, this Minister and the people responsible will make sure that it is an ideal project for The Forks area.

Public Corporations Executive Salary Review

Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, with a final supplementary question to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), both the North Portage Development Corporation and The Forks Corporation are public. They receive all of their money from the public sector. Would the Minister make public today the salaries that we as taxpayers are paying the chief executive officers and the chairpersons of the North Portage Development Corporation and The Forks Renewal Corporation?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the individual across the way has decided that after his remarks of the gloom of what is happening—and it is not gloom—his remarks about asking the salaries of different people on the different boards, I will take it under advisement. However, that is not the problem. If that was the problem, well then we would not have the type of negative attitude of the Member on the other side. When you are hiring for these projects, the three levels of Government go out and they hire what is available and they pay what the going rate is on any of these particular chairmen.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. I hope all Honourable Members will indulge with me for a few minutes.

I would ask the gallery attendant if you would not mind bringing the little kids up who are in the centre gallery. Could you bring them down, please, because I see numerous people standing in the back. So I would ask the little kids who are having difficulty in seeing, would you kindly move down to the bar?

Personal Care Homes Parainfluenza Deaths

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, this administration has a new ailment. First it was lack of leadership, then incompetence, and now, secrecy. Thirty-four seniors in two nursing homes died this spring. Mr. Speaker, the public was not notified. Can the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) tell us why he did not notify the public when he was first notified of this horrible tragedy?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I certainly cannot associate myself with my honourable friend's preamble, but I can associate myself and Members of this side of the House with the unfortunate deaths of those residents in the two personal care homes in Winnipeg. But let me be perfectly clear to my honourable friend, my role as Minister of Health is to inform the public of public health issues where there is a threat to the general public. That is done—most recently, in terms of warnings on western equine encephalitis. It has been done occasionally on measles, where measles have been a difficulty, because both of those diseases represent a threat to the general population at large or wide numbers of individuals in the public at large.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the deaths in Fort Garry Place were drawn to my attention and there was no public health issue, because let me be perfectly clear with my honourable friend who is a medical doctor himself, those individuals who unfortunately passed on were afflicted by the common cold and it turned into parainfluenza which, as the Medical Officer of Health has indicated, was more than they could sustain because they had other medical problems as well. Mr. Speaker, the common cold is not a public health threat, and it is not something that any medical doctor can control.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister of Health should seek some professional help. When the influenza is affecting seniors who are already decompensated it causes a great deal of concern and that is why these 34 patients died, as a result of either a primary cause or a secondary cause. The Minister is misleading the House again, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Health tell us

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. I would ask the Honourable Member for Kildonan to kindly withdraw his last remark.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Okay, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the word "misleading."

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Public Health Information Release

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health tell us what other issues affecting public health are being kept secret by him?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, the biggest secret that I am keeping from the public of Manitoba as a health issue is the incompetence of the Liberal Opposition Health Critic.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, need I say it? I think the Honourable Minister

of Health (Mr. Orchard) asked the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) to withdraw a remark that he had made and he was willing to do so. I would ask that the Honourable Minister of Health do the same.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any unparliamentary rule I broke, and the reason for my answer is that professional advice is exactly what I followed in the Department of Health, professional advice that there was no public health issue. My honourable friend, a trained medical doctor, ought to know better than to try to create an issue out of nothing.

* (1410)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Not very often I will quote through the *Beauchesne's*, but there is a new ruling in our new *Beauchesne's Sixth*: 410.(4) "In the view of the watching public, decorum is of great importance."

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, would you tell the Premier (Mr. Filmon) to come to his chair because I have to ask him a question?

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, just on a point of order. Certainly that does not become a precondition of demanding anybody be in their place at any point. Certainly that is not a precedent.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), kindly put your question now.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Will the Premier assure all the Manitobans that his Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will not hide any public health information now and in future? Do it.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, ignoring the dictatorial attitude of the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), which I know that he adopts very well from his Leader, we as a Government will always protect the public interest. My Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will always serve the public interest before he serves other interests, unlike the Liberal Party who are always attempting to make cheap politics out of any issue, serious issues. My Minister of Health will consider the needs and the concerns of the people of Manitoba first and foremost always.

Alcoholism Foundation Budget Reductions

Ms. Judy Wasylcyia-Leis (St. Johns): I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). We have just heard in a previous question the great concern that this Government has for drinking and driving, cracking down on drinking and driving, and dealing with drug and alcohol abuse. I would ask the Minister of Health

if he can tell us and tell the public why this Government's recent provincial Budget calls in effect for a sizable reduction in the budget for the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, resulting in a definite reduction in staff, in front-line services, and why this Government is contemplating even more cuts by reducing the research and planning capacity at the AFM?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): First of all, let me correct my honourable friend. There has not been a reduction in funding to the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, No. 1.

No. 2, when we were faced with options from the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, I have to admit we did not choose the option that the NDP did of closing River House and denying women treatment service. We reinstated that and enhanced the service there. What we did do was we said that your senior bureaucracy is too large and we chose to have that reduced so that an increased amount of money will be available for program delivery to the people of Manitoba.

Substance Abuse Cost-Shared Program

Ms. Judy Wasylcyia-Leis (St. Johns): Given that when the Minister was responding, the Premier yelled from his seat that it was not a cutback but a Liberal researcher involved, which means that there was creative accounting involved, could the Minister explain -(Interjection)- Given that a cut is a cut is a cut, no matter how much creative accounting is used, can the Minister tell this House why in light of all their rhetoric on this subject, why in light of all the great need in many communities for treatment centres and for programs for those addicted to substances and alcohol, can the Minister tell this House why this Government has not applied to take advantage of a federal cost-shared program to fight substance abuse and has actually rejected and shelved that proposal, and why the Alcoholism Foundation's budget for programming and staff has been cut?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Again, I have to correct my honourable friend. The program will be enhanced to deal with the Alcoholism Foundation. What has been reduced is bureaucracy. The program delivery will be enhanced because of that. I simply want to draw the contrast of what we did in terms of options. We did not close active treatment centres as my honourable friend did when she was part of a Treasury Board at River House for treatment for women.

On the second question, that is correct the federal Government has in place a program under which we can access for the next couple of years some 50-cent dollars if we establish treatment programs. That may well be an end goal, but there is danger in terms of participating because federal 50-cent dollars run out and become provincial 100 percent dollars, No. 1. No. 2, the focus of this Government, in terms of alcohol and drug abuse, is education and prevention to stop people from using and abusing drugs and alcohol, and those programs are enhanced.

Women's Programs

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Leis (St. Johns): If the priority of this Government is education and prevention, then perhaps the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) can explain today—especially today since he was just at the Women's Health Clinic saying that he recognized the special needs of women in the health care field on a day when the Women's Post-Treatment Project received news it was getting a budget from the AFM of \$24,000 short of what it needs to provide work in terms of treatment and prevention.

Can the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) tell this House how he intends to deal with the special problems that women face, who are addicted to substances because they have been abused physically and sexually from the time they were young children? Can he tell us what he is going to do about that and if he is prepared to reverse this Government's decision and ensure that the Women's Post-Treatment Project gets the core funds that it needs to provide—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I certainly can tell my honourable friend what this Government is prepared to do. We are prepared to support the Women's Post-Treatment Centre. More importantly, we are prepared to continue the funding of River House and enhanced programming to women with addictive problems through River House. That contrasts very dramatically with the decision made by the previous Government that we inherited on May 9, 1988, wherein River House was to be eliminated as a service delivery vehicle to women. Those services under our Government are vastly greater to women than they would have been had we not defeated the NDP last year.

Business Start Program Funding

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, during last year's election, Tory candidates told Manitobans that they had an economic agenda. They set out an agenda for rural development, recognizing the need for off-farm employment throughout rural Manitoba. In the Throne Speech, we were told that one of the jewels of this Government's economic program was the Business Start Program, with a special focus on women and rural development.

My question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) is, what are the Government's plans to ensure the success of this program when we look at the Budget and find: 1) funding in the rural economic division is down; 2) funding to the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Sectoral Division, is down; and 3) funding to the division providing information about this program is only slightly higher than last year?

Who is going to ensure that women and rural Manitobans will find out about the program when funding has been cut to those departments that should be in the greatest contact with Manitobans?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, most appropriately, those kinds of questions should come during the Estimates process where a detailed response can be given.

The Business Start Program is going to have \$2 million of capital funding for this fiscal year to provide much-needed entrepreneurial investment for people in Manitoba, rural people, women, small businesspeople, people in the ethnocultural community, who need a quick start to get into business for themselves, and we are going to do that.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), with a supplementary question.

* (1420)

Mr. Minenko: Mr. Speaker, if this Government continues the kind of information forwarding to the Manitobans that they have up to now, we are going to have real problems because people are not going to know about this program.

Wang Imaging Centre Manitoba Proposals

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): In the Throne Speech, this Government takes pride in creating a diversified economy. They certainly look at trying to encourage industries, including the communications industry. My question to the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Ernst) is that, considering these fine words that we keep hearing, how does he reconcile with the fact that: 1) this Government contracted with Wang, whose head office is outside of Manitoba, to set up an imaging centre when Manitoba companies could have adopted their technology to fill this need; and 2) that this Government is cutting the funding in half to the department which encourages investment in this information business?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) even understands his own question. Let me say this. The direct result of the Wang proposal is 52 new jobs in the Province of Manitoba.

In addition to that, there are 22 ancillary jobs associated with that same project. The Wang Corporation is the leading company in terms of technology for imaging in North America and, as a matter of fact, in the world. They are the No. 1 company. They came to us to look at Manitoba because of its technological infrastructure, and the fact that we can provide assistance to them through the various parts of our infrastructure in this province. Mr. Speaker, jobs, investment and enhancement of our technological industries, those are the reasons we entered into the contract with Wang.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), with a final supplementary question.

Mr. Minenko: On the one hand, he is saying let us support Manitoba companies, and when the Manitoba companies are there who are they supporting?

Regional Development Policy

Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks): My question is to the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Penner). In last year's election, the Tories made a promise to redirect business development funds into the support of regional development corporations. Why has this Government reduced funding to these regional development corporations, especially on the heels of a federal Budget which will gravely affect all of rural Manitoba?

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that the Liberal research machine has broken down totally.

I would indicate to the Member opposite that there is an item contained in the Budget that rural Manitobans and rural businesses have looked forward to for a long, long time. It is called the Vision Capital Fund. There is a sum of \$30 million which is set aside to encourage the expansion of business and the development of new industries in all of Manitoba. That is certainly something that Manitobans and Manitoba businessmen have applauded all over rural Manitoba.

VIA Rail Safety

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger). Yesterday some 20 northern VIA employees from Dauphin, The Pas, and Gillam learned that there was a proposal from VIA Rail in desperation to cut costs to replace them with a VIA Rail crew from Winnipeg. That decision will hurt the northern economy as well as affect the safety operation, because if that proposal is accepted the crews will be on duty for in excess of 80 hours.

Has the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) contacted VIA officials expressing his concern over the issue of safety in light of this proposal that was put forward to VIA Rail?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me indicate that VIA Rail employs approximately 500 people in Manitoba, and from the time the president of VIA Rail had convinced the federal Minister of Transport not to introduce any budget cuts until VIA had completed their comprehensive 20-year plan, which was expected to be completed somewhere in June.

However, the federal Budget called for a \$500 million reduction in four years, \$100 million of it being designated for the '89-90 season. When we became aware of this, I met with the federal Minister of Transportation and raised the concerns of the job impact for the people of Manitoba regarding VIA. The federal Minister at that time indicated to myself that there is a board of directors that is looking at ways to implement the \$100 million cut. When that proposal comes forward, which will be later on some time this year, I will have have a chance to discuss it with them further. That is what I intend to do. I feel very selfish

about jobs in Manitoba and will do everything I can in terms of making sure that we keep the jobs for VIA Rail in Manitoba.

Layoffs

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), with a supplementary question.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, on May 19, 1987, the then-federal Minister of Transport, John Crosbie, announced that a sum of \$361 million would be used over a five-year period to refurbish old equipment. On June 1 of this year, that promise was broken.

Can the Minister tell me that when he was in discussion with the federal Minister was he aware at that time that the Minister had no intention of refurbishing that old equipment, and how many employees did they announce at that time would be laid off from VIA Rail and CN rail to pay for some of the election promises, which is dealing with the free trade election promises? How many Manitobans are going to be paying for those promises that were made by the federal election?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, I am very concerned if there are going to be any layoffs or cutbacks at either VIA Rail or CN.

I have to indicate that there was no indication of any layoffs at that stage of the game when I talked with the federal Minister. At the same time, when I talked with the chairman of CN, at the time that I had my conversation with him, he did not indicate that there would be any major layoffs subsequent to that. There have been announcements to that effect. I am in communication with CN as well as the federal Minister by visiting with him as well as writing with him to raise these concerns. Mr. Speaker, that is all that I can basically do is to raise the issue to try and make sure that employees in Manitoba get a fair deal.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, I request leave to make a non-political statement.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) have leave to make a non-political statement. (Agreed)

Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley): Two days ago, the Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) rose in the same fashion to address the matter of the 45th Anniversary of D-Day, and it is on a similar reflective issue and a sad issue that I rise today, June 8, to mention something that took place in France just a few hours ago.

In this House in the last Session, there was a Bill that was brought forward that was supported

unanimously by the House and which was a very innocuous Bill, which was the reincorporation or amendment to the corporation of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles Foundation. That Bill which we supported permitted the members of that foundation to be in France today to unveil a memorial to members of that regiment from Winnipeg and from other parts of Manitoba and some other people of associated military units who were murdered while they were prisoners of war.

The ceremony took place today at a place called Château d'Audrieu. The owner of that chateau has been very co-operative with the Canadians who have gone over there for this and has donated the land in perpetuity for this memorial, Mr. Speaker. It is part of a larger issue and the larger issue was some 134 British ranks who were murdered and the numbers of others at which it was not possible to produce documented, irrefutable evidence of murder but it was a large issue in the middle of June in 1944.

There are hundreds of people from the Winnipeg area who are in France for this ceremony, and I would like to take a moment of the House's time to read what is now on that plaque which was unveiled earlier today:

"À la mémoire de ceux du Royal Winnipeg Rifles et des armes associées qui, alors prisonniers de guerre, furent assassinés au Château d'Audrieu et près de Mesnil-Patry et du Haut-du-Bosq, les 8, 9 et 11 juin, 1944."

(English)

To the memory of those members of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and supporting arms who were murdered while prisoners of war, at Château d'Audrieu, and near le Mesnil-Patry, and Le Haut du Bosq on 8, 9, 11 June, 1944.

I would ask the House that we pay our respects to those members from our community who most unfortunately lost their lives while in the service of this country.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY
BUDGET DEBATE**

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) that this House approve in general the budgetary policy of the Government, the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism.

* (1430)

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Firstly, Mr. Speaker, may I offer my thanks to all Members of the House for their expressions of sympathy in the loss of my father last week. It is much appreciated and most helpful.

I also want to right an in correction that appeared in Monday's newspaper. I have no intention of retiring, at least voluntarily.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations for the fine job that you have done over the past year

during the last Session and well into the start of this Session, although I must express some disappointment with the Members of the Opposition, both Opposition Parties. I am disappointed at the treatment they gave to you on the first business day of this Session, wherein they totally overthrew parliamentary tradition and, because of sheer numbers and the fact that they do outnumber us in a minority Government, voted down one of your rulings, Sir, that was in the finest of parliamentary tradition. Mr. Speaker, that made me ashamed of having them here to do that.

On a more cordial note, I want to offer my congratulations to the new Deputy Speaker (Mr. Chornopyski) of the House. The Member for Burrows, I have known for 15 years or more, know that he is a fine gentleman and know, Sir, that he will stand in your stead when called upon in the true traditions of Parliament and in this Legislature. I know that the Honourable Member for Burrows treats his jobs seriously, treats them well and treats them in a very fair and even-handed manner.

I also want to congratulate my two new colleagues in Cabinet, the Honourable Minister of Labour (Mrs. Hammond) and the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), who have joined us at the Cabinet Table and who I think are going to do an excellent job during the last three years of our Government.

An Honourable Member: I like optimism.

Mr. Ernst: Well, perhaps four years of our Government, Mr. Speaker. Nonetheless, they will do an excellent job at the Cabinet Table and I wish them well in their new endeavours.

I also want to offer my congratulations to the new House Leader for the New Democratic Party, the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton). I am sure that the House Leader's job, from whichever side in this House, is the one that is least sought after, I would think, and certainly receives the least thanks. It is a difficult job, one of trying to weigh checks and balances, trying to meet consensus opinions from time to time throughout the operation of the House, and it is a very difficult job indeed, not one that I envy in the least.

I also want to offer my congratulations to the new Deputy Leader of the NDP (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis). She will do, I am sure, an excellent job on behalf of their Party.

I also want to welcome my critic, the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). It is unfortunate he had to have such a rude baptism today, but nonetheless I am sure his heart is in the right place and he truly wishes to enter into constructive criticism of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. I look forward to the Estimates process which he sat through last year, but unfortunately not as the critic. He sat through as the Deputy Speaker of the House, long and arduous hours of what turned out to be rhetoric about the free trade debate and precious little about the operation of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Nonetheless, I welcome him to the job and I wish him well—not too well, mind you, because we

do not want to get carried away in this regard, but nonetheless, well.

I can remember when I first come to this House in 1986 as a Member of the Opposition. I heard the then lone Liberal, the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs), now the Leader of the Opposition, speak about the raucous behaviour of the House, the fact that Members of the House did not behave in an exemplary manner, that there were catcalls, heckling, all kinds of comments being passed back and forth between the benches and that was to her an embarrassment and she was going to do something about it.

In 1988, when she was elected with her Members of the Legislature, they have come in here now, and she now refers to them as an adult day care. Instead of doing something about it, she is contributing to the problem and, as a matter of fact, more than contributing to the problem. They are even starting the problem in most days.

Mr. Speaker, I was not able to participate in the debate on the Speech from the Throne. In perusing Hansard and on those days when I was able to listen to the Speeches from the Throne, I noticed that for the most part, when they came from the Members opposite, they came from the Steve Juba book of politics almost word for word. The Steve Juba book of politics says, "You become embroiled in issues over which you have no control; therefore, you can never be blamed for inaction on those kinds of issues."

I want to say that every time they stand up and bash the federal Government, because they could not bash this side of the House because we are doing such a good job, they are becoming embroiled in the Steve Juba method of carrying on of politics.

The Throne Speech was too good, the Budget Speech was too good and, Mr. Speaker, when I am completed they will say that my speech was too good. Nonetheless, they have had no opportunity, little opportunity, or else they are so uncreative they have not been able to come up with a decent criticism of either of those speeches.

I find that unfortunate because we have the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) talking about a dour economy. As a matter of fact, I attended at Portage la Prairie in support of the people of Portage la Prairie, protesting the loss of their air base a Saturday or three or four ago, along with three of my colleagues. I heard the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) stand up and give a speech about how bad Manitoba was, how poor it was, what a have-not place it was, what a terrible, rotten, evil place that Manitoba was. I am surprised she would even want to run for politics if it was that bad.

I have lived in this province all my life. I have faith in this province, Mr. Speaker. I know this is a good place to live, and I know that the people of Manitoba have suffered under a Government for 15 out of the last 20 years of misproportion. I know that with a Government in place that is confident in the Province of Manitoba, confident in the people, confident that we

can do things in this province, that the people of Manitoba will once again begin to be confident in their own province. I will not stand by and listen to any politician bad-mouth the Province of Manitoba, particularly one that represents this province.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker, William Chornopyski, in the Chair.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we get from the other side of the House, from time to time, quotations of statistics that Manitoba's economy is going down the drain. Now what statistics would that indicate to you? I do not think that we should look first of all at their particular statistics which are somewhat selective, but I think we need to look at those indicators which are common across this country in terms of an economy and how to gauge it.

I want to quote statistics, just a few. An average of six independent forecasting agencies, done after the federal Budget so that the impact of the federal Budget is contained in these statistics, and their forecasts are as follows: real growth in our province in the Gross Domestic Product, up 4 percent, well above the national average; unemployment, down 6 percent year-over-year, still too high, not something we would want to condone at all but nonetheless down 6 percent year-over-year—that is the third lowest in Canada; employment, up 1.5 percent or 8,000 new jobs in this province since we took office, 8,000 new jobs last year and 8,000 new jobs this year by those six economic forecasters.

Retail sales, we have had that from the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), retail sales predicted up 6.1 percent, that is before our Budget and after the federal Budget. With our Budget, we will now put another \$500 into the pockets of an average family of four, so that those retail sales can be driven again in an upward manner; 7.7 percent growth in personal disposable incomes, 7.7 percent, and that is before our Budget of Monday, this week.

Private investment increase of 11 percent, twice the national average, third highest in the country behind Ontario and British Columbia, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is an enviable position to be in. That kind of investment will create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the construction industry right across this province.

* (1440)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, two weeks ago, the Investment Dealers' of Canada met in Winnipeg and they singled out Manitoba as being the province most likely to have the best performance in the entire country in 1989. That is an indication that the economy is faltering? I do not think so, and I would be happy to speak to my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), so that Members opposite who think that way can have a course in remedial reading.

Six independent forecasts indicate those predictions for Manitoba, six independent national forecasting agencies, highly recognized national forecasting agencies. If the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) wishes to know which ones they are, I would be happy

to provide them when I am completed. But those are forecasts, forecasts based on expert views, based on information that is compiled across the country and upon which these predictions are made.

But what are the facts? What is the record? What has been done in the past year of a Tory Government in Manitoba, in terms of investment and in terms of job creation? Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, ad nauseum I am going to read into the record exactly what this Government did do in the past year in terms of jobs and in terms of investment in the Province of Manitoba, and I want the Members opposite to sit there and listen to every single word, because when I am completed they are going to be weeping in their seats at the kind of record that this Government has in place.

But let me start: Palliser Furniture Limited, \$14 million of capital investment, 200 total jobs created; Canadian Occidental Petroleum in Brandon, \$50 million of capital investment, 17 new jobs created; Fripp Fibre Forms Inc, \$5.5 million of capital investment, 55 jobs created; Dominion Malting Limited, \$7.4 million of investment, 72 jobs created; Carnation Inc. of Carberry, \$38 million of investment, 50 new jobs; Versatile Manufacturing in Winnipeg, \$10 million of investment; Minnebea Company in the Interlake, \$20 million, 62 new jobs in this Province of Manitoba; Standard Steel Specialty in Steinbach, \$3 million of investment, 20 new jobs; Wang Canada, \$15 million of investment, 50 new jobs; Monarch Industries Ltd., \$1.9 million of investment, 37 new jobs; Ancast Industries Ltd., \$1.8 million, 22 new jobs; Canadian Tool and Die, \$2 million of investment, 22 new jobs; Pinewood Pure Springs of Marchand, Manitoba, \$1.2 million, 13 new jobs; Elman's Food Products in Winnipeg, \$615,000 and 15 new jobs; Midland Concrete, \$475,000 of investment; Crystal Spring Colony Farms in Ste. Agathe, \$800,000 of investment, 7 new jobs; Wallace & Wallace Fences in Winnipeg, \$387,000 of investment and 4 new jobs; Western Engine Ltd., \$886,000 of investment and 61 jobs; Loewen Windows in Steinbach, \$6.5 million in investment and 50 jobs; Roblin Forest Products in Roblin, \$700,000 of investment and 3 new jobs; Westland Plastics in Winnipeg, \$1.3 million, 21 jobs; Farmers Alfalfa Products in Dauphin, \$225,000, 3 new jobs; Progress Candy in Winnipeg, \$240,000 and 3 jobs; Otto Bock Orthopedic Industries, \$4.5 million and 50 new jobs; Birchwood Furniture, \$460,000 and 16 jobs; Kitchen Craft of Canada, \$2.1 million, 130 new jobs; Mei Way Foods Inc. of Brandon, \$550,000, 12 jobs; Heli-Fab Ltd. of Winnipeg, \$500,000, 66 jobs; Faroex of Gimli, \$1.2 million, 16 jobs; TKM Software, \$270,000, 2 jobs; Atlas Graham Industries, \$4 million, 10 jobs; United Fibre Bond, \$4 million, 42 jobs; Knit-Rite Mills, \$1.3 million, 17 jobs; Linnet Graphics, \$1.2 million of investment; Woodstone Foods in Portage, \$950,000 of investment, 12 jobs; Westman Plastics in Dauphin, \$115,000 and 4 jobs; Total Software of Winnipeg, \$106,000 of investment; Cook's Choice Lettuce of Oakbank, \$80,000 of investment and 3 jobs; Farm King, \$576,000, 18 jobs; Boeing Aircraft, \$227 million, 275 jobs; Manfor, \$1 billion of investment, 350 jobs; a new hotel in Gimli, \$11 million, 90 new jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the list can go on.

Nonetheless, I want to read that into the record so that Members opposite know what kind of economic

performance we have had during the past year, the kind of new investment, the kind of new jobs that we have had in the Province of Manitoba. I predict that this year will be the single greatest year for financial investment in the manufacturing sector ever in the history of the Province of Manitoba, ever. That is the kind of thing, that is the kind of performance and that is the kind of economic direction that this Government is giving this province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have from time to time Members opposite stand up and talk about some of the closings that have taken place. That deserves a comment or two at the moment as well, because Molson Breweries, for instance, which is often quoted by the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) and by other Members in the Official Opposition, would lose approximately 47 jobs as a result of their merger with Carling O'Keefe. That brewery would have closed in any event; that is admitted by the people from Molson. There are no jobs lost as a result of that merger, none, and that I have the word of the president of Carling O'Keefe and the word of the president of Molson Industries—none, no jobs lost.

We have, of course, the classy example of Ogilvie. We want to look at Ogilvie for a minute and the 80 or so odd jobs lost in that situation. That company was operating in facilities that were 120 years old. Mr. Deputy Speaker, they were grinding with millstones, the last operating millstones in North America. The only other millstones are in Grant's Old Mill on Portage Avenue, which is a tourist attraction. What happened was, throughout the years of NDP Government, no one ever bothered to talk to them about modernizing their plant, no one talked to them about bringing new technology into their operations there. They were left alone with 120-year-old facility, and I am not surprised in the least that they did not continue operations.

When that occurred, I met with the president of Ogilvie. We sought out ways and means to try and accommodate a new plant in Winnipeg, and the cost to the taxpayers of Manitoba would have been \$9 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$9 million for that kind of an investment did not make economic sense and, therefore, we did not advance it and the plant closed.

But at some point, a Government has to say what is of benefit to the people of Manitoba. At some point you reach a point of no return, a point of increasing and diminishing returns, if you like, where at some point you have to say no, we cannot do it, it is not in the best interests of the Province of Manitoba. So the question of these closures and lay-offs need not lay at the feet of Government. They need to be addressed in their individual circumstances, to say that in the case of Molson's with 13 percent of the market they could not physically, economically continue to brew in Manitoba. It did not make economic sense. They lost \$9 million. No one can sustain those kinds of losses anywhere in industry.

What is the NDP legacy? We talked a little bit yesterday during Question Period about the philosophy of Government and about how you deal with questions of job creation and economic stimulation. We saw what the NDP philosophy was. They are entitled to have that

philosophy as much as anyone else is entitled to have theirs, but what is the result of their philosophy? What we have with their philosophy is the highest debt in the country, the highest taxes and jobs that were created under their Jobs Fund that are gone—gone, disappeared, evaporated, finished.

Is that the kind of economic stimulus that the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) would have us get into again? We have tried it and it does not work. Not only that, we have a debt, a burden on the shoulders of the people of Manitoba for many, many years to come as a result of that kind of philosophy. Throwing money at a problem, creating short-term jobs, using borrowed money so that those debts can be borne by the rest of the people of Manitoba forevermore is not the way, in our view on this side of the House, to create economic activity in this province. It is something that we have tried and it does not work.

* (1450)

During the debate on the Throne Speech, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) said we lost Alumax for Manitoba because we did not even negotiate. Those were her words or something very close to those words, although I did not seek them out individually within Hansard. Nonetheless, there is some truth to that because what is not negotiable by this Government is an expectation that Hydro ratepayers should subsidize multinational corporations. That is not negotiable on this side of the House. We are not going to say to the ratepayers of Manitoba, you have to subsidize the Alumax Corporation so we can bring it in here. That is something that we are not going to negotiate. There comes a time, as I said earlier, when you have to decide what is of economic benefit to the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what of the record of our Minister of Finance? What has he done in the last year in terms of his responsibility as the Minister of Finance in this province? In the last Budget, he brought in the lowest deficit in a decade in the Province of Manitoba. He brought spending in Government under control. There was a consolidation and restructuring of departments to better deliver services to the people of Manitoba at less cost. He is managing expertly the legacy of debt left to us by the former Government and those before them.

As a matter of interest, the lessening of our foreign exchange fluctuations, a matter that had for many, many years been of grave concern to us in Opposition, had been of little concern to the then Government. They cared not whether the money fluctuated up and down or not. A reduction of 90 percent in one year is what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) was able to accomplish these past 12 months. That is an enviable record and one that I think will go down in the history of the Province of Manitoba. I compliment my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), for that and for his efforts.

What else occurred at that time? When the Members of this Government sat down to talk, we said the people of Manitoba certainly have pride in their province. Certainly they want an opportunity to invest in this

province, an opportunity to restore their good feeling, to say to themselves, yes, I believe in Manitoba; yes, I want to invest in Manitoba because I think the future is here in Manitoba. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) did just that. He created the vehicle of Manitoba HydroBonds which gave people the opportunity to invest in their province for the first time in a long, long time. Invest they did and are continuing to do today, investing by the hundreds of millions of dollars because people have pride. They want to live in Manitoba, they want it to succeed and they believe in their province. That is something that we hope we can continue to instill into the people of Manitoba.

But in the 1989 Budget, what happened? The deficit was cut in half again, proposed tax reductions of up to \$400 and \$500 for Manitoba families, something that has not been done in this province in a very long time, nor is it done across the country. We have had Liberal Governments across Canada of recent time in the last two or three weeks, and we have Honourable Members across saying how great they would do in Government. They are ready to govern, according to their Leader.

Let us look at the record of Liberal Governments in this country. What happened in Ontario? Two years in a row, they socked it to the people of Ontario like you would not believe: increases in sales tax, increases in income tax, increases in God knows just about every other kind of tax, tax on tires, tax on gas. The litany goes on and on, and they did it two years in a row.

I heard someone during debate yesterday say they taxed anything that moved. Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that the kind of expectation the people of Manitoba could have from a Liberal Government? They have seen the results of what they could expect from a Conservative Government in this province, and I am proud to be associated with this Government. I am proud to be associated with my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), for the marvellous job that he has done.

We have also reduced the payroll tax once again, something we said we would phase out in our first term in Government, and we are on the track to do that. Money is not produced magically. All Members in the House know that. All Members know that money just does not grow on trees or pop out of nowhere. Fiscal management is required. A little luck is required—I will even admit that—but nonetheless, good management and understanding of the process is much, much more important. That is what we have had.

Increased spending, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the one hand you cut taxes and on the other hand you increase spending. How is it possible? It is possible from a number of reasons and we have heard those reasons expressed in this House over the past few days. I will not go through them all again except to say that the program increases are in the areas of health, in the area of social services and in the area of education, the three most responsible, needed areas in the province today. Those spending increases will give us needed programs, needed changes and increased services for the people of Manitoba.

What is the position of my honourable friends across the way? Well, they are not sure. I should say, you are

not sure. Last year, they said Government spending was too high and we should not be beyond the rate of inflation. That was the bottom line when the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) went out of the Chamber after the Budget. That was broadcast wide across the province, across the country in some cases on television, saying too much Government spending. It was 6 percent or 7 percent, much too high. It should have been only the rate of inflation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are presenting before the House today a Budget where spending is at the rate of inflation, and now they are not happy again. I do not understand, on the one hand and on the other hand. We have heard that from the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Doer) of recent time. Last year, they said spending should not be beyond the rate of inflation, about 4 percent, when our spending was somewhere in the area of 6.5 percent.

Yet they came into the House and day after day after day after day recommending increased spending, \$700 million of increased spending they recommended, in six weeks, \$700 million of additional spending when they said we should not go beyond the rate of inflation, and it was already 2 percent too high.

Again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they are not sure what they are going to do about the Budget.

* (1500)

What about an economic development strategy? We have heard a great deal about economic development strategies in the last little while and the fact that this Government has no economic development strategy and everything is going to hell in a handbasket. They should look at the Budget. They should first of all look at the record, the one that I just read to you a moment ago, an enviable record, in their first term of office 3,000 new jobs and about \$300 million of new investment in the Province of Manitoba—I am sorry, \$3 billion of new investment in the Province of Manitoba, I misread one of the zeroes—\$3 billion of new investment in the Province of Manitoba, that in our first term of office.

The forecast for this year in the manufacturing sector is the greatest amount of investment ever had in the Province of Manitoba in its entire history, and that is what we have to look forward to without an economic development strategy, as accused by my honourable friends from across the way.

The NDP have a philosophy—at least they have a philosophy anyway—but they have a philosophy that said borrow money to create short-term employment, millions of dollars spent now so that we can have short-term jobs so that in two years when the jobs are gone we have the debt to pay back. That is their philosophy. We do not subscribe to that philosophy, quite frankly, because it does not work and it is silly. But they do have that philosophy.

Our strategy is for the longer term. Nothing is created overnight; nothing of worth is going to happen instantly. I do not care what Government is in power, it takes time to create solid foundations. Without solid

foundations, the economy will not survive and any money thrown at those kinds of situations will be throwing good money after bad.

We will create an environment where business will want to invest. That is the first criteria of any economic development strategy, create an atmosphere where companies will want to invest, where entrepreneurs will want to come to ply their trade, where they will want to come and do their work. You do not penalize them, as a second point, for creating jobs.

The Liberals in Ontario, for instance, have just unlearned, I suppose, in the fact that they have now implemented a payroll tax in the Province of Ontario. Now perhaps their economy is so overheated there that they do not need to worry about that. I am going to go, as Minister of Economic Development in this province, to Ontario and tell them we are getting rid of a payroll tax—come out here. We have cheap land, we have cheap housing, we have a good labour pool and we have a marvellous place to do business because we have a Government that cares about business, a Government that cares about employment, long-term employment, for our people. I am going to tell them that, and I am going to tell them that the Government they have now does not care about them if they are going to implement a tax that penalizes employers for creating jobs.

We are going to assist them, we are going to assist them where we can, where it is prudent and where there is an economic return to the province and the people of Manitoba. We are not going to get into the business of Government owning business, but we will assist the private sector where it is economic in order to have them locate and create those jobs in Manitoba.

Now that is where the jobs have come from in the past, in our entire history. The jobs, the long-term jobs in this country have come from the private sector. They have come from strong companies who have started small and have grown, built upon their strengths, prospered and have created job after job after job for the people of this province and for the people of this country. Those are the kind of companies that we want to assist and those are the kind of companies that we want to see locate in the Province of Manitoba so that people and families can plan for the future, so they can have some semblance of comfort for the rest of their lives knowing that a strong economy in this province is going to prosper for a good long time.

Now we have in our Budget some new initiatives—and we talked about these earlier in Question Period—that will assist people getting into business. We found an identified need for small business to have a kind of a jump start, if you will, a small equity capital pool that would allow them to get into business. It may be a small cottage business in their basement, it may be in their garage, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have hundreds and hundreds of women in this province who need a small assist to get into business on their own. Let me say that by the year 1992 it is expected over 50 percent of the small businesses in this country will be owned and operated by women, and we want to help them.

We saw that identified when my colleague, the Minister of Labour (Mrs. Hammond), travelled about

the province on the Women's Initiatives. We found there was a very great demand and need out there among the people of this province and among the women of this province. We are going to deliver on that program. Two million dollars will be provided in this fiscal year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to provide those small equity capital pools to assist those people to get into business for themselves, those cottage industries, those other kinds of industries upon which big business is made.- (Interjection)-

It is very difficult to broadcast a program about Business Start in this province when you are not sure that the Budget is going to be passed. It is not fair to the people of Manitoba to raise expectations when Honourable Members opposite will not even say which way they are going to vote on the Budget. That is what is wrong. It is irresponsible in this province to do that, and we are not going to advertise the program until such time as the Budget is passed, in place, and we are able to deliver upon which we will announce.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are going to deliver that program to the people of the Province of Manitoba and they are going to be benefiting from that Business Start Program. I might say for the information of Members in the House, the fact of the matter is we are getting calls today, call after call after call, interested in what is the program, how can I get involved? Word of mouth alone, or comment on the Budget alone, or comment on the Throne Speech alone has been adequate to bring some interest already, but we cannot, in all conscience, go out and advertise that program until the Budget is passed and the program is in place. That would be irresponsible on our part, and certainly everyone knows we are not an irresponsible Government.

Established businesses from time to time reach certain plateaus in their development. They can expand only so far and then they reach a point where they need some assist to get over that last hump in order to once again carry on with their expansion. We are going to assist those businesses as well.

Through the Vision Capital in Manitoba Program, we are going to be able to provide money to those kinds of businesses to provide that venture capital requirement to get over that hump, to once again expand and create those much-needed jobs and economic activity in our province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a procurement office about to open in Ottawa very shortly, one I think that has been long-needed in this province. We have had criticism about the fact that the Ottawa office is nothing, yet I do not think anyone who says that understands the need in this country and the way federal Government procurement works.

The Department of Supply and Services in Ottawa procures everything. We are not talking CF-18 contracts, we are not talking about major situations like that, but we are talking about socks, we are talking about pencils, we are talking about staplers, things of that nature that the Government consumes, the federal Government consumes in enormous quantities on a daily basis. Somebody has to be there, be standing on that doorstep

to talk to the mandarins in Ottawa on a daily basis, to become familiar with how they work, familiar with how they think so that we can deal with that situation and bring much of that kind of business to western Canada. We are going to do that through our Ottawa office.

* (1510)

A Centres of Excellence Fund, \$4 million for centres of excellence in this province to give you the kind of research and development that is so necessary if our manufacturing capability is going to continue. My time is up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): It is regrettable that the Minister of Industry and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) was not aware that we were giving him leave to conclude his remarks because we, on this side of the House, do believe that industrial development is a very important part, it is a very important cornerstone of the economy and the development and the future of Manitoba. We would be most interested in what he, as the Minister of that department, has to say in terms of the direction and how he is going to invest the money and address the situation in Manitoba. I am sure we would be prepared to listen to him any time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Chornopyski), let me begin by acknowledging and welcoming you to the position of Deputy Speaker. I have had the pleasure of sitting beside you at City Council for a number of years. I have had the even greater pleasure of your friendship and your support and confidence. In turn, I am very grateful I am able in some slight way to return that support, that confidence to you now in this role of serving in the capacity as Deputy Speaker of the House. Being a referee in a political arena is not an easy position. It is one that will take all of your ability, all of your fortitude, all of your skills to make sure you do as well as the current Speaker is doing in this very difficult role. I applaud the choice, and I applaud the efforts you are making.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Ministers. I would like to welcome the new critic responsibilities that the Members of the Opposition have. I would like to acknowledge and thank my Leader for allowing me to move my critic responsibilities from one area to another. I find the change of pace both refreshing and rewarding and very challenging.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

Mr. Speaker, it is one year later and perhaps I should suggest that my worst fears are beginning to come true, and that I am starting to learn how to play this game, starting to learn that there is an Executive Council and a Government that is charged with governing, and there is an Official Opposition that is charged with the responsibility of trying to suggest to the Government areas and ways in which they can react more responsibly, where they can improve, where they can more efficiently guard the purse strings and invest the monies of the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that sometimes that role is diminished to a situation where you feel that you have to be negative as opposed to positive. I believe there are opportunities for the Official Opposition to point out in a positive way suggestions, constructive criticism, ideas, initiatives, and/or shortcomings of the Government. I take the role that we have been awarded by the people of Manitoba, and specifically the constituents of St. Norbert in this case, this role of democracy very, very seriously.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) yesterday talked very eloquently and very seriously about the events of this last week, and the seriousness of them and how, throughout the world, countries that are ruled by different systems than the democratic system are struggling to find a fair and equitable system for their citizens to be able to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that one of the major differences between a dictatorship or a single Party rule, one of the major differences is a legitimate Opposition whose job it is to indicate to the Government areas where they can improve, areas where they are not doing as good a job as we believe they should. The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) also suggested, perhaps in a humorous fashion, that the Opposition was only a Government in waiting and that the real Opposition was the administration. I suggest that it is a challenge to encourage the administration to work in the best interests of the people.

I appreciate the Honourable Finance Minister's (Mr. Manness) suggestion today in relation to the professionalism of the administrative staff who serve the general politicians and the public. I have had the pleasure of working with them at two levels. With very, very few exceptions, I have found them to be dedicated, hard-working, honest, sincere, straightforward individuals whose only interest is to try and do what the politicians want them to do. They have done that. I do not see them perhaps as the enemy but a tongue-in-cheek group of people who have to be motivated, have to be directed, and are willing to serve.

I applaud the Member for Lakeside. There is one suggestion that I would like to correct him on and this perhaps is indicative of the different philosophies of the two Parties, between the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals. The Honourable Member alluded to a quote in Hansard which stands on its own merit. The quote, however, was adapted from Fern Naito. The quote is: "When you got them by their wallets, their heart and minds will follow."

There is a minor distinction between what the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) suggested where he felt that he had his Cabinet colleagues by and how he was going to be able to direct their activities. I found it just slightly presumptuous, being such a newcomer to the Cabinet, that he would so aggressively assault his colleagues. I found it bordered unparliamentary procedures.

Nonetheless, there is an argument that can be made about good Government. One of the arguments that can successfully be made is that minority Governments provide good legislation. They do so because of the checks and balances. It is very important that all of

us who are elected represent and remember that we are representatives of the people and of the will of the people. If you have the checks and balances, the ebb and the flow that is currently happening in this particular Chamber, we oftentimes will see progressive-type legislation. It sometimes takes a little longer. It sometimes has to be thought out a little more clearly. I wonder what form of a Budget we would have seen if there had been a total majority? I wonder what the attitude of a Government would be if they had a total majority?

I have seen the frustration in some of the Cabinet Ministers who have attended meetings and have abruptly decided to leave because for whatever reasons they decided to leave, and that is not at issue at this particular stage, but the facts are that if they had a majority, they would not have had to stay and answer questions. They would not have had to participate. They would have been able to stand up and say, we are the Government, that is what we are going to do, and they would leave.

I would remind people that regardless of how much further my political career goes from this particular stage on, that I should be mindful and all Members should be mindful of the power of a minority Government. It is a power of paranoia that good politicians take with them. If they are not looking over their shoulder, if they are not wary of the decisions they are making, if they become so arrogant that they have to force decisions upon people, then they are heading down the wrong road, Mr. Speaker, so it is the role of the Opposition. I suspect that we are getting good legislation, potentially good legislation, as a result of some of the difficulties that the Government would have if, as my honourable colleague from the third Opposition Party, on my extreme left I might add, would suggest -(Interjection)-

* (1520)

Everybody is at my extreme left. The Minister of Economic Development (Mr. Ernst) suggests that the people are on my extreme left. I suspect he is talking about the political spectrum, and to a certain extent there are certain issues that everybody is on my extreme left because I do believe in initiative, and I do believe in encouraging initiative, and I do believe in self-sufficiency. I do believe in those things that are oftentimes attributed to people who have a right-wing mentality.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I fall in the middle of the political spectrum is that I also believe that people who cannot help themselves should be helped. I believe that people who have contributed for a long time to the system, through no fault of their own are suddenly finding themselves with diminishing incomes, should be protected. I find that sometimes it is necessary to restrict the pure profit motivation of some individuals who will at all costs and at all expenses corrupt the environment, will corrupt people's lives, will trample on individuals. That is the very reason that we have laws, and that is the reason that we have a middle-of-the-road approach.

I am sure that my honourable colleagues from all Parties want to encourage the type of vision that we

all have for Manitobans and for our sons and daughters and our grandsons and granddaughters. There is no one in this House who has a bad image of the future. All we are trying to do is plot different directions on how to attain that vision, and that is what it comes down to. I have seen this particular Government and—I have digressed a little bit.

I was talking about the Leader of the third Opposition Party. He has suggested that if they bring in too radical a right-wing agenda he is going to vote against them. That is a very easy position for him to take because if they do something that drastically bad they will be booted out by the people regardless. I think it indicates it is important that the Government, whichever Government it is, is cognizant of and aware of the power that they have at any particular time.

Mr. Speaker, let us talk about this Government and let us talk about some of the checks and balances and perhaps—(Interjection)—The Minister for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) suggests from his chair that it is a fine Government and individually each of the Members are fine people. They are not above mistakes; they are not without their warts. They are all human beings.

We do not have to go any further than citing the mistake they made in Rafferty-Alameda, and the mistake they have made in free trade, the mistakes they have potentially—(Interjection)—You know, it is very difficult, but they are wrong in some areas and sometimes they detour on the map of life, from where they are now to where they want to get to, and they take sojourns that will cause problems. We are all heading for the same vision, and one of a better life. Sometimes they take the wrong road.

Mr. Speaker, one of the significant things I have noticed they do is that they are frequently talking about what they will create or will do. The most recent speaker indicated that we will create. They should change the word “will” to “are” because it is too late, come the future, to react. What the people of Manitoba want is leadership. They want a Government that is prepared to show them how things are going to be done now. They do not want to wait for a reactionary type of Government. They do not want to wait until there are difficulties or problems in the field, until they are pointed out to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) or to the Minister of Economic Development or to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) that there are problem areas.

Mr. Speaker, they would like to have the crystal ball that allows them to sit down and say, these are going to be problems and this is what we are going to do to try and offset them. Time and time again, I find them waiting until the problem is upon us. I think that they should really seriously look at changing that word “will” to “are” in a lot of cases.

It is not uncommon for adversarial Parties, individuals on different sides of an issue to take different positions. Much has been made by the Honourable Members on the other side as to what our position is and what our position is going to be.

Mr. Speaker, when you are selling, you are just not as likely to point out your shortcomings. You tend to

talk about your successes. That is only normal. It is human nature. When I met my most recent wife, I told her that I almost ran the four-minute mile once. I told her how I used to play in the band. This Government is very much along those lines. They tend to try and puff themselves up with a glossy picture of various successes.

Let me give you an example. They talk about how they do not involve themselves in things like Alumax to make things go, but if they could have made that go—I remember just recently reading from the Sterling Lyon administration the successes they talked about, in terms of the potential for an aluminum plant in Manitoba early, and how they tried at that time to bring it in. I genuinely believe that if they could have got it here, they would have. They would have done whatever they could have to try and get it into Manitoba, but because it did not work out they have not talked about that. They have not talked about the shortcomings of the application or the shortcomings of the sales effort or the shortcomings of the initiative.

On the other hand, they talk about Repap. They talk about Repap in glowing terms and with what they think is a great deal of success, but we have seen a number of chinks in the armour, a number of things that we certainly would have done differently. Do not misunderstand me, Mr. Speaker. We believe that the divestiture of the Manfor plant is a step in the right direction.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): You said it was a bad deal.

Mr. Angus: The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) has suggested from his seat that I had said it is a bad deal. I have looked through Hansard on a number of occasions and I cannot find that particular phrase. I would challenge him or ask him to bring it to my attention and send it over to me. If I did indicate or if I was quoted out of context that it was a bad deal, I would like to correct that record at this particular time. I would like to say right now that I think it is in the best interests of the people of Manitoba to divest itself of the Manfor Pulp and Paper Mill, and putting it into private hands is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, that is the vision, that is the end goal. The road that we use to get there is entirely different, entirely different. I would not have given away as much tree cutting area for the next 25 years without at least talking to the people who are going to be most adversely affected before I did it. I would not have been forced to jack automobile gas prices up by 1 cent in order to compensate the extended highway work that is going to be done just to satisfy the requirements of the Repap Corporation. We are talking about a stretch of road that has to be upgraded for the pulp and paper mill for 40 miles north. I have no idea what it is going to cost. I am anxiously awaiting the Minister's figures to find out exactly what it is going to cost.

* (1530)

Let me give you another example of how you talk good on one side and bad on the other side. The

Minister of Economic Development (Mr. Ernst) talked about all of the heavy duty taxes that are coming out of Ontario and how they are moving into a payroll tax, but he neglected to tell us about the taxes that are being implemented in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, it is the bad Liberals when the Conservatives are talking, and it is the good Conservatives when they are talking, and vice versa I guess on this side. So we tend to stand up and say, this is what we like about the Budget and this is what is good in the Budget for people. It would be wrong of me not to suggest that there are things in that Budget that are beneficial to people, that are beneficial to Manitobans, that are steps in the right direction.

It would equally be wrong to not suggest that there are areas of shortcomings, that there are areas of concern, that there are areas that I feel responsible to point out to the Government and ask questions, not to just take a position that I am opposed to the Budget because you have brought it in. That would be an irresponsible position. It would be totally irresponsible to say that I am opposed to this Budget because it is your Budget.

So my position is, I have questions. I want to hear what the various Ministers have to say as to why they are bringing in their budgets, what they are going to do with that money and what directions they are taking. I want to ask them questions. My colleagues want to ask questions of this Government and we want to say, are you doing certain things? I have serious reservations about the Stabilization Fund, Mr. Speaker, serious reservations.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) makes faces from his chair and he shakes his head in a negative fashion, but I will tell you that we are looking for a balanced Budget. This province has not seen a balanced Budget since D. L. Campbell, need I remind you, a Liberal Premier. He left this province, he turned it over to the Tories with money in the bank and a debt-free province, and we have seen subsequent Governments of both the Tories and the NDP just drive this province into incredible debt. I think we should be concerned when we see a Government borrowing money to create a reserve, when they had an opportunity to totally wipe out that debt.

There are serious questions about that as to why they are going to need to do that. Why could they not have paid off all of the debt, put this province in a position of being debt-free, and then subsequently have \$50 million in the bank for a rainy day? Who would have been able to argue with that and with any form of intelligence—certainly not me, not me.

Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that there are other areas that we should be asking legitimate questions on. For instance, what is the end cost to the citizens of the City of Winnipeg? Are there going to be, because of the increase in the water rate flows of 10 percent, is there going to be a path through to the people who consume and use hydro? Is it going to be necessary for hydro rates to go up? We have already seen that they are putting gasoline up by 1 cent a litre, which is 3 cents or 4 cents a gallon I guess. We have already

seen that the federal Tories have put 1 cent a litre on April 28, and they are putting another cent a litre on in January.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking 12 cents, 15 cents in the course of eight or nine months by two consecutive Tory Governments, one in Ottawa and one in Manitoba, on a gallon of gasoline. I use "gallons" because I am from the old school. Let me ask you, and again I talk to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), I suspect that they have suggested that they are putting the City of Winnipeg budget up by approximately 3 percent or 4 percent. A lot of that money seems to be a path through on the Shoal Lake Reservoir Agreement. While the protection of the water is a very important component and I recognize it as required, I do not see the logistics of saying that you are giving the city a large increase, when in fact it is simply a pay through. It would be irresponsible of me simply to accept that without saying, what does this really mean?

When I see further that there is \$2.5 million taken out, the one-time grant for the collection of taxes and school board taxes is not going to be continued, I see that the end result is probably going to be a decrease in the City of Winnipeg coffers. What that means is that the City of Winnipeg is undoubtedly going to have to increase the property taxes. So while we hear the Government waxing eloquently about what wonderful things they have done and how they are really benefiting the people, we see them on the other hand trying to take it back.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Oh, do not be a doom and gloomer, John.

Mr. Angus: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) suggests from his chair that he does not want to see me be a doomer and gloomer—I quote him, doom and gloom. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that he was here and aware of my comments when I suggested that it is my responsibility to show him, to point out to him, to make him aware of areas where I believe he could improve, areas where I think he could help the citizens of Manitoba, areas where I believe the Government may be falling down, because without that criticism, without that direction, without that information, people tend to become very autocratic, they tend to do what they want to do. We have then dictatorships, and dictatorships do not work. They do not satisfy the people, they do not serve the people.

There was a visitor once to the Legislature of Manitoba. When I was elected, he phoned me up and told me that he was a friend of my father's. He said that he was both pleased to see that I was a part of the system and that I was not sitting back and waiting to see things happen. He said that he had visited this institute once and that he was very surprised at the antics of politicians and the actions of politicians. He said a man gets up to speak and says nothing, nobody listens, and then everybody disagrees. Unfortunately, we find it that way in a lot of cases.

I have heard the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) on a number of occasions suggest that they just do not have enough money to address the problems. I

have seen colleagues of mine ask him legitimate questions about expenditures of money to correct problems and deficiencies in hospitals. I have seen colleagues from this side of the House ask him about waiting lists for people who are trying to get heart surgery. I have heard people ask him about people who are in different areas, ambulances in need, Mr. Speaker, and I have heard him say that we do not have any money, so I am disturbed when I hear the Member from the third Party suggest to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) that he has been hoarding \$21 million, hoarding it underneath his Budget.

Mr. Manness: What do you mean, underneath his Budget?

Mr. Angus: The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) who is the be-all and the end-all and the guru of the Conservative Party, the master of figuring, the master of financial information, suggests to me, what do you mean hoarding? That is a legitimate question that I would like to ask him. Did the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) underspend his allotted budget in the last process, in the last fiscal year, by nearly \$20 million, give or take a couple of million dollars?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), on a point of order.

Mr. Orchard: No, I am prepared to respond to the question.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I might be prepared to give up the floor if he promised to do it in three words or less.

Mr. Speaker: It is the Honourable Member's time. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

* (1540)

Mr. Angus: I would like to finish my presentation, but I would be pleased to entertain questions at the end of it. Well no, some Honourable Members suggest that I do not want to know, but I do want to know. As you know, the proceedings of the House allow me a certain amount of time to bring to the attention of the Government areas where I have concerns, areas where I have questions, areas where I might like to get some clarification. I think that in all fairness to the Rules of this House that if that is a legitimate question, and if the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) wishes to drop me a short note and clarify that situation, I would be more than pleased to receive it. It does concern me when he has budgeted for a certain amount of money and he underspends that amount of money to the detriment of the common good of a number of people.

It may be a Conservative mentality that is profit-oriented, and it may be -(Interjection)- Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) says from the floor, asked me if a private company that I have had an affiliation with is profit-oriented. I will reassure the Honourable Member that profit is not a dirty word, but I will also reassure him that we never

ever made profit at the expense of people or at the expense of their lives or on the backs of people by taking things away from them, by preventing them from having normal services.

An Honourable Member: Sell everything and give it to the poor.

Mr. Angus: It is very, very difficult when the Honourable Members from the other side put words in our mouth. They say, sell everything and give it to the poor. That is not necessarily the way we want it to be.

We have, on one hand, a Conservative Government that thinks business pure and simple, and it has all of the answers, and it is driven by business. We have a Party of socialists on the left who want cradle-to-grave protection. For the good of the country, I think there is common sense room in the middle-of-the-road to draw a road map that is going to serve the best interests of everybody. I do not believe that trimming your Budget by \$21 million, and a lot of the expenditure of Budget, at the expense of people waiting to get hospitals rooms or to get surgery, or people in -(Interjection)- I am sorry?

Let me move into some other areas. I noticed in the paper, again this is unsubstantiated, I have no way of substantiating this information. You must remember that I am an individual who has as much time as I can muster to research any information I have. I am not like these Ministers who have hordes of people running around getting information and clarifying things for them. I do not have the same abilities that they have.

So when I ask a legitimate question, are you cutting back the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba? Are you legitimately cutting back the money? If you are, then I am concerned about a Budget that would allow that to happen. If they are allowing that to happen, then they are making a mistake. Alcohol brings in a tremendous amount of revenue to this province, but it is something that requires a responsibility of education. It requires the responsibility of concerned people to make sure that those people who consume it do so with a certain amount of respect not only to themselves but to the rest of society. When I hear they are trimming back budgets in that area, you are darn right I am concerned. I do not know that I want to stand up and support a Budget that is going to allow that to happen. I am not sure that I respect the Budget and I would like to give lots of opportunity for clarification. I would love to see the Government clarify some of these things.

Housing, for instance, affordable housing, I have people in my constituency of St. Norbert, less than half a mile from the university, who still use an outhouse. It is because they cannot get servicing. Why? Because the province will not allow the city to become a self-developer. Yet at the same time, MHRC can dump a big block of property to a private developer in south St. Vital. I am not suggesting they do not need houses in south St. Vital, but I am suggesting to you there is room in the middle between creating affordable housing, providing the initiatives for affordable housing and giving things away to large land developers. There has got to be a common-sense, middle-of-the-road opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned when I see the Government directing money in education. I have to say to myself, why is it that they can say we are going to give money and we want to give this money to the university, but it has to go into management? Why can the university not decide where they are going to spend their allotted amount of money? Why can the Government not take an approach that says we are going to give you this amount of money and let the university decide where it wants to go? It does not make sense to me, Mr. Speaker.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) has the floor and I am having some difficulty in hearing him.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times before, I would hope that we all have the same vision of where we want to go for the people in Manitoba, what we want for the people in Manitoba, and what we like and what the problem is that we want to take different roads on how to get there.

It does not appear that there is any room for any form of a compromise. It appears that there is no room in this Chamber for co-operation. Unfortunately, there is no room for amendments to be made. There is no room for me, for instance, to suggest audit controls on the so-called slush fund. There does not appear to be any area for me to make adjustments on the Budget Speech that could be taken as positive inputs, as constructive criticisms that the Government could incorporate in. It is unfortunate that the Government, by the very nature of the society that we live in, has to bring in a document and say there it is, good or bad, you have to accept it, you cannot adjust it, you have to -(Interjection)-

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) suggests from his chair that I am challenging democracy. I am not challenging democracy. Again he must have missed my remarks, but I am sure he will read them in Hansard just to clarify himself. I have the utmost respect for democracy. Democracy maintains that there is an Official Opposition. It is too bad that the Official Opposition cannot point out to a Government, and it is equally too bad that a Government is not large enough to be able to accept areas of constructive criticism.

The whole process would be considerably better off. The whole Legislative Assembly and the efforts that we put in on behalf of the citizens of Manitoba would be a lot more rewarding if we could learn how to co-operate and make amendments.

Mr. Speaker, it cannot be all or nothing. It cannot be just good or bad. There are certain things about this Budget that are reasonable, that are good, there are certain things that I have a number of questions, and there are certain things that are absolutely intolerable to me.

If this Government forces me into taking a choice between comparing the teeter-totter of good against bad, I will be prepared to do that, but I hope, Mr.

Speaker, that through the process of the Official Opposition giving information through the question-asking process, we will be able to see some movement on behalf of the Government that will allow them to bring in a Budget that is going to be acceptable by every Member of this House. I fear that is not possible but I would hope that they would attempt to do that. Thank you.

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak on the Budget Speech. Since this is my first opportunity to speak this Session, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on maintaining the decorum in the House. I would also like to congratulate you on the Speaker's Forum which you hosted last weekend. It was very educational and enlightening to see some of the consumers come forward and raise some of the issues that are of concern to them.

* (1550)

I think that we need more functions of this type but rather than bringing the professional people in telling us what we need to do for the people who are disadvantaged, we need to bring in people who are the consumers, the people who are disadvantaged, and they can tell us first-hand of where they want to see changes made into society. Again I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on taking the initiative and organizing the Speaker's Forum. I am sure that the Ministers who are responsible for the departments that can make some changes, like the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) or the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Albert Driedger) will take the advice that was given by these people, to take the advice to heart and make some of the changes that they were recommending would be made.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Chornopyski) on his appointment and I know, having had the responsibility of chairing the committee meetings during the Estimates process, it is at times a very trying responsibility. I know that the Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) will enjoy the challenge that faces him.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) who has been appointed to the position since the last sitting, and I look forward to working with the Minister of Natural Resources. I know there are many areas that we need to address and I, as Critic for Natural Resources, intend to work in a positive, constructive way and bring forward some suggestions to the Minister of Natural Resources on how he can make some improvements for the good of all the citizens of the province.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister of Labour, Civil Service and Workplace Safety and Health (Mrs. Hammond). Part of my responsibility also covers the area of Workplace Safety and Health, and I know that is an area that is of great concern to the workers of Manitoba. I think that in a Government, when they reflect on it, although I know that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings) had too big a load, I would have hoped that they would have left the area of

Workplace Safety and Health together with the Department of the Environment because I think the workplace is very much a part of the environment that needs to be addressed. I think that if the same Minister was responsible for the Environment as for Workplace Safety and Health that we would get much clearer direction as to the way we should be going in the workplace safety and health area. I think most Governments across the land are recognizing that there are concerns that need to be addressed there, and they are moving in that direction of putting these two together, rather than separating them.

We, as New Democrats, were the first Government to move and put these two departments together and since that time there are eight provincial Governments that have moved the Department of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health under the responsibility of one Minister, and I was disappointed to see the Workplace Safety and Health removed from the Minister of Environment.

There is one area that I would like to touch on briefly while I am addressing myself to the area of the Minister of Natural Resources. It is to the fires that were taking place in the province a few weeks ago. I know that a year ago in the Swan River area, the people there were flooding out, they were being flooded out and this year the Minister who has responsibility for Natural Resources, they are being burnt out in many areas. I know that there is a need for some public meetings, public inquiry, and the Minister has announced that there will be a public inquiry as to the co-ordination between the different departments when it comes to dealing with a disaster, as we were faced with a month ago.

I know when we passed the new Act dealing with Emergency Measures, there was a very clear line of authority that was put forward of who was responsible if there is a disaster that is striking an area. Very clearly, the mayor or reeve or chief of an area are the ones that they contact if there is a disaster in that area. If they are not available for assistance, then the councillor from that area is the one who they contact. Unfortunately, that was not followed and there was no communications with many of the citizens of the areas, not only in the Interlake, but in parts of my constituency, in Easterville and the Swan River area.

I am not saying that they did not address the fire in the proper way. They worked very hard and, as we have previously mentioned in this House, we congratulated the citizens who not only worked fighting fire, but also the volunteers who gave so freely of their time. But that co-ordination has to be there. When people are met with a disaster, we need to know who to contact, who is responsible when citizens are being asked to leave their home. Then the councillors, in this case, were not being asked to take part in the decision making, but they were being blamed for some of the decisions that were taken when the people were asked to leave.

So I urge the Minister of Natural Resources to have an inquiry and give the citizens who were affected by the disaster an opportunity to have their input so that the Manitoba Disaster Assistance, the Emergency

Measures Organization, and the Department of Natural Resources are all aware of who is to be involved in case we are struck with a disaster of that sort again. I look forward to participating in that function when it comes forward.

The environment is an area that is on many people's minds at this time. I had the opportunity to co-chair an environment task force where we travelled to over 21 different communities in the province and we had input from many people on areas of concern to them. They were concerned about the water quality and quantity in our province. Many people raised the issue of the Rafferty-Alameda Dam.

I once again want to raise that issue that was raised by previous speakers. I know that the previous Minister of Natural Resources went to a lot of expense, and the department spent a lot of time in putting together a report which would support his view that there was no concerns with the Rafferty-Alameda Dam on the Province of Manitoba, and we had nothing to fear as Manitobans because our concerns were being addressed by the people of Saskatchewan.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

As it turns out, we have something to fear because the courts, fortunately, have taken the initiative and ruled favourably to a submission that was made by the Canadian Wildlife Association who had concerns about a SCRAP organization which was working to stop the construction through Rafferty-Alameda. The federal court has seen that they had some legitimate concerns and have ruled that the Rafferty-Alameda project should be stopped until the concerns of Manitoba and North Dakota were addressed.

We just recently received the initial environmental evaluation draft summary on the Rafferty-Alameda project, and it shows very clearly that there are going to be significant impacts in the project on Manitoba and also on North Dakota.

Just while I am speaking on the area of environment, I was disappointed when Lucien Bouchard, who was appointed as a federal Environment Minister, people applauded the appointment to a great degree. He came forward with some suggestions that he had some greater powers than any previous Minister of the Environment had and he was going to be making decisions on projects. He was going to have a very powerful position where he could shut down projects that had previously been approved. He had the opportunity to prove this on the Rafferty-Alameda project. When the people who were concerned about the Rafferty-Alameda project approached the federal Minister, he said that the decision had been made and he would not intervene in that one.

It is fortunate that the courts had more wisdom than the federal Minister of Environment. They have chosen to stop that project. Now it is going to be at rest in the hands of the Clean Environment Commission. I am hoping that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) from Manitoba will see the wisdom of that decision and will by-pass the first stage of that environmental review and go to the second stage and give the

commissioners the authority to call on people to give professional advice as to why we should be concerned over this project. I would hope that the Minister would make it possible for all of these concerned citizens to participate in the environmental review. I think that they will come forward and address some of the areas.

* (1600)

Some of the impacts that we have seen from the initial environment evaluation that was put forward by Environment Canada, which we received just a few days ago, is that the waterfall production will be greatly affected in both Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Manitoba. One of the other areas that there will be significant effect on as well is the Lake Darling fishing, although this is not an area that comes in direct control of Manitoba Government.

I think we have come to the time when we do not just address the environmental concerns in our area that are directly under our responsibility. The environment is a concern of all of us and we have to broaden our scope to not only be concerned about our little province, we look after our country, but also the universe. We cannot be taking that for granted that we are always going to have a healthy environment. I am sure that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) will take the opportunity to make all of the resources available to the people who are making presentations. I guess just while we are speaking on that subject, up to this point, there have never been funds made available to people who want to make presentations to the Clean Environment Commission.

I think if we look at Ontario's example, Ontario has granted environmental groups some support so they can put together a professional presentation. In the case of Ontario Hydro, because of the presentations made by environmental groups, they changed the route they were going to be putting that line in. I think that was done for the betterment of all Ontario people.

The federal environment review process also allows for people to receive public funding for making presentations, preparing presentations. I think that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) should look at this very seriously and make funds available to people who are making presentations on environmental issues.

I guess one of the other areas that is going to be impacted is the downstream flows. The former Minister of Natural Resources continuously reassured this House there would be no effect on the water quality and quantity in this province, but the federal studies show that there will be some effect on it.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

There will also be mercury in the fish. We have the example in northern Manitoba when there are new water levels and there is mercury in the soil. Naturally when the water level is raised, there will be a significant effect on amounts of the mercury flowing into the water and then eventually will wind up in the fish. Again they are going to be having the same effect of mercury in the fish that has happened in Northern Ontario, and also in northern Manitoba. So we should be very careful

that is studied before the final decision is made to proceed with that project.

There is also a Baird Sparrow. One of the last places this sparrow exists is in the Souris Valley. They are a threatened species and I think that there are too many species of wildlife that are being affected. I think that some people would laugh at a little object like a Baird Sparrow being threatened, but I think too many of our species are being lost. When we can preserve one, we should certainly be making changes. From what I understand, it would not take much of a change in the project to preserve the habitat of that bird.

There are also some other plants and animals. There is a hawk that is being threatened, as well as five plant species which are of national significance. They would be threatened in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I am sure that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) will be sure that the project is changed to take into consideration these projects when the final study is being taken.

Mr. Speaker, while we were on our tour with the environmental task force, there were also several presentations made by people who have concerns about the Repap proposal to take over the plant at The Pas from Manfor. I want to mention when I first speak that I have always been in favour of this project. When we were Government, we were in the final stages of negotiations to sell the Manfor plant to Repap. In all the research that we have carried out as a Government, we have found that Repap was a very responsible corporate citizen in any operation they had taken over. They had carried on the employment and made the improvements to the environmental operations of the plant, and they had remained a very responsible corporation wherever they went.

I was present on the day they officially took over Manfor. They had invited all of the workers from Manfor to take part in these opening day ceremonies and there was a very impressive show they put on. I guess I was there as a Member of the Legislature for that area. I was proud to be there. I just think it is a little unfortunate that the Government would not have given me an opportunity to say a few words because, as the Member of the Legislature for that area, I think it would have been an appropriate place for me to say a few words to welcome Repap into my constituency, but unfortunately I was not given an opportunity to say a word. It still was a very impressive display they put on. They were a very professional group.

I also had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of going to Appleton, Wisconsin, to have a look at their operation, their Midtech operation in Appleton. I was very impressed with the operation there as well. I went out of my way to speak to the employees on the floor, and I could not find one employee who had a bad thing to say about Repap as an employer. I guess I was very impressed with the Affirmative Action Program that this company has because one of their biggest customers is the United States Government. If they are going to be a supplier to the United States Government, they have to hire their employees in the proportion that they live in that community.

Over 50 percent of the employees are women. I had an opportunity to speak to a few of the women in the

workplace and they said were treated very fairly by the company and also by the other employers in the plant. I guess that had been going on for over a dozen years now, so it is very commonplace to see a woman employed in that area. In speaking to the employees, there is almost no turnover in that plant. People, when they get a job with Repap, feel they are very fortunate and there are very few of them would terminate their employment after they have been hired.

I am looking forward to the Clean Environment hearings. There are some people who are concerned about the time frame that is being allowed for making presentations on the Repap operation. I guess there are also some people who are concerned that they are not having an environmental hearing on the entire operation for Repap. As a Member of the Legislature for that area, I think there is some urgency for the construction to start, but I also think there is an urgency that there be a proper environmental study carried out at this stage.

I would urge the Government not to rush into an environmental hearing without giving the organizations an opportunity to prepare properly presentations, so they can come forward with some suggestions on changes that need to be made for that operation. I think in our province there are people of expertise in all areas, not only dealing with the water environment but the air environment, that these people can make some recommendations on how the changes can be made to the operation so that it can meet the standards that have been put forward by the federal Government.

* (1610)

In speaking to the people from Repap, they feel they have no concerns whatsoever in meeting and exceeding the environmental concerns that have been put forward by the federal Government. In the place they are operating now in Wisconsin, the environmental standards are higher than what they are in Manitoba. That is both dealing with the water and the air. They said they have no concerns about meeting and exceeding all of the standards that have been put in place.

So I would hope that the environmental hearings would take place so people can come forward and make their presentations. I would hope that the people who have concerns will take the opportunity to meet with the people from Repap, who are willing to come forward and share all of their plans for the operation, and their plans for the construction that is going to be taking place in The Pas. I hope they can come together, so there can be an understanding of what the goals and aspirations of each of them are, so they can move and carry on with that operation.

I know in the Town of The Pas itself and the surrounding community there is a lot more stability in those communities now because the people know that there are plans in place, and this Repap operation is there for the long run and they are going to be making the investment. So the price of real estate has gone up, and the business community is anxious to start making some of the investments that are necessary to

put the supports in the community which have been required. There has not been the stability previously, so I guess the people hesitated to make the investment. Now that Repap has moved in, I am sure that a lot of those investments are going to be made.

I want to -(Interjection)- it is a booming town. The Minister for Family Services (Mrs. Oleson) said there are people who are looking for building lots and they are booming, and it is true. The town has provided for many lots. They are available. There were many lots available for trailers. The trailers are starting to move into the community. I am sure that there is still going to be a shortage of lots, availability of lots, before the construction is completed. I look forward to the environmental hearings taking place so that people can come and tell their story of how they want to see that progress.

Again, I would ask the Government to consider giving funding for the groups that are making presentations so they can prepare, come forward with professional presentations. I think that would help speed up the process if the Government was willing to come forward with some funding for those presentations.

I would also like to raise the issue of VIA Rail. As a former farmer and an employee who is on a leave of absence from the CNR, I hesitate to be critical of this corporation of which I may be an employee some day, but I think that the proposals they are coming forward with now to eliminate 20 VIA employees out of places like Dauphin, The Pas, and Gillam and to run crews from out of Winnipeg to Churchill and back, it is unbelievable that anybody would come forward with a proposal of this sort.

Those people would be on duty for more than 80 hours. I know that when the public is travelling and when they get to an end of the line, you are tired after travelling on rail or if you are travelling in any way. So how can anyone expect an employee to rest and be in fit condition when they have to go back on duty after riding for two or three shifts, changing, alternating, working and riding? I cannot believe that a responsible corporation would come forward with a proposal of this sort.

I am hoping that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) from this province will look at that aspect of it. We cannot allow an operation of that sort to take place. It would not be safe, not only for the travelling public, but it would not be safe for the employees who are deadheading on that crew. I think if they look at some of the recommendations that came out of the Hinton crash, then surely they would not even have the nerve to make a proposal of this sort, but unfortunately they have.

(The Acting Speaker, Mr. Parker Burrell, in the Chair.)

I want to once again raise the issue of the promises that were made in 1987 by the Federal Minister of Transportation, John Crosbie, when they promised that there would be \$361 million over a five-year period that would be allocated to VIA Rail to rebuild the old equipment. When there was a meeting held on June 1 with the CNR president, he said that \$361 million

was part of the \$600 million budget that was their current budget, and there was no refurbishing of the equipment taking place.

I hope that when the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) from Manitoba goes and meets with the federal Transport Minister, Benoit Bouchard, that he gives him a very stern message from us as Manitobans that we do not like the way that they have been breaking their promises after they have been telling us that they are going to be refurbishing this antiquated equipment in Winnipeg, now that they are going to be cutting all that out. I do not think that it is fair for the employees of CN and VIA Rail to be left in a position where they do not know where their next pay cheque is coming from. So I hope that the Minister would be giving them a stern message from us as Manitobans.

One other area that I would like to speak on briefly is the Port of Churchill. I again worked on that line and I know that it is in much better condition than what people give the railroad credit for. They say that rail line is not capable of handling the heavy cars, and it is true. They cannot handle the big cars, but there is a new prototype that has been tested and there were a dozen of those cars with a lower stabilization level, and those cars were tested and they proved out in a very positive way. So I think that we can take heart in that and just get on with the commitment to supply these cars and they could be utilized, not only for the Port of Churchill but there are cars that could be used right across the country.

So I would hope that we could move in the direction of getting back 3 percent of the grain that was previously moved through the Port of Churchill. I do not know why the federal Minister is cutting back. I guess I do know why, that there are more votes in eastern Canada and that is where he is bending to the political pressure of his colleagues from the East and moving the grain in that direction because of the commitment to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

I do not think it is fair for the people of Manitoba and the farmers of western Canada who can move their grain much cheaper to the markets through the Port of Churchill. I guess one of the areas that really upsets me is that if they do not move the grain through the Port of Churchill, it will just be a matter of time that it is not economical to keep the rail line open at all. There are people living along the Hudson Bay rail line that it is their only means of transportation. Once it becomes uneconomical to keep that line open, then these people will not have any way of getting out of those isolated areas.

There is a lot of promotion of tourism being done for the Port of Churchill. I think that if they gave us 3 percent of the grain that was previously moved through the port and imported more of the supplies that are possible to bring in from Europe, then I think that they could once again combine that with tourism and that could become a viable port.

* (1620)

Mr. Acting Speaker, I am pleased to see that the Government has come through with some tax breaks

for families. I think they could have gone further because of the increase in the revenue from the federal Government.- (Interjection)- Well, several of the Members are saying, not much, but I think when you get a windfall of over \$200 million, then there is certainly lots of room for maneuverability and more of this money could have gone for families. But I am pleased that they have come up with anything for the farm families, because I am sure that if there would have been a majority Government that they would not have been getting the tax breaks that are coming forward to us at this time.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the tax breaks for families that are worth about \$61 million is almost exactly the amount of tax breaks that we had promised the citizens of Manitoba during the last election.- (Interjection)- Well, the Minister says it is good planning and I guess it is. It certainly is in line with some of the proposals that we had brought forward during the last election, and I am pleased to see that they listened to some of the directions and some of the suggestions that we as New Democrats have made.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I recall during that last election that both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party were calling for tax breaks for corporations, and we were the only Party that was calling for tax breaks for families. So I am pleased that they listened to some of the direction that we had put forward.

Previous to the Budget coming forward, we raised, during our debate on the Throne Speech and during the Question Period, on several occasions, we had raised the point that we wanted some tax breaks for families. I am pleased that because of their minority position they were able to accommodate the families of Manitoba. I am sure it will be appreciated.

I wonder about the taxes for corporations. The health and education tax exemption has been doubled to \$600,000.00. That will save business about \$27 million. I also note that revenue collected from individual income taxes is budgeted to decline by a fraction of 1 percent, or roughly \$2 million, while revenue from corporate income tax is expected to decline by 20 percent. I do not see that as being fair. Although individuals have received a tax break, it is not as high a percentage as what the corporate taxes have been declined.

Of the total income tax collected by the Manitoba Government, only 16 percent collected is collected from corporations. I do not consider that to be fair. I recognize that corporations create jobs and make it possible for individuals to contribute to personal income tax, but I do not think that is a fair split for the collection of taxes for the needs of the people of the Province of Manitoba. I think there should be a higher percentage that is coming from the corporate tax.

The other tax cut that is proposed is a 1 percent reduction in the corporate tax, or the bank tax, as it is more commonly known. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) feels that as a result of federal tax reform, some movement in the capital tax may be appropriate. He said he is interested in receiving some of our views on that. I do not think that the Minister of Finance actually thinks that we can get some support for that.

We can tell him quite clearly that we do not support that.

These same banks that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is feeling sorry for have recently announced a combined profit of nearly \$2 billion in the first half of 1989. I do not think they are in need of any tax breaks. Their profits are up 50 percent over the previous period from last year.—(Interjection)—The Minister responsible for Family Services (Mrs. Oleson) says, do you not want them to make money? Certainly I do want them to make money because, as the previous speaker says, I am not opposed to the word “profit,” but I think there is fairness as well. I think that fairness certainly does not come into play here when you see a 50 percent increase over the previous year’s profit. I know that no political Party, maybe with the possible exception of the Liberals, would be willing to let the banks off the hook. I guess the Liberals are still wondering which side they should be supporting. They have continuously supported the bank corporations.

The Budget made absolutely no mention of the thousands of men and women who are unemployed in the Province of Manitoba. Today in Winnipeg, one in 10 persons are looking for a job, one in 10. To imagine that the Government even failed to mention that in the Budget is just not acceptable. There are 32,000 men and women, and not one new job creation project. I am hoping that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) will take the opportunity to utilize some of those rainy-day funds to—I think that is one of the areas he should be using some of that money he is putting away for a rainy day. He should be bringing that forward for some job creation projects.

If you would look at the initiative we took at Limestone, there is an example you can follow that would have some positive results. I am sure that the Minister would look at that and see the results they have had there. In the last few months, hundreds of people have left this province in search of job and economic opportunities in other parts of the province. The Government’s response to that has been to cut spending for the Job Training for Tomorrow Program by more than \$2 million. The funding for Venture Capital Program is cut by 44 percent. Instead of implementing programs to provide Manitobans with jobs and opportunities in this province, this Government drastically cut funding in the most important job creation projects.

Given the little this Budget offers in the way of job creation and employment programs, the people of Manitoba will continue to be driven from this province in search of employment opportunities in other jurisdictions.

The Minister of Transportation (Mr. Albert Driedger) talks about his highway projects. We recognize that the capital budget for Highways is up. We recognize that the roads they promised to improve for the operations in the North are on the drawing board now and there is going to be lots of engineering work required before it goes into place. It will not be going in until next year. I hope that does not eliminate the possibility of the northern highways getting any money this year, because I know that there was definitely a

lack of spending in northern Manitoba in the last year.—(Interjection)—The Minister of Family Services (Mrs. Oleson) says that is the only place that we spend money.

I think that the Minister should look at the highways in her own constituency. I had the opportunity to drive through the Minister’s constituency the other day and Highway No. 16 looks awful nice. It was not done during —(Interjection)—the funding was shared. Thank goodness the feds finally come through with some sharing of the capital roads in Manitoba. The feds have certainly come through with—how much time have I got left? One minute?

I see that my time is expiring. I want to make a few comments about Keewatin Community College before I sit down because the Keewatin Community College has been doing an excellent job of providing education for the Northerners. I know there are several articles recently which shows that there will be university subjects delivered in northern Manitoba. I hope that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) will look at the possibility of utilizing Keewatin Community College to deliver those projects. Keewatin Community College has certainly risen to the challenge of the Canadian Jobs Strategy. They have been getting out and getting in touch with northern Manitoba and providing training for many of those areas.

Before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) on issuing the HydroBond. I have been in favour of this for many years. I wish I could have been able to convince our Members to do it. I would hope that now that the bonds are selling so well that the Minister would quit spending money on advertising because I think they are pretty near selling out of the issues, and he continues to advertise in both the paper and the television. I would hope that the Minister would stop the ads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.)

* (1630)

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Family Services): I do not know quite how to address you, Sir. I do not know whether it is Deputy Speaker, once removed, or Deputy Deputy, but anyway, I am glad to see you in that seat.

It is a pleasure today to stand in the House and comment on the Budget which was presented by the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) in this House on Monday, the 5th of June.

I would particularly like to commend to all Members of the House the document that the Finance Minister had prepared and circulated with the Budget as a whole, the small leaflet which he included with that document which sets out in a very concise, neat way the highlights of the Budget. I would commend him and all Members of the House to send that out to their constituents to show them just what this Government is doing. I think it is a nice succinct way of telling them some of the thrusts that are taking place.

I was particularly pleased to see in the Family Services section on that brochure the reflection of a 9.1 increase

in the Family Services Department, \$491 million for services to aid and protect Manitoba families.- (Interjection)- The Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) yells across the House that we are not doing anything, or words I suppose to that effect. I think perhaps he had better think again about that. A 9.1 percent increase in one particular department, particularly in the one that is so service oriented, is a boost to that department. I thank my colleagues in Cabinet and Treasury bench and the colleagues in caucus for their recognition that this is a very important and needed thrust for this department.

Before I go further to discuss the Budget, I would like to pass a few other comments on other matters. Particularly I would like to congratulate the Speaker and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Chornopyski), for your appointment. I know that the job of Speaker, the job of Deputy Speaker, is not always easy. I hope that I personally do not make your job any more difficult as we progress through the Session. I will try to behave myself, shall we say, and not cause you problems.

I also would like to extend my congratulations to the two new Members of Cabinet who have joined the ranks of Cabinet, the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) and the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond). Their addition is most welcome.

I would like to, since I did not get an opportunity to speak on the Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just pass some comments on some of the things of concern to me and my constituency. I would like to say, first of all, and to thank those constituents of Gladstone constituency for the support they have shown to me over the last year as I took my place in Cabinet and as I have worked for the people of Manitoba. I do thank those constituents who have written to me and who have called me and who have spoken to me many times to encourage me and to express their support for what this Government is doing, for what I am doing as a Minister. I do thank them for that support because they go out of their way to indicate this to me. It is always nice to have someone tell you that they think you are doing a good job. All too often, no one ever mentions that sort of thing, so I do thank those constituents and appreciate their concerns for me in my job, as well as for their feelings toward what the Government is doing.

I must say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is a feeling of optimism in the constituency, a feeling of optimism when they see what this Government is doing. They have a Government now who listens to the problems of that particular constituency as well as others, and listens to the problems of all the people. It is a breath of fresh air for them to see road construction going on in the constituency. We had work being done on No. 2 Highway last summer. We have a bridge being built at Treesbank that we have been waiting for, for years and years and years. That bridge is being built and the people are grateful for that.

We are looking forward to the Minister's road construction program to see exactly where other construction is taking place in the constituency because, as I had often pointed out when I was in Opposition and speaking on these very documents, the Budget and the Throne Speech, if we let the roads in our rural

areas drop behind in repair and construction how much, much more it was going to cost in the future to repair them.

Also, my constituents are happy to see that this Government is reducing taxes on farm land and to have the Government looking at long-standing problems that have taken place over many years and have been begging for remedy. These are being looked at with a view to solve these problems, not just look at them and shove them under the rug.

I am proud to work with a Government that is looking with a view to remedy problems that have plagued us for a long time. Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, my constituency was hit very hard by last year's drought, some parts of the constituency more severely than others. The Plumas-Gladstone area, instead of having snowstorms in the wintertime, they were having dust storms. They did not get any rain last summer and they did not get any snow in the winter. They are in a bad way, shall we say, for water supply and for moisture in the subsoil for this year's crop.

Hopefully, the rains will come when they are needed and the outlook will be better. If you know rural people as well as I do, there is always a feeling of optimism in the rural areas, especially in the springtime, because of potentially new crops coming. Rural people are always optimistic. We hope that their optimism pays off this year, that the rains come on time and the crops are good, because if we have a good crop in the rural areas that is a boost to the economy of the areas. It is a boost to the towns and villages that make up the rural areas as well. So for all areas of Manitoba, I am concerned that we do not have a repetition of the problems of last year and the drought that plagued us, because that has a severe impact on the rural areas.

Since taking office just over a year ago, our Government has laid the foundation for developing a strong economy and developing social programs to meet the needs of all Manitobans. Our second Throne Speech continued to build on this foundation. It spoke to the needs of the people of Manitoba. The Budget that was tabled on Monday spoke of how we were going to meet the needs of Manitobans, and how we are going to make use of the taxpayers' money in an orderly fashion to meet the needs.

Over the past year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the departments of which I have jurisdiction, which now of course has been rolled into one department, we were engaged in a great many consultations to get responses from Manitobans to just how they felt we should serve them with the social programs that they so desperately need.

William Bennett, Sr., the former Premier of British Columbia, once said, and I quote: "Sometimes the Government listens too much to the experts and not enough to practical ideas." So with that in mind, over the last 12 months, we have gone to the people on a number of issues to hear what they had to say about the problems that beset them. As a result, we have tabled three reviews dealing with, one with women's issues, another with day care and another with services to mentally handicapped. These reviews will have a

major impact on how we deliver services in the future and how our social services continue to be shaped for the years to come. They give us, if you would like to call it, a blueprint of how we can best serve the people of Manitoba to meet their needs. I will refer again to those reviews later.

I would also like to mention at this time how I have consulted with the agencies that serve the social service needs that are dealt with through my department. Many, many agencies provide services on behalf of my department. I have made a practice over the past year of meeting with as many as possible of these agencies, to meet with them, to get to know them, to talk to them about how they see us meeting their needs and the needs of the people and how we can work together.

* (1640)

Quite often, I have learned that it was more of an adversarial role between Governments and agencies that has been the practice in the past. I have tried very hard to foster a co-operative approach, a co-operative effort, to tell them that if we work together we can better manage the affairs of providing service and better serve the people who need our help.

I made, I believe, significant headway in improving relationships between the agencies which provide service through my department. I feel much more comfortable today when I meet with them, because it is not the adversarial approach that seemed to be the norm before.

I am proud to say that we have one of the best foster parent agreements in Canada, giving the 12.4 percent increase in basic rates for 1988, and rate increases of over 24 percent covering 1989 to 1991 for children up to 10 years old, and rate increases of over 15 percent covering the next three years for children ages 11 to 17.

As part of that agreement, the Government agreed to pay for the Manitoba Foster Parents' Association annual insurance, and for their legal aid costs, and we agreed to pay for ongoing training and support programs for foster parents. I think that went a long way in helping a situation that had been of long standing where the foster parents, through their association and through individuals, had raised with the Government many, many, times, the former Government, the problems they were encountering with the fees. For 10 years it was a chronic problem. So this marks the beginning of a new relationship with that organization. I find that there is a spirit of co-operation with that organization. They are wanting to work with the Government, to better serve the children who need our help through foster care from time to time, and sometimes on shorter terms and sometimes on longer. Now it took us only four months after we were in Government to come to an agreement to a chronic problem that had been in existence for over 10 years. So that is one of the examples of how the Governments can work with people to serve the people who need our help.

We have been building and enhancing programs and we have made changes where changes were required,

not just for change's sake but when changes are needed. I have, as I said, worked very hard to build up a good working relationship with agencies. I have made a practice of meeting with the mandated Child and Family Service agencies. We have set up a regular schedule of quarterly meetings that are regularly scheduled. If there is some other matter that comes up in the interim, then we have agreed that we will meet on that specific item. As a practice, I plan to meet with them quarterly, and have asked them to work with me in a spirit of co-operation. It is not their problem, it is not my problem, it is not the department's problem. Together it is a problem that we must work out as how we can best serve the needs of Manitobans. I met, as I said, with them on many occasions and we agreed that our mutual goal is to serve children who need our care and protection.

When I came into office, those agencies had been in an adversarial mode with the department, with the Minister. As these Members well know, and of course they raised matters in the House concerning it, there were problems. The way to work them out is not to yell at one another across the House and to yell at one another through the media. It is to sit down together and discuss and work out how we can best come to an agreement. Our children deserve a co-ordinated effort to serve them. They do not deserve a lot of hype in the media and a lot of bickering and fighting over technicalities. What they deserve is us to sit down together and rationally figure out how best we can use the resources that we have to serve them.

There are many Members of this Assembly, there are many people I think in society, who believe the way to fix a problem is to throw money at it. I have heard the Members of the Liberal Party certainly, and it was one of the philosophies I think of the former NDP Government, that if there is something needing fixing you throw money. That is not always the answer. It sometimes provides a quick fix. There is a momentary lull while things are calmed down but it puts a strain on resources. It does not always answer to exactly where is the best place to put those resources. So we have attempted to identify where the most need is and to meet that as best we can. As we all know, we do not have a bottomless pit of money from which to draw, so we have to make ourselves certain that we are administering our resources properly, in a manner that is efficient, so that we can use as much of the money that we have as possible for direct service because, after all, direct service delivery is the important item here.

To put another matter to rest, I must reiterate, as I have before, that as far as the Child and Family Services agencies go, we are committed to regionalized service delivery. I do, as I indicated before, meet with the mandated Child and Family Services agencies and we have discussed ways in which we could improve the service by centralizing some services. We have discussed this at some of our meetings. I have given them ideas of what my thinking is on that and they have given feedback to me. I am sure they are in agreement there are some ways that we could better co-ordinate our efforts by some centralization, but with a direct service to the people. We hope to maintain the decentralized service.

As I had said, we have undertaken reviews. I have been criticized by the Liberal Critic, the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) for reviewing. I do not mind being criticized for reviewing. I like to know where I am before I set out and know the path that I am going to travel on before I set out. It would not have served this department well to have rushed into office and immediately said we will do this, this and this, without finding out if this, this and this were the things that we should be doing. If you go into a job with a preconceived idea and force your will upon it, it is not always successful. I wanted to find out and my Government wanted to find out what the problems were clearly and distinctly, and then recommendations for how we would deal with them.

As I said, we went to the people to get their opinion with several reviews, and one of them was the Women's Initiative Review which was chaired by the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) who is now the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. The Member for Kirkfield Park, the Minister of Labour, released that report on March 8, and immediately I announced there would be an action team go through that report and report to me within a month, which they did, as to exactly how we would implement some of the 94 recommendations that had been made by that Women's Initiative team.

* (1650)

They travelled as a task force throughout Manitoba to hear how the women of the province believe that programs and services should be delivered and what co-ordination should take place with service, and were we on the right track with how we delivered services to abused women. As I say, many people came before that committee to tell them very candidly what they thought of the system, how they thought it could be improved. As a result of that, as I said, there were 94 recommendations made and we have already put many of those recommendations into action. Of course in the next little while, we will be announcing further initiatives that have come as a direct result of that report.

It was a broad report in that it dealt with not only the Women's Directorate or the Department of Family Services. There were many other departments affected in that. We held meetings between Ministers to address how we could react to and respond to those recommendations as a Government and be sure that we were all on the same wavelength of course. The other Ministers of this Government will be making announcements in future that are directly related to what the recommendations were in that report. The Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) has made announcements already to do with matters directly connected, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) will be making announcements at some point, and so will I. These were a direct result of those 94 recommendations and other things that were found as they travelled that maybe did not become part of our recommendations but they became part of the information that I received, and that now the Minister in charge of the Status of Women (Mrs. Hammond) has received or other Ministers in the Government, so it was most, most worthwhile.

The Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) got up in the House one day and said it was trivial. I was annoyed that day that she would think that it was trivial to go to the women of Manitoba to ask them their opinion. When I got the report back with its 94 recommendations, I certainly was pleased and did not in any way think that it was trivial. I have not heard that from the Member for St. Johns since. I doubt now if she thinks it is trivial as well because there are many, many initiatives that will come out as a direct result of that particular report.

Some of the other things that have happened in that department to do with wife abuse, I was happy to announce the relocation of Osborne House to a bigger and better facility, a site that will be opening some time in the fall. They are busy doing their renovations at this time. We would be very pleased when that is opened up and going because of the very, very cramped conditions under which those people are working now.

Later on, I was pleased to announce the establishment of the first Native women's shelter in Manitoba. The Native people are very, very pleased. In fact, I had a letter signed by six chiefs thanking me and expressing their pleasure that this had been done because this is a very needed service and they are very grateful for that.

Earlier last winter, I also announced improved rates for shelters. I felt that we could not wait for another Budget and so forth. Things were very desperate in some of those shelters. The funding had never been set up in a very rational way. I was pleased to be able to announce improved rates as an interim measure. I will hope to be announcing changes and improvements as a result of the Budget that we are debating at this moment. We will be announcing those as time goes on in the very near future, I hope. Also, we recognize the need to establish a separate funding base for non-residential wife abuse services. We also are expanding the Family Court Services to assist northern and rural families.

Earlier this week, also with regard to shelters, I announced the decentralization of the crisis lines which will go to Osborne House and to Ikwé-Widdjiitiwin when it gets ready to go. That was an increase in funding from, I believe, what was spent last year in the crisis lines, was \$115,000.00. That funding will increase to \$355,000 this year. Those crisis lines will be moved first to Osborne House when it is ready and then to Ikwé-Widdjiitiwin when it is ready to receive them. They are also in the process of renovating a building and preparing it for the use as a women's shelter, a crisis shelter.

I am very grateful, as I am sure the women's community is, to Klinik for having taken on that job of running the crisis lines. They took it on in a time of crisis as a short term, that they would run it until something else was prepared for it. As it turned out, they took it longer than they had intended and they are still co-operating and going to keep it until the other two are ready to take it over, and take it over in an orderly fashion. They are very co-operative and have assented to that. I am sure they would be glad to have that because they need space to operate and they can do without that extra work.

So in announcing that change this week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will give the Osborne House and Ikwé an opportunity to recruit the staff that they will need and also recruit the volunteers which will be needed. I understand from them that they will need approximately 50 volunteers per shelter per crisis line facility to operate those crisis lines. In that way, they will have those months in order to recruit and train, because I understand they need a fair amount of training of course because they are dealing with people in a very, very serious situation, and they need training to deal with that.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we go on to another report that I released in February, the Wiens Report, which followed from an independent review of the Winnerv Corporation and not only dealt with that particular facility or organization, but it dealt in a broad scope with group homes for mentally handicapped people in Manitoba, and we have already taken action on a number of recommendations in that report. One which I announced last winter was the improvement of funding to the community residences which amounted to \$1.2 million. That too is an interim measure because of the difficulties being experienced by those facilities because of lack of planning in the past, to put it very bluntly. We are also initiating staff training for workers in community residences.

Many of those recommendations from that report dealt with how the facilities, the organizations themselves, could better improve their operations and I am sure that they have all taken this seriously. One of the things that was brought forward was that they need to improve their communications with families of the residents they have within their facility, that there was not enough back and forth, shall we say, with the parents for instance to know what was taking place. In keeping with our principle of working with the community, we are prepared to assist those community residents whenever possible with meeting the needs that are there.

With regard to disabled people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Government has reaffirmed its support for an action plan for the Decade of Disabled Persons. You will recall that there was a Speaker's Forum last week on the disabled and many people were pleased to take part in that. I believe that was a good initiative on the part of the Speaker, and I was happy that my department could be of assistance to facilitate that forum.

* (1700)

Now another report that I had the privilege of releasing a few days ago was the Day Care Task Force Report. In last year's Throne Speech, I believe we had announced that we would be having a task force on child care in the province. We did and we received a report from them and I released it, as I said, a few days ago. They too held extensive hearings throughout the province on how Manitoba viewed the system that we have for child care and how we could make improvements to it, improvements within the department, improvements with numbers of spaces. That report had 204 recommendations included within it. It gave us advice on how we can plan for the future

with child care in this province and how we can proceed to, in an orderly fashion, enhance the program and expand on it. The central theme that emerged from that report is the importance of parents, care providers in Government, employers in the community as a whole working together to develop day care programs.

We identified very quickly many recommendations that could be acted upon immediately. Some of them were directly related to how the department deals with day care providers. There were many that were strictly of an administrative nature within the department that could be quite easily done. That is taking place, and I will be making announcements in the very near future of how we will be proceeding this year with the funds allocated in this year's Budget to enhance the Day Care Program in Manitoba. With the Budget announcements of approximately \$6 million in increased funding there, we will be able to make some announcements, as I say, in the near future of how we will be expanding the program.

Over the last year, our improvements included expanding programs for children with disabilities, enabling subsidies to stay with children so that when the families move they could take their subsidy with them, and making day care service available to more rural families and families who do shift work, providing a 3 percent salary increase to child care workers through the Salary Enhancement Program, and we made available 420 more funded spaces to Manitoba families. This year, as I say, we have increased the funding by some \$6 million and I will be announcing, very soon I hope, how we propose to enhance the system this year, how many spaces we will be able to provide.

I am looking forward, as I am sure all Members are, to that information, or I am looking forward to providing the information. They are looking forward to receiving it.

In the area of social assistance, last winter I appointed a committee made up of members of the Union of Municipalities and the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, MAUM I believe they are called, and representatives from my department and from the department—it was then Municipal Affairs, now Rural Development—and also a representative from the City of Winnipeg. Of course the City of Winnipeg are a large player in the social assistance scheme of things and they wanted to have some representation on that committee as well. We are looking at how best we can serve people who are not already served by the province in social assistance.

We felt that by working in co-operation with the municipal officials we could come up with a suitable program to meet the needs of people. I am expecting that review will be completed shortly. My officials have informed me that it is coming along and they have some ideas that they want to present to me. I believe it is an opportune time this month to present that sort of thing to the municipal officials of UMM because they have regularly scheduled June, as they refer to as the June meetings, district meetings. They will no doubt be discussing it at those meetings. I am looking forward to getting a report from that group and then of course discussing it with my Cabinet colleagues as how best we can work in that sphere.

In other areas of social assistance this year, we increased the social assistance allowances by 3.9 percent for the 1st of January as many Members will recall, and we also raised the rent increase by 3 percent, making a total of \$7 million of increase to social assistance recipients across the province.

Those rates have traditionally been increased in January. The calculations begin in the fall taking a specific period, a year's averages, and looking at them. This year the average—in fact we raised it slightly more than what the actual consumer price index was for necessities—I think it was at 3.3 percent and we raised it by 3.9 percent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, does time not fly? I have all kinds more information here to give to the Members of the House, but anyway I will just mention how pleased I am to have been able to work on the recommendations of the Women's Initiative, how pleased I have been to table reports, that people have done a great deal of work on to help us plan for the future, because I believe, really believe, that you have to have a good working plan before you can help the people who need our help. Before you can proceed with making any changes, you must have a clear picture of how those changes will affect people.

One of the things I often complained about when I was in Opposition was that things were done without due consideration of their effect on the people to whom they were supposed to serve. I am very, very pleased to have been able to make many of the changes that have been made and look forward to improving the system and working with the people in my caucus and in Cabinet and with people of Manitoba to make Manitoba a better place in which to live. I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): M. le vice-président, je suis heureux d'avoir cette occasion de souhaiter aux membres de cette auguste assemblée mes meilleurs vœux à l'occasion de la deuxième session de la trente-quatrième législature de la Province du Manitoba.

Premièrement, j'aimerais vous féliciter de votre nomination à titre de vice-président de la Chambre. J'en suis sûr, comme homme, comme ami, vous aller servir tous les Membres de la Législature avec fierté. Depuis que je vous connais, soit au-delà d'un an, vous êtes devenu un grand ami, pour qui j'ai beaucoup de respect. Les gens l'on certainement tous élaboré ici, les Membres de la Législature. C'est avec fierté que je m'associe à tous ces souhaits. Je voudrait aussi souhaiter à M. le président la plus cordiale bienvenue. Et je suis confiant qu'il nous réserve le même niveau de compétence qu'il nous a servi lors de la dernière session.

* (1710)

M. le vice-président, pour reprendre le thème que le chef de l'Opposition a avancé lors de ses discours, je crois qu'il est très important de nous rappeler pourquoi nous avons été élus, et pourquoi nous avons été appelés à servir. C'est pour les enfants du Manitoba que nous sommes ici aujourd'hui, pour défendre leurs

intérêts et protéger l'avenir. C'est pourquoi il est primordial de ne pas laisser ce Gouvernement faire à sa tête. On sait qu'il chercherait à imposer sa volonté, sans aucun égard envers celle de la population dont il s'abroge le pouvoir en se donnant un mandat qu'il n'a pas mérité. Mais nous ne le laisserons pas faire, et nous redoublerons notre vigilance afin de lui rappeler son devoir.

Nous n'avons pas besoin d'aller bien loin chercher les exemples d'incompétence de ce Gouvernement. Ses programmes ont été clairement tracés dans le Discours du Trône et le Budget qu'il vient de nous présenter, lequel sera sans aucun doute la carte routière qui amènera sa défaite et la plus grande débandade politique qu'on aura vu depuis des décennies.

M. le vice-président, comme il est facile de se cacher derrière des platitudes et des propos sans valeur, comme leurs efforts sont lamentables! Mais que voulez-vous? Un Gouvernement vide d'idées se réfugie derrière les façades les plus transparentes qui finiront par trahir son incompétence.

Les exploits économiques dont ils se vantent, ce sont en réalité les résultats des mesures prises par le Gouvernement NDP il y a deux ans, combinées à certaines retombées financières découlant de la taxe sur les mines. Ce Gouvernement s'est aussi rallié à un autre cheval de bataille, qu'il se voit obliger d'adopter non par conviction politique mais plutôt par obligation, s'il veut continuer à jouir de l'appui du parti néo-démocrate. Je pense à sa nouvelle préoccupation pour les questions portant sur l'environnement. Est-il surprenant alors de voir combien timidement ce Gouvernement s'avance dans ce secteur? Parlons du fiasco qu'il nous prépare avec des fonds provenant des loteries. Pour une fois c'est une idée qu'ils ont pondue, tout seuls comme des grands. On se plaint de cette forme de taxation dite volontaire, imposée sur les pauvres de la société. Alors, nous allons nous en servir pour financer des projets qui méritent un appui financier, mais voilà qu'on met maintenant en péril ces mêmes projets, car on les soumet maintenant à une source de revenus peu fiable et surtout très imprévisible.

Ne parlons pas de création d'emploi. Ce Gouvernement n'a aucune solution à nous proposer dans ce secteur. Quelques vagues promesses dans le Discours du Trône, encore moins dans le Budget. Voilà tout ce que les ouvriers de cette Province auront le droit d'obtenir, de ce Gouvernement insensible aux fermetures qui se multiplient autour de nous tous les jours.

(Translation)

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very glad to take this opportunity to give my best wishes to the Members of this Assembly at the start of the Second Session of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Province of Manitoba.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you, Sir. As the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, I am convinced that as a friend and gentleman you will provide good services to all the Members with pride and dignity. As long as

I have known you—that is a year now—you have become a great friend for whom I have much respect. Everyone has mentioned this in this Assembly. I am proud to associate myself with all those good wishes.

I would also wish for the Speaker the warmest welcome and I am fully confident that he will show the same level of confidence that he has shown during the last Session.

To take up the theme that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) advanced in her speeches, I think it is very important to remember why we have been elected and why we have been called to serve. It is for the children of this province that we are here today, to defend their interests and protect their future.

That is the reason why it is so important not to let this Government do what it wishes. We know that this Government would like to impose its will without taking the opinions of the population into account, a now powerless population, because the Government gave itself a mandate which it did not deserve. We will not let them do this and we will be more vigilant than ever in order to remind the Government of its duties.

We do not need to go very far to find examples of this Government's incompetence. They were very clearly set out in the Speech from the Throne and in the Budget that they just presented to us, which will certainly be the road map guiding this Government to defeat and the worst political fiasco ever seen in decades.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, how easy it is to hide behind the platitudes and worthless words. Their efforts are lamentable, but what can you do? What can you hope for? A Government without ideas is hiding behind a transparent facade that will eventually show how incompetent this Government is.

The measures they are talking about are really the results of measures taken by the New Democratic Government, going back two years ago, and are combined with revenues from the mining tax. This Government is also riding another warhorse that it has adopted, not because of its own convictions, but because it has to do so if it wants to get the support of the New Democratic Party. I am referring to its new interest in questions regarding the environment. Is it so surprising to see how timidly this Government is moving in this area? And what about the fiasco the Government is going to inflict on us with the lottery funds? For once, this is an idea that they thought of on their own. We do not like this form of so-called voluntary taxation which is imposed on the poor people in our society. It is going to be used to finance projects which deserve financial help, but the self-same projects are now in jeopardy because they are subject to a highly uncertain and unpredictable source of revenues. What about job creation? This Government has no solution to propose in the job creation sector, vague promises in the Speech from the Throne and even less in the Budget. This is all that the workers of this province can expect from this Government which is insensitive to all the business closings that are happening.

(English)

Tourism: Tourism is a vital industry in all regions of the province, and its importance for the whole overall

Manitoba economy is obvious. I wish the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Ernst) would have been here to - (interjection)- oh, I apologize.

An Honourable Member: I am sure he will see it in Hansard.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes. I wish my honourable friend, the Minister of Tourism, could have continued his speech. I am sure he would have discussed tourism. Maybe we could have found out something that would have been more - (interjection)- no? The importance is obvious, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but not obvious for the Tories. Their Budget will cut funding for tourism by more than 5 percent.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Gaudry: Look at the figures. At a time when we should be increasing our efforts to expand the tourism industry, this Government is cutting back. They can find \$200 million for a slush fund, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but they cannot find the resources to even maintain the previous level for tourism which itself was inadequate.

Tourism is the sixth largest industry in Manitoba, so it is essential that the provincial Government do all it can to ensure its vitality. There are some troubling signs for tourism in our province and this makes it even more pressing that the Government provides leadership and direction for the industry instead of burying its head in the sand to avoid the problems.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the problems involved the federal Government. The Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Tourism is almost out of funds. Federal-provincial co-operation has been an important element of tourism in this province for many years, but that co-operation now appears to lack the backing and commitment at the federal level. We have all heard the signals from Ottawa about the unwillingness of the federal Tories to sustain ERDAs, such as the tourism agreement. So now the Manitoba tourism industry is faced with insufficient commitment from both the federal and provincial Conservative Governments. There are other signs of trouble for the tourism industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

A survey taken about a year ago by the Canadian Tourism Research Institute found that Manitoba ranks last of all provinces as preferred destinations for Canadian tourists. Manitoba ranked last as a tourism destination. Now, we all know that such a finding is absurd. We all know that our province has endless pleasure and excitement to offer tourists. We know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but the problem is that not enough people outside the province know about it. So the question is, what has been done about the misperceptions people have about our province? What has the Government done to help get the message out that Manitoba has a lot to offer visitors? Far from even recognizing the problem, this Tory Budget will make it worse. They proposed to cut the Budget for marketing by more than 6 percent, a 6 percent cutback. They can find \$150 million for a slush fund but cannot

recognize the vital place in the Manitoba economy that tourism holds.

This Government speaks of rural development and revitalization, the economics of small towns throughout the province, but they cannot see that tourism is a vital industry for small towns in every part of the province and that the Government must provide some support, especially for marketing. Instead of support, this Government offers only cutbacks, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Government recently announced a joint venture for tourism promotion with a private corporation. As we made it clear at the time of the announcement, we, in the Official Opposition, supported such ventures and support future ventures, but we also make clear our concern that such a venture will allow the Government to shirk its own responsibility for promoting the tourism industry. The Government still has a very important role to play in the tourism industry. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Budget confirms our fears that the Government is shirking its responsibility for promoting the tourism industry. A 5 percent cutback for the tourism division and a 6 percent cutback for tourism marketing is a clear indication that this Conservative Government is not prepared to provide leadership and direction for this vital sector of the Manitoba economy.

* (1720)

M. le vice-président. Et les droits des minorités francophones? C'est un oiseau rare qui n'est pas revenu après l'hiver. Pas une seule mention dans le Discours du Trône. Pas même un seul mot pour indiquer le moindre intérêt envers ces citoyens que ce gouvernement ignore complètement. Cette insulte envers nous est intolérable. Il est impensable qu'un gouvernement qui prétend être si préoccupé par le sort de la minorité, de la pauvre minorité anglophone du Québec, ne soit même pas prêt à reconnaître les droits les plus fondamentaux de la minorité linguistique dans sa propre province. Et dire que ce fut le prétexte de Monsieur le premier ministre pour se ranger derrière Mme Carstairs lorsqu'il a senti qu'elle l'éclipsait sur la question de l'Accord du lac Meech. Plus grande hypocrisie serait difficile à trouver, M. le vice-président. Mais, double bavure pour M. Filmon, le voilà maintenant à l'index de son propre parti au niveau fédéral. Et c'est nous les Manitobains qui devons subir le châtement de M. Mulroney.

(Translation)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what about the question of Francophone minority rights? We have not seen hide nor hair of this since winter. There was not a single word about it in the Throne Speech, not one single word to show even the slightest interest in these citizens, who the Government is completely ignoring. This is an intolerable insult to us. It is unbelievable that a Government that claims to be so interested in the fate of the poor Anglophone minority in Quebec is not even willing to recognize the most fundamental rights of the linguistic minority in its own province. And to think that that was the pretext the Premier used to jump on Sharon Carstairs' bandwagon when he felt that she was gaining the upper hand on the question of the Meech Lake

Accord. We would have to search far and wide to find anything more hypocritical than that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But Mr. Filmon has been doubly condemned because he is now in the bad books of his own Party at the federal level, and it is we Manitobans who end up having to suffer Mr. Mulroney's wrath.

(English)

Let me go back to housing I have been involved in housing for seniors in St. Boniface for many years. I go back to 1980 when we decided, the Knights of Columbus, to build a seniors' housing in St. Boniface. Today we see the Government has cut back 4 percent in housing.- (Interjection)- We will discuss it in Estimates—that is your answer anyway that you will give, but it is true. We have a list in St. Boniface, at the seniors' home, of 500 to 600 people and they come in 20 a week, looking for housing for seniors.- (Interjection)- Yes, and I think it is important. Yes, that is right. Well, look after it, Honourable Member. It is true, we need new homes for the seniors. You got it in your own community and you know it. You have cut back.

I would like maybe to go back to health care. I raised the question last week about the Sister Clermont Clinic in St. Boniface, and I hope the Minister will look into funding the project, because I think the volunteers we have in the community who have shown their interest in supporting our seniors are not to be forgotten. The hours that they give, it is for preventive measures.

Personal care homes are needed. We go to the St. Boniface Hospital, there is a waiting list. People are there for a year, two years. I get calls on a daily basis. I know for a fact my mother has been there since last September waiting to go into a personal care home. I have nothing against her being there, because she gets good care at the St. Boniface Hospital, but I think there is a lot of people who are waiting to enter the St. Boniface Hospital. This coming July, the wing that my mother is in, on 7A West, will be closed. My mother will be moved, to where? Again, she will be disoriented. But I think it is important that this Government look into personal care homes. It is not only in St. Boniface, it is all over the province and it is important. I think it is important that we keep our people in their own community, culture-wise, language-wise, so this is why I bring about this issue. It is important, but the Minister quite often, when he is questioned about it, circles around the question with no answers to come. I think maybe in the coming Estimates that we will be able to question and get results.- (Interjection)- I will question you for more than 30 minutes, because I think it is important.- (Interjection)- Well, you did not do anything last year, so what the hell.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gaudry: If it was recorded, I apologize, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Les Manitobains ne l'oublieront pas, je vous l'assure. Enfin, pour le vote sur le budget dans quelques jours. Je suis sûr que notre parti va regarder ça sérieusement afin de faire plaisir aux Manitobains et non au

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gouvernement. Mais j'ai des doutes sérieux sur a responsabilité financière de ce gouvernement, sa capacité d'administration et sa compétence. Mais j'en suis sûr, lorsqu'on aura à voter dans quelques jours, on le fera avec unité, avec le parti, et aussi avec la coopération de tous les membres de la Législature. Merci.

(Translation)

The Manitoban people will not forget this, I can promise you. Now, to turn to the vote on the Budget that is coming up in a few days, I am convinced that our Party will seriously think about this and will make sure that they please the Manitoban people and not the Government. I have some serious doubts about the financial responsibilities of this Government and their capacity to manage and their competence. I am convinced that when we have to vote on the subject

in a few days that we will vote in a united way and in co-operation with the other Members of this Assembly.

* (1730)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Deputy Speaker, if there is a will and a disposition to call it six o'clock, I would so move.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

The debate will remain open.

The hour being six o'clock, I interrupt the proceedings according to the rules, and the House is adjourned and remains adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning (Friday).