



First Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



VOL. XXXIX No. 5 - 1:30 p. m., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1990



Printed by the Office of the Queens Printer, Province of Manitoba

ISSN 0542—5492

MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

| NAME | CONSTITUENCY | PARTY |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| ALCOCK, Reg | Osborne | Liberal |
| ASHTON, Steve | Thompson | NDP |
| BARRETT, Becky | Wellington | NDP |
| CARR, James | Crescentwood | Liberal |
| CARSTAIRS, Sharon | River Heights | Liberal |
| CERILLI, Marianne | Radisson | NDP |
| CHEEMA, Gulzar | The Maples | Liberal |
| CHOMIAK, Dave | Kildonan | NDP |
| CONNERY, Edward, Hon. | Portage la Prairie | PC |
| CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon. | Ste. Rose | PC |
| DACQUAY, Louise | Seine River | PC |
| DERKACH, Leonard, Hon. | Roblin-Russell | PC |
| DEWAR, Gregory | Selkirk | NDP |
| DOER, Gary | Concordia | NDP |
| DOWNEY, James, Hon. | Arthur-Virden | PC |
| DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon. | Steinbach | PC |
| DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon. | Riel | PC |
| EDWARDS, Paul | St. James | Liberal |
| ENNS, Harry, Hon. | Lakeside | PC |
| ERNST, Jim, Hon. | Charleswood | PC |
| EVANS, Cliff | Interlake | NDP |
| EVANS, Leonard S. | Brandon East | NDP |
| FILMON, Gary, Hon. | Tuxedo | PC |
| FINDLAY, Glen, Hon. | Springfield | PC |
| FRIESEN, Jean | Wolseley | NDP |
| GAUDRY, Neil | St. Boniface | Liberal |
| GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon. | Minnedosa | PC |
| HARPER, Elijah | Rupertsland | NDP |
| HELWER, Edward R. | Gimli | PC |
| HICKES, George | Point Douglas | NDP |
| LAMOUREUX, Kevin | Inkster | Liberal |
| LATHLIN, Oscar | The Pas | NDP |
| LAURENDEAU, Marcel | St. Norbert | PC |
| MALOWAY, Jim | Elmwood | NDP |
| MANNES, Clayton, Hon. | Morris | PC |
| MARTINDALE, Doug | Burrows | NDP |
| McALPINE, Gerry | Sturgeon Creek | PC |
| McCRAE, James, Hon. | Brandon West | PC |
| McINTOSH, Linda | Assiniboia | PC |
| MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon. | River East | PC |
| NEUFELD, Harold, Hon. | Rossmere | PC |
| ORCHARD, Donald, Hon. | Pembina | PC |
| PENNER, Jack, Hon. | Emerson | PC |
| PLOHMAN, John | Dauphin | NDP |
| PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon. | Lac du Bonnet | PC |
| REID, Daryl | Transcona | NDP |
| REIMER, Jack | Niakwa | PC |
| RENDER, Shirley | St. Vital | PC |
| ROCAN, Denis, Hon. | Gladstone | PC |
| ROSE, Bob | Turtle Mountain | PC |
| SANTOS, Conrad | Broadway | NDP |
| STEFANSON, Eric | Kirkfield Park | PC |
| STORIE, Jerry | Flin Flon | NDP |
| SVEINSON, Ben | La Verendrye | PC |
| VODREY, Rosemary | Fort Garry | PC |
| WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy | St. Johns | NDP |
| WOWCHUK, Rosann | Swan River | NDP |

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, October 17, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Jack Penner (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to present to you and this Legislature the report of the Manitoba Municipal Employees Benefits Board; also the report of the Conservation Districts of Manitoba Board; also The Manitoba Water Services Board; and also the report of the Municipal Affairs Department.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to table the 67th Annual Report of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the fiscal year April 1, 1989, to March 31, 1990.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct attention of all Honourable Members to the gallery, where we have from the Red River Community College Language Program 33 adult students under the direction of Mr. Tom Eischen. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickey).

Also from the Angus McKay School, we have twenty-one Grade 5 students under the direction of Mr. Greg Holowka. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project Manitoba Interests

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Last Friday we asked the Premier why he had not contacted the Premier of Saskatchewan at the

western Ministers' meeting, and he in the hallway said he could not remember whether he brought Rafferty-Alameda dam up to the Province of Saskatchewan in July of 1990.

Yesterday we asked the Premier why he had not called the Province of Saskatchewan, the Premier of Saskatchewan, on the vital interests of Manitobans, and he said, and I quote, that the federal Minister of the Environment was either going to withdraw the licence or halt construction through a potential court order.

None of those actions took place yesterday, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier is: Why will he not contact the Premier of Saskatchewan and protect Manitoba's water quality and quantity in terms of the integrity of a proper environmental process?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Because, Mr. Speaker, very clearly and very straightforwardly the authority lies with the federal jurisdiction. It is they who issued the licence, it is they who have the authority to revoke the licence. It is not our licence, it is not our environmental review. It is federal, it is federal jurisdiction. Surely the Leader of the Opposition has been in this Chamber long enough that he understands the difference between jurisdictions and responsibilities amongst various Governments.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, it is our water quality and our water quantity that is at stake. My question to the Premier is: Why does he refuse to contact the Province of Saskatchewan, the Premier of Saskatchewan? It is clear to everyone that the Premier of Saskatchewan is proceeding in a way that is detrimental to the water quality and quantity in Manitoba. Why is he refusing to contact his colleague in Saskatchewan, Government to Government, to stand up for our water quality in Manitoba?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the Honourable Grant Devine on a number of occasions and told him face to face that I believe Manitoba was entitled to be assured of protection of the quality and quantity of its water supply. That position has been consistent and has not changed in the two and a half

years that we have been in Government. My colleague the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) has been in discussion even as recently as this morning with his counterpart, the Minister of the Environment for Saskatchewan. I repeat that when it comes to jurisdiction and authority, it is the federal jurisdiction and authority that must be exercised.

* (1335)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, the First Minister stated that the Minister of Environment was in touch with the Minister of Environment in Saskatchewan. Therefore, my question is: Why is the Premier of Manitoba afraid to call the Premier of Saskatchewan and clearly articulate our objections to the Saskatchewan Government recklessly denying the licence to the federal environmental process and putting water quality and quantity in Manitoba at risk?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, it does not make the question any more effective for the Leader of the Opposition to shout. He can just calm down. The fact of the matter is to repeat the question over and over again. It is not a matter of telling him our objections; that has been done on numerous occasions in the past. It is a matter of having the jurisdiction to stop it. We do not have the jurisdiction to stop it; the federal Government does. We are asking and insisting that the federal Government exercise that jurisdiction.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Saskatchewan has made public yesterday an agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and the country of Canada and stated that this is an agreement that he had reached with Canada—I will table this agreement in this Chamber—which clearly states that the project should proceed and then that we should evaluate the effect of this on the water quality and quantity of Manitoba after.

My question to the Premier is: Has he contacted the Premier of Saskatchewan and raised Manitoba's objections to this new proposed agreement that Grant Devine claims he has with the federal Government?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, the question and the reference to an agreement is hypothetical, but I want to just put on the record that we are following precisely the same procedure that his administration did when they were in Government. I can tell you that his predecessor, the Honourable

Howard Pawley, did not contact the Premier of Saskatchewan to demand that he stop construction when they were doing construction without a licence.

I have here a letter from the Honourable John S. Plohman to the Honourable Tom McMillan, federal Minister of the Environment, in which he says that he is aware that the Saskatchewan Government in April of 1988 is proceeding with construction on the Rafferty and Alameda dam at the Rafferty site, and he says, I would respectfully request—I am quoting—that your department take action to stop this construction activity which will alter the flow of this international river, precisely what we are saying should be done to precisely the same authority, the federal Government, because that is where the authority lies, Mr. Speaker. They were smart enough to know that when they were in Government. Now in Opposition, they have forgotten what information they had at that time.

Premier's Position

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, one should know that Tom McMillan, in the House of Commons in May of '88 when this Government was in office, promised a full environmental assessment, as the former Minister asked. The licence was issued without the full environmental licence in June of '88. This First Minister was the Premier.

My question to the Premier is: Why is he so afraid to go public against the Province of Saskatchewan, against his old friend Grant Devine, and start standing up for Manitoba's water quality and quantity?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I make the point, Saskatchewan was under construction during the time when his Government was in office. They had knowledge of it. His colleague sitting directly to his right, the Honourable John S. Plohman, at that time said he had knowledge of the construction. He said, I would respectfully request that you stop the construction, Mr. Speaker, precisely the same circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, I have -(interjection)- It was under construction. It has now come to our attention that Saskatchewan has commenced construction of a cofferdam. That is what you were telling the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, these people suffer selective amnesia. I have said publicly that we are opposed

to the construction of the Rafferty-Alameda until we are given assurances of the quality and quantity of the water downstream in the Souris River. I have said it before publicly. I repeat it but, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

* (1340)

Licensing Procedure

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is his provincial cousin Grant Devine who is recklessly proceeding with the construction contrary -(interjection)- The licence was issued June '88, contrary to the federal licence and two federal court decisions.

Will this Premier contact the Premier of Saskatchewan and publicly ask the Premier of Saskatchewan, demand the Premier of Saskatchewan to follow the two court orders, one in 1990 and one in 1989, and follow the licensing procedure established in the federal Act and stand up to Grant Devine instead of playing wishy-washy politics in this Chamber?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Who is playing politics here? In April of 1988, under the NDP administration, they were proceeding with construction without a licence, without any licence, Mr. Speaker. This Minister next to him at that time was saying, I respectfully request you stop them, because he knew it was under their jurisdiction. That jurisdiction remains the same—federal jurisdiction, federal decision and federal necessity to stop that construction. My Minister and I are proceeding under exactly the same circumstances to tell the federal Government to exercise their jurisdiction and stop that construction.

Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project Manitoba Interests

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government today clearly is refusing to take the Saskatchewan Government to court or remove its licence to stop construction on the Alameda project. They are not even talking any more about the Rafferty part of the project.

Mr. Speaker, we warned this Government earlier this week not to rely on the Mulroney Government when it came to protecting Manitoba's interests, but they refused to listen. Given that the Rafferty part of this project could be completed within two weeks

and the water quality and quantity in Manitoba affected, will the Minister take action now to protect Manitoba's environmental interests and, if not, will he come clean on why not?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, we have consistently said, the Premier has consistently said that we are prepared to take any of our options to make sure that we get the assessment work done to guarantee the quantity and quality of water coming downstream, and I will reiterate that statement today.

Legal Opinion Request

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the gist of the Government's case is that it is a federal jurisdiction. Is the Minister saying that he cannot rely on federal laws, federal court injunctions, and go to the federal court to rely on those laws, and if so will he table the opinion he is relying on and which purports to allow him to hide behind this excuse?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I am waiting on the final advice that I will receive on what my legal options are.

Government Position

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, time is short. This issue has now been around for almost a week. The fact is, within two weeks the Rafferty part of this dam will be completed. Does this Government want the project to go ahead as they originally did before the Wildlife Federation got the federal court injunction? Have they reverted back to their original position of support for this project and, if not, just what are they prepared to do to stop it?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the position of the federal Government has to be brought forward to provide some clarity as to whether or not they are going to have an assessment completed or not. We are taking every means that is at our disposal to make sure that that work is done, and that includes exploring our legal options.

* (1345)

Child and Family Services Funding

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier stated that Child and Family Services agencies had received an increase of 15

percent over the last year's funding. On June 12 of this year, the Minister of Family Services issued a press release which stated that Child and Family Services would receive an actual increase of 3.8 percent, 1 percent below the inflation rate.

Can the Premier explain this discrepancy between his figures of yesterday and those of the Minister of Family Services on June 12?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, that information is information that should be discussed in the course of the Estimates. When we have the information, I am sure I can satisfy the Member for Wellington that that information is accurate.

Ms. Barrett: Can the Premier explain to Child and Family Services agencies, whose actual operating budgets for this last year will be 1.6 percent less due to much needed increases to foster parents, how this decrease will not be a cutback in services to children?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, there is no decrease, and the Member will know when the Estimates are tabled a week from today with the budget.

Child and Family Services Services Provided

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): This question is to the Minister of Family Services. Can the Minister of Family Services give Child and Family Services agencies a list of mandated services to the children of Manitoba that should be cut as a result of this Government's totally inadequate funding allocations?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, the department is actively working with Child and Family Services agencies on their programs and budgets and service agreements, and there should be no reason to cut any services. The agencies are working with the department to work within a balanced budget.

Economic Growth Government Initiatives

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Since the election call on August 7, some 1,000 jobs have disappeared in the Province of Manitoba, many of those important manufacturing jobs. Since the introduction of the Free Trade Agreement, 12,000 jobs have disappeared in

Manitoba, 20 percent of the manufacturing base of our economy.

I want to know whether the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism can tell us today what plans, other than the meager offerings in the throne speech, this Government has to deal with what is a crisis in our economy? Can the Minister tell us what concrete plans he has to protect our industrial base?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that my honourable friend has finally discovered economic development in the Province of Manitoba. It has taken him five days to get there.

Mr. Speaker, when dealing with the question of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, my honourable friends across the way constantly harp that everything that happens in the Province of Manitoba and elsewhere in the country is a result of free trade. There is one pretty basic statistic related to free trade that they might be very well interested in.

In 1986 and '87 we had a trade deficit with the United States of \$2 billion. Today we have a trade deficit of \$1 billion. That is the kind of performance. We have exported a billion dollars more into the U.S. under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Plant Closures Minister's Awareness

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry and Trade will learn that defending the Free Trade Agreement is a dead end road. FTA factory and plant closing, it is happening all over Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Industry and Trade indicate whether the Minister is in possession of any information that he can share with the House related to plant closings within the next week? Can the Minister indicate whether he is aware of any major plant closings in the next week?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): No, Mr. Speaker.

* (1350)

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate whether he has been informed that Allied Farm King has laid off 60 people, Carter Day has laid off 30 people, Sullivan Strong Scott has laid off 20 people? Can the Minister indicate whether any of these companies are now following the normal practice of

informing the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism of potential layoffs and layoffs in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend missed out Ford New Holland who also laid off 30 or 40 people within the last little while. Maybe it is time my honourable friend across the way learned that there happens to be a crisis in agriculture in this country. There happens to be a crisis in agriculture across the world. When you deal with farm equipment, then there will be adjustments in the marketplace that will require companies to alter their work force accordingly.

We have, as a matter of fact, in that industry done very well over the past several years despite the fact we have had those crises in agriculture. So I would think that there will be adjustments from time to time in the work force. When you consider the many, many thousands of employees who are involved in those companies, from time to time there will be adjustments in the work force dealing with market glitches.

Grace Hospital Children's Unit Closure

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. -(applause)- Well, hold your applause yet.

Grace Hospital is considering a letter from this Minister of Health to shut down the children's unit. Mr. Speaker, that unit served children who are five and older.

Can the Minister of Health tell us when this decision was made? Can he make his letter public today?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, it is just coincidental that I have a copy of the letter that my honourable friend is referring to in my hand. I have to tell my honourable friend the Liberal Health Critic who is into rumour, innuendo and false conclusions, that this Government has no intention of closing obstetrics in the Grace Hospital. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I participated at an opening of new birthing rooms at Grace Hospital which were renovated with funds provided by the taxpayers of Manitoba to Grace Hospital to provide a home environment with two birthing rooms for families wishing to deliver children in a more natural home environment. That is our commitment to obstetrics

at Grace Hospital, not the rumour and innuendo my honourable friend drives.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, I have a letter. I am talking about age five and older; he should listen carefully. Can the Minister of Health tell us how much money he is going to save by forcing families with children to seek treatment outside this hospital? Can he tell us today?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I missed the intent of that question. I wonder if my honourable friend might repeat it.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health tell us how much money he is going to save forcing families by closing this unit at Grace Hospital?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, might I take the liberty, although it is against the rules, of repeating my last answer to my honourable friend, that there is no closure of any facility, obstetrics included, at Grace General Hospital. I do not know what world of rumour my honourable friend lives in, but perchance he might try this Session to bring some clear and precise information to this Session and not thrive on the rumours that he has in his first two questions.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Speaker, it is clear on the agenda of The Family Practice on October 2. This Minister should read his own letter.

My question is: Has the Minister consulted the Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) and the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine) before closing this important place at the Grace Hospital?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend the Liberal Health Critic ought to read the very fine contribution made by the MLA for Sturgeon Creek, wherein he mentioned a number of innovative developments in health care at the west end of the city focussed around Grace Hospital including, Mr. Speaker, a \$30 million investment committed by this Government last capital budget to a complete upgrade of emergency, diagnostic and other areas of that hospital. That follows upon the asbestos removal program that we undertook. That follows upon the birthing room redevelopment that I have already mentioned to my honourable friend. That follows upon a commitment to seek an active upgrading of the fifth floor at Grace General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know from whence my honourable friend gets his information.

* (1355)

Resource Recovery Institute Government Action

Mr. Marcel Laurendeau (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, my question is of the Honourable Minister of Environment. As of yesterday the Minister was informed that the Resource Recovery Institute was going to be proposedly closing on Friday. I was wondering if the Minister could inform me if he had any meetings with the City of Winnipeg today as was proposed within the press, if they came to any conclusions.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, yes, I am pleased to report to the House that I met with the Resource Recovery Institute, the City of Winnipeg this morning. While some of the long-term plans for the Resource Recovery Institute need to be worked out, we did reach an agreement that they will be operating to the end of the year with funding from the province, during which time we will be working with the City of Winnipeg to closely analyze the results of the pilot project that was part of the origin of this plus work with them on the development of a business plan and an analysis of where the city will be able to go on resource recovery in the future.

Plant Closure Legislation Builders Furniture Ltd.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Our caucus has been raising the issue of plant closures repeatedly in this Legislature, has introduced Bills to strengthen plant closure legislation, and yet we see daily reminders of a number of plant closures taking place in this province including the most recent one, Builders Furniture, which laid off 20 workers, October 3; 29 workers, October 5; and is currently laying off an additional 13 workers.

My question is to the Minister of Labour. I would like to ask the Minister of Labour, since he has now finally responded to the concerns expressed by the union about what is happening at that plant, what action he will take to ensure that proper procedures are followed given the current legislation we have in Manitoba in regard to plant closure legislation?

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Labour): I appreciate the question from the Member for Thompson, and I can assure him that current legislation will be enforced by the department. I was

in touch with a union representative yesterday, and we are ensuring through our department that is what exactly happened. We want to ensure that our legislation has in fact been met.

Improvements

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Since the Minister is newly appointed in his role and has the opportunity to make a clear break from the past, I would like to ask him whether he will now consider improving plant closure legislation to protect the increasing number of workers in Manitoba who almost daily are being affected by plant closures in this province.

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) indicated, our provincial Government will be reviewing the effectiveness of labour legislation in the province over the next while. If the Member has specific proposals that he would like to discuss, he is certainly free to raise them with me or other members of the administration.

Worker Protection

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): We will soon have on the Order Paper a Bill that would increase immediately the protection for workers affected. Will this Minister support the proposal that is going to be put forward by the New Democratic Party, that has been introduced in the past two Sessions? Will he support it? Will he bring it in as a Government Bill to increase the protection for workers affected by plant closure?

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in all aspects of labour legislation it is important I think the Member for Thompson would recognize for Government to maintain a balance in our labour legislation. Although there are certain merits to plant closure legislation, on the other side of the coin is the detriment it has to job creation both internally within our province and in attracting outside investment. Certainly that aspect has to be put on the balance scale when looking at any type of legislation.

* (1400)

Deer Lodge Hospital Extended Care Beds

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): We have been asking the Minister of Health for months and

months to open the desperately needed beds built under the NDP at Deer Lodge Hospital. In a very cynical move, the Government announced the immediate opening of 90 chronic care beds at this facility. Then we learned that their idea of "immediate" is November 1, and now that time frame appears to be in question.

I would like to know from the Minister of Health if he is now prepared to meet that rather late response to his announcement of "immediate" and open these beds beginning on November 1, and what exactly his time frame is.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased my honourable friend has brought up the issue of the extended treatment beds at Deer Lodge Hospital which, contrary to statements made by her Leader and herself as she posed the question, were not built by the NDP, but were built by funds provided by the federal Government in an agreement signed in 1980, wherein the Province of Manitoba agreed to take over the operation of Deer Lodge Hospital in return for which the federal Government would undertake the complete capital redevelopment of that facility.

Let us simply give credit where credit is due. Certainly there are enough issues in which we can find fault with the federal Government that we ought not as critics of them from Opposition attempt to take credit for when they have provided monies for a substantial redevelopment of a facility.

The opening of the 90 beds at Deer Lodge Hospital was announced this summer as a result of the tabling of the Health Advisory Network study of the issue of extended treatment bed needs and requirements in the City of Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, those beds were commissioned for a number of program purposes at Deer Lodge Hospital, and immediately upon making that announcement of the purpose for which those beds would be used, recruitment was commenced by Deer Lodge Hospital to staff them adequately to provide for patient care. I anticipate that staffing to be completed and those beds to be available—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister speaks, beds are empty and waiting to be filled and not expected to be filled until the spring of 1991. I would like to know from the Minister of Health what action he and his department have initiated to

sabotage the opening of these long awaited, desperately needed beds.

Point of Order

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the Member opposite is imputing, in the strongest fashion, motives, and I would ask her to withdraw the word "sabotage" and apologize to the Member and to the House as a whole.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have a very clear list of unparliamentary expressions. In the context it was used or the specific word, there is no reference to "sabotage." I think it is well within order, well within our standard practice that if a Member feels the Government has sabotaged something they can state that. It is not unparliamentary and the Member for St. Johns need not apologize for those statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On the point of order raised by the Honourable Government House Leader, the Honourable Member is quite correct. The Honourable Opposition House Leader also is correct in stating that the word "sabotage" is not in the list of unparliamentary words, but I would ask the Honourable Member for St. Johns to withdraw her word of "sabotage," as she imputed that motive to the Honourable Minister of Health. I would ask the Honourable Member to withdraw.

The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to withdraw that word. I had no intentions of imputing any motive with respect to the Minister of Health. I simply want to—

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

* * *

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I simply want to know, Mr. Speaker, what actions and policies this Minister and his department are taking that are causing these desperately needed beds not to be opened at this time.

Mr. Orchard: I have been in this Chamber long enough that I did not take personal offence to the allegation made by my honourable friend. We have grown to be rather personal friends in our brief career while she was in the third Opposition Party.

What my honourable friend, as the new Health

Critic for the official Opposition, will learn is that by putting those words on the record my honourable friend impugned the integrity and the purpose and the direction taken by management at Deer Lodge Hospital and the board of directors.

It is those that she injures when she makes those accusations, because when we made the announcement of the use of those beds at Deer Lodge Hospital, we had full budgetary authority in place and gave direction to the management and to the board of Deer Lodge Hospital to commence recruitment of staff so that those beds could be opened because budget was in place.

We give the direction, and by her raising the accusation that there is some behind-the-scenes motive of Government she is in fact accusing Deer Lodge—a very fine management and staff—of not handling the issue properly. I regret that accusation, Mr. Speaker.

Understaffing

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): A fine response for someone who has just withdrawn a word that is unparliamentary.

Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not imputing any motive in terms of Deer Lodge Hospital. In fact, I am doing the opposite. I am questioning the intentions and motives of this Minister and his Government.

I want to know specifically why he and his commission, the Manitoba Health Services Commission, are engaged in a dispute at Deer Lodge Hospital over apparent staffing levels. I want to know if this Minister is prepared not only to keep patients waiting but also to put patients in jeopardy by understaffing this facility, lowering the standard of care for patients—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The question has been put. The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate for my honourable friend again, because she is having some difficulty understanding the process under which we commissioned the use of those beds at Deer Lodge Hospital.

First of all, through an extensive review of the extended treatment and personal care home beds in the City of Winnipeg, we determined that the most appropriate use of those available beds at Deer Lodge was for specific purposes of extended

treatment care in the rehabilitative area, the chronic care area and the head injured, for Manitobans suffering from head injuries.

The commissioning of use of those beds followed with the establishment of authority to commence with hiring to establish staffing patterns appropriate to deliver quality care to the residents there. That process is ongoing and will be completed with excellent programming at a facility excellent in its reputation for caring for seniors in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker.

* (1410)

CN Rail Layoffs

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): My question is for the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Yesterday the Minister admitted that he had done nothing to improve the VIA service on the Churchill route. I wonder if he has acted on the most recent cuts at CNR.

The day before this Session began, 125 Manitoba CNR employees were told that they would be let go. Some 36 employees at Transcona shops are involved in this latest work reduction. These latest cuts are part of a continuing series of consolidation, rationalization and relocation of the transportation industry out of this province.

Can the Minister tell this House whether he has met with senior staff, the workers affected, or the federal Minister of Transport to get this latest cut cancelled?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): First of all, I appreciate the opportunity to answer the question that was placed to me yesterday by the Member for The Pas (Mr. Lathlin).

I indicated I would take that question as notice because I know that I had forwarded correspondence—I wanted the details of that. I wrote to Ron Lawless on June 18, 1990, in terms of indicating the concern about retaining sufficient passenger services from Winnipeg to Churchill. We have an ongoing dialogue with them. They have given me some assurances. I do not find them acceptable and will continue to pursue it in that area.

In regard to the CN layoffs, Mr. Speaker, we have had an ongoing dialogue. I was trying to, in my opening comments or when I spoke to the throne

speech, clarify some of the concerns, because there are no easy answers to these kinds of questions. It takes a lot of time and I do not want to belabour that here. I would refer the Member to possibly read some of the comments that are put into the throne speech. Also I expect another question and I will provide additional information.

Mr. Reid: Could this Minister tell the House how many more transport jobs he expects to be lost in Manitoba this year at the Transcona CNR shops, how many are projected to be lost when the CNR is privatized, and how many of these jobs he expects to be replaced in the months and years ahead?

Mr. Speaker: I would like to remind the Honourable Member -(interjection)-

Point of Order

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Certainly we understand that he would not be fully knowledgeable of the rules, but the Member is seeking an opinion from a Member of the Government with respect to an internal matter, a corporate matter outside of the Government of Manitoba, within the CNR. I would say that question is out of order.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): The Member, Mr. Speaker, was asking what information the Minister had that might be based on meetings he has had with CN or VIA in his role as Highways Minister and is quite in order.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Government House Leader was quite correct. In a portion of the question posed by the Honourable Member for Transcona, the Honourable Member was seeking an opinion.

I would remind the Honourable Member that multipart questions do tend to lead to long answers. There was a portion of your question which was out of order. There was a portion which was in order. I will just ask the Honourable Member to rephrase his question, please.

Mr. Reid: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possibly this Minister could inform the Members of this House whether or not he has any information as to the number of jobs potentially that could be lost or that

will be lost in Manitoba for the CNR and the employees that are involved with this company.

Mr. Driedger: The latest information that I have is dated October 10, from CN where they are trying to in a letter to myself rationalize some of the layoffs.

It is anticipated that 125 employees will be offered early retirement, not necessarily layoffs. I think CN is responding to our concern about the impact of job reductions and I think is offering early retirement and various other programs to these people.

I am very concerned any time that we have layoffs. I have mentioned this many times. We are on communication with CN and the other companies as well in terms of trying to see whether we can lessen the impact if possible.

CN's basic argument is that they have had a lack of revenue, a lack of business and fierce competition, rising costs. All these things are things that enter into the rationalization program.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, has this Minister told CNR that its window program, which has recently come into effect and is due to begin in a couple of weeks to affect these employees, arbitrarily chooses cuts with results that are particularly demoralizing, inefficient and heartless for the entire work force in CN's rush to push these cuts through?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether necessarily CN is rushing to put these cuts through. I have to indicate, and I think everybody in this House is aware of the fact, that there is lack of grain movement going on in this country. There is fierce competition with the trucking industry. It is very hard to go to CN and say, well, do not pay anybody off when their business is down, their revenues are down, but I continue to dialogue with them to raise our concerns with them. I will continue to do that.

I have a commitment from them that they will inform me as to what happens in advance, not that that eases the pain to any degree but at least I have in most cases the information that if something is going to happen that we can see whether we can lessen the impact.

Mr. Speaker: Time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, may I have leave to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave to make a non-political statement?

The Honourable Minister of Education and Training.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Speaker, I would ask all Members of the Chamber to join me today in taking this opportunity to observe and acknowledge October 17, today, as National Students Day, in recognition of a contribution which students of advanced education make to the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, their participation in our political, our economic, our social and our cultural aspects of our society is vital to our province and to the progress and the growth of Manitoba. They are our future leaders and our future work force. I would like to take this opportunity today to wish all of our students in Manitoba success in their studies and in their future careers whatever they may be. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could I have leave to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have leave? The Honourable Member for River Heights.

Mrs. Carstairs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today at lunch time the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak) and myself gathered with students at the University of Winnipeg to indeed celebrate 60 years of student activism in this nation. Originally, of course, the student federation was referred to as the National Federation of Canadian University Students. I am proud to have been affiliated with NFCUS at Dalhousie University, both as the Chair at that campus and as the Atlantic regional Vice-Chair.

At that particular point in its history, a national federation of Canadian university students represented some 87.5 percent of all students in this nation. Tragically that number has eroded, and there are fewer university campuses than there were at that point proportionately who are now members of what has become the Canadian Federation of Students.

Tragically, in addition, all of the universities in the Province of Quebec no longer choose to be part of the Canadian Federation of Students, and they have their own separate organization. I think that limits the effectiveness of the student association, but I want to today congratulate them on their 60th anniversary and to encourage them to continue to

reach out to those universities, including the University of Manitoba that is not a member, although the College St. Boniface, the University of Winnipeg and the University of Brandon are members, because it is in working together that students can make their issues known to all levels of Government in this nation.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Kildonan have leave to make a non-political statement? Leave. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

* (1420)

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my learned friends in this House to congratulate all students in Canada on the 60th anniversary of students working together for a high quality and accessible education. As well, I join with the comments of the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) in congratulating the Canadian Federation of Students. Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: On the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for an address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his speech at the opening of the Session, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon has four minutes remaining. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I know that there seems to be a willingness on the part of Members opposite to grant me leave for additional time. Oh, they were asking me to leave. I am sorry. I misunderstood.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the Question Period that we just witnessed is ample evidence to the people of Manitoba that this Government is in serious trouble in terms of any kind of economic agenda.

Mr. Speaker, today I learned of another 110 layoffs in the manufacturing sector. My colleague, the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) referenced 50 additional layoffs in the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has no plan whatsoever in place either to assist those industries—and I say industries that are in trouble as a result of the Free Trade Agreement. They have

no plan in place to assist workers in adjusting to these extremely unfortunate circumstances.

The Minister of Industry and Trade's (Mr. Ernst) sole response today to the people of Manitoba is to applaud the Free Trade Agreement, to say these kinds of adjustments are necessary, that in fact this may mean that some people lose their jobs. Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the ultimate irony of all of this is that eventually the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism is going to lose his job as a result of free trade, because the people of Manitoba are not going to sit by idly and watch this Government sit on its hands while the economy goes to rack and ruin.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism seems to have lots to say from his seat now. He did not have anything constructive to say a few minutes ago when he was asked a reasonable question about what the Government intends to do. He has his opportunity to speak. I would welcome his speech to see whether he has any agenda.

Mr. Speaker, there are four separate sectors in our economy that are in jeopardy as a result of free trade. Yesterday we heard the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) lament the circumstances of farmers in the Province of Manitoba. We know, Canadians know, in fact anybody that is watching TV knows, that the Free Trade Agreement is not good for Manitoba farmers. In fact the dairy producers of Canada are now running anti-free trade ads. They are saying to the Government of Canada do not give away our traditional support programs either in GATT or through the Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the manufacturing sector has been decimated in the last two years. In the last two years we have lost 20 percent of our manufacturing capacity in the Province of Manitoba. The transportation industry is in jeopardy. Certainly, I think Manitobans have historically been very proud of our role, our central role, as a transportation centre for Canada. Nine of the country's 15 largest transportation companies are headquartered in Manitoba.

Free trade is eating away at our predominant role in western Canada. We are losing jobs in the transportation industry. Talk to any of the major players in the transportation industry and they will tell you that the Free Trade Agreement is going to spell the death knell for our traditional historic role as a transportation centre in Canada.

Energy—we have lost control of our energy management in Canada. Our consumers are getting gouged at the gas pumps. Our homeowners are getting gouged when they use fuel oil. Northerners are getting gouged because of the increasing costs of transportation into northern Manitoba, whether it is by motor vehicle or airline transportation.

Mr. Speaker, something has to be done. There are serious problems confronting our province and our country, and this Government has an obligation to start working with industries, with unions, with business groups, with Manitobans in general to develop a strategy to deal with what is the new reality.

Until we get a Government that comes to its senses, to get a Government that is willing to take what I believe is a necessary step and repeal the Free Trade Agreement, we are going to suffer as a province and as a nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Members opposite can continue to wear their rose-coloured glasses even in the dead of winter, but that is not going to dissuade Manitobans from their belief that the Free Trade Agreement and the laissez-faire attitude of this Government when it comes to economic development is not doing their children, their families any good whatsoever.

We need an agenda. We do not need a smile from our congenial Premier. We need an agenda. We have not seen it from any of the economic Ministers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Storie: —we have not seen it from the First Minister.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I plead, I implore them to come up with an economic agenda for Manitoba.

Mr. Nell Gaudry (St. Boniface): Monsieur le président, c'est un honneur et un privilège pour moi aujourd'hui, de pouvoir m'adresser aux membres de cette assemblée législative.

J'aimerais prendre cette occasion pour souhaiter mes meilleurs vœux de bienvenue, à mes honorables collègues, spécialement à mes collègues députés nouvellement élus à cette assemblée, le 11 septembre dernier.

Permettez-moi également, monsieur le président de vous transmettre mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection au poste le plus prestigieux de cette

assemblée parlementaire. Je suis confiant que cette première session de la trente-cinquième législature de la Province du Manitoba se verra diriger avec le même degré de compétence que les membres de la législature précédente ont pu apprécier.

J'aimerais aussi féliciter madame la vice-présidente pour sa nomination à vous assister dans vos tâches parlementaires.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and a privilege for me today to address the Members of this Legislative Assembly for a second mandate. I would like to take this opportunity to wish a warm welcome to my honourable colleagues, especially to those who were newly elected to this Assembly on September 11 last.

Allow me, also, Mr. Speaker, to express my sincere congratulations to you on your election to the most prestigious position in this Legislative Assembly. I am confident that this First Session of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Province of Manitoba will be conducted with the same degree of skill as the Members of the previous Legislature came to appreciate.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker on her appointment to assist you in your legislative duties.

(English)

I would also like to congratulate the Pages that have been chosen in this Legislature. I think they will find that it is a worthwhile experience, and one which they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement conservateur entame maintenant son deuxième mandat et le discours du Trône démontre clairement les ambiguïtés qui existent quant aux moyens pour atteindre les objectifs qu'il s'est soit-disant fixé.

Le gouvernement provincial affirme qu'il continue d'appuyer la notion d'un Canada uni doté d'un gouvernement central fort. Soyons réalistes et appelons les choses comme elles sont: le pays est déchiré à un point d'être au bord d'un chaos constitutionnel, le "Conference board" a déclaré que le Canada est en période de récession, la paix civile de notre pays est menacée de plus en plus à chaque jour, et le gouvernement dit qu'il "cherchera à obtenir les réformes qui s'imposent".

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement devrait arrêter de chercher, et en fait obtenir les réformes

qui s'imposent. Ce que le gouvernement n'ose pas avouer aux manitobains et aux manitobaines, c'est son impuissance face aux humeurs lunatiques de notre gouvernement fédéral. Le gouvernement parle des besoins des régions peu peuplées du Canada, sans mentionner qu'il n'a rien fait quand le Manitoba a perdu la représentativité francophone à la cour d'appel; représentativité essentielle pour stabiliser l'assurance du respect des droits des franco-manitobains et des franco-manitobaines tels que garantis par la constitution.

L'honorable Joseph-Philippe Guay, Sénateur pour Saint-Boniface a pris sa retraite obligatoire à l'âge de 75 ans tel que dicté par les règlements du sénat; qu'est-ce que le gouvernement provincial a fait pour assurer la nomination d'un autre francophone pour le remplacer? Surtout, quand les rumeurs laissaient entendre le nom d'une figure politique fédérale qui semblait en outre, s'avérer un choix judicieux. Je le redemande, qu'est-ce que le gouvernement a fait? RIEN, RIEN et RIEN. Encore une fois, le gouvernement fédéral se moque des traditions démocratiques du Canada, et le gouvernement provincial doit accepter une certaine part de la faute et de la responsabilité face à l'arrogance de messieurs Mulroney, Wilson et Murray.

Monsieur le président, j'aimerais féliciter le gouvernement dans son annonce de ne pas augmenter les taxes durant ce présent mandat. Par contre, j'espère fortement que le gouvernement aura l'honnêteté de clarifier aux manitobains et aux manitobaines l'ambiguïté flagrante qui se trouve dans le discours du trône et qui, à mon avis, est en réalité une annonce cachée de l'augmentation des taxes.

Monsieur le président, dans le discours du Trône il est dit et je cite:

"Mon gouvernement a réduit les impôts pendant son dernier mandat et il s'engage maintenant à ne pas les augmenter. Il sera cependant difficile d'atteindre cet objectif".

La dernière phrase, monsieur le président "sera cependant difficile d'atteindre cet objectif" défait catégoriquement l'engagement annoncé dans la phrase précédente. Le temps utilisé pour le verbe dans cette phrase décrit bien clairement la certitude d'une action ou d'une situation à venir. Ce qui signifie donc, que l'engagement du gouvernement à ne pas augmenter les taxes ne

sera pas atteint et qu'en conclusion, le gouvernement a en réalité bel et bien l'intention d'augmenter les taxes.

Monsieur le président, je suis inquiet à propos des engagements du gouvernement face aux responsabilités financières de la province. Je trouve plus que regrettable que le gouvernement annonce et ce, avant même de déposer le budget devant cette Chambre, qu'il a l'intention d'augmenter le déficit. Ce qui est encore plus inacceptable, est que le gouvernement semble indiquer qu'il n'a pas l'intention d'utiliser le Fonds de stabilisation fiscale ou si oui, de l'utiliser d'une façon très limitée. A mon avis, ceci démontre une gestion financière irresponsable de la part du gouvernement et cela est très regrettable pour les manitobains et les manitobaines.

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement nous annonce son intention d'investir dans le secteur de l'éducation afin de rendre celui-ci mieux à même d'éduquer nos enfants pour le vingt-et-unième siècle.

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement réalise-t-il que le vingt-et-unième siècle est à nos portes? Je ne le pense pas, car sinon, comment explique-t-il les lacunes déjà créées dans le secteur de l'enseignement supérieur et confirmées par le discours du Trône?

Les jeunes sont découragés de poursuivre leurs études tant le fardeau financier est écrasant. Le Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface dont les programmes sont de plus en plus populaires ne reçoit que 2% du budget total accordé aux universités. Il est grand temps que le gouvernement réalise que l'efficacité et le succès du collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface ont un résultat qui est bien au delà de l'intérêt apporté par sa clientèle étudiante francophone mais qui existe également grâce au nombre croissant de sa clientèle étudiante francophile en provenance des programmes secondaires d'immersion.

De tenir le gouvernement fédéral comme seul responsable des coupures financières dans le domaine de l'enseignement supérieur est intolérable. Il est inacceptable que les universités reçoivent 3% d'augmentation quand le coût de la vie en augmente de 10.

* (1430)

Monsieur le président, le financement et la restructuration administrative dans le domaine de

l'éducation sont impératifs afin d'assurer l'avenir de qualité que le gouvernement prétend promettre à notre jeunesse qui sera la société de demain.

Que cela soit le regroupement physique de la Direction des Ressources Educatives Françaises avec le Bureau de l'Education Française, que cela soit la révision complète du financement du secteur universitaire et plus particulièrement celui du collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, ou que cela soit la création d'un ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, ce sont-là monsieur le président, des éléments qui représentent le minimum indispensable et requis à la qualité intellectuelle de la société manitobaine et canadienne de demain.

Il est inconcevable que la notion plus que logique de ces mesures ne soit même pas effleurée dans le discours du Trône.

Monsieur le président, je suis ravi que le gouvernement reconnaisse la pluralité culturelle de la société manitobaine d'aujourd'hui et que pour cela, il s'engage à prendre de nouvelles initiatives pour répondre aux besoins de la communauté multiculturelle et faciliter l'accès de ses membres aux services de santé. Je dois néanmoins soulevé mon inquiétude face à ces initiatives qui, même si pas encore connues, me semblent être un peu présomptueuses de la part du gouvernement.

Le gouvernement nous laisse supposer que les services de santé deviendraient plus accessibles aux membres des communautés ethniques quand il ne peut même pas assurer un service médical adéquat et professionnel en français à l'hôpital général de Saint-Boniface.

Mes doutes seraient peut-être effacés, si le gouvernement rendait public le contenu du rapport sur les services en français à l'hôpital Saint-Boniface qu'il a en sa possession, soit dit en passant, depuis maintenant plusieurs mois.

Le gouvernement n'indique pas non-plus, ce qu'il a l'intention de faire quant à la formation professionnelle en français pour les études supérieures médicales et para-médicales.

En matière de pornographie, Monsieur le président, je dois avouer que je ne comprend vraiment pas les raisons pour lesquelles le gouvernement semble hésiter à implanter une législation à la fois, conforme à la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés et ferme, afin de remplir nos obligations morales vis à vis des

femmes, des enfants et des adolescents de notre province.

La création d'une commission de censure en vidéographie domestique sera vaine si son mandat n'inclue pas le pouvoir d'interdiction totale de certains matériels pornographiques dans les commerces de vente au détail au Manitoba. Le minimum que doit contenir le mandat de cette commission de censure, est le pouvoir de classification interdisant l'accès des moins de 18 ans à ces matériels pornographiques. Le mandat de cette commission de censure ne doit pas se limiter à seulement aider les parents à protéger leurs enfants de la pornographie et de la violence explicite, il doit surtout assurer les parents que les autorités publiques protègent d'une façon ferme et juste la pureté morale de leurs enfants qui seront les dirigeants et les dirigeantes de la société de demain.

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement mentionne également dans le discours du Trône, son désir de lutter contre l'exploitation financière de personnes âgées. Et il est vrai que, malheureusement cela existe et je suis d'accord avec le gouvernement qu'il faut agir et agir vite dans ce domaine. J'aimerais préciser par contre, qu'il existe plusieurs formes d'exploitation financière des personnes âgées dont celle qui les oblige à payer pour les médicaments prescrits par leurs médecins, et ensuite à remplir des formulaires afin d'en obtenir le remboursement ultérieur de la part de la province.

J'espère de tout cœur que le gouvernement concrétisera sa sincérité dans ce domaine en établissant le système de "Carte Pharmacare" tel que proposé par le parti libéral. Le système de "Carte Pharmacare" enlèverait de toute évidence beaucoup de soucis et d'embarras aux personnes âgées dont la liquidité d'argent est très limitée.

Monsieur le président, quand il est dit dans le discours du Trône qu'au Manitoba l'eau est propre, il est évident que le gouvernement n'a pas vu l'état actuel de la rivière Seine.

Et j'espère sincèrement que le développement futur et durable auquel le gouvernement fait référence en matière d'environnement, inclue le nettoyage de la rivière Seine.

Monsieur le président, le gouvernement nous annonce que durant cette première session, il va présenter à cette auguste assemblée un nouvelle loi sur les habitations à loyer, une loi sur les pratiques commerciales, un amendement à la loi sur

les relations de travail et juste en passant, une loi qui séparera clairement la taxe provinciale de vente, de la TPS.

A mon avis, ceci est significatif que le gouvernement conservateur du Manitoba est à cent pour cent en faveur de la TPS du gouvernement conservateur de Brian Mulroney. Par ces paroles, les manitobains et les manitobaines ont la preuve-même que leur gouvernement provincial a l'intention de ne rien faire pour combattre le passage de la TPS. Au-dessus de 80% des manitobains et des manitobaines sont contre la TPS et tout ce que le gouvernement provincial est prêt à faire, c'est de passer une loi pour dire "vous voyez, c'est la faute de Brian Mulroney, pas la nôtre".

Monsieur le président, en annonçant cette loi le gouvernement annonce qu'il fuie ses responsabilités. Pourquoi le gouvernement provincial ne se concentre-t-il pas à défaire l'adoption de la TPS comme la grande majorité des manitobains et des manitobaines le veulent?

* (1440)

Pourquoi le gouvernement ne considère-t-il pas cette loi qui séparerait les deux taxes comme solution de dernier recours, une fois que la TPS est vraiment et malheureusement un fait accompli, si elle devient loi?

Par l'annonce de ce projet de loi, le gouvernement trahit la confiance de l'électorat manitobain qui le pensait capable d'affronter le gouvernement Mulroney. Il est déplorable de noter que cela n'a pris seulement qu'un mois jour pour jour, pour la population manitobaine d'être trompée par son gouvernement conservateur depuis la dernière élection du 11 septembre 1990.

Monsieur le président, j'aimerais conclure en parlant de l'absence plus que présente de la francophonie dans le discours du Trône de la première session de cette 35e législature.

Je trouve l'ironie poussée jusqu'à l'insulte d'avoir réduit le domaine de la francophonie à trois lignes qui annoncent à la population que le gouvernement va obéir à l'ordonnance de la Cour suprême du Canada en prévoyant d'achever la réadoption des décrets et lois du Manitoba en anglais et en français avant le 21 décembre 1990.

Il me semble, par ces mots, que l'on essaie de nous faire croire que le gouvernement montre bienveillance et bonne volonté vis à vis de la population franco-manitobaine, comme si il avait le

choix d'obéir ou non, à la décision de la Cour suprême du Canada.

L'insulte se poursuit en ne mentionnant en rien le contenu du rapport sur les services en langue française des établissements de santé et de services sociaux; rapport qui, je l'ai mentionné plus tôt, a été remis au gouvernement depuis déjà plusieurs mois.

Il n'y a nulle mention des retards accumulés dans le domaine judiciaire. Au niveau de la cour provinciale, il semble maintenant évident que le problème du processus judiciaire est loin d'avoir été réglé. Le fait d'avoir nommé un juge francophone à temps partiel dont le lieu de résidence peut envisager des déplacements intensifs, n'a fait que contourner le problème et ne l'a pas réglé.

Le gouvernement, nous dit-on, entend dresser son propre programme en matière de réforme nationale.

Dans cet aspect visionnaire de l'avenir, peut-on alors espérer une présence francophone à la Cour d'appel du Manitoba? Parmi les autres promesses du 4 novembre 1989, se trouvait aussi mentionné le fait que le ministère du transport et de la voirie entreprendrait de rendre bilingue la signalisation routière dans les régions désignées de la province. Quand ces régions seront-elles désignées?

Qu'arrive-t-il à l'engagement fait le 4 novembre 1989 de réviser la partie III de la loi sur la ville de Winnipeg?

Qu'arrive-t-il au comité d'études sur la question de la gestion scolaire?

Qu'arrive-t-il à la promesse d'entamer des négociations avec le gouvernement fédéral pour tenter de parvenir à un accord-cadre sur les langues officielles entre le Canada et le Manitoba?

Et dans le domaine de la traduction juridique dont la demande est déjà bien existante, le gouvernement ce penchera-t-il à étudier la possibilité d'établir un centre de traduction juridique à Saint-Boniface qui pourrait desservir toute la clientèle des quatre provinces de l'ouest canadien?

Non seulement la demande est omni-présente, mes les répercussions économiques seraient des plus profitables.

Monsieur le président, tout en félicitant le premier ministre Filmon d'avoir répondu à ma requête en affichant en français le secrétariat des services en langue française à l'entrée du palais législatif, je

dois m'avouer déçu, pas surpris mais déçu du manque de leadership de la part du gouvernement en matière du respect des droits fondamentaux des citoyens canadiens résidant au Manitoba.

Le discours du Trône prouve une nouvelle fois qu'aux yeux du gouvernement, l'unité nationale n'inclue pas une homogénéité inter-provinciale dans les droits linguistiques au Canada.

Cette position est très inquiétante pour les discussions constitutionnelles de l'avenir et est peu prometteuse pour les communautés autochtone et multiculturelle de notre province et de notre pays.

* (1450)

Monsieur le président, je suis au grand regret de dire que le contenu du discours du trône de la 1^{ère} session de la 35^e législature, est loin de répondre aux attentes et aux besoins des manitobains et des manitobaines.

Les inquiétudes de la population manitobaine sont maintenant devenues une simple résignation face à un programme dont la substance disparaît avec les mots.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Government is now commencing its second mandate and the Speech from the Throne clearly demonstrates the ambiguities that exist regarding the means to achieve the so-called objectives that it has set for itself.

The provincial Government states that it is continuing to support the notion of a united Canada with a strong central Government. Let us be realistic and call things by their real names. The country is being torn apart to the point where it is on the brink of constitutional chaos.

The Conference Board stated that Canada is in a period of recession. Civil peace in our country is threatened ever more each day, and the Government says that it will "strive to secure the reforms" that are required.

Mr. Speaker, the Government should stop striving and in fact achieve the reforms that are required. What the Government does not dare to admit to Manitobans is its powerlessness in the face of the crazy whims of our federal Government. The Government talks about the needs of the less populated regions of Canada, without mentioning that it did nothing when Manitoba lost its Francophone presence on the Court of Appeal, a

presence that is essential to ensure respect for the rights of Franco-Manitobans as guaranteed under the Constitution.

The Honourable Joseph-Philippe Guay, the senator from St. Boniface, took mandatory retirement at the age of 75 as required under the Senate regulations. What has the provincial Government done to ensure the appointment of another Francophone to replace him, especially when there were rumours about a federal political figure who seemed, moreover, to be a judicious choice? I ask again, what did the Government do? Nothing, nothing and nothing again. Once more the federal Government is mocking the democratic traditions of Canada, and the provincial Government must accept some of the blame and responsibility in the face of the arrogance of Mr. Mulroney, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Murray.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Government for its announcement that it is not going to increase taxes during this mandate. On the other hand, I firmly hope that the Government will have the honesty to clearly state to Manitobans that there is flagrant ambiguity in the throne speech and which, in my opinion, is actually a hidden announcement regarding a tax increase.

In the throne speech it is said, and I quote, "My Government cut taxes in its last term and it is committed to keep them down in this term. But it will not be an easy task." The last sentence, Mr. Speaker, that it will not be an easy task, categorically refutes the commitment given in the preceding sentence. The future tense used for the verb in that sentence clearly denotes the certainty of an action or a situation that is to come. That accordingly means that the commitment of the Government not to increase taxes will not be followed through, the conclusion being that the Government in actual fact intends to increase taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the Government's commitments regarding its financial responsibilities to the province. I think it is more than unfortunate that the Government is announcing, even before it has tabled the budget in this Chamber, that it intends to increase the deficit. What is even more unacceptable is that the Government seems to be indicating that it has no intention of drawing upon the Fiscal Stabilization Fund or if it is going to do so, only in a very limited way. In my opinion, this demonstrates irresponsible financial

management of the part of the Government and that is most unfortunate for Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, the Government tells us of its intention to invest in the educational sector in order to render it more capable of educating our children for the 21st Century. Does the Government realize that the 21st Century is at our doorstep? I do not think so because if it did how can it explain the deficiencies that already exist in the higher education sector and which were confirmed in the throne speech.

Young people are being discouraged from pursuing their studies because of the crushing financial burden. St. Boniface College, whose programs are increasingly popular, receives only 2 percent of the total budget granted to universities. It is high time that the Government realizes that the effectiveness and success of St. Boniface College give results that go far beyond the interest of its French language student population but which also exist thanks to the growing number of its Francophile student population coming from the high school immersion programs. To hold the federal Government solely responsible for the budget cuts in the area of post-secondary education is intolerable. It is unacceptable that universities receive a 3 percent increase when the cost of living increases by 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, financial and administrative restructuring in the education area are imperative in order to guarantee the high quality future that the Government claims it is promising to our young people who will make up tomorrow's society. Whether it be the merging of the French Language Educational Resources Branch with the Bureau de l'éducation française or the complete review of the financing of the university sector and, more specifically, that of St. Boniface College or whether it be the creation of a department of post-secondary education, these all constitute an indispensable and required minimum for the intellectual quality of the Manitoban and Canadian society of tomorrow. It is inconceivable that the obvious logic behind these measures is not even touched upon in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the Government recognizes the cultural plurality of the Manitoba society of today, and to achieve that it is committed to undertaking new initiatives to respond to the needs of the multicultural community and to facilitate access by that community to health care services. I

must nonetheless express my concern regarding these initiatives which, even if they have not yet been made public, seem to me somewhat presumptuous on the part of the Government. The Government leads us to believe that health services would become more accessible to members of the ethnic communities when it cannot even ensure adequate and professional French language health services at St. Boniface General Hospital. My doubts would perhaps be laid to rest if the Government made public the content of the report on French language services at St. Boniface Hospital which, I should say, it has had in its possession for a number of months now.

The Government has not indicated either what it intends to do with respect to professional training in French for advanced studies in the medical and paramedical area.

In regard to pornography, Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I really do not understand the reasons why the Government seems to be hesitating to implement legislation that would comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and would be firm enough to fulfill our obligations, our moral obligations, to the women, children and adolescents of our province.

The creation of a home video censorship board will be in vain if its mandate does not include the power to totally ban certain pornographic materials in retail outlets in Manitoba. The minimum mandate that this censorship board must have is a power of classification forbidding access to people under the age of 18 years to these pornographic materials. The mandate of this censorship board must not simply be limited to assisting parents to protect their children from pornography and explicit violence. It must above all assure parents that the public authorities are protecting, in a firm and fair way, the moral purity of their children who will be the leaders of tomorrow's society.

Mr. Speaker, the Government also mentions in the throne speech its desire to combat the financial abuse of elderly persons. It is true unfortunately that this exists, and I agree with the Government that we must act and act quickly in this area. However, I would like to make it clear that there are several forms of financial abuse of elderly persons, such as that which obliges them to pay for medication prescribed by their doctors, followed by the filling out of forms in order to obtain a reimbursement later from the province. I hope, with all my heart, that the

Government will put its sincerity into action in this area by establishing the Pharmacare card system as proposed by the Liberal Party. The Pharmacare card system would very clearly relieve many worries and difficulties for those elderly persons whose ready cash is very limited.

Mr. Speaker, when it is stated in the Speech from the Throne that Manitoba's water is clean, it is obvious that the Government has not seen the current state of the Seine River. I sincerely hope that the future sustainable development to which the Government has referred in regard to the environment is going to include cleaning up the Seine River.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has announced to us that in this first Session it is going to present to this august Assembly a new Residential Tenancies Act, a Business Practices Act, an amendment to The Labour Relations Act and, as an afterthought, an act that will clearly separate the provincial sales tax from the GST. In my opinion, this means that the Manitoba Conservative Government is 100 percent in favour of the GST of Brian Mulroney's Conservative Government. With these words in the Speech from the Throne, Manitobans have clear proof that their provincial Government intends to do nothing to fight the passage of the GST. Over 80 percent of Manitobans are against the GST and all that the provincial Government is prepared to do is pass a law and say, look, it is Brian Mulroney's fault not ours.

Mr. Speaker, in proposing this law the Government is saying that it is fleeing from its responsibilities. Why does the provincial Government not concentrate on preventing passage of the GST as the great majority of Manitobans wish it to do? Why does the Government not consider this law, which would separate the two taxes, as a last-ditch solution once the GST is truly and unfortunately a fait accompli, if indeed it does become law? By announcing this Bill the Government is betraying the confidence of the Manitoban electorate who believe that it was capable of standing up to the Mulroney Government. It is deplorable to note that it was only a month to the day before the Manitoba public was disappointed by its Conservative Government after the last election on September 11, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by speaking of the very palpable absence of Francophone issues in the Speech from the Throne of this First Session

of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature. I find it ironic to the point of being insulting that the Francophone domain has been reduced to three lines which announce to the public that the Government is going to obey the Supreme Court order by providing for the re-enactment of the orders in council and laws of Manitoba in English and in French before December 21, 1990. It seems that with these words they are trying to make us believe that the Government is showing benevolence and goodwill toward the Franco-Manitoban population, as if it had the choice of complying with or not complying with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. This insult goes further in not mentioning in any way the content of the report on French language services in health institutions and social services, a report which, as I mentioned earlier, was provided to the Government several months ago.

There is no mention of the accumulated delays in the legal sphere. At the provincial court level, it now seems clear that the problem of the legal process is far from having been solved. The fact that a Francophone judge has been appointed on a part-time basis and lives in a location that means he has to travel considerably only skirted the issue and has not solved it. We are told that the Government intends to establish its own program in terms of national reform. Within that vision of the future, is there hope for a Francophone presence on the Court of Appeal of Manitoba?

Among the other promises made on November 4, 1989, there was mention of the fact the Minister of Highways and Transportation intended to make traffic signs bilingual in designated regions of the province. When will these regions be designated as such, and what has become of the commitment made on November 4, 1989, to amend Part III of The City of Winnipeg Act? What about the task force on management and control of schools? What about the promise to undertake negotiations with the federal Government to try to achieve a master agreement on official languages between Canada and Manitoba?

In the area of legal translation, for which the demand is already very high, will the Government examine the possibility of establishing a legal translation centre in St. Boniface which could serve the entire clientele of the four provinces of western Canada? Not only is the demand for this omnipresent, but the economic effect would be a very profitable one.

Mr. Speaker, while I congratulate the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) for having responded to my request by putting up a French sign for the French Language Services Secretariat at the entranceway to the Legislative Building, I must admit that I am disappointed, although not surprised, but disappointed by the lack of leadership on the part of the Government in regard to respect for the fundamental rights of Canadian citizens living in Manitoba.

The throne speech proves once again that in the eyes of the Government, national unity does not include interprovincial uniformity in the area of language rights in Canada. This position is very worrisome for constitutional discussions in the future and is not promising for the Native and multicultural communities of our province and of our country.

Mr. Speaker, it is with much regret that I have to say that the content of the Speech from the Throne of the First Session of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature is far from responding to the expectations and needs of Manitobans. The concerns of the Manitoba population have now turned to mere resignation in the face of a program whose substance disappears as the words are spoken.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Linda McIntosh (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, may I add my congratulations to the many you have already received on your election to the highest office in this Legislature. As a new Member of the House, I know that I can count upon your experience and wisdom to help guide me and my colleagues through the initial period of adjustment as we settle into our roles and become familiar with the rules and procedures that govern our daily operations. Your reputation for fairness and impartiality precedes you, Sir, and will stand us all in good stead as we proceed with our respective mandates in the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

As well, I extend my congratulations to the other Members of this Assembly on their recent election victories. No one of us came to this place as a result of our own efforts alone, and each of us bears great responsibility to the people who have elected us. I hope that we will never forget why we are here and that we are ultimately accountable to the people who have given us their confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is significant that when we are gathered together in this Chamber, we can

never be referred to by our own names. Each of us, while in this setting, loses personal identity and is named only by his or her constituency. Hence, I am not Linda McIntosh here, I am the Member for Assiniboia. I am recognized only on behalf of those whom I represent.

I would like to say a bit about those people I represent, Mr. Speaker, since it is only in their name that I am privileged to speak. Prior to the recent election, I knocked on every door in my constituency, an area that extends from the Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier to School Road within the perimeter of the City of Winnipeg. I had anticipated that during my walk, I would tell the people of Assiniboia about me. That was what I thought they would be expecting from a political candidate seeking their support at the polls. Instead, the people of Assiniboia told me about them. I learned a great deal from my constituents. I learned about their circumstances, their hopes, their worries and aspirations. I learned about the things that they felt could be changed, and I learned about the things that they felt should be changed. I learned about the things that had given them satisfaction and the sense that the province, finally, was beginning to move in the right direction.

They were free with their compliments and they were free with their criticisms. They wanted their views to be noted and remembered; they wanted to be heard. I heard them, Mr. Speaker, and I will remember what they said. Most important on their list of concerns was the fear of, and anxiety about, the debt load that this province is obliged to carry. That is why I was so pleased to hear the throne speech renew our commitment to fiscal responsibility. The Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose), in his seconding of this motion on the throne speech, remarked that tax dollars come to us by way of the perspiration of the hardworking men and women of Manitoba.

I do not want the public to ever forget that the penalty we have had to pay for the legacy left to us by the Party that now sits as official Opposition is that every day of the year, the men and women of this province have to reach deeply into their pockets to give us \$1.5 million just to pay the interest on the debt, \$1.5 million that we cannot spend on health care, that we cannot spend on education, that we cannot spend on social services or on any of the other things that are the hallmark of a caring and compassionate society.

We know that fiscal irresponsibility has a great cost to the people and a great cost to the politicians who practise it. The short-lived Liberal Government of Ontario increased its taxes and revenues by approximately 132 percent in its short term of office and made no effort at all to reduce its deficit during that period.

The recently ousted Government in Ontario proved once again, Mr. Speaker, that a Liberal is a Liberal is a Liberal, and a Liberal Government, like an NDP Government, means increased taxes every time. We know where that former Ontario Government is today, and we know where its successors will be if they do not heed the message given their predecessors by the electorate. They will be in the same place their Manitoba NDP cousins were when they paid no attention to that message in 1988.

I want our children to be able to keep some of their own pay cheques in their pockets at the end of the month. I do not think that is a bad thing to want. I am proud of the progress we have made so far to reverse the burden of debt that our children must bear through no fault of their own, but there is still much to be done.

The people of this province have indicated that they have confidence in our ability to continue. They have given us a majority, and we have commitments to the people that we must keep because of that majority. Like my constituents, I have confidence that we are on the right track and that we will be able to use the common sense that was so much a part of our first term's approach to problem solving as the key ingredient in our current style of management.

Assiniboia constituents indicated fiscal responsibility as their first and foremost concern. They were concerned as well about the decline in population in our area. In the early '70s, Assiniboia was one of the fastest growing municipalities in Manitoba. The area was a popular choice for many reasons. The land is high and protected from the effects of flooding. We run parallel to the Assiniboine River, and the people historically like to settle near the waterways. Much of the land to the north of the constituency has a good bedrock foundation so that houses built upon it are not subject to the clay shifting that occurs in other areas of the city.

The community was prosperous at that time and run by a capable council of thrifty and cost-conscious representatives who had attracted

light industry to the north to help the tax base. That council had in fact, through careful management, acquired a surplus of many millions of dollars in the bank.

In the two decades since the creation of unicity, Assiniboia has experienced an ever-spiralling decline. Schools and community clubs have been closed, library budgets have been cut back, stores stand vacant, and merchants and citizens alike have expressed concern about the long-term impact on the quality of life in our constituency if the decline continues. Dissatisfaction with existing city council is high, although respect for our local civic representative is and always has been strong.

Nowhere is Assiniboia concern about City Council more evident than in Headingley. Headingley, located outside the perimeter in the urban limit line, has been spared the negative impact of declining population. Headingley, however, has its own set of grievances with the City of Winnipeg. These grievances have been well publicized and are well known. Headingley supported me overwhelmingly in the recent election, and I will support Headingley in its struggle to resolve its differences with the city of Winnipeg.

There is much that Government does that pleases the constituents in my area. They are pleased with the education that their children receive and have made special mention during my walks, of their gratitude for the long-awaited recognition of the International Baccalaureate Program. Approximately 60 percent of our graduating students go on to post-secondary education at colleges and universities compared to the provincial average of approximately 20 percent. Education is seen as a life-long experience by the students of our division, a fact which delights me since encouraging them to see education in that context was one of my personal goals when I first ran as a school trustee in Assiniboia over a decade ago.

Assiniboia residents are generally satisfied with the overall performance of the provincial Government. They have asked that we continue to keep control of Government spending, and they have asked that we continue in our attempt to hold taxes down. They have identified at least one major local issue of concern to them and unique to Assiniboia, that being the issue of declining population.

Aside from those two topics which I have already

shared with you in some small detail, my constituents also expressed a desire to have us continue addressing the needs of family through attention to day care, health care, family abuse and justice and the environment. They asked as well that we continue our ongoing work to strengthen Manitoba's economy, to keep attracting investors like Boeing and Wang and Hughes and the countless other companies that have decided that there is finally some incentive to set up shop and create jobs in Manitoba.

I am proud of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that there are over 10,000 more Manitobans employed today than when we took office in April 1988 and that capital investment in Manitoba increased substantially during our first term in office by 7.6 percent from '87-88, by 9 percent from '88-89 and the forecast shows a 10 percent increase for '89-90. We need that kind of growth if we are to build the kind of strong economy that can afford to sustain and maintain our essential services.

Assiniboians expressed gratitude for the green spaces we have, for the numerous small parks which dot the urban portion of the constituency. Assiniboia houses the Assiniboia Downs racetrack and many of those who work at the racetrack live in or next to the constituency.

Assiniboia people know how to pull together, Mr. Speaker. I have watched them fight for issues of importance to them over the years, and I know that they can be tenacious when they feel the cause is just. They know how to do their homework well. I am extremely proud to represent them, and I hope I never give them cause to regret their vote. I suppose if the people of Assiniboia did not feel the way they do about some of the issues I have mentioned in this Chamber, they would have a different MLA today, because we are in harmony with our perspectives, my constituents and I, and we are in harmony with this Government and its objectives.

* (1500)

It is expected that new Members to this Assembly in making their inaugural addresses should tell a little bit about themselves as well as a little bit about their constituencies, and I am pleased to comply now with that tradition.

I was born during World War II in Montreal, Quebec, the first-born child of a career military officer, Hugh MacKay Laughlin and his wife, Gwen. Both my parents were born and raised in Cartwright,

Manitoba. My father's father, John Bell Laughlin, was the Member for Killarney now part of Turtle Mountain in this Assembly until his death from western equine encephalitis in 1941. He was first elected in 1927 and sat in the Eighteenth, Twentieth, and Twenty-First Legislatures of this province during the period of time that Mr. Bracken was Premier.

His father before him, Andrew Laughlin, my great grandfather, was also a Member of this Legislative Assembly, having first been elected to the Fourth Manitoba Assembly in 1879 as the Member for what was then known as Dufferin North. Mr. Norquay was Premier of the province during this period. Both gentlemen sat in this House as Conservatives. In the year my grandfather died Mr. David Best, a Tory, represented Assiniboia in this Legislative Assembly.

We retain strong ties to the southern part of this province because of those family associations.

In the early '40s both my maternal grandparents and paternal grandmother moved to St. James-Assiniboia where they became next-door neighbours. Since the early '40s up to and including today four generations of my immediate and extended family live or have lived in St. James-Assiniboia.

I grew up living a nomadic existence in Canada and Europe which was a common way of life for most military children of my era.

I attended 11 different schools, and as well, I missed a year of school due to serious illness in my childhood. I feel that the constant need to adjust and cope gave me the ability to adapt to new and challenging circumstances, an ability which I hope will serve me well in this Assembly.

In 1960, I moved to Manitoba to stay, and except for a brief three-year transfer to Calgary, Alberta, my husband and I have always called this province our home. We care about its future, because we intend to be part of that future. We have two adult children whose roots are in St. James-Assiniboia, and we want them to be proud of those roots. We deeply appreciate the quality of life that Manitobans enjoy.

We have had our years of struggling, and we have had our years of living below the poverty line. We are very grateful that with hard work and opportunity we were able to grow and achieve. We want those same opportunities to grow and achieve to be there for our children and our neighbours' children.

There are many reasons, Mr. Speaker, that

people run for political office. Seldom does one run for just one reason alone, but usually for a combination of reasons. I ran for a combination of reasons. One reason I ran is that, quite simply, I thought I would like the work and so I applied for the job. I can tell you that it was the biggest selection committee and the longest job interview that I have ever had to face or experience.

Another reason I ran is that I respect and admire the Premier of this province, approve of the common-sense agenda of his Government and want to help put that agenda into action. I want to be part of a Government that will get this province back on track, and I am puzzled, quite frankly, by the Opposition's assumption that because we, on this side of the House, do not want to throw money around like confetti at a wedding that somehow we do not care about people and their needs. I have news for them, Mr. Speaker. We bleed when we are cut just like they do. Our families need medical care and experience tragedy just like anybody else. For the Opposition to try and constantly equate fiscal responsibility with lack of caring is both ludicrous and naive.

Most who come to this Assembly have some ideological base from which they approach issues; I am one of those. High amongst those things that I cherish is the freedom this country has. I cherish the freedom that this country has with a depth of feeling that is hard to describe without sounding overly sentimental and emotional. Those who have come from places where such freedoms do not exist or are in some way familiar with places where such freedoms do not exist, may hold similar feelings.

There are so many aspects to freedom that it is hard to clearly define. The definition I like best is one once given by George Orwell who said: "Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two makes four. If that is granted all else follows." In other words, to be free is to be free to pursue and reveal truth without fear. We are so free that we tend to take our freedom for granted. We assume that there are enough safeguards in place to keep us secure from the loss of our basic freedoms, and that may be an erroneous assumption.

Our children, for the most part, have genuine trouble identifying with the strife-torn places of the world and our parochial problems assume mammoth proportions, because we in this country have the luxury of being able to concentrate on refining and enriching our standard of living, instead

of having to struggle every day, to keep our families alive for just one more day. Do we really appreciate the power we hold, as elected people, to preserve, to protect, or to lessen that freedom?

When I was a little girl, my parents took me through Dachau concentration camp. It haunts me to this day, but my mother and father wanted me to see what people can do to people when political powers run amuck. Outside the gas chamber door was a dark concrete corner where the shoes of children were discarded before their execution. They were mostly dark shoes, black and brown, with broken buckles or holes where laces should have been.

Decades later, while coming down our household stairs here in Winnipeg, I saw another pile of shoes. They were mostly white shoes, sport shoes, the kind of shoes that adolescent North American children wear, and they were lying on the floor mat in front of our front hall window bathed in sunlight. The children who had removed them could be heard in our family kitchen laughing as they prepared an after school snack.

The image of the other shoes, those dark shoes, huddled in their dark corner came back to me unbidden and unwanted, and superimposed itself upon the scene at the foot of our stairs. The stark contrast between light and darkness, both in a literal and spiritual sense, was so overwhelming that I had to sit down on the stairs, because I found myself paralyzed and overcome with grief for those long ago children who never reclaimed their shoes—the ultimate solution, the ultimate result of power gone amuck.

So I ask again, do we really appreciate the power we hold, as elected officials, to preserve and protect or lessen our freedoms, or are we careless with our power? Do we really seek after the truth in this Chamber, or are we looking for something else a little less honourable, a little more self-serving, a little closer to the shadows, a little further away from the truth, a little further away from the light?

When I mention my respect for the integrity of the Premier (Mr. Filmon), I am not just saying it to be polite or because it is a nice thing to say. I could not and I would not have run for a provincial Party whose Leader did not have my respect. I have seen this Premier hold to his principles under the most stressful of circumstances, and I admire those principles.

There is a realism to the approach this Government has outlined in its throne speech that reflects those principles. We live in the real world where real problems have to be met with realistic and common-sense solutions that have a chance for success.

The summer I was 10 years old, Mr. Speaker, I was selected to attend an International Peace Camp in Den Haag in the Netherlands as a Canadian delegate. Under the United Nations flag, the children of the world gathered for eight weeks. They came from Italy, India, England, Africa, Israel and many other lands. We could not speak each other's languages, but we communicated well. I learned that if good will exists much can be accomplished that is good, despite apparent obstacles. The converse is true of course, and we can see the damaging effect of ill will everywhere we look. Indeed, we can see the damaging effect of ill will, on occasion, in this very Chamber.

During that summer that I was 10, I also had the privilege of going to a palace to have tea with a queen. The queen was very gracious and kind, and she had a snag in her stocking. When I saw the snagged stocking, I knew I could face power and survive, because the powerful, except for the circumstances of their position, are no different than anybody else.

During my lengthy childhood illness, I learned to face other traumas and survive, and so at an early age, it occurred to me that there should never have to be anything in this earthly realm that could truly cause me fear. So I am comfortable here in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, very comfortable. I will work hard and diligently here in whatever duties I am assigned, and with God's help, I will do my best to play a part in creating a better future in this province, a better future for our children and their children yet to be.

* (1510)

I look forward to common sense and long-range thinking from our Government over our next term of office. I hope for constructive criticism from the Opposition as we work together in this Assembly for today, for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for having given me this time, and my thanks as well to my colleagues in this Assembly for their attention.

Monsieur le président, je vous remercie de m'avoir accordé le temps d'adresser l'Assemblée.

Et je veux remercier mes collègues de m'avoir écouté si sincèrement. Merci.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for having granted me the time to address this Assembly. I wish to thank my colleagues for having listened to me with such sincerity.

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Monsieur le président, comme mes collègues je voudrais vous féliciter d'avoir été élu président de la Chambre. C'est un poste à la fois ancien et honorable qui comporte la grave responsabilité de sauvegarder l'indépendance de corps législatif. Je sais bien, Monsieur, que vous avez l'appui de tous les députés de la trente-cinquième Législature.

Votre bonne humeur et votre sens de la justice sont déjà en voie d'entrer dans la légende. Vous aurez peut-être besoin de ces qualités pendant la période d'apprentissage des nouveaux élus.

Enfin, mes compliments aussi à la députée de La Seine ainsi qu'au député de St-Norbert qui ont été nommés tous les deux aux postes de présidents adjoints.

(Translation)

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues have done, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the House. It is an old and honourable position that encompasses the serious responsibility of safeguarding the independence of this Legislative body. I know that you have the support of all Members of this Thirty-Fifth Legislature.

Your good humour and your sense of justice are already well on the way to becoming legendary. You will perhaps have need of those qualities during the apprenticeship period of the newly elected Members.

Finally, I extend my compliments also to the Members for Seine River (Mrs. Daquay) and St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau), who have been appointed as Deputy Speakers.

I would like to thank the people of Wolseley for electing me to this House. Je veux remercier mes voisins. (I want to thank my neighbours.) (Another language spoken). I would also like to pay tribute to my opponents for the conduct of the campaign and in particular to the former Member for Wolseley for the graciousness of his speech on election night.

Wolseley begins to the west of here in the

Legislative Assembly. It is bounded in part by Portage Avenue, reaches westward to Omands Creek and on the south follows the banks of the Assiniboine River.

I was most interested by the inaugural speeches of several Members of the Party opposite, who told us something of the European histories of their communities. I would like to extend this and to share with the House the experience of the many generations of the people of Wolseley.

Thousands of years ago, the Assiniboine River was one of the major trading routes of aboriginal people. In the summer, goods were taken to the West to the great trading fairs of the Missouri and of the Rocky Mountains. People and pelts were brought back to the forks of the Red and the Assiniboine. It was a route used from time immemorial by various nations, the Siouan speakers, the Assiniboines and Dakotas, and the Algonkian speakers, the Cree, the Ojibway and the Ottawas.

This same river system brought in Europeans from the East and the North, who carried with them the diseases and the alcohol which for several generations devastated the people of this region.

(Mrs. Louise Daquay, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Indeed in the 1780s, had you looked from behind where we are sitting now, had you looked from Wolseley toward The Forks, you would have seen the high burial mounds of the 200 lodges of Assiniboine, and that is about 2000 people, who perished here in the great smallpox epidemic. Those who survived buried their dead and moved westward away from a place they called the Place of Great Sadness. They entrusted stewardship of this land to Chief Peguis, Black Crow, the Premier, and others, who were later to sign the first written accord with the Europeans, which we now know as the Selkirk Treaty. As a result of that treaty, Madam Deputy Speaker, long river lots were established along the Assiniboine in Wolseley, stretching two miles back from the river and here between 1817 and 1870 they developed a mixed society of Indians, farmers, hunters, and traders, and English-speaking Metis, much like those in the St. Andrews parish on the Red, but focused here on the parish church of St. James, which still stands on the west side of Omands Creek.

It is important I think to remember this part of our

collective past. This has been a watershed summer for the relations between native and non-native societies. It was the summer, Madam Deputy Speaker, when Canada turned its guns on its oldest allies, the Mohawks.

As I listened to my colleague, the Honourable Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) speak yet again on the urgent necessity of dealing in Manitoba with Treaty Land Entitlements, I shared his frustration.

Manitoba's wealth derives from this land and these resources which were transferred peacefully at the end of the 19th Century from aboriginal people to Europeans. The promises of economic security, which they received at that time, have yet to be fulfilled.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we stand today on the lands of the Cree and the Saulteaux of Treaty No. 1, and I believe we should recognize our obligation to aboriginal people just as their gift to us is commemorated in the Treaty Days of the reserve communities.

I am honoured to represent, in Wolseley, some of the descendants of those people who signed the treaty documents, which bind us to the first nations and which are now recognized, to a limited extent, in our Constitution.

I am also honoured, Madam Deputy Speaker, to be part of a caucus with four aboriginal Members representing urban, northern, and rural ridings. In saying this, I am most mindful of those decades, those first decades after the treaties were signed, and I was interested to hear my colleague for Assiniboia speak of the Honourable John Norquay, a Metis, Premier of this province from St. Andrews parish, of Cree and Orkney descent. He was, you are right, a Conservative Premier, but he was one who was stabbed in the back by Sir John A. MacDonald and had to resign. It might be salutary perhaps for some of us to remember that.

Many of the Cabinet Members in those days were frequently mixed bloods, and, Madam Deputy Speaker, like the Metis, the Indian people anticipated that they would become part of the public life of this province after they had signed the treaties in the 1870s. They voted in the first Manitoba election in the constituency of Selkirk, particularly the people of the Peguis Band, but they were to be cruelly betrayed when the Government took away the vote from the first nations and did not

return it in Canada until the 1960s, in Manitoba in the 1950s.

In this context, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is a great pleasure in acknowledging the role played by my colleague, the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper), in preserving this country from the injustice and divisiveness of the Meech Lake Accord, and I would like again to publicly offer him my respect and my thanks.

By the turn of the 20th Century, Wolseley became part of the expanding City of Winnipeg. It still retains the architectural character of that period and is unique in western Canada as one of the surviving communities of pre-World War I domestic architecture.

One of the major institutions, by no means the only one, which has left its stamp on the area in both social and physical terms is the United Church of Canada. You are perhaps all familiar with Westminster United Church, with its magnificent stained glass windows, a church which is yet connected to the community and its new outreach housing projects.

Young United Church, on the corner of Broadway, we lost to fire, but it is being rebuilt as a community church in an imaginative and ecumenical way.

The University of Winnipeg, the old Wesley College, dating from 1881, later United College, has played a significant role in the history of western Canada, training the spiritual leaders of the new communities of European settlers. Under the leadership of the Reverend Salem Bland it became the heart of the social gospel movement, the Protestant response to the social injustices of industrial capitalism. It was inspired by the conditions of Winnipeg in the first decade of this century. As Salem Bland said, and the quotation I think is interesting, ". . . by the materialism, the slums, the alcohol, the prostitution, the plight of labour and the problems of the immigrant."

* (1520)

It was another resident of Wolseley, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Reverend J.S. Woodsworth who took this gospel of practical Christianity and built All People's Mission on Stella Street in the north end and whose most recent incumbent was my colleague, the Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale).

Today, of course, the University of Winnipeg is a city university, open to all denominations, serving a

very diverse group of students, and like other universities in the province it is in crisis suffering physical deterioration and trying to meet too many needs with too few resources.

Wolseley has been the home of many women who have made a difference to the political and social life of this province. At the bottom of Arlington Street lived Lillian Beynon Thomas, a journalist who championed the cause of rural women and who formed the Political Equality League which successfully fought the battles for votes for women in Manitoba in 1916. In this struggle she was joined by many other Wolseley residents, men and women, including Cora Hind and Nellie McLung.

Mrs. Jessie McLennan became the first chairwoman of the Winnipeg School Board in 1937 and served there 17 years. She was a president of the League of Nations and was instrumental in achieving pensions for the blind in Canada. Mary Speechly, who founded the Women's Institute of Manitoba, was the first woman appointed to the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba. She fought hard all her life in the birth control movement, and she surely made an impact on the conditions of life for women in this province.

I have listened with interest to the Members on the other side of the House speak with pride of suburban growth and the strip malls of their communities and of their golf courses and curling clubs. I know that they are sincere in their civic pride, but I want to suggest that there is another urban vision, some of whose elements we have been able to maintain or create in Wolseley. We were fortunate to escape the unplanned Winnipeg boom of the 1970s. Our community was not inundated with high-rise apartments, nor split by freeways and interchanges. Citizens fought to save the famous and much loved elm trees. They united to force the Winnipeg School Board to renovate to conserve Laura Secord School, one of the major architectural treasures of Winnipeg and a visual anchor of part of our community.

As Winnipeg City Council continued to encourage the rapid expansion of the distant suburbs, we found that the price for us was one of continued vigilance. We must maintain every year a close watch to ensure that we do not lose the library bequeathed to us by the Carnegie Trust, that our neighbourhood swimming pool is not closed, that our police remain community based and that we even have small

recreation centres and the rudiments of playing fields for our children.

Because of this concerted and continuous community action, the people of Wolseley have been able to maintain a downtown neighbourhood with riverbank access, bicycle trails, strong public schools, heritage buildings and energetic community organizations. Wolseley is a downtown neighbourhood, whose people value the mix of urban life. Many are workers at the Misericordia Hospital or at the four large senior citizen residences, in day care centres or at the Manitoba Labour Education Centre or at Clinic. They are primarily conservers, whether in their enthusiastic support for the blue bag recycling program, for the preservation of Omands Creek or for efficient public transport.

Our businesses too, Madam Deputy Speaker, help us to retain the immediate sense of neighbourhood. We are fortunate to be still served by family corner stores and by newer shops featuring environmentally appropriate products, by the Harvest Foods Co-operative or by the Tall Grass Prairie Bakery where family, community and faith are intertwined.

Wolseley is, Madam Deputy Speaker, a working community and it is a community which works for some, for there is another Wolseley where the harsh realities of life in Winnipeg's urban core would be familiar to those utopian Christians of Wesley College at the turn of the last century. We have an increasing number of families who face tremendous difficulties in feeding and clothing their children. They are part of the growing legions who must use food banks on a continuing basis. They are the ones for whom the closing of the parent and child centres has meant the loss of the only respite they had. They have no other support. They are the ones for whom the Core Area Initiative offered some hope in its training and education opportunities, and for whom even that temporary avenue of opportunity is now uncertain.

Two days ago, I listened to one of the Members opposite proclaim that there was no free lunch in Manitoba. I represent families whose children go hungry and whose position under this slim Tory majority will become worse. The trickle-down effect of Tory policies has already meant the loss of jobs and the loss of social services. The impact on family life is staring us in the face, and the horrendous

numbers of children in care, and in the growing incidence of family violence.

I listened to the Speech from the Throne with a growing sense of dismay. There is no hope there for the ACCESS students, many of whom I have taught and whose tenacity in their studies, in the face of conditions which most of us could not imagine, is one of the small miracles of Manitoba. There is no hope for the social agencies whose workers are handling increasing caseloads and facing layoffs themselves, and there is no hope in the throne speech, Madam Deputy Speaker, for those working poor who try to maintain themselves, let alone a family, on the minimum wage.

Finally, there is, incredibly, no indication that this Government has understood the political significance of the peace camp which was at their own front doors this summer.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I came to Canada when I was 17. The experience of emigration is one that always stays with you, and I will never forget the journey down the St. Lawrence or clearing those immigration sheds on a hot August night in Quebec City. I came to Canada at a time of great changes in this society. Jean Lesage had just become the Premier of Quebec, and the quiet revolution was about to begin.

The era of Pearson and Trudeau, and the formation of the New Democratic Party was ahead. The transformation of the post World War II society was under way, and in those next decades we in Canada created a system of social services and particularly a health care system which set us off as a very different North American society. We tried to create a bilingual country and a multicultural society, which again marked us off in social and ideological terms from the rest of North America.

These were exciting and proud days for this country, and I was fortunate, Madam Deputy Speaker, to be able to live in different parts of the country, as a student in Montreal and British Columbia, in the High Arctic in a trapping community of Sachs Harbour, as a civil servant in Ottawa, and for the last 17 years as a teacher in Manitoba.

I will always be grateful to my adopted country for the opportunities it has offered me to learn and understand so many different ways of life. As a member of the loyal Opposition, I hope that I can repay some of this debt in public service, but I am saddened at the growing sense of despair I find in

this country, a despair that you find in students who cannot afford university this year, the despair of the family who for the first time must ask a food bank for food, the despair about the political process at all levels, and a growing anger at the visible and increasing gap between rich and poor right across this country.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I was nominated to run for my community, Wolseley, by a former Speaker of this House, a woman of personal courage deeply committed to the labour movement and to improving the lives of women. I was seconded by the former chief of the Gods River Band, a lawyer with an internationalist perspective. This is my community. I am honoured by their choice and by the support of the electorate, and I commit myself to be worthy of their confidence.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Deputy Speaker, firstly as you occupy the Chair, may I offer my congratulations on your election as Deputy Speaker of the House, not an insignificant task I might add in keeping, particularly the veterans in the House, at bay from time to time during debate on a variety of issues as you will no doubt find out as time progresses.

I also, Madam Deputy Speaker, would congratulate the Member for Gladstone (Mr. Rocan) on his election as Speaker of the House. We were elected together in 1986 to this House and over that period of time have become friends.

It is difficult for anyone to be elected Speaker or Deputy Speaker in this House because, as one of the Members opposite I think indicated yesterday, it is a partisan House. We are elected as partisan political people, and therefore, to maintain an even hand with all Members of the House, to try and be fair and reasonable and to assume a role of impartiality. Having been elected as a partisan person is an extremely difficult task and one that requires constant tightening of the reins as those tasks are performed, so Madam Deputy Speaker, I wish you all the success in those times that you occupy that Chair.

I would also like to congratulate two new Members to the Executive Council of the Province of Manitoba, my colleagues from Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), the new Minister of Family Affairs and the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) who is now the Minister of Labour for the Government of Manitoba. Both gentlemen have

experience in the House, and I think will do an admirable job to continue the excellent Government being provided by the Filmon team here in the Province of Manitoba.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have nine new Members in the House as well and you of course are one. I wish to welcome all of those nine new Members on our side of the House to our caucus. We know the quality of the new Members that we have had elected this past election, something that bodes very well for our Party and for long-term Government in the Province of Manitoba.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also wish to welcome all the new Members in the benches opposite. For many of them, this is the first opportunity they have had to be involved in politics, not necessarily politics of the formal kind. However, there have been one or two Members across the way who have been involved in politics for a long, long time, just not in the formal sense, who have participated in the process from the outside, and I welcome them as well. It is a time of your life—it does not do a whole lot, quite frankly, to increase your career path over a long period of time, but it is a unique experience, one that few people in this country have an opportunity to enjoy to participate in. It is something that I think you should accept on a day by day basis because this is a very temporary occupation. There are no cut contracts in this job. We are all up every once in awhile for consideration by the people of Manitoba. Nonetheless, it is a unique experience and one that should be treasured, should be participated in to the fullest, and should be given every effort while we have the opportunity to be here in this House.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Mover and the Second of the Throne Speech Debate, I thought, did an admiral job, both in terms of the quality of their presentations and in terms of the delivery of that presentation. We had two of our new Members deliver that, the Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), the Mover of the motion, and the Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose), the Second of the motion. I thought both of them did an admiral job for their first major public speaking event within the Chamber here.

It is intimidating, there is no question, from time to time to stand up in this House as a new Member, not knowing the process, everything is new. We have just had an opportunity the day before to go through the pomp and pageantry of the opening of

the House. To stand up in here, with some considerable pressure—because it is the Mover and Second of the throne speech, they are the first two speeches to be recognized in the House—it is intimidating. I thought they did very well.

As a matter of fact, Madam Deputy Speaker, all Members that have spoken to date, I think, have done an admirable job for their first time up -(interjection)- well, we are not talking now about some of the veterans whose speeches I will have comment on in a little while, but I am talking now not necessarily even about the content so much as the ability to stand and deliver that address and to put their feelings into it, to put their thoughts on the record as they have entered the House for the first time.

* (1530)

I want, Madam Deputy Speaker, as well, to welcome the Pages. This, unfortunately, will be a very great education for them I think in terms of seeing how laws are made. I would hope that they temper their thoughts and their understanding of how laws are made with a great deal of understanding, because there are two things that the public really should never watch being made, and that is sausage and law, because what goes into them sometimes is not the most desirable in the world, but nonetheless is an interesting experience.

I am sure their experience here, as Pages in the House, will serve them well and give them lots of interesting stories to tell when they go to the party on Saturday night. You say, you would not believe what this guy did or that person did in the House this past week. So it will be an interesting time, give them a lot of stories to tell and I think will be a broadening experience for them as they participate over the next few weeks and months.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to, once again, offer my thanks to the people of the constituency of Charleswood who have returned me to this House for a third time. It is a humbling experience to go into an election campaign, to go door to door, to meet your constituents, to defend your record, to tell them what you have done for them over the past whatever period of time it has been since the last election. I found it was a little different experience for me this time in not having a cast on the end of my leg which had occurred over the past two elections. As a matter of fact, I ran into one of my constituents just shortly after the election was called and he said, "Mr.

Ernst, I do not really believe that there is an election on because you are not on crutches."

It was a genuine opportunity this time for me to go door to door in my constituency to talk individually to the people who live there, to hear what their concerns were and to talk about the record of our Government and what we plan to do into the future. Madam Deputy Speaker, they obviously understood and they obviously agreed because they did return me to the House again for a third time. I might add, that they returned me with a majority three times the last majority that I won by, Madam Deputy Speaker, so obviously I think they recognized the value of the Filmon Government in Manitoba.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to also thank the 100-plus volunteers who worked on my campaign and every Member will no doubt have that same thankfulness in their hearts for the people who have assisted and worked for them to get them elected because no Member can do it by himself. No Member can as an individual person go out and expect to get elected in this province because we have to have the troops in the field. You have to have those people who are prepared to knock on doors, to deliver literature, to put up signs, to do all of those things that are necessary in an election campaign. I am eternally grateful to the 100-plus volunteers who worked on my campaign and who fought so very hard to have me re-elected in the Constituency of Charleswood. I cannot thank them enough for their efforts in that regard.

This, Madam Deputy Speaker, is my 18th year, starting in a couple of weeks time, 18 years of public service to the people of Manitoba. After eight elections I once again find myself a representative with the people in this Chamber and it is something that I am very, very proud to do and very proud of, but I remind all Members who are here in this Chamber that we all have responsibilities.

Unfortunately it is very easy for us to assume that we have some kind of exalted position in this Chamber. We all find from time to time that our existence here is rather temporary, so that we have to remember at all times that we have an allegiance and a duty to all of our constituents and ones that we must carry out on a regular basis from time to time. We cannot get carried away with the fact that we are or are not a Member of this Legislature, that we are or are not a Member of the Government or for that matter of the Executive Council because we are all individual representatives, human beings

here in this Chamber representing the people of our individual constituencies and they are paramount. They are the reason we are here. They are the people who put us here and they are the people who, if we do not do the kinds of things that are necessary for a good Government in this province, will remove us from here. So I remind all Members that we must take our responsibilities seriously.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I also want to thank all of the people of Manitoba for returning a majority Government, a majority Filmon Government, to this House. There are a number of hard issues that have to be dealt with. Those hard issues were not necessarily easily dealt with during a minority House situation. There were compromises made, there was give and take between the various Parties in the House to try and achieve some kind of consensus on issues, but that did not always make for very good legislation. In fact it made for some very bad legislation which will have to be adjusted and corrected as time goes on as those matters come to light, but it is important that Manitoba have a majority Government for the times that we are facing. There are hard decisions to be made and those hard decisions will have to be addressed and to have the ability to do that is important regardless quite frankly of the political Party that happened to win the election. The importance is that it has a majority mandate and an ability to deal with the issues that come at hand.

* (1540)

Over the past summer, Madam Deputy Speaker, we had a major event take place in Manitoba, not the election although that was a major event as well, but I am talking specifically about the Western Canada Summer Games that took place here in Winnipeg back in the early part of July. I think we need to recognize that the Western Canada Games that did take place here in July were not just a sporting event although a major sporting event it was, but I think what it did is it raised the level of pride of the people of this province to say that we can and did put on a major sporting event, an event of national proportions that said to the rest of the people of Canada, yes, we can do that here in Manitoba. We have the ability, and it is something that for the first time in a long, long time raised the level of pride of the people of Winnipeg and the people of Manitoba in their province and in their capital city.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have not had that

kind of awareness, that kind of increase in their individual pride, for a very, very long time. We have had the doom and gloom of the NDP for 20-plus years almost, over the last period of time, and their dreary downturned attitude has reflected on the people of Winnipeg and on the people of Manitoba, but this event, this single event, that took place raised their pride above all of that and said, yes, we do have a fine place to be. We were on national television. It was shown to the people of Canada that Winnipeg is a very great place; that Manitoba is a great place; that we have great people and that we were able to put on a major event of national proportions. That is something we should be very, very proud of.

We have had, in the news media over the past 10 or 15 years, the massive debts, the huge deficits of the former Government. We have had Saudi Arabia escapades. We had—going back if you will, Madam Deputy Speaker, to Saunders Aircraft and a whole variety of other ill-founded projects that were carried out by former Governments, and that tended to drag the attitude of people down. That tended to say to people that this is somehow a bad place to be, but they found out, they found out, that all of a sudden they were in a good place. They did put on an event of national proportions, something that showed the rest of the country that indeed Manitoba is a fine place. We do have fine hard-working upstanding people, and it is something that all of us collectively can be very proud of, and something we should consider and take note of as events of this kind appear in the future.

Madam Deputy Speaker, those events I think raised the level of pride of all of our individual citizens to spur them on to greater things, not just in those sporting events, but in all areas of their life.

Volunteers that came forward—we had a need in the Western Canada Games for 6,000 volunteers. There were 10,000 volunteers who came forward. As a matter of fact, there were so many volunteers the organizing committee had difficulty deciding what to do with them all because of the enormous response that came forward.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we all spent the month of August and the early part of September on the campaign trail. We knocked on the doors of our constituents. We went there to talk to them about the issues they saw in the province and we wanted to find out what their concerns were and then address them through the policy issues that were

addressed individually by our collective political Parties.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is one thing that came across loud and clear during that period of time. People were fed up with taxes. They have had enough of taxes. They have had their incomes eroded, they have had their standards of living reduced, as a result of taxation, and they want no more. It is not just provincial taxes, it is federal taxes, it is provincial taxes, it is municipal taxes, it is all kinds of taxes. No matter what form they take, they have had enough, they are fed up.

We, as a Government, were the only Government in the whole country of Canada to have reduced personal income taxes for the first time. We put \$300 or \$400 back into the pockets of families in Manitoba by that personal tax reduction, unlike the tax increases that had taken place over many years before.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is important that all of us in this House recognize the fact that people here in Manitoba have had it with taxes. They are fed up, and they no longer wish to pay the kind of taxation regime that is imposed upon them.

So every time we consider an expenditure in this House let each Member remember where the money is going to come from. Let each person in this House think: do we have to tax more in order to pay for that. That is, unfortunately, something that does not happen too often here, that we have Members on the opposite, particularly, who want to raise all kinds of expectations and expenditures and say, spend on this, spend on that, spend on something else, when in fact they do not consider where the tax money is coming from. Remember, it is tax money. Tax dollars come from the pockets of people. That is something that all of us need to consider when we consider expenditures in this House.

We have also experienced, Madam Deputy Speaker, since coming into office as government two and a half years ago, the fact that we were left by my honourable friends in the benches across \$10 billion in debt, left to our Government to manage, to pay the interest on with the money of the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba. The first \$500 million goes to interest on that \$10 billion of debt. That interest—(interjection)—

Madam Deputy Speaker: May I remind the Chamber that the Honourable Minister of Industry,

Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) is attempting to continue his debate.

Mr. Ernst: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Let me remind all Members of the House that the first \$500 million of taxpayers' money in this province goes to service the \$10-billion-debt legacy of the Members opposite.

That money does not go to the individual people in the City of Winnipeg or the City of Brandon or Thompson or anywhere in rural Manitoba. That \$500 million goes to Tokyo, New York and Zurich. It does not go to the people of Manitoba. It does not go for services. It does not go for programs. It goes to the moneylenders of the world.

In six years of Government, the Members opposite accumulated more debt for the people of Manitoba than it took for it in the province's entire history before that. A hundred and some years of government did not create as much debt as they did in six years in the Province of Manitoba.

At the same time, they had the highest tax regime in the country. That is something else that is one of the legacies of the NDP in this province. They suggested, I am sorry -(interjection)- Ernst Liddle & Wolfe Ltd., a company of which I was associated for some 25 years, did very well because of the hard work that I and the other people that worked there put in, not because of the NDP at all. As a matter of fact, they tried to destroy the company back in 1970. They tried to destroy it, Madam Deputy Speaker.

* (1550)

I must say that notwithstanding all of the foregoing the fact of the matter is, the people of Manitoba are fed up with taxes, period. They are fed up with taxes. They want no more taxes from federal Governments or provincial Governments or municipal Governments or school boards or anybody else. They have had it. Their standard of living has been reduced substantially, and they want it to stop.

That is something that we have to consider. If we did not have that interest cost, if we did not have that \$500 million paying for the \$10 billion of NDP debt, what would happen? Well, let me tell you that we could probably do away with the provincial sales tax, or perhaps 6 percent of the 7 percent provincial sales tax we could do away with entirely. That is the kind of impact it has on this province. We could cut the income tax of all Manitobans in half, cut their personal income taxes in half if we did not have that NDP legacy of debt to pay for, and that is something

that I do not think Members opposite should be terribly proud of at all.

Now I do not want my honourable friends in the Liberal Party benches to feel left out, Madam Deputy Speaker, because they too have a misunderstanding I think of how economics work. We had them standing there day after day in the last Session of the Legislature telling us to spend, spend, spend. Every day it was spend money on this, do not come back on that, increase this, do not tax for that or do not charge for that, all of these which kept pushing and pushing and pushing the level of deficit higher and higher and higher. They would have added during the last Session of the Legislature \$900 million worth of additional expenditures, \$900 million to the deficit that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) worked so terribly, terribly hard to try and keep at a reasonable level, \$900 million of additional expenditures by my honourable friends in the Liberal benches.

In fact their Leader during the past election campaign wanted to go out and spend some more, not only the \$900 million that was going to be spent during the last Session, but she wanted to go out and spend the existing Fiscal Stabilization Fund, wanted to spend that. Then she wanted to spend some more money on top of that. In fact she did not even read the financial statement correctly to determine what was in the Fiscal Stabilization Fund so she spent another \$100 million on top of that. My honourable friends in the Liberal benches have the same kind of economic outlook on these things as the Members in the NDP benches.

Let me say again, Madam Deputy Speaker, the taxpayers of this province have had enough. They want no more taxes. They want Governments to stop spending. They want Governments not to provide more programs. They want them to provide less programs. They want to say cut out the spending, cut back on that matter because my pocketbook cannot take it anymore. That will be the watchword as we head into the budget, as we head into the balance of this Session, because each of us will have to recognize in our own hearts whether we want to tax more for the expenditures that are proposed here in this Chamber.

Our Government, Madam Deputy Speaker, is founded on a commitment to make Manitoba strong, to have a strong economy, to provide better jobs for our young people, quality health care, quality education and quality social programs. The best

social program—and I did not invent this thing but it certainly makes sense today as it did at the time whoever first coined the phrase—is a good job, a long-term job founded not on Government intervention, not on taxpayers throwing money into the works to try and create some kind of short-term job situation, a long-term job based on sound economics. That is what is necessary in this province. It did not happen overnight. There is no quick fix. There is no magic answer to these things like my honourable friend from Flin Flon might have you believe. A long-term solid job based on sound economics is what is required for our citizens.

Now we tried it the NDP way. The NDP way was have the jobs fund, and what we will do is we will spend \$100 million, we will create a bunch of jobs, and they did. I will give them a great deal of credit. They did create a lot of jobs with the \$100 million in the jobs fund. The fact of the matter is though, Madam Deputy Speaker, the \$100 million is now a debt responsibility of the people of Manitoba, and the jobs are gone. The jobs are gone and we still have to pay back the \$100 million. Does that make economic sense? Does that make sense to the people of Manitoba? No, it does not. As a result they threw them out of office, because they recognized that you cannot intervene in the economy in that way, to create short-term jobs that disappear and then have to pay the money back.

They do not recognize that. Somehow the Members opposite in the benches opposite could not understand that they had to pay the money back that they borrowed. Somebody else was going to do that. You know, maybe it was like the Rhinoceros Party. They were going to get everyone an American Express card so they could simply charge you, and then nobody would have to pay it back. -(interjection)- I will not comment on that, but somebody has to pay it back and it is the taxpayers of this province, and I happen to be one of them. Each of us in this room is one of them. We each have to pay our share and if that share keeps growing and growing and growing we are not going to have anything left. Creating short-term jobs with the taxpayers' money and then having the jobs evaporate over time as they were intended to do, then you still have the money to pay back, it failed and it failed miserably.

Speaker after speaker from the benches of the New Democrats and the Liberals have criticized the throne speech for our focus on the economy. We

have said we have to focus on the economy in this province and if the economy is not the priority, if job creation for our people is not the priority, there will not be any dollars left for anything else. There will not be any dollars for social programs or health care or any of those other kinds of things that we all want to see and do in this province. If we do not have those jobs and we do not have people paying taxes, then we will not have the revenues to deal with those issues.

Yesterday in the House the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) suggested that our economics are out of date by some 50 years. That was his statement, I believe, more or less, not an exact quote, because I do not have the Hansard just yet, but I think it was approximately that.

What, Madam Deputy Speaker, was the record of the NDP? When that Member for Flin Flon was a member of the Executive Council, when he and his colleagues had control of the reins here in the Manitoba Legislature, well, as we have already talked about they left \$10 billion in debt. They left us with the highest taxes in the country. They starved the social service agencies as we found out when we came into Government. They provide chronic underfunding to education, -(interjection)- and they laughed and chuckle about it, but those are the facts. That is what they did and left us to try and manage that problem and try and rectify some of the ills of the NDP. They froze the health care capital for a period of almost a year, closed hospital beds, those kinds of things.

This is the Party that holds themselves out as the great saviours of the people, the champions of the working man and the little man in this province. They hold it out and they were the ones that were closing hospital beds. They were the ones that were starving the social services agencies. They had an attitude of anti-business. They had anti-business legislation. They introduced the payroll tax, a tax on employment in this province. Their attitude caused significant problems.

* (1600)

I am going to have my honourable friend across the way from Flin Flon stand up over the next period of time and tell us that Ogilvie Oats and Paulin Chambers and Canada Packers were all allowed to become antiquated and rundown under their regime, where no investment was made over a period of 20 or 25 years, and why? Because there

was no incentive in this province to do it. Now they close because they are antiquated. Ogilvie Oats was 120 years old, and we had the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) stand up and say it was free trade. They were milling with stones, the only mill in North America still milling with stones, 120 years old. No new investment, and the Leader of the Opposition stands up and says free trade is what caused it.

Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, it shows the level of understanding that the Members opposite send when that kind of statement is made. I mean it is absolutely ridiculous that they would make a statement like that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is time that my honourable friends across the way in this House recognized that we in Canada are in a global economy, and that global economy is something that we have to compete in. Whether we like it or whether we do not, we still have to compete in that global economy. Now Japan knows that, Europe knows it, and Southeast Asia knows it. The United States knows it, even most of the eastern block countries in this world know it. As a matter of fact, even Mr. Gorbachev knows that. This is a global economy. We have to be able to compete. They have to get their heads out of the sand and recognize that. You cannot simply throw up barriers around you, stick your head in the sand and hope it will all go away. It does not work like that. The world does not work like that. The fact of the matter is, we are in a global economy. We do have to compete with the rest of the world, and to do that we do not do it by throwing up those barriers or—as a matter of fact, let me use another analogy, jumping back into bed and pulling the covers over our head. That is exactly what the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) would like to do.

He wants to take his teddy bear, jump back into bed and pull the blanket over his head for fear there is something that might come along that he could not face. The fact of the matter is, we have to get in there, we have to compete. -(interjection)-

Well, let me say—you say I sound like Brian Mulroney, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) suggests. Whether I sound like Brian Mulroney and, quite frankly, I hope I do not, but if I do sound like Brian Mulroney, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the rest of the industrialized world wrong? Are two billion people in this world wrong? Are only the NDP in Manitoba right, let me ask you.

No one would agree with that. No one would agree that the entire industrialized world is all of a sudden at odds with the Manitoba NDP here in this province.

Instead of the gloom and doom and negative attitudes of the Members opposite, of their day-in day-out condemnation of the people of Manitoba, of the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) constantly saying, we are having our problems and we are too poor, and we need somebody to help us and they're awful and everybody's awful.

Madam Deputy Speaker, that attitude cannot prevail in this province any longer. We do not have a choice. We have to face up to the fact that we have to compete, that we have to go out there and sell our goods elsewhere in the world because a million people here cannot possibly consume the kind of production that we want and need here in order to create those jobs that are important to our people and there are problems out there. We have to start to capitalize on the entrepreneurial spirit of our people.

You know this province did not just get here by itself. There were an awful lot of people who worked very, very hard starting businesses, raising families, working as hard as they could on the farm, in small business, in the sweatshops, doing all kinds of things, Madam Deputy Speaker, raising cattle in order to create the kind of province that we have here.

That entrepreneurial spirit is flagging because we keep telling him this is a bad place. They are somehow second-class people in this country. It is time we stopped that. It is time we said to them, you people have done it before, your ancestors have done it before, it is time you got back on track. You are the people who can do it. You have the resources. You have the skills and if those skills are not available, we will provide them. We will provide the leadership from this Government in order to lead the way to show those people how we can turn Manitoba back into the forefront of the economic community.

We can compete. Canadians can compete. Manitobans can compete. We know that. We have the skills and the spirit and the ability to carry out those things. We have the work ethic that is necessary to be successful in a competitive world. We have a great base to start from, a manufacturing sector that has been built up by successive generations of people in this province. We have a

magnificent aerospace industry, a very significant electronics industry, agricultural machinery, agricultural process products, raw agricultural products, wood and paper products, all of those kinds of things. We have a fashion industry here that is second to none in terms of competition for outerwear in North America. All of those things are a base upon which to build.

We have opportunities to expand. We have an opportunity for new investment, new jobs. We have interest from investors from around the world looking for access to the U.S. market through the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. They say Canada is a good place to invest, Canada is a place where we would like to be, but we would like to have access to that \$250 million, \$270 million U.S. market. We would like to have it through Canada.

We have all kinds of opportunity here, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let me give you one example. During the early days of the election I was meeting, along with staff from my department, with a major U.S. company that was looking, and we were trying to get them to build a plant here in Manitoba. A \$30 million investment, 300 new jobs, that is what this plant would mean. I was meeting with those people all day that particular day in the early days of the election to try and convince them that Manitoba was a good place to come. Manitoba was the place they should invest. We had the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) stand up on that day and say plants will not close easily in Manitoba. We will force them to stay open. We will issue plant closure legislation. We will not let the factories close here. You know what the president of that company said to me. He said the ones you have may have a tough time closing, he says, but you sure as hell will not have any new ones opening in the Province of Manitoba with that kind of attitude.

It makes my job as the Minister of Industry and Trade very difficult when that kind of activity goes on, that kind of thing is splashed across the front page of the paper, because those companies are not going to invest their money. They can go a lot of other places. They do not have to come here. They do not have to come here and they are not going to invest their money if we have that kind of attitude.

I feel for those people who will experience layoffs as a result of a plant closure. No one wants that kind of thing. Nobody is happy about it and we will do what we can to try and provide adjustment assistance for those who are affected by that. We

cannot go around suggesting that you can legislate profits, that you can force a company to spend money to lose money staying open. That is something that my honourable friends across the way will have to understand.

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with my colleagues some of my thoughts on the throne speech. I would like to begin by extending my congratulations to the Speaker, who is absent at the moment.

I would like to extend my congratulations also to you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am sure that you will carry on your duties in the same honourable fashion that the Speaker has done in his term of office.

I would like to also congratulate the Mover and the Seconder of the throne speech on their good speeches despite the lack of content from which to work, for the throne speech has failed to address many key issues. It has failed to address the serious concerns of health care particularly in the rural area where there is a shortage of doctors and other caregivers.

I would like to share an example with you, recently, in the constituency of Swan River where a patient had to be transferred to Dauphin to have a caesarean, a minor procedure, but there were not enough doctors in the area. There is nothing substantial to improve Manitoba's economy or to secure jobs. I have heard very little that will address the immediate problems that farmers are facing.

* (1610)

My congratulations, Madam Deputy Speaker, to the Cabinet Members on their appointments. Although I am disappointed in the small number of women in this Cabinet, I am hopeful that the First Minister will keep his word and correct the oversight very soon. Like all Manitobans, I expect more than rhetoric from this Government. Manitobans want real answers, rather than lip service.

I will be calling on them often when I need help with constituency issues and when I have concerns in my critic area. I will be critical when necessary, because for democracy to function properly, we will disagree and we must have criticism, but I will also be supportive when it is earned. Of course, I will also try to make their job easier by offering alternatives and giving advice, particularly in issues that relate to the rural community. I hope that the debate will be carried on with the respect and the good spirit that this House is known for.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to all other MLAs who have returned to this Assembly and those who are here for the first time. I consider it an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Manitoba, and I look forward to working with all Members and learning from the experienced Members.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would also like to congratulate our Leader, the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), for the tremendous job he has done in leading our Party through a time of rebuilding, for listening to the people and addressing the concerns of all Manitobans. I would also like to recognize the 12 Members of our previous caucus who worked very hard to rebuild our movement.

I would also like to congratulate our Deputy Leader, the Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylcyia-Leis), on her appointment. I am honoured and also humbled that the people of Swan River constituency have given me this privilege to represent them in this House, and I would like to thank them for the confidence they have placed in me.

Throughout the campaign, people said they wanted someone who would listen to their concerns and someone who would work to address their problems. They raised many issues during the campaign. They raised the issue of Repap, the many jobs that were promised for the Swan River constituency, but never materialized; they raised the issue of decentralization, hundreds of jobs that were supposed to be moved to rural Manitoba and very few coming to the Swan River constituency; they raised the matter of the farm payment, a payment that was supposed to subsidize low grain prices and instead was changed to a drought payment, and again, the northern and central part of the province was left out; they raised concerns about rail line abandonment, high unemployment rates, particularly in the outlying communities; they also raised the issue of no jobs for our young people in the rural community, a concern that our young people all have to move to the city or to other centres if they choose to work. The issue of the Swan River Crisis Centre was also issued.

None of these issues have been addressed adequately in the throne speech. I made a commitment to the constituents to address these concerns, and I will work to the best of my ability to fulfill that commitment.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I could not have been elected had it not been for the hard work of many New Democrats. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my executive and workers in the constituency. I would also like to thank my family for their support during and before the election and also since the election.

I would also like to acknowledge the previous New Democrat, Leonard Harapiak, who represented the Swan River constituency in this Assembly. His hard work and dedication made people aware that there was an alternative to the right-wing Conservative agenda. I would also like to acknowledge the previous Member, Mr. Burrell, for the work he did while he was the representative in this House.

The Swan River constituency is a very large constituency, having increased in size after the last redistribution. At that time, a portion of The Pas constituency, including the communities of Pelican Rapids and Shoal River reserve, were transferred to Swan River. Also the communities of Ethelbert, Garland, Winnipegosis, Fork River, and a large rural area was added from the Dauphin constituency. Both these areas were accustomed to excellent representation by New Democrats, the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) and my brother, Harry Harapiak. Their excellent representation has helped me an awful lot in my work in these areas.

The Swan River constituency is a primary resource area with the emphasis on agriculture. The town of Swan River, which is the main trading centre, is situated in a rich valley where grain and oilseed production are the main crops. However, this production is shifting as we see decreases in grain prices.

Other communities in the valley are Benito, Kenville, Durban, Birch River, Bowsman, Lenswood, Minitonas and Renwer.

Livestock production is also an important part of the economic base throughout the constituency. However, the changes in the beef program have caused concern to many beef producers.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is a diverse constituency, diverse in its resources and diverse in its people. We have a great wealth of natural resources which have provided people with a livelihood for many years and, if properly managed and nurtured, can do so for many years to come.

Fishing and trapping have been important industries with commercial fishing on Lake

Winnipegosis, with fishermen residing in the communities of Winnipegosis, Duck Bay, Camperville and Dawson Bay. There is also fishing on Swan Lake, Pelican Lake, Red Deer Lake. However, this industry is having serious problems, problems that must be addressed, particularly, the issue of restocking the lakes, the Fairford dam.

Questions that the fishermen are raising are: can the fish stock be restored, and how can we diversify the economy or create jobs in these communities if the fishing cannot be restored?

The people in these communities, who are mostly aboriginal, have supported their families through hunting and fishing for generations. As circumstances have changed and resources depleted, the unemployment problem has increased. This is a problem that must be addressed.

Our forests also play an important part in the economy with harvesting taking place in the Duck Mountain and the Porcupine Mountain. The communities of Mafeking, Barrows, Baden, Pine River, Sclater and the town of Swan River benefit from the forest industry. This area also had great expectations of more jobs when the Government signed the Repap deal. However, the jobs have not materialized and small operators are now concerned as to how they will continue their operations.

* (1620)

We also attract many tourists, hunters and fishermen to our area because of the great resources we have in our lakes and parks that are known throughout Canada. As I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, as well as a diverse economy, the constituency has a diversity in people. Many people are of aboriginal ancestry, and we have people of many different backgrounds, people with roots in the British Isles, eastern and western Europe and all other parts of the world, hardworking people who are proud of their ancestry and proud to be Canadians. I would like to point out that I am of Ukrainian descent, and my grandparents came to this country at the turn of the century. My husband and I are third generation farmers on the family farm in Cowan.

I would like to share with you a little story about Cowan. It is a very small community, mostly mixed farming, a little bit of forestry, but the community is quite famous for its blueberries. People come from across a large area to pick blueberries in that area.

That was one of the benefits of one of the horrendous forest fires that we had last year—the year before—this year we had a tremendous crop of blueberries. At a meeting the other night in Dauphin, people also said that Cowan was not only famous for its blueberries and CN workers but also famous for its fair and honest politicians. -(interjection)- Yes.

However, farming has changed from the time when my grandparents came to this country. At that time, there were farms on just about every quarter section of land, and most of the farms were mixed farming operations, which means they had a bit of everything and were quite sufficient. Although we were not wealthy, it was an environment in which we learned that it was very important to co-operate and share with your neighbours, an environment that has perhaps changed somewhat in the rural community where you do not see nearly the co-operation and helping hand that you used to have.

My parents were both community leaders, active in the school and in the church and in the farmers' union. They were members of the CCF and my father is still member of the NDP. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dad, William Harapiak, for his guidance and encouragement that he has given me over the years.

Although farming has changed, we have to look in which direction it is changing. There was a time over the past few years where everything seemed to be geared towards bigger is better, but we are finding that bigger is better may not be the right answer as we see farmers going down the tubes. As farmers go under, our school systems go down and other services. I think that we really have to look in what direction our farming is going, and we have to encourage the family farm back to a more reasonable size to what it was.

I am a farmer, I am an educator, and I have been involved in municipal politics for seven years serving as a councillor and a deputy reeve for the LGD of Mountain. I have served on many boards and committees within my community and in fact last year lobbied the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) to try to get a headwater storage built on the North Duck River, and I am sure we will be talking about it again.

For the past four years I have travelled

extensively through the province working with rural and northern people. This experience has provided me with a good base of knowledge to serve the people of Swan River and the people of Manitoba.

Throughout my adult life, I have been concerned with the quality of life in rural communities. I am extremely concerned with the difficulties that rural communities are facing at the present time. People who choose to live and work in a rural setting should have access to education, health care, recreation and should be able to retire in their area and still have services equal to those in the urban setting. However, as farmers are facing difficult times with high interest rates, high input costs and low incomes, many families are being forced off the land. As farmers leave the land, the whole infrastructure breaks down. Services are lost because the tax base is not there to support them.

I would also like to point out that the demise of the rural community should be a concern to all Manitobans. It is not only a rural problem. The Government must address the concerns of rural Manitoba, but not only the concerns of southern Manitoba, Madam Deputy Speaker. We saw them address the concerns of southern Manitoba when they put together a drought aid package, which was supposed to be a farm aid package and it gave assistance only to southern Manitoba.

Now we have the water services package announced just recently by this Government. They speak about diversification but have forgotten, Madam Deputy Speaker, that central and northern Manitoba, parts of this province, must be given opportunities to develop and diversify as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as I listened to the throne speech I was extremely disappointed that more consideration was not given to the rural economy by a Cabinet that boasts of its rural representation. The Department of Rural Development, which was established two and a half years ago has no specific plan, but they will do more studies. We need more than studies now.

This Government, Madam Deputy Speaker, that prides itself with rural representation has made no commitment to farmers. There is no mention of lower income rates from MACC, no mention of long-term leasebacks so farmers can stay on the land, no mention of fuel tax rebate. Instead this Government has chosen to talk about a long-term

safety net program which includes producer contribution.

Madam Deputy Speaker, farmers are in a financial crunch. They cannot sell their grain; they cannot pay their taxes; they cannot pay their bills. How can they afford to make contributions to a safety net program at this time?

Madam Deputy Speaker, the aboriginal community raised many issues this summer, issues that have not been addressed in the throne speech, issues that must be addressed, and I will be working with the strong aboriginal team that has been elected to ensure that these issues are addressed. This throne speech is tailored to the business community and the Chamber of Commerce. This Government is not prepared to deal with the immediate needs of people, both rural and urban.

As a New Democrat, I had hoped that there would be more to stimulate the growth of the rural economy. Madam Deputy Speaker, my vision of rural Manitoba is a thriving community that will provide services for people but also jobs for our young people and, yes, it will take money but I feel money invested in our rural community, money invested in our young people is money well spent. As I talked to people on the campaign trail I met many who would be willing to have taxes spent to have invested in our young people so that they could continue to build this country.

* (1630)

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Again I would like to thank the people from Swan River for the honour they have bestowed upon me, and I will carry out this responsibility to the best of my ability always being mindful that there are those in society who are less fortunate and that we have a responsibility to provide services and opportunities to narrow the gap between those who have and those who are not so fortunate.

In closing I would also like to thank the Clerk of the House and his staff who gave us the orientation session at the beginning of our term here. It was very helpful. I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his appointment to his position. I look forward to working with you over the term. Thank you.

Mr. Jack Reimer (Niakwa): It is with great pride and honour I rise today to address this Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to the Chair and also to the

Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) for her appointment as Deputy Speaker. I also congratulate my fellow colleagues in all Parties on their personal victories in their respective ridings.

As a new Member of this Assembly I can identify with the work and effort that preceded September the 11th and the countless hours that were put forth by our respective constituents in striving to elect or re-elect the Members who now occupy these chairs. It was these people, our friends, our volunteers, neighbours and strangers who came forth to help, and our dear families who gave us the support, encouragement and strength to retain the positions we now have been entrusted with.

I am grateful to the residents of Niakwa for electing me as their representative and I will strive to address their concerns. I would hope that I can bring forth and address the concerns in all areas of my constituents with the ideals and conviction of recognizing the strong lobby groups and highly visible viewpoints along with the individuals or organizations that have also needs and a position that is to be heard.

I am reminded of a friend of mine who once told me that to become involved in politics one must have the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. I would hope I possess some of these attributes as times today more than ever dictate a society that has change and constant change. We witnessed the tearing down of barriers that separate the countries of Germany, the freedoms of expression and participation in other countries in Europe and the reawakening of nations and people to the principles of democracy.

Here in our country we are seeing how individuals and people who have the conviction of their ideals can make a difference in this country, in this province and in this city. It is these people with their imaginations, their aspirations and their objectives which we as legislators have now been entrusted with.

We must bring forth their concerns with a gentleness and feeling that is to be reserved for those who must look to their elected representatives to provide for those who cannot because of circumstances, disease, sickness or injury. There must be a social concern with Government where we do not lose people because they fall through the cracks of bureaucracy or by inaction.

Keeping that in mind we must strive to build a

strong economy where the individual, or individuals, may also strive to achieve a sense of accomplishment in their work and in their home environment. We must reduce the burden of Government on the private sector by making Manitoba strong in all aspects, whether it be by attracting investment, developing markets, by co-operating and implementing a skills training strategy, or reconstituting the Manitoba Research Council to provide expertise and technological research and assessment.

There must also be investment in the most precious of Manitoba's commodities, Mr. Speaker, and that is the people of this province. The people of Manitoba are not ordinary people; they are unique and these are the people in the North, the people in the towns, the people in the villages, on the farms and in the cities. These are the people who are all part of Manitoba and contribute to the tightly woven fabric of the Manitoba tartan, a cloth representing many colours and ethnic groups, but held together because of its tight weave and interdependence upon one another. This dependence and spirit of helping has made Manitobans noteworthy in that they have been recognized for their generosity and strong volunteer participation.

In Niakwa, the constituency which I am proud to represent, I have seen how, with a will to succeed, a group of people can make positive changes and improvements for our community. My involvement with various volunteer groups and organizations in Niakwa and the City of Winnipeg will be a tremendous strength and resource in addressing the concerns of my constituents.

I would like to tell you a little more about the constituency of Niakwa. It is located in the southeast section of Winnipeg and includes parts of Windsor Park, Niakwa Place, Niakwa Park, Southdale, Island Lakes and a new development called Southland Park, and a few constituents living just south of the Perimeter Highway. It is almost entirely a residential area with very little industry other than the Mint, the Federal Health Protection Branch, and Unisys.

There are many small businesses in Niakwa. These merchants and businesses have to supply the needs of the people. As we all know it is small business in Manitoba which is the engine of our economy. As the owner of a number of small businesses over the years, I can identify with the problems and concerns these businesses must

address in order to provide products and services, along with jobs. Small business plays a vital role in the economy of Manitoba and I am pleased that this Government's record and commitment that will ensure that a climate of co-operation continues. For we must continue to fuel this spirit of accomplishment, Mr. Speaker, the pride of ownership, the knowledge that our children can be proud of working in Manitoba, a pride that will carry Manitoba into the '90s with renewed hope and expectations. We have seen how all people want actions taken to ensure we have access to clean water, clean air and a clean environment. Waste management, recycling, reusing and reducing have all become words in the vocabulary of all residents of Manitoba.

In the constituency of Niakwa this was a common point of discussion when going door to door in the campaign. The people of Niakwa are concerned about the environment, and this Government has initiated measures such as the introduction of the waste reduction and recycling Act, the controls and the storage of PCBs and the use of CFCs and other substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The people of Niakwa, like other Manitobans, are concerned about the value they receive for the taxes they pay. The Filmon Government has a strong record of fiscal responsible decision making, and the throne speech indicates Manitobans will receive value for tax dollars without fear of waste or mismanagement.

The mandate put forth to the people of Manitoba is to build a strong economy with new and better jobs while at the same time preserving the quality of health, education and social services. At the same time people do not want higher taxes, and this Government has responded by being the only Government in Canada to cut taxes for families, for farmers and for businesses, Mr. Speaker.

* (1640)

These are positive steps to create a stronger Manitoba. By forming a task force to establish a capital market in Manitoba, which will help to rebuild the confidence to invest, jobs will be created. As an initiative this Government will examine ways of fostering employee ownership as an alternative to plant closures and business liquidations.

Markets will be developed by the identifying of potential markets with potential suppliers. The quality of life and health care will continue to be a

top-spending priority with this Government with emphasis on the prevention of cervical and breast cancer, improving mental health services and the treatment of the mentally ill, protection of children from pornography through the introduction of a home video classification system and a strategy to deal with youth drug abuse.

The Meech Lake Accord is behind us, Mr. Speaker. However, this Government, as a strong defender of a united Canada, will now take forward the Meech Lake Task Force recommendation to open up the approval process before governments sign any final agreements.

This Government will also establish an all-Party constitutional task force to seek further public input, to develop more detailed recommendations on Senate reform and to invite public comment on Manitoba's constitutional priorities.

The constituency of Niakwa is unique because it is the only riding in Manitoba which makes money. That is because the Royal Mint is located there. The Mint produces much of Canada's coinage. It also produces a number of coins for other countries throughout the world, coins of all shapes and denominations, coins of all metals, including gold and silver.

It is only appropriate that this rich production of precious metal be found in Niakwa, because just as there is gold in the coins produced, there is a precious metal found in the people of Niakwa and that is the richness of different nationalities, languages, religions, colour and ethnic backgrounds.

It is this diversity I am proud to represent as a Member of this Assembly. I am reminded of my duty as an elected Member by this quote by Henry Clay in which he states: Government is a trust, and the officers of the Government are trustees and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.

I can only hope I can carry out these duties to the best of my ability with the guidance and help of all Members. Thank you.

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I join all Members of the House who have previously congratulated you on your reappointment as Speaker. I obviously can only speak with a few days' experience in this House, but certainly those few days confirm all that I have heard about your role as Speaker and confirm that you conduct proceedings

in this House with a good deal of grace, humour and honour.

I would like to thank the people of the constituency of Kildonan for the honour they have given to me in electing me to this Chamber. I realize fully well the strong tradition of representation that I must fulfill in representing the people of West Kildonan, Garden City and Old Kildonan. I must fill the shoes of people like Saul Miller, Eugene Kostyra, Mary Beth Dolin, and yes, the present Member for the Maples.

I would also like to thank my worthy opponents in the election campaign for the honourable way in which they conducted their campaigns.

Kildonan is a home of people and families from all walks of life representing all aspects of this province. In fact, it is a microcosm of the province. I had the occasion to meet many people who reflected this. I had the opportunity to hear people converse in French, Ukrainian, Polish, German, Italian, Hebrew, Portuguese, Chinese, and many other languages. Mr. Speaker, that is Kildonan.

I had the honour of talking to people who had numbers tattooed on their arms, who had suffered in the holocaust in the Nazi concentration camps, and people who suffered under Stalin's repressive regime. Mr. Speaker, that is Kildonan.

I had the opportunity of visiting at Ten Ten Sinclair, a project for the disabled originally started by the Schreyer Government. I met those people who are living in that accommodation. I discovered who the real heroes on a day-to-day basis are in our society. They, Mr. Speaker, are the people of Kildonan.

I spoke with seniors in their homes and in many of the senior citizen homes in the Kildonan constituency: Luther Home, Carriage House North, Monash Manor. This is Kildonan, Mr. Speaker.

I met families, university students, community college students, day care workers, nurses, and doctors. This is Kildonan, Mr. Speaker.

All of these people accepted me into their homes, treated me with respect, and I will do my utmost to represent them in a similar fashion.

I would like to also thank my family, particularly my wife Rita and son Tomas, my friends, and all of those who assisted me in the campaign. If I have any regrets, Mr. Speaker, it is only an impossible wish. That is that those two villagers, John and Katherine Chomiak who came to this country 50

years ago, could not be alive today to see me standing in this House. Those two other villagers who were parents of Mary and Joseph Evaskavich are also not around, never to see the honour that has been bestowed upon me through the people of Kildonan.

I need not advise Members of this House that a new mood and spirit towards this institution and others like it exists in Canada. To put it bluntly, politics and politicians have probably never been considered lower in this country than they are today. That puts a special burden on all of us. We must deal with our constituents and the public in a different fashion. We serve them. I would suggest that the key elements of the new philosophy and approach consist in listening, consulting and co-operating. The old style has been repudiated. A new style is demanded. The throne speech makes reference to that fact. Unfortunately, while the throne speech makes reference to it the style and wording of the document indicates that this Government has not learned the lesson.

The old style of politics is reflected in the throne speech. It is a paternalistic approach. We know best. Who is the we? Where is the vision? Where is the consultation? The we is the Tory corporate friends. The vision is the Chamber of Commerce's and the consultation is non-existent. The document shows no leadership, Mr. Speaker. It abdicates that leadership to its large corporate friends. It puts the Tory Party back in the cap of its large business friends. I say large business because the document mostly caters to big business and leaves everyone else out.

What is this big business view? It is simple. You can have anything you want, good health care, decent education, good day care, anything so long as you can buy it. If you cannot buy it, get in line and wait. This view is reflected in this Government's style, and this view is reflected in this Government's actions.

The health care system is in trouble. This Government prides itself on its planning and its management style, so what does it do to the health care system? It cuts back those programs like home care designed to keep people in their homes and out of expensive hospitals. It forces them—those people—sooner and at greater expense into hospitals. The result is that in the North End you can buy home care if you can afford it.

What kind of planning allows the system to deteriorate to such an extent that our nurses are forced to work double shifts at low pay, or worse, leave the province while at the same time getting low wages? The result—unless you can wait in line—you are forced to go to the United States or elsewhere to get proper health care. Even the Conservatives, surely the Conservatives should realize that a front-end investment in the health care system would save untold costs in human misery.

The post-secondary education system is in crisis. What does this Government do? They say they will work with industry to identify and train people for jobs. What kind of jobs? Short-term jobs that satisfy a short-term need of the marketplace after which people will be forced to be retrained or seek social assistance. Again the marketplace commands, and the people pay.

It is the same sorry state in day care, family services, services to senior. Why does a woman in my constituency have to pay for her own cushion for her wheelchair while she is confined to it? If she cannot afford the cushion she will end up in a hospital with bed sores at \$700 to \$800 a day. Why does she have to pay?

Where is the economic blueprint designed to keep our young people in the province, to create meaningful jobs so that it can stay in the province and contribute to the future? Where is the plan and the initiative to get this province out of the recession? It is not there. It is not there, because the Government has abdicated its leadership role to the marketplace and to its big business friends.

* (1650)

If you can afford to pay for things, fine. If you cannot, get in the lineup, and all of this the provincial Government is marching to the same in name drummer of its federal friends. I do not blame them for trying to disassociate themselves from Brian Mulroney during the campaign. I just wish they would disassociate themselves from Brian Mulroney now. I wish they would disassociate themselves from free trade, the GST, high interest rates, environmental laissez faire, corporate handouts and health care and education cutbacks.

Would it not make sense to review the tax system so that average people, and seniors, and students, and the disabled could get tax relief not just big companies?

Mr. Speaker, there are some positive aspects to

the Speech from the Throne. I agree we must keep taxes down, but I feel it would only be for large business. I agree with building world-class facilities in health, aerospace and sustainable development, but let us not lose sight of those industries that have sustained this province for years, nor the jobs involved. I agree with prioritizing health and education, but I do not think this Government will actually do it. I agree with constitutional reform, but not at the expense of the people.

This Government, unfortunately, has abdicated leadership to big business and their federal friends. When they have not done so, they have promised to study and review. The pattern of the last two and a half years continues—on page 5, a task force—on page 5, also of the Speech from the Throne, we will examine—on page 7, a commission will be established—the same thing in the last two and a half years. They either act and do what their big business friends say, or they study and review, study and review.

We do not need another study of the health care system. Ask the people who use it, ask the nurses. We do not need another study of the education system. Ask the students, ask the teachers and professors. Look at the roof over at the University of Winnipeg. Ask the administration. Talk to the aboriginal people. Talk to the immigrants. We do not need a review of labour legislation, just look at our days lost for strikes over the last several years. If it is not broke, do not fix it. We do not need a review of day care. Ask the workers, ask the parents, ask the children. We do not need a review of the justice system; we just have to make it work.

We need action, Mr. Speaker, positive action. This document failed, because the Government has not listened. The Government only listened to its large corporate friends. This Government is insensitive to the needs of Manitobans and insists, like Brian Mulroney, to push through a big business agenda. This document fails because, when the Government should act, it studies, and when it acts, it abdicates to big business. This kind of politics has been repudiated. It was repudiated when the federal Liberals were kicked out in 1984. It was repudiated this fall when the voters of Manitoba thought that the provincial Liberals looked, sounded and acted like Tories. It will be repudiated in 1992 and in 1994 if this Government does not learn to listen to the people of Manitoba.

I have a personal checklist for reviewing the

accomplishments and the manner in which a Government deals with its people and it has three questions. Does the Government treat the people with dignity? Does the Government provide security? Does it treat people fairly? I am afraid to say that this Government and this document, certainly in its form, fails on all three counts.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to recognizing another speaker, I would like to draw Honourable Members' attention to the loge to my right where we have with us this

afternoon the former Member for Sturgeon Creek, Mr. J. Frank Johnston. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

* * *

An Honourable Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Six o'clock. Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? Agreed. Six o'clock. The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Wednesday, October 17, 1990

CONTENTS

| ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS | | | |
|--|-----|---|---------|
| Tabling of Reports | | Grace Hospital; Cheema;Orchard | 146 |
| Manitoba Municipal Employees Benefits Board; Conservation Districts of Manitoba Board; Manitoba Water Services Board; Municipal Affairs Department Penner | 142 | Resource Recovery Institute Laurendeau;Cummings | 146 |
| Annual Report MLCC McCrae | 142 | Plant Closure Legislation Ashton;Praznik | 147 |
| Oral Question Period | | Deer Lodge Hospital Wasylycia-Leis; Orchard | 147 |
| Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project Doer;Filmon; Edwards;Cummings | 142 | CN Rail Reid; Driedger | 149 |
| Child and Family Services Barrett;Filmon;Gilleshammer | 144 | Non-Political Statements | |
| Economic Growth Storie;Ernst | 145 | Students' Day Derkach; Carstairs; Chomiak | 150 |
| Plant Closures Storie;Ernst | 145 | ORDERS OF THE DAY | |
| | | Throne Speech Debate | |
| | | Storie; Gaudry; McIntosh; Friesen; Ernst; Wowchuk; Reimer; Chomiak | 151-182 |