



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

41 Elizabeth II

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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
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	Liberal
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	NDP
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	Liberal
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	St. 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, Clif	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Nell	St. Boniface	Liberal
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Crescentwood	Liberal
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, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PALLISTER, Brian	Portage la Prairie	PC
PENNER, Jack	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, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary, Hon.	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP
<i>Vacant</i>	Rupertsland	

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, December 4, 1992

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Maureen Klippenstein, Sandi Kauenhofen, Maureen Johnston and others, urging the government of Manitoba to pass the necessary legislation/regulations which will restrict stubble burning in the province of Manitoba.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: I have reviewed the petition of the honourable member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema). It complies with the privileges and the practices of the House and complies with the rules (by leave). Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

To the Legislature of the province of Manitoba

WHEREAS each year smoke from stubble burning descends upon the province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Parents Support Group of Children with Asthma has long criticized the harmful effects of stubble burning; and

WHEREAS the smoke caused from stubble burning is not healthy for the general public and tends to aggravate the problems of asthma sufferers and people with chronic lung problems; and

WHEREAS alternative practices to stubble burning are necessitated by the fact that the smoke can place some people in life-threatening situations; and

WHEREAS the 1987 Clean Environment Commission Report on Public Hearings, "Investigation of Smoke Problems from Agriculture Crop Residue and Peatland Burning," contained the recommendation that a review of the crop residue burning situation be conducted in five years' time, including a re-examination of the necessity for legislated regulatory control.

THEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly will urge the government of Manitoba to pass the necessary

legislation/regulations which will restrict stubble burning in the province of Manitoba.

* (1005)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Bonnie Mitchellson (Minister responsible for the Status of Women): This Sunday, December 6, marks the third anniversary of the tragic day when 14 women students were gunned down at the Ecole polytechnique in Montreal. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all members of this House will recall the shock and the horror we all felt as the news of the tragedy became public.

Once again, we extend our condolences and our sympathy to the families and friends of the women who lost their lives in that senseless violent attack. We mourn the loss of these young women and of all those women in Canada who have been killed through acts of senseless violence.

Mr. Speaker, our government has taken strong steps towards dealing with violence against women and will continue to do so. Some recent initiatives that have been taken are the unanimous adoption by this Legislature of a resolution declaring Manitoba a domestic-violence-free zone, the creation and recent expansion of the family violence court to facilitate the expeditious and sensitive disposition of abuse cases, amendments to The Family Maintenance Act providing Manitoba women stronger protection against harassment and abuse from partners—this gives them faster and easier access to nonmolestation orders and facilitates quicker access—an additional 10.4 percent or \$500,000 allocated this year to the crisis shelter and resource centre systems for the provision of follow-up services and child counselling services.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, unhealthy and destructive attitudes cannot be altered through government intervention alone. We all have a role to play in raising awareness and changing attitudes. I ask all members of the House and all of the people of Manitoba to work together with our government to make the changes that will allow all women to live free of fear and violence.

The anniversary of the Montreal massacre has been declared a national day of remembrance and

action on violence against women. On Sunday, December 6, let us all take time to remember the Montreal women as well as the Manitoba women who have been victims of violence. At 7 p.m. that evening, December 6, a memorial vigil will be held on the legislative grounds in remembrance of women who have been victims of abuse. I encourage all members to attend. Our government and our communities can and must continue to work together toward the common goal of a safer and healthier future for all Manitobans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I rise as well on behalf of the official opposition to speak out about the events of December 6, 1989, and the three years that have gone by the board since that awful day. I think we all, as the minister has said, remember what we were doing and our feelings of shock, grief, horror, anger and dismay in 1989 and since then.

I think it is important for us to realize that while we will never not grieve and not remember the women who died on that day and the impact that it hopefully has had on all of our lives, the time for grieving in its active form is past and the time for action on behalf of all of us is well underway. We all have participated and understand the white ribbon campaign that has been undertaken last year and this year, Men Against Violence Against Women. I think we all agree that this is a very positive first step to be undertaken.

I would like to echo the call of the minister and make it a little more specific. I think that the actions of women's groups and women individually and women's initiatives have gone a long way toward educating the population and toward making some steps toward ending this scourge of male violence against women. I think it is now time for all of us men and women to urge the men in our society to take an even more active role as individuals, as members of groups, as members of churches, as members of social organizations, as well as members of government, to begin to reflect on and take positive action against this problem, which is in its largest component male violence against women.

* (1010)

I think it is time for us to work together, but it is also time for us to have men taking even more initiatives in their daily lives and in all of their public

and private roles to end this horrible scourge, as I have said, in actions against half of our society.

As the President-elect of the United States has said, we do not have any people, we do not have any individuals to waste, and right now in our society, we are wasting. One-quarter of our population, one-fourth of our population, women, have been abused or will be abused at some point in their lives, and any one instance of that is a waste and should not be tolerated.

So I am urging all members of the House, in all of their lives, to carry on this action so that we can at some point in our future pause and remark about December 6 and the positive things that have come out of that awful day. Thank you.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on December 6 three years ago, 14 women were gunned down because they were women, and that was the only explanation, because they were women, and because a man in a society determined that somehow or other the rights of women had become too enlarged, had become too powerful, and that he could not cope or exist in a society where women could share in some sense of equity with the men of that society. It is really what violence is so often about; it is about power, about how one individual, be he male or female, can in an act of violence say, I am superior to another human being. That is the fundamental attitude that we have to change in our society, that we must be able to relate to individuals not in a power sense but in a human sense and an individual sense.

I join the minister in inviting everyone here as well as others to attend the memorial service on Sunday night, and I particularly ask the men to attend, because it is your signal that is so much more important than my signal or the minister's signal or the member for Wellington's (Ms. Barrett) signal that you want to effect this genuine change in the power structure, that you want to say that equality is really what it is all about, because it is not just violence to women, it is violence to members of visible minority communities; it is violence towards aboriginal peoples, it is all part of the same morass that we live in. It is all about power, and we have to change the direction of that and recognize that under our skin, under our gender, we are all human and we must therefore speak eloquently to each other as human beings and stand tall as human beings in protection of one another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

Hon. Glen Cummlings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the 1991-92 Annual Report of the Department of Environment.

* (1015)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 9—The Winter Roads (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Northern Affairs and responsible for Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), that Bill 9, The Winter Roads (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act (Loi sur les routes d'hiver—modifications de diverses dispositions législatives), be introduced and that the same now be received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 10—The Farm Lands Ownership Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), that Bill 10, The Farm Lands Ownership Amendment and Consequential Amendments Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur la propriété agricole et apportant des modifications corrélatives à d'autres lois), be introduced and that the same be now received and read a first time. (Recommended by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.)

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table His Honour's message.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 202—The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Swan River (Mrs. Wowchuk), that Bill 202, The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la location à usage d'habitation, be introduced and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion presented.

Mr. Martindale: Mr. Speaker, the purport of this bill is to enable tenants to organize themselves into tenants' organizations without fear of intimidation or

harassment by landlords. Many tenants do not know their rights or responsibilities and therefore are at a disadvantage compared to landlords who can afford to hire lawyers.

The bill will make it easier for tenants to organize, whether it is to band together to fight a rent increase, or to request repairs or heat, or any of the other numerous problems that tenants face for which the solidarity of a tenants' organization is advantageous.

Motion agreed to.

Bill 8—The Insurance Amendment Act

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer), that Bill 8, The Insurance Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les assurances, be introduced and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us this morning, from the Red River Community College, 22 English Language students. They are under the direction of Ms. Shelley Bates. This English training school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes).

On behalf of honourable members, I would like to welcome you here this morning.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Federal Mini Budget Manitoba Interests

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, a Tory is a Tory is a Tory; economic failure is economic failure is economic failure. Unfortunately, today we see in Canada the unemployment rate going up. It is now second only to 1983, the Liberal unemployment rate of 1983 nationally. The unemployment rate is going up in Manitoba again unfortunately, and yet we had a number of reports of meetings that took place between the provincial Conservatives and the federal Conservatives yesterday in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, in 1988 this government said, and the Premier said, it is an election promise, that he only had to pick up the phone and talk to the Prime Minister and federal-provincial matters would be resolved. He lectured us in the House, and I have Hansard quote after Hansard quote about how they would have more positive relationships with the federal government because Tories could deal with Tories better than the former government. We do not see a new core area agreement; we do not see the kind of ERDA agreement that was negotiated prior to this government coming into office, and we see many items of federal-provincial relations that were negotiated in '87—for example, the disease lab—without any results at all.

Can we hear today from the Deputy Premier what results of those discussions between the federal Conservatives and the provincial Conservatives, what concrete results have we got from their meetings that took place yesterday? We do not want to hear the rhetoric anymore; we want to hear the bottom line results.

* (1020)

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, let me at the outset say that one of the most positive outcomes of the meeting that took place, not by telephone yesterday but directly, that our Premier took to the Prime Minister of Canada, was the total dissatisfaction of he and his government with the manner in which we were treated in the economic statement the day before as it related to Manitoba—not by telephone but directly—as did many members of his caucus take directly to the members of Parliament the same message of how disappointed we were in the treatment as to how Manitoba was dealt with in the economic statement of the day before.

I ask members opposite: What have they done to contact their members of Parliament who represent Manitoba, to express in a positive way the interests of Manitobans? I believe, Mr. Speaker, that our Premier (Mr. Filmon) has taken the lead and shown the message that should be taken to the government in Ottawa. What has he done other than to try and make some political gains for him and his own party in this province?

Unemployment Rate Provincial Comparisons

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Deputy Premier

for that challenge, because our caucus in Parliament this week called on the federal Conservative government to resign and call a federal election. Have you done the same? When you were breaking bread, when all your supporters were breaking bread with their supporters, I wonder if you did the same thing last night. I doubt it; I doubt it very much, because you have the same do-nothing economic policies. They have the same do-nothing policies in this province as they have with the federal Conservative government in Ottawa. That is why the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) gave us the hallelujah chorus about praise the Tories in Ottawa. Well, praise those federal Tories; they are following our do-nothing course and that is good for this country.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, why has Manitoba, after having the last place of all economic performance in 1991, why are we now in the first 11 months—[interjection] Well, if you want to talk about 1992, we will be asking questions on it. Why, in 1992, with the unemployment rate that was announced, unfortunately, today, why does Manitoba now have in the first 11 months of 1992 the highest unemployment rate for the first 11 months of any year since we have been keeping statistics at about 9.6 percent? Why has this government been in charge of an unemployment rate that is now the worst ever for the first 11 months in 1992? What adjustments is this government going to make to get people back to work again, to get Manitoba working again, to get our economy moving again instead of going downhill as it is right now?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the member does not tell the full story. The unemployment rate has not increased in Manitoba. There are the same number of people working this month over last month. What has happened—and it is a positive sign—there are more people who are entering the work force looking for employment. That is the fact, not the political rhetoric coming from the New Democratic Party.

There are more people who are feeling positive about themselves, who are feeling positive about the job opportunities in Manitoba, who are entering the work force. There are not less people working, there are more people prepared to work and are trying to enter the work force. That is what is happening, Mr. Speaker, and I would like the member to recognize that.

* (1025)

Manufacturing Industry Employment Decline

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Well, Mr. Speaker, he cannot tell us any specific projects that they have negotiated or had an agreement with yesterday. They cannot explain why the unemployment rate right now is the highest it has ever been in the province of Manitoba for the first 11 months in any year; they cannot tell us whether they have any plans to get people working again.

I would like to ask another question of the Deputy Premier, and I am sure he will not answer this question either.

Why have we gone from 63,000 manufacturing jobs in Manitoba in 1988, when the former government left office, why have we decreased by 23 percent in November of 1992, down to 49,000 manufacturing jobs?

Where are the productive jobs in our economy that this government promised? Why are they failing just like their federal cousins are failing in terms of economic performance in this province?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): The member wants to talk about manufacturing and manufacturing opportunities in Manitoba. The projected capital manufacturing investment opportunities this year projected over last year is an increase by some 51 percent. Total capital investment, year over year projected, is up some 3.3 percent; private capital investment up some 8.9 percent of the projected, Mr. Speaker. The investment is going to come. The economic climate has been created and developed in Manitoba.

Let us remember what the old-think of the New Democratic Party is, the old-think, that you tax people higher, take their money to do what, Mr. Speaker? Jobs? The Leader of the New Democratic Party himself was the biggest critic of the New Democratic policy as it related to the apple-polishing jobs that were created under the previous administration.

This government believes in creating real jobs through private investment in manufacturing, through public investment which continues to lead the country in public investment, and it will continue under programs of my colleagues of the Treasury Branch and the leadership of Premier Filmon and this government.

Churchill Rocket Range Government Position

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): In the last throne speech the revival of the Churchill Rocket Range was rightly noted as an achievement that could play a major part in assisting the economic recovery of this province, and we hear the Deputy Premier talk about jobs and jobs and more jobs, and here is a potential for at least 200 jobs.

In this throne speech, the rocket range was not even mentioned, and the people in the North were shocked to hear that. The port was only slightly mentioned in the throne speech.

My question is to the Deputy Premier: Why was the rocket range omitted in the throne speech, and has the province decided it is no longer a priority for their government?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the member who asked the question—I guess would have liked to have run in Churchill but the former member chased him out of there, and it appears now we may see a shift within the ridings of which some of the members opposite—this could be his nomination play as it deals with the rocket range.

This government has fully committed to support any efforts to development or the redevelopment of the rocket range in Churchill. A commitment has been made in financing to support the economic development board of Churchill, to further look for a market opportunity for the usage of that rocket range. This government is fully committed to the further development of opportunities in the Port of Churchill area.

Port of Churchill Funding Commitment

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): Mr. Speaker, if the government is so committed to assisting the community—there was a meeting in Churchill a couple of months ago, when the ministers were up there with the mayor and council and promised \$75,000 to match the community's funding. To this date, the community has not received one penny. Why?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, the commitment has been made and will be lived up to, to support the community. That was a meeting which my colleagues and I participated in. There are other developments which the

Premier (Mr. Filmon) yesterday raised with the Prime Minister as they relate to Churchill to further enhance the port utilization.

Mr. Hickes: Mr. Speaker, when will this government commit more than press releases to supporting the Port of Churchill and the rocket range? Empty press releases are not enough. The community is asking, when will that money come?

Mr. Downey: Again, Mr. Speaker, there is a process that has to be gone through, and when the process is completed, then in fact the funds will flow to live up to that commitment.

* (1030)

Infrastructure Renewal Government Initiatives

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we were delighted that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) finally got angry with the Prime Minister. That has got to be some good news, that he finally can admit that the phone line is permanently disconnected. That did not, of course, stop some of the Tory members from attending a dinner last night which put dollars into the coffers of the federal Tories to fight the next election campaign. So we wonder how much sophistry is in all of this official anger that is being expressed, but there is a much more critical issue here.

The critical issue is that apparently the Premier got angry with the Prime Minister for not putting new dollars in infrastructure into the province of Manitoba. So I have a very simple question. What new monies is the Finance minister of this province committing to infrastructure so that he can do what he must do to get the economy moving in this province?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I would not want to divulge budgetary decisions. The member knows fully well, because indeed she has voted against our budget for the last four years, we are the only province in Canada that has maintained its level in capital expenditure infrastructure renewal through the last four years. That has caused tremendously difficult decisions to be made in a whole host of areas.

This government so strongly believes that one area governments cannot cut back is in capital expenditure areas. We have been true to our word, and consequently \$100 million continues to be spent in the highways program.

One of the difficulties that we have had with the National Highways Program, because we were held at such a high base, one of the difficulties that we have had in the discussion of trying to get through to the federal government, that we have been held in a negative position vis-a-vis other provinces which have slashed their capital spending. So my answer to the minister is no province in Canada has maintained a level of capital expenditure equivalent to the province of Manitoba.

Employment Creation Strategy Implementation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, they cannot have it both ways. They thought they could in opposition, by the way; one of their members actually said they could. The reality is they cannot. They cannot complain about the federal government not putting any money into infrastructure in the province of Manitoba and not be prepared to find additional monies in this province for the same thing. Despite what the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) had to say, there are 9,000 more people unemployed, from 493,000 in October of 1992, 484,000 in November of 1992. That is 9,000 people in one month. What is this Deputy Premier and his Finance minister going to do about giving those 9,000 and all of the others some hope for the future?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, again the Leader of the Liberal Party has it wrong. Eleven thousand more people are employed in Manitoba today as compared to August of '92. That is an enviable record, given the fact that we are gradually coming out of this recession that we are obviously in, given that we are a smaller province, given the fact that within certainly the Water Services Board, given within the area of Health capital, given within the area of Highways capital, given within the area of capital within Government Services that we continue to hold our spending whereas other provinces, particularly to the West, and I dare say in Ontario, have slashed their capital lines, I say to you, we have done a remarkable job under the circumstances.

We will continue to try and hold those levels of spending, Mr. Speaker, because we fully realize that that is probably the last area that one government should attack. I would hope then, when we do, if we are successful in holding those levels, that the Leader of the third party will support the budget,

because that has been the essence of our efforts over the last four years.

Unemployment Rate Provincial Comparisons

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we cannot support a budget this year, as we did not support it last year and the year before, because it is patently failing the needs of the people of this province. He likes to compare August of '92 to November of '92. Let us compare Novembers. Let us compare November of 1987, when Manitoba had 4.08 percent of Canada's labour force. We now have 3.87 percent of Canada's labour force. If we had just maintained a steady course, there would be 29,655 more jobs in the province of Manitoba. How does the Minister of Finance explain that?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the Leader of the third party, who has never done this in the past, is beginning to follow some of the shallow logic of her critic, the member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock). The member uses 1987 as a base. Three provinces in all of the 10 across Canada have had an increase in population. All the other seven have had a fall since '87, but the member and the Leader of the third party does not include that in her decision. Why? I do not know. Is it because we had the highest tax regime in the country in 1988? Is that the reason? Is that the reason that the member opposite would not support all the budgets in this province when we were trying to reduce the taxation? Is that the reason? I do not know.

I do know one thing, Mr. Speaker, that the member opposite has seen fit not to support one of the taxation reductions in this province, and I say to her, if she wants to go back to 1987, this government is prepared to go back and compare figures to 1987. In the same fashion that six other provinces in Canada have not been able to maintain their population, I would say to her, we are part of that same group.

Fishing Industry Lake Winnipegosis

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources.

We have heard much about the desperate situation that fishermen are facing with difficult

economic situation. Last week I wrote a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the desperate situation on Lake Winnipegosis. Close to 100 fishermen are in trouble because of low stocks and poor sales for mullet. They are going to pull their nets this week, many of them, and they will have no income and are not able to draw unemployment insurance.

I want to ask the Minister of Natural Resources whether he is prepared to meet with these fishermen, whether he has, and what is he going to do to address this desperate situation?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, I certainly would want to indicate to the honourable member for Swan River that I am always prepared to meet with Manitobans wherever they may be. It is my hope that perhaps before the end of this year, and as soon as this House rises, that I will have an opportunity to visit that part of the province up to The Pas as well, where there are some specific concerns that were expressed to us by some of the local government officials.

I cannot put fish back into Lake Winnipegosis. I know that we have done, as governments—and the previous administration had introduced different programs including the total abolition of any fishing for a number of years—five years, I believe—to see whether or not that would not restore the stocks to satisfactory levels.

In fact, the past summer season showed some fairly interesting and encouraging harvests for these same fishermen, but, Mr. Speaker, I will agree to meet with the representatives of the fishermen of Lake Winnipegosis to see what programs or what help can be provided for them.

Ms. Wowchuk: I look forward to that because they have been waiting to hear from him, but I am surprised that the minister would say he cannot do anything about putting stocks back in. There was commitment to put stocks back in. This year no stock was put back in.

CEDF Interest Rate Moratorium

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): I want to ask the minister responsible for the CEDF if they will consider lowering the interest rate or putting a moratorium on the interest rate for fishermen for one year to help them through this difficult time, because

they are going to be killed by the amount of interest they have to pay on their loans while they have no income.

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for and charged with the administration of The Communities Economic Development Fund Act): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the member that my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) has done his utmost in working with the fishermen of that particular area to try to enhance the fish stocks to relieve some of the difficulties. It is my knowledge there has been some positive results from the work that has been done by my colleague.

It would be my intention to take a look at the difficulties that are being created because of this situation, but I cannot make a commitment that I can get involved in any way in the operations of a Crown corporation which is separate from government. I can take a look at it, Mr. Speaker, but cannot assure her that anything can be done about the interest rates that are charged.

Ms. Wowchuk: Mr. Speaker, by the time they decide to look at it, it is going to be too late for these people. They are going to go broke, and they are going to go on welfare.

Fishing Industry Market Development

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): I want to ask this Minister of Natural Resources whether his government is doing any research to find sales or alternative uses for mullet? Did anybody in his government, while they were on the trip to China and the Orient, look for markets, and did they have any success in finding markets for mullet and other rough fish?

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): The honourable member raises an issue that has long been a difficulty for the inland fisheries here in Manitoba. I can report to her, though, that last year the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation marketed more mullet than in any other previous years, in the millions and millions of pounds. Regrettably these are still not firm markets.

My advice is that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) did speak directly and certainly to offshore markets such as in China and other places that could potentially be a stable market, a firm market for the fish. That is by far the biggest challenge that our inland fisheries face, the thousands, indeed

millions, of pounds of what are now referred to as rough fish that to date have yet to find a secure market.

I know that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has worked diligently in this area, regrettably they have not—they have had some successes, but they have been spotty successes. Those are not the kind of situations that fishermen can depend on and certainly pay off their debts with, but I do not take issue with the member's comments. They are a challenge for both the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and for me as Minister of Natural Resources.

* (1040)

The Green Plan Funding Reduction

Ms. Marianne Cerlill (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, the federal government under the Conservatives is offloading its responsibility for environment restoration and protection. It is cutting programs to fund initiatives. It is ignoring its legal responsibility to do environmental impact assessments, plus, the federal Conservatives and the Liberals are prepared to give away our sovereignty over our natural resources and environment by agreeing to the NAFTA agreement. We are still waiting for this government's position on NAFTA which will ensure we have the ability to conserve our resources.

My question is for the Minister of Environment: Does the Minister of Environment support the federal strategy announced two days ago to spend \$4.4 billion on military helicopters and cut \$60 million from The Green Plan, and if not, what is this minister prepared to do about this misplaced priority?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): There was an awful lot of innuendo and I am not so sure how much fact in that question. The environmental responsibilities that we undertake provincially to look after our environment, our natural resources, we have no intention of straying away from our responsibility and making sure that we adequately do the job that is required and expected of us by the people of this province.

Atomic Energy of Canada Environmental Grant

Ms. Marianne Cerlill (Radisson): How much money is being lost to Manitoba with the cuts to The

Green Plan, and how is it going to affect such things as water services on band reserves in Manitoba, hazardous waste cleanup, river cleanup, the model forest program, joint environmental impact assessments or, as we heard in the question by my colleague, fish restocking?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, in terms of environmental assessment, particularly, which is probably the most critical part of that multidimensional question, I can assure you that we will continue to be doing the job as is expected of us. To my knowledge there is no change in the way we will be dealing with environmental protection from a provincial and national basis.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House if Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. has had any budget cuts and what the grant of \$25,000 from this government to AECL is for, under the auspices of an environmental grant?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, I think I could answer that question, but I might be taking a bit of a guess. I will research the question and bring the answer back to the House.

Unemployed Help Centres Funding

Ms. Avis Gray (Crescentwood): The heartlessness of the Prime Minister is sometimes matched by his cousins here, the honourable members across the way.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) eliminated funding for the Community Unemployed Help Centres which helped people cut through red tape in acquiring their unemployment insurance. This government has also reduced accessibility to Legal Aid.

My question for the Minister of Family Services is: With the draconian changes to unemployment insurance benefits, what does this minister and the government plan to do to assist people who are unemployed, assist them in ensuring that they get the rightful claim, or is he going to allow them to go on social assistance?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, our department is responsible for that safety net which provides basic support to individuals who have no other means of support. We have consistently

raised that amount of money on an annual basis to match the increase in the cost of living. At the same time, within our Department of Family Services and within that division within our department, we spend some \$12 million a year to put forth programs for unemployed people who are on social assistance. We will continue to do that.

Our success rate, through the Single Parent Job Access and through the Gateway program and through the HROCs, has been fairly substantial in moving people from social assistance into employment.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Speaker, the minister has just indicated that he is quite prepared to have people go on social assistance and then they may try to get them jobs after.

My question for the minister is: Will he act today to reinstate funding to Community Unemployed Help Centres throughout Manitoba, including in rural Manitoba, to ensure that these people get their rightful claims and that they do not have to go on social assistance? Be proactive.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can assure the member that we make many, many efforts to be sure that people do not go on social assistance. We have had a tremendous increase, not in the provincial rolls of social assistance but in the municipal rolls, the employables. We will continue to operate with those programs to provide training. As well, other departments within government are providing training through education, through labour and other programs to work with unemployed Manitobans to get them back to work.

Unemployment Insurance Reform Impact on Women

Ms. Avis Gray (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, with a final supplementary to the Minister responsible for the Status of Women (Mrs. Mitchelson): Can the minister tell us today, given that women are very much affected by these unemployment insurance changes, has she presented a brief to her cabinet colleagues and lobbied so that there will be some support services for women here in Manitoba so that in fact they cannot go on social assistance? Will she ensure that they can get some help so they can receive unemployment insurance benefits?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, we indeed are very concerned about the plight of

women who are unemployed in the province. We make every effort, and we have made efforts and special announcements just in the very recent past to help women who are on social assistance to gain better access to the work force with allowing them to keep the Pharmacard that they have while they are on social assistance, as they enter the work force and as they move into training to help them get back into the work force.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have initiatives that we have just announced. There will be more initiatives in the future, and we will work very hard with the women of Manitoba to try to get them back into the work force and off social assistance.

* (1050)

Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Agents' Fees

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): I am very pleased to rise by popular demand. I have a question this morning for the minister responsible for Autopac.

Yesterday the minister said several times in this House that he would not want to limit or cap increases in Autopac agency fees because the compensation package was now being renegotiated with the agents.

My question is: If that is the case, why did MPIC include a proposal to limit commission increases to 3 percent in its original submission to the Public Utilities Board and as referred to on page 21 of the Public Utilities Board order? Obviously Autopac was prepared to limit the increases to 3 percent until it was overruled by cabinet.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act): Mr. Speaker, it was a regulatory proposal, a change in the regulations. The process that was in place is as I have said, and the decision was that we would wait and see that process through.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Mr. Speaker, how can the minister justify overruling Autopac's decision to limit agency fee increases to 3 percent when last week social service agencies, hospitals, school boards and other organizations received letters from this same government saying they should expect no increase next year, or even a cut?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, contrary to the way the previous administration did business, this is a

very open and transparent process. As a matter of fact, the PUB, in its response to the application of the corporation, indicated that as part of its response and as part of its application next year, it will demonstrate how it is that it will be mitigating any changes that would be as a result of this rate.

Mr. Leonard Evans: In this coming year, when a lot of people are asked to take a little less, will this minister explain to the people of Manitoba, why is there a difference in the government's attitude towards hospitals and social service agencies on the one hand and the insurance agents on the other?

Why should agents get a 10 percent increase in commissions when health, education and social service agencies are getting nothing?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, the rates did not change. This is in contrast, and I am sure one of the reasons the member is so upset—I thought he was going to hurt himself the other day when he got up to ask the question—is that they very clearly got themselves in a situation where they were behind the scenes manipulating what was going on in the corporation. This is a transparent and public process, and very clearly everything is on the table in terms of any changes that corporations think about.

Chris Davis Wheelchair Purchase

Ms. Judy Wasylcia-Lels (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, Chris Davis, who has MS, was admitted to Victoria Hospital on May 7. At least five months ago doctors said he could be released pending the purchase of a specialized wheelchair and suitable housing placement. His unnecessary hospital stay has cost taxpayers approximately \$100,000 instead of \$35,000, which includes wheelchair and housing, except for the fact that the Departments of Health, Family Services and Housing have been pointing fingers at one another and not taking responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, Chris has had on loan from the company involved this specialized wheelchair. That wheelchair will be shipped at 5 p.m. today out of the province, meaning that Chris' delay in terms of release into the community will go on for many more months and cost thousands of more dollars.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health who has taken responsibility for health care reform, if he will show his commitment to that reform initiative and

ensure that the wheelchair is purchased today and not shipped out of this country.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I, as you can well appreciate, do not have all the details as described by my honourable friend. I am prepared to take them from my honourable friend, make sure that they are as presented and take what action I may be able to today.

Housing Placement

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lois (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, Chris and others on his behalf have been working with all three departments involved and getting nowhere. I would like to know if the minister could give a commitment to the House and to Chris today that the wheelchair will not be shipped out of the province. I would like that commitment on Chris' behalf and that suitable housing placement can be found immediately.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I gave an answer to the first part of my honourable friend's question. The second part of my honourable friend's question is a much longer process which this government, in co-operation with Family Services and the ministry of Housing, has been proactively working on—resolution of those very special placement facilities for Manitobans in that circumstance.

For my honourable friend to leave the impression that this government has done nothing belies the fact, because in fact this government is the first one in the history of the province, for instance, to have a self-managed care project for disadvantaged Manitobans, disabled Manitobans to live independently in the community under their own support and their own guidance and their own management. So my honourable friend ought not to say this government does nothing. We have done substantial amounts in advancing the cause of those issues, those programs, those policies, and to say we have not sort of does a disservice to those professionals out there actively working on delivery of those kinds of programs.

Mental Health Care System Reform Implementation

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

This government has been talking about the reform of mental health since 1988. So far progress

has been very slow. The minister told this House in May of this year the action plan will be produced, fundamental health reform, by June. That deadline has passed.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, a press release from the minister said the reform would be implemented later this year, another deadline about to expire.

Can the minister tell this House when we will see the results of the mental health reform?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, commencing in 1993, a number of initiatives have emanated from suggestions, a study of the issue by regional mental health councils and analyzed by the ministry, analyzed by our provincial advisory council on mental health reform and given, if I can put it in this language, a stamp of approval for proceeding into implementation.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my honourable friend's concern that it has taken a substantial amount of time, but we have been deliberate in that, in that we have tried to involve our regional mental health councils which have been made up, Sir, of caregivers, government personnel, consumers of mental health services as well as family members. That process has been a very excellent one, but it has not been one that we have had the ability to nudge to quick completion, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, I simply say to my honourable friend that the process has integrity and will proceed in the next calendar year.

Acute Care Services

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, when the deadlines are set, the expectations are raised and the people expect answers. Our simple question again is: When will we see acute care services for children, also promised by the minister this year?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Well, I am unable to answer with specifics with a general question like that, but the reform package includes a number of initiatives. For instance, in Westman region, one of the focuses put by the Westman Mental Regional Health Council was a suggestion of reallocation of current resource into the provision of enhanced adolescent services. Possibly that is what my honourable friend is alluding to, and that is part of the proposal emanating from the Brandon and Westman Regional Mental Health Council.

Mr. Speaker: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

* (1100)

Nonpolitical Statements

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): May I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Manitoba Eco-Network on the wonderful work they are doing generally and specifically about their Green Guide to Winnipeg, which was developed and launched last night at a book launch. I had the chance to attend and bought a couple of copies.

I will just say briefly that this is a guide to teach people in Winnipeg a little bit about shopping to save the planet. It deals with environmentally safe cleaning, transportation, holidays, eating and grooming. It also has some information about a safe office workplace. It challenges us to start looking critically at our lifestyle, how to not make it so extravagant and wasteful and how to start living so that we merely meet our needs and not our greeds.

It also deals with a few larger community issues around Winnipeg that are of concern to us all. As part of my nonpolitical statement and to show the nonpartisan nature of my sentiments, I am going to present to the honourable Minister of Environment, Mr. Cummings, a copy of the book as also a signal of the Christmas spirit and a sense that all of us have to take responsibility for ensuring that we restore and protect our environment. Thank you very much.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, may I make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas and co-operation, I appreciate the remarks that the Environment critic from the NDP has just made. I appreciate the work, obviously, that has gone into that publication, and I look forward to reading it.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (Sixth Day of Debate)

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) for an Address to the honourable the Administrator in answer to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed motion of the honourable

Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) in amendment thereto—[interjection] I have already recognized the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale). Order, please. I will clarify this at once. The honourable member for Turtle Mountain, are you figuring you are continuing from yesterday?

Mr. Bob Rose (Turtle Mountain): May I complete my remarks from yesterday?

Mr. Speaker: That matter has been dealt with and voted on.

Mr. Rose: May I then have 40 minutes on the new matter?

Mr. Speaker: That will be on a new one, all right, but I will recognize you later. I have already recognized the honourable member for Burrows—

Order, please. For the honourable Madam Minister's information, it is not to complete his speech. He has completed his speech yesterday on the subamendment. We are dealing with a new matter at this time.

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, as I begin, I would like to congratulate the new members in the House, the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Pallister) and also the returned member for Crescentwood (Ms. Gray) and welcome them as other members have done. We look forward to working and co-operating with them. I would also like to recognize and welcome the Pages and to say, as others have done, how impressed I have been, especially when they called out our names for a recorded vote and did a perfect job. Their memories are really quite amazing.

I regret that we have lost two members since we were last here—the member for Portage la Prairie, also known as "honest Ed." We enjoyed his presence and his candid remarks, especially in the Members' Lounge.

We will also miss the member for Rupertsland and his contribution to debate and his contribution to the leadership of aboriginal issues in Manitoba and indeed across Canada. In fact, one of the reasons why he was not here on occasion was because he was giving guest appearances and speeches across the country and even internationally. I think he made an important contribution to raising the awareness of aboriginal people about their constitutional rights and constitutional issues and also helped to raise the awareness and even the consciousness of nonaboriginal people in Canada.

I believe there has been a sea change in opinions and attitudes in our society in the last two years on aboriginal rights issues, and I think that the change has been a positive one, whereby more and more Canadians are willing to recognize that we need to entrench the inherent right to self-government in the Constitution. It is regrettable that that was not done this year, but we know that we and aboriginal people will not give up on this goal and that negotiations will continue and eventually they will achieve their goal and will become self-governing in ways in which they define and ways which are negotiated between provincial governments and aboriginal people and the federal government and aboriginal First Nations.

Today many members are wearing the white ribbon as part of the white ribbon campaign. We heard two speeches on that topic today. It is an important occasion and I would like to point out that a federal member of Parliament, Dawn Black, the M.P. for New Westminster-Burnaby, successfully piloted Bill C-202 through the House of Commons and into law. Bill C-202 established December 6 as a national day of remembrance and action on violence against women.

I think we all know now that December 6 was the day in 1989 when 14 young women were so tragically killed in Montreal at Ecole polytechnique. So it is fitting that every year at this time we commemorate that tragedy and that we dedicate ourselves and our institutions to eliminating violence against women.

I think the significance of the white ribbon campaign by a national organization of Men Against Violence Against Women is that this is the first time that men have taken a significant role in declaring themselves against violence against women. We hope that continues and picks up support over the years so that eventually violence against women is completely eliminated.

The throne speech this year was a rather interesting document, more for what it did not say than what it does say. In fact, some of the statements are rather sweeping rhetoric. The government talks about the winds of change sweeping the globe. Well, what are those winds of change? Well, those winds of change include the collapse of financial empires like Olympia and York. They include the financial problems of airlines and railroads and the trucking industry, mainly due to their own policies of deregulation. Those are the winds of change, the changes that they began to

initiate almost a decade ago. In fact, it was not just Conservative governments that initiated those changes; it was also the Liberal federal government that began the process of deregulation of railroads and airlines and the trucking industry in Canada. [interjection]

The member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) likes to think that if the Liberals were still in government in Ottawa, we would be safe from deregulation and life would be a lot better. Well, they supported deregulation, and now we are feeling the consequences. Why have we seen the collapse of the empire of Olympia and York? They overexpanded. They were given easy credit by the banks. It was all based falsely, I believe, on increased property values. When those property values dropped, they were in serious financial problems and even bankruptcy.

* (1110)

The government talks in their throne speech about meeting challenges, and indeed I think we are all aware of the challenges except that the government did not talk about them in very specific terms in their throne speech. The challenge really is the large numbers of unemployed and the fact that we are in a recession, but this government does not want to use the word "recession" or to talk about the thousands and thousands of Manitobans who are unemployed. The real challenge is to get them back into the paid labour force again, and we see a real lack of ideas and initiatives on the part of this government in accomplishing that.

They did say that Manitobans want a strong economy, and I think that is another euphemism for the fact that what Manitobans want is jobs. They talk about supporting vital human services upon which we all rely. Well, they talk about it, but they do not do it. There is a gap between their rhetoric and their action. In fact, I used the word "hypocrisy" in Question Period the other day, because when one says one thing and does another, those actions are hypocritical. I think the best example of this is Bill 70 of the last session, the amendment to The Social Allowances Act whereby the Province of Manitoba is offloading a huge expense for social assistance to the City of Winnipeg, either by the city cutting their welfare benefits or by increasing property taxes.

The minister said that this was not going to happen. We made certain allegations about what the effect of the bill would be, and the minister denied that that would be the effect. He said that

we were alarmists, but now we know, because the regulations have been announced, that we were right, that when the regulations were announced, it was true. The province was standardizing social assistance rates, which had a positive effect for a few municipalities who were forced to raise their social assistance rates, but the largest effect was a negative effect because, when social assistance rates were standardized for the City of Winnipeg, the result was that those rates were much lower, especially for families, in fact, in some categories, depending on the family size, as much as \$3,000 a year lower.

The Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) knows that, and he chose to ignore it. In fact, he denied that that would be the effect of his bill in the last session, but now that the regulations are announced we know that the City of Winnipeg is faced with a very difficult choice of either reducing social assistance rates in some cases by up to \$3,000 a family per year if they had to follow the provincial rates or to raise property taxes in order to pay the extra cost.

This is a very difficult decision for the City of Winnipeg, the result of an irresponsible decision on the part of this provincial government. On the one hand they criticize the federal government for offloading, we hear that almost every day from this government, especially from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), but this Minister of Family Services has done the same thing to the City of Winnipeg.

The government in its throne speech talked about their plans for economic renewal. The problem we have is that it is an old plan reannounced. There is almost nothing new. We think that this is irresponsible given that last year in 1991 the province of Manitoba was second last in economic performance out of all provinces in Canada.

In the throne speech the government talks about the internal reform of government. Well, they have done that in the Department of Housing and it has been a disaster. Not only did they dissolve 98 public housing authorities and their boards and fire 600 unpaid board members, but they reorganized the staff. In fact, I think the sole purpose of the reorganization was to lay off staff to save money. The government will not admit that. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Ernst) claimed that they would save \$3 million but has never been specific about how they would save that \$3 million. We commend them

for trying to save \$3 million but not at the expense of laying off staff.

I can tell the minister that the staff in the Department of Housing are very unhappy. In fact, I have been told by numerous people in Manitoba Housing, including people at the senior level, that staff morale is the worst it has ever been in the Department of Housing. I get phone calls and I get letters from people who are extremely unhappy and I cannot blame them. The hiring process was a disaster, in my opinion. People were asked to apply for new positions, no one's position was safe or secure except, I suppose, senior management, and many of those people did not know until Friday afternoon whether or not they had a position to go to on Monday, and if they did, whether it would be a new position. There were great difficulties in rehiring people for new positions and in laying off people. There have been numerous complaints about favouritism in hiring.

My belief is that the government used this as an opportunity to cherry pick, to hire the people that they liked and get rid of people that they did not like. This, I believe, is a most unfair way to treat employees. The result is that we have people who are suing the government for wrongful dismissal. We have people who are still there but who have launched grievances, and I have been told that the government is trying to renegotiate the union contract. One of the things that they are trying to take out of the union contract is provisions regarding sexual harassment. They are already in the union contract and now they are trying to get rid of them. I think that is a disgrace. On the one hand we have a cabinet minister standing up and talking about ending violence against women, on the other hand we have the Department of Housing taking protection against sexual harassment out of the union contract. I think that is contradictory.

In this Throne Speech Debate the government announced that the Manitoba Trading Corporation would be activated and refocused. We did a little research on this and discovered that it was actually founded by the Schreyer government, so they were reinventing something that already existed. It is difficult to get excited about announcements of things that already exist.

The government once again announced the Crocus Fund and described it, wrongly I believe, as newly established. In fact it was being negotiated by the NDP government in 1988, and it has been

announced in every throne speech since. I think if the government is serious about this kind of activity, and they should be—we support the Crocus Fund—then they should look at the Manitoba Federation of Labour annual brief to the Manitoba government dated December 1992.

The MFL says, this entity—that is the Crocus Fund—typifies what can come of joint action and co-operation when a commitment is made to work towards a mutually beneficial goal. Developing a strong labour legislation fabric will benefit working people in their communities and there needs to be simultaneous development in other areas.

MFL has some recommendations which, I think, are of particular interest to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Praznik). They recommend a formal commitment by government and business to an industrial strategy that results in full employment, an industrial strategy with sufficient resources to allow for the development of specific sectoral programs, a labour force training program that would incorporate pre-job, on-the-job and job-change education, training and retraining initiatives and the integration of employment-oriented initiatives such as pay equity and the redesign of existing legislation such as The Employment Standards Act, so that they are complementary of, and are supported by the overall industrial relations strategy.

So there is much more, in addition to the Crocus Fund, that this Minister of Labour could work on if he was interested and if he was willing to co-operate with labour rather than just this Tory government's business cronies. For example, we have been recommending that this government have an economic summit and that they bring together all the partners: government and business and labour.

* (1120)

Recently the government had a meeting to which a very small number of labour people were invited. It was not to talk about common concerns and initiatives, it was to go and listen to speeches rather than to brainstorm and to create new ideas.

If this government is really serious about economic initiatives, they would co-operate with labour instead of leaving labour out and only co-operating with their business friends. What we need is a new partnership that includes all three, not just two of the three partners.

In the throne speech this government talks about investment in infrastructure and talks about capital

expenditures but nowhere in this document do they talk about investment in people. It is totally lacking.

They are cutting courses in community colleges. They are attacking people who are also a resource. I think the government has a focus which is way too narrow. It includes business as an area for investment but leaves out people as an area for investment.

It is my belief, and our belief, that if this government would invest in people, for example putting more money into education rather than cutting the Education budget by \$17 million and putting more money into training and retraining programs, that investment would pay off in the future down the road.

Mr. Marcel Laurendeau (St. Norbert): Where would we get the money from, Rev?

Mr. Martindale: The member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) asks, where would we get the money? Well, let me give an example. The City of Winnipeg civil servants met with officials in the Department of Family Services and they said, we want to cost-share employment training programs such as the Dutch Elm Disease control program. They said, we want to take people off social assistance and put them in this job training program, and we want to take people who are heads of households of large families. I believe they said, we want 64 positions. The province only agreed to hire 32. The City of Winnipeg said it would be cheaper to pay people on the Dutch Elm Disease control program than to pay people social assistance to stay home.

So when people talk to me and they say, what is this government doing about job creation, I say, well, the City of Winnipeg asked them to take people off social assistance and put them to work and this government said no. They would not create as many positions as were asked for, and they are paying people to stay home and paying them more money to sit home and collect social assistance than to work on the Dutch Elm Disease control program. [interjection] If the minister believes that my facts are wrong I would be happy to correct the record, because I got this information from a senior official in the social services department of the City of Winnipeg, and I stand by it. If the minister would like to send me information so that I can correct my views, I would be happy to receive information from him. [interjection] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

In the throne speech, this government talks about health care industries. If this government was really

interested in consumers and keeping people's costs down, they would have been opposed to the federal government extending patent protection for the drug companies that produce patent drugs and would have supported consumers and supported the generic drug industry which want to keep costs down for consumers.

This government talks about competition in long distance telephone services. What this really means is higher domestic phone rates and layoffs for civil servants, hundreds of employees at MTS are going to be forced to take early retirement or will be without a job altogether.

This government talks about tourism and says that they plan to introduce Sunday shopping on a trial basis. Well, we are getting phone calls about that. We are the only party that is going to oppose the Sunday shopping legislation. There are, I believe, two major reasons for opposing this. One is that we support the view of those people who want a day of rest for a day of worship. We know that this is having an adverse effect on individuals who are being forced to work on Sunday and who therefore are having to make a very tough choice in tough economic times about whether they are going to go to worship on Sunday morning or whether they are going to work because their employer forces them to work.

I have already had one phone call from somebody at Oxford Street United Church who said that one of their members was forced to work and therefore cannot sing in the choir. Another member was forced to work and therefore cannot teach Sunday school. [interjection] The new member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Pallister) questions me on "forced to work." Well, let me explain it to the new member. I have talked to cashiers at Safeway and said, what is your company's policy? If you were asked to work on Sunday, what happens if you say no? Well, the result is that you do not get more hours. In fact, you are probably giving up hours. You are going to get fewer hours because the company will find somebody else to work or they will hire more part-time employees or more university students, which means that people who are working, especially single parents, to support their families, are going to have less hours, rather than more.

I have read the government's bill and it talks about choice and how employees can refuse to work hours on Sunday, but it is not realistic and it is not enforceable. The real fact is that people do not

have a choice because if they turn down the hours they will not be given additional hours. So we are going to oppose the Sunday shopping legislation because it denies the opportunity for people to spend time together as families one day a week and it forces people to work or to receive less hours.

We are also opposed to the fact that it is going to be retroactive legislation. This legislation will probably be one of the last bills to pass in this session, probably late in June or July or August, depending on how long we are here, and it will be retroactive to November. It is going to be at least six months retroactive if not eight or nine months retroactive. Because we are opposed to this legislation, we are opposed to its retroactivity.

We will have much more to say about Sunday shopping legislation. In fact, I had a phone call just this morning from one of my constituents who said that there are three people in her family, all of whom are working and they do not want to be forced to work on Sunday. They believe that when they are, it is causing a strain in family relationships. I think that is something this government should be concerned about.

In fact, this government likes to talk about family values, they like to think of themselves as the protector of family values but through this legislation they are attacking the very values that they claim to promote. I look forward to hearing the debate from the minister. [interjection] The member for—somewhere, one of those yellow dog ridings in southern Manitoba. We look forward to hearing their arguments because we will have opportunity to rebut them. Their constituents are going to agree with us, not with them. I think those rural members are in a very tough position, because the merchants in their towns are opposed to this as well as their constituents. The business community in many of those instances are opposed to this legislation as well as churches and individuals who do not want to work on Sunday.

This government continues to brag about the fact that they have not raised taxes in, I believe, five budgets. Well, if they are simply talking about income taxes, on the surface it appears that is true, but when you examine it, it is quite clear that it is not true. Every time the federal government raises income taxes, our provincial income taxes go up automatically, so there have been increases in provincial income taxes. In addition, this government is offloading to the City of Winnipeg,

they are offloading to boards of education and the result is that municipalities, school boards and cities are raising their property taxes and user fees and all kinds of other taxes.

It is not accurate and it is not true to say that the Conservative government has not raised taxes. In fact, they have. They have just been sneaky about it and they have done it through the back door because they do not have the guts to do it through the front door. When they are raising taxes by offloading to property taxpayers or ratepayers, they are raising taxes in the most regressive way because it is not based on the ability to pay. It is only based on the property that one owns.

Under Education and Training in the throne speech the government talks about offering options to parents for flexibility in choosing the public school best suited to the needs of their child. We will be waiting to see if there is legislation to outline this. We have some concerns about it, but we will wait and see exactly what they say.

* (1130)

We are concerned about the overall trend and trends of this government, because what we see is that they are providing more and more support to elite private schools and inadequately funding public education. Recently I had occasion to read the prospectus for St. John's-Ravenscourt and it is very interesting. When you read this document it is quite interesting because in several places, and I wish I had it here to quote, it talks about their students being university bound. I think that probably 99 percent of their students are university bound.

I would like to ask why do they not cater to all students. Well, there is a very obvious answer to that question and that is that all students cannot afford to go to St. John's-Ravenscourt. Only the children of rich parents can afford to go to St. John's-Ravenscourt.

These schools are not accepting students who are slow learners. I would wonder if they are accepting handicapped students. I would wonder if they accept any students who do not fit into their mold of being university bound. So not only are they elite according to how much it costs to attend them, for example, it is about \$7,500 a year now to attend St. John's-Ravenscourt, but they are also elite because they only accept certain kinds of students, those students who are bound for university.

If they accepted all kinds of students, then they might have a better case for having public funding. Since they do not and since they are not forced to but since they are not accountable to this government, then we have a very serious concern about the elitist nature of these private schools.

Another issue that I am sure the Minister of Education and Training (Mrs. Vodrey) is well aware of is the end of choice of courses at the Grade 10 level beginning with English. In fact, I am on an area advisory council of parents, the Sisler-Rosser Advisory Council, and we would like to get the Minister of Education to come out to one of the high schools in north Winnipeg and defend her policy, because all of the parents without any exceptions on that advisory council are opposed to this policy. We believe that it is going to be extended to other subjects and to Grade 11.

We would like to know why the Minister of Education is doing this. I have not heard the rationale, but I would like to know what it is and whether or not it is defensible.

An Honourable Member: What are they doing?

Mr. Martindale: My colleague asks, what are they doing? Well, my understanding is that in the past, there has always been a choice of three levels of courses in, for example, Grade 10 English. Now this government is going to take away those choices and offer one level of English for all Grade 10 students, whether those students are heading for university or whether they are going to be in the job force in a year or two.

We believe that is the wrong direction to go. I would like to hear the rationale. I would like to hear the minister defend her policy. I know that many, many parents in north Winnipeg would like to hear her defend that policy as well. It is a very hot issue out in the community, and this government should pay attention to it and should either change the policy or modify it or rethink it before going ahead.

The government talks about quality health care for Manitoba, and they have embarked on health care reform. Well, we agree with the government that health care needs reform from time to time, but we have some serious questions about the direction that health care reform is taking. In fact, I had a call from one of my constituents, who nurses in one of the hospitals in the Health Sciences complex, which is also in Burrows constituency, and this individual

had some serious questions about what is happening.

For example, in their department they are having staff laid off. In spite of that, they are dealing with serious overcrowding. In fact, there are patients from other units and other wards on their ward because of overcrowding, so this individual is saying, how can you possibly lay off staff, when we are already seriously overcrowded? It does not make sense. Some patients from some hospitals are going to be sent to other hospitals. The doctors are saying, how can that happen? We do not have admitting privileges there. I suppose those patients are going to be forced to change doctors. I think we are going to have a lot of very unhappy senior citizens if that choice is taken away from people.

This government talks about health promotion, illness prevention and disability postponement. We agree that those are good things to be talking about and they should be doing something about it. If they wanted to put some action behind their words, what they would do would be to proclaim the antisniff bill which was unanimously passed, I believe, in 1989, and yet it has been waiting and waiting and waiting and nothing is happening.

The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) refuses to proclaim it. It is sitting on his desk gathering dust and nothing is being done. This week, very tragically, we had another death in Winnipeg from someone who was apparently sniffing.

So the tragedy of young people who die from substance abuse continues, and as a doctor from the Health Sciences pointed out, sniffing is a very difficult problem to treat medically. I know from having been involved in the antisniff coalition that there are almost no treatment facilities for adolescents who abuse solvents and other sniff products.

So we would like to see some action from this government. We believe in health promotion. We believe in illness prevention and disability postponement. One way of doing that in fact, not just promoting wellness but preventing deaths, would be to proclaim the antisniff legislation and stop the tragedy of people dying from inhaling sniff products.

The Throne Speech Debate talks about strengthening and supporting Manitoba families. However, the truth is that many families are in very serious difficulty, and amongst those are the people

who are using food banks. The number of people using food banks is going up all the time. For example, the community coalition on unemployment has some statistics. They say that 30,000 people used the 175 food bank outlets in Winnipeg in the past year, a 300 percent increase over the previous year.

The City of Winnipeg welfare rolls increased by 42 percent from June 1991 to June 1992, a 148 percent rise from 1983, and Manitoba has the highest provincial child poverty rate in Canada, but they just do not talk about what the problem is, they also talk about solutions.

They say, and I quote, what is the solution? As necessary as they have been made, food banks are not the solution. They are a symptom of the underlying problem. Unemployment is the one major cause of hunger and poverty. We must focus our efforts on job creation and commit ourselves to providing meaningful employment. We urge the Filmon government to adopt a policy of full employment.

This is what the community coalition on unemployment is promoting. While this government continues to offload expenses to the City of Winnipeg and forces them to make tough choices like increasing property taxes or decreasing social assistance rates, more and more food bank outlets are opening.

In the Winnipeg Free Press of November 25, 1992, a headline says, parents run food bank in school. This school is William Whyte School, located in the constituency of the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hlckes) and adjacent to the boundaries for Burrows.

In the Free Press of several months ago we have headlines: small town pride makes people balk at food bank use. We have a story about a new food bank opening in Roblin, Manitoba, and there has been a food bank open in lie des Chenes. There has been a food bank open in a number of rural communities in recent months as people are forced to turn to alternatives to the social assistance system.

In fact, I must make a phone call to an individual, I believe from Steinbach, who came into Winnipeg to get food at Winnipeg Harvest and as a result is starting to set up a food bank in her community. She said that the staff in Family Services referred her to

a food bank outlet. I think that is a dangerous thing to be doing.

We believe, and I think Canadians believe, that social assistance is a support program of last resort, that it is there to support people when they are in a time of need. In fact, the Canada Assistance Plan, federal legislation, says that Canadians' basic needs for food, shelter and clothing shall be met.

We believe that should be happening through the social assistance system and not through charity and band-aid solutions such as food banks. I have participated in one of those outlets for many years and I believe that occasionally it is necessary to get people through a crisis, but we do not believe that food banks are a permanent solution to the problem of hunger. The underlying problem is inadequate income and the solution to that is not food banks but to provide adequate income so people can buy what they need.

* (1140)

Fortunately, there are some changes going on in the community, for example, at Anishinabe food club they have decided to make what I think is a fundamental change and a good change. We are glad to see it coming, and that is that, instead of handing out so much food from Winnipeg Harvest, they are going to form a food buyers' club and they are going to buy food in bulk from Neechl Foods Community Store, the aboriginal food store on Dufferin Avenue. They are going to help people to save money by buying in bulk and reduce people's dependency on the free handout of food banks.

In fact, the inadequacy of the food banks is illustrated by this woman, I believe from Steinbach, who was referred to the food bank at Iles des Chenes and came away with four dozen donuts. I believe it is a single parent with four children. It shows the total inadequacy of food banks as a solution to the problem of hunger and the inadequacy of income.

It is my hope that other churches and agencies in the inner city, and I have already talked to North End Community Ministry staff, will follow the example of Anishinabe and will encourage people to form food buyers' clubs, some of which already exist—for example, the St. Matthews-Maryland Community Ministry—and will help people to buy food in bulk and to spend their money at the beginning of the month on buying food so that at the end of the month they are not forced to go to food banks. It is an excellent

alternative and it is one which all of us should be assisting and promoting.

The throne speech talks about the office of Children's Advocate. This is legislation that we passed during the last session; however, we still have a problem with this legislation and with the office of the Children's Advocate because this office is not independent. The new person will report to the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) rather than to the Legislature. I believe that we will be introducing a private member's bill to amend the current legislation so that this Children's Advocate will be independent and will report directly to the Legislature.

The throne speech talks about co-management programs with First Nations to assist in protecting wildlife populations in Manitoba. I believe this is a good idea and one that needs to be pursued with all First Nations in the province of Manitoba.

Frequently people talk to me about aboriginal rights and they bring up areas that are contentious and problematic in the current context, but when you explain to them some of the solutions such as co-management agreements, people are quite happy to hear about that. They have not been forced on municipalities or First Nations. My understanding is that they have been negotiated, that they have been mutually acceptable to both sides and that where they are in existence, they are working well. I certainly hope that is the case. We need more of those because I believe that is the kind of solution that the public are looking for and the kind of solution that is workable.

The government talks about a strong and prosperous future. They believe that competition brings progress and growth. I regret that this government believes that only competition brings progress and growth. We in this party have always believed that there is another way, and we believe a better way, and that is the route of co-operation. The example that I used was our call for an economic summit that involves all partners in this province, not just government and business but also includes labour, because all of us want progress and growth for this province. There are many ways to achieve it, not just one way.

The problem with this government is that when they talk about growth and development, they have a limited vision. All they see is economic growth and development. We think they should broaden

their focus and include growth and development of people as a natural resource.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we believe that this throne speech is quite inadequate. It consists of inadequate promises. It is bankrupt of ideas. It says nothing about the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry report and does not take into account the real needs and problems of Manitobans, especially those who are unemployed. Therefore I will be supporting my Leader's amendment to this throne speech. I hope that the Liberal Party will support it as well, since we supported their amendment. We look forward to continuing debate on the throne speech. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. Ben Sveinsson (La Verendrye): I would like to extend my congratulations to you on the resumption of your duties of your high office. You will no doubt continue to preserve order and decorum in this Assembly. I would also like to congratulate my colleague the honourable member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) on the resumption of her duties as Deputy Speaker. Her patience and wisdom have and will serve this Assembly well I am sure.

I would also like to welcome my new colleague, Mr. Brian Pallster, from Portage la Prairie. His addition to this Legislative Assembly and to our caucus is definitely a welcome one. I would also like to welcome Avis Gray, the MLA for Crescentwood, to the Legislature and wish her well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome the new Pages. Trevor Rudge's grandparents, Jock and Joan Tod, of course, are very good friends of mine and live within my constituency in the area of West Hawk Lake. Very good people, very nice people. I know, because I have talked to them, that they are really very proud of Trevor. Gaetane Manaigre is also a constituent of mine and a new Page in this Assembly—coming from Lorette. For all the Pages, an experience of learning the workings of the Legislature firsthand will be a valuable contribution to their education.

I would also like to mention that I feel fortunate to work with the honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) as his legislative assistant. It has been and I am sure it will continue to be a super experience.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker, I represent the constituents of La Verendrye. The constituency of La Verendrye is extremely diverse in its people and its economy. It ranges from agricultural production in the central region to tourism in the east. The agricultural sector of La Verendrye has undergone some extensive changes over the last number of years.

One of the most significant has been in hog production. After much research and development, we now produce hogs with much leaner meat contributing to healthier meat for Manitobans, Canadians and indeed for export.

Our hogs are of such a high standard, they are frequently sought by markets throughout the world. This is a tribute to both the constituents of La Verendrye and to Manitoba hog producers. As noted in the Speech from the Throne, Manitoba farmers bring the best products in the world to market, and this, Madam Deputy Speaker, is a first-rate example.

Part of the constituency I represent also includes, as I have mentioned, West Hawk Lake and Falcon Lake and other surrounding tourist attractions. Tourism in Manitoba is approximately a \$900 million industry. This area of Manitoba contributes significantly to that figure. Local businesses throughout the Whiteshell in many instances are open year round to service and accommodate both residents and tourists. I think that all people within this area should be applauded and commended for the contribution they make towards the tourism industry in Manitoba.

If I just might mention, in the wintertime now we see functions or things happening out in that area, and I just mention the Can-Am International Trail which indeed brings many tourists from the United States, Ontario and other parts of the country into our province. It starts this year in West Hawk Lake and will end in Roseau, but the day before it starts off in West Hawk Lake they will be having a tour of the Whiteshell, an organized tour for anybody who wishes to see our trails throughout the Whiteshell, see the beautiful countryside. Also the day after the ride ends in Roseau, there will also be a ride there to show off the trails within Roseau. It is definitely a good thing and you see people join hands across the border in trying to help each other in this way.

* (1150)

Madam Deputy Speaker, our province is known for hosting world-class events, and this summer I had the pleasure of attending and opening the Canadian round of world motorcycle trials in Rennie. As I have said, it was a world-class event attended by tourists and participants from around the world. The event exposed Manitoba to a world audience and proved, through initiative and through the greatest resource in the province, our people, that Manitoba is a place for viable ventures. It is an example of our capacity to host attractions of international calibre.

I talked to many of the contestants after they had competed and I talked to judges also, and they told me that the route that we had set out in the Whiteshell was indeed the toughest course in the world. After the ride the participants, you could see, definitely knew it was. Unfortunately we had a lot of rain that day, and although it might not have bothered the participants a lot, it cut down on the numbers of people who were there to watch it. We still had a very substantial number of people there, but it would have been, I am sure, a lot better.

People, Madam Deputy Speaker, have always been our greatest resource. Construction of the Dawson Route is an example of this. The Dawson Route, part of which runs through the constituency of La Verendrye, was an all-Canadian route from Thunder Bay to the Red River district of southern Manitoba. The western end of the Dawson Route runs 115 miles from the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods to Ste. Anne, Manitoba, and then, of course, it came on through Lorette and, in fact, right up to Winnipeg.

The route was Canada's first attempt—and let me remind you that there have been several—to open up communications with the East and the West. In fact, a cairn stands today outside of the Ste. Anne Municipal Building in Ste. Anne, a commemoration of the route's construction. Stories abound of the disturbances encountered during the route's construction, stories of human suffering, of human diligence and human accomplishment. Constituents of La Verendrye and indeed countless other Manitobans continue the legacy started by their forefathers.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I listened with great attention to the throne speech last Thursday as did all of my colleagues on this side of the House. From the comments made by the other side, I am not sure what they in fact were paying attention to.

As a representative from rural Manitoba, I have particular concerns for the strengthening of the rural economy. The initiatives developed by this government, the Rural Development Grow Bonds and the Rural Economic Development Initiatives are two examples of the direction our government has taken with respect to economic renewal and sustainable growth.

The Town of Teulon in the constituency of Gimli represented by my colleague Mr. Helwer has taken full advantage of the opportunity available to them through the Grow Bonds. Also, let it be noted that the Grow Bonds program recently contributed to a company locating in Portage la Prairie, the honourable member for Portage la Prairie's (Mr. Pallister) constituency, creating 22 jobs in the spin-off thereof.

I would just like to mention a few projects that were ongoing in my constituency this past year. Fresh water is a very valuable thing these days throughout the world and especially on the North American continent. We have been working with a group in the municipality of Whitemouth in putting in a water line from Seven Sisters to Whitemouth, with co-operation and funding from both provincial and federal governments and then indeed the municipal government.

I have also another water line that we are working on to get going and that is driven by the municipality of Ritchot. Actually this water line will do two very important things, something that we have been working on for a number of years and even the previous government was faced with this problem, and that was the flooding around the New Bothwell springs. This water line will indeed correct that and give fresh water, beautiful water to a community and communities that in the future need it. The spin-off, of course, from that is jobs. It is really a nice thing to see when you can, in fact, not just correct one problem but complete another thing.

Also, Madam Deputy Speaker, the provincial government, through its combined commitment with Ayerst Organics Ltd. and the federal government, has contributed to the creation of over 1,000 jobs in construction, farm operations and directly related industries.

What have the NDP got to offer Manitobans? Honestly, we have not heard anything, and this is indeed the start of the fourth session. [interjection]

It would be hard to explain to that member, but I will do my best in the next few minutes.

Obviously more of the same NDP mismanagement that my colleague from Niakwa (Mr. Reimer) pointed out a few days ago in this Assembly. Their theory, spend, spend, spend. Madam Deputy Speaker, somewhere there has to be a stop. We collect so much money, and it will cover certain particular things.

The Jobs Fund, a fund that Mr. Doer wants to reinstate, a return to the fiasco of the Jobs Fund would in fact jeopardize the province's credit rating. As we are well aware, one of the ways in which a government's economic development strategy is measured is by provincial credit rating. In 1984, Standard and Poor's credit agency reduced Manitoba's credit rating to AA minus because of the 1984 NDP budget's projected deficit.

In 1985, the province's overall performance was reviewed by Moody's Investors Service and Manitoba's credit rating was again downgraded, this time to a minus 1, which by the way, probably cost Manitoba an additional \$7 million on that year's borrowing requirements.

In July of 1986, the province was placed on a credit watch by Standard and Poor's again because of the anticipated deficit, Madam Deputy Speaker. Can Manitoba afford to deal with the fiasco of the NDP fiscal irresponsibility? I do not think so.

In listening to a number of the opposition members speaking to the throne speech, they keep on mentioning that we have been in government for four to five years. We have been there, yes, but is it not funny how we forget what fiscal changes can be done when you are sitting with a minority government? Fiscal direction that has been developed now would never have been passed or had a chance to mature under a minority government. Never. So when you say five years, say it in a truthful fashion if you possibly could.

* (1200)

Another means of helping strengthen the rural economy in maintaining its viability is through some of our decentralization. The government of Manitoba is committed to decentralizing some government services to rural Manitoba in order that it can serve Manitobans more effectively.

The town of Ste. Anne, Manitoba in my constituency recently opened new government offices that will house 20 government employees

and actually four decentralized jobs. Actually we moved some government employees from the Health and Family Services out of a dungeon that I would assume that the NDP put them in, where in fact the services could not be utilized by the people that use them.

The additional wages and spinoff from the jobs will be very beneficial to the town and the surrounding area. This is another example of the government's commitment to the decentralization program. More than 500 government positions have been decentralized to date. The decentralization initiative brings services closer to Manitobans who use them. I believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, that rural communities must be maintained and rural community living enhanced. My government is committed to this belief. My government believes in rural Manitobans, but indeed we believe in all Manitobans.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there was reference in the throne speech to the government's implementation of measures to control and dispose of hazardous waste. It was also stated that the hazardous waste management centre in the R.M. of Montcalm is now proceeding. This is another way that the government of Manitoba is showing its commitment to the environment. This is our position, but what of the NDP's? The NDP's record in terms of hazardous waste is nothing but dismal; in fact, I have heard it described as an absolute disaster. In 1983, more than a year after a promised cleanup, Weston area boulevards still contain dangerous levels of lead. The dispute: Who should pay the bill? Who should pay for the cleanup, the provincial or the municipal governments?

I could also mention the Repap, but then we have heard it mentioned so many times in this House and, like many other things, the NDP have never answered to it.

The NDP, Madam Deputy Speaker, claim that the environment is their main priority, in fact, a priority over economic development, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) stated during the May 1989 Throne Speech Debate. It seems to me that the environment is not a priority to them, and the example I have just stated shows the NDP's policies are wrought with inconsistencies.

However, there is one thing that we can be assured of and that is the consistent record of the NDP with respect to the deficit. It rose consistently

under the NDP, leaving the government of Manitoba and the people of Manitoba in a very tenuous position. Like I said, their theory is just spend, spend, spend. But, my friends, it is coming to an end and I think it is time we all came to that reality. It is like a noose around our children's throat and as long as the NDP spend, spend, spend philosophy continues, the noose will continue to tighten.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the NDP increased taxes at least 15 times. I heard 17 the other day. Just saying 17 times, it is quick, eh? Let us just take a fast look. In 1982, they increased personal income tax, increased the insurance premiums tax, increased the bank corporate tax rate and introduced a payroll tax.

In 1983, they increased personal taxes again, increased corporate income taxes and increased provincial sales taxes.

In 1984, they increased corporate income tax. In 1985, increased personal income taxes yet again.

In 1986, they increased personal income taxes, increased bank corporate capital tax and increased corporate capital tax on investment.

In 1987, they increased personal income taxes, increased the payroll tax, increased the corporate income taxes, increased the provincial sales taxes, introduced a land transfer tax, and introduced a corporate capital tax surcharge. Among the taxes created, and I have mentioned an increase, was the payroll tax.

Now, it does not make sense to create a tax that punishes the creation of jobs. I know that Mr. Doer has heard this before but, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is of the utmost importance that we not forget from whence we came. I guess we have heard it said before, and we talk about it on Remembrance Day, lest we forget, and I say it today, lest we forget.

The Progressive Conservative Party under the guidance and leadership of the Honourable Gary Filmon has by far outperformed the record of the NDP.

The deficit for 1988-89 was \$141.3 million, \$142.4 million in 1989-90, under our government. The deficit increased in '90-91, and in '91-92 and will increase for '92-93. However the deficit is still lower in real terms than it was 10 years ago. Our government remains committed to Manitobans. There have been no increases in personal income taxes during this government's time in office. The efficiency and good management of our limited

financial resources by the Premier and our government will lay the groundwork for building a stronger tomorrow. The NDP on the other hand actually decry the importance of efficiency and good management. In March of 1988, the president of the Manitoba NDP stated: We are the party that will do things for people rather than insisting on some concept of efficiency or good management which is vague at best.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Speaker, our government's use of efficiency and good management has been anything but vague and has enabled the government to proceed in a direction that is beneficial to all Manitobans.

*(1210)

Mr. Speaker, our government is composed of individuals from all walks of life. The backgrounds of the members on this side of the House are varied, and it brings me to something that has been said a number of times since we came back into this Chamber just a few days ago. After three sessions of watching an opposition party, I guess it is infighting within their party and you can see a very disorganized party. I figured that after three sessions we would come back to this Assembly and we would see perhaps a little bit of regrouping. Perhaps we would see some very sharp questions to our ministers and to our government.

However, what we have seen are unsubstantiated accusations and comments. I would just like to draw your attention to a comment made by the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli). Very interesting. I would like the members from the opposition benches and all members and Manitobans to listen very closely. This is the honourable Marianne Cerilli for Radisson who is speaking here, and I quote: I hate to say it, but when I look across at the benches opposite, I see a bunch of old white guys.

Mr. Speaker, is it not interesting how the members in the opposition benches sit there and they laugh with glee, with absolute glee? It is definitely a racist, sexist and there is age discrimination there, but they laugh with glee. It also shows a complete lack of—[interjection]—elderly people by the opposition benches. [interjection] That is possible.

She also goes on to say that this is the impression that I am faced with on a daily basis. I know that there are members on the opposite side who are representative of the female gender, but the

percentage of women on that side of the House—continues and then she kind of faded off somewhere. I am not sure what she was doing.

What she was insinuating though was that in fact there was a larger percentage of the female gender on that side of the Assembly as compared to ours, which is totally false once again. Totally false.

She goes on to say: I do not believe that their caucus truly represents the diversity of our society because we do, I think she says, more accurately represent the diversity in our society.

Now, I have to point out to you the background of some of our members, and she can compare it to the ranks of her members in her side of the House. But let me say this, I do not knock the background of any member in this Assembly. It is obvious that she does.

Let us just take a look. We have an economist; we have an auctioneer; we have farmers; we have lawyers; we have teachers; principals, school board trustees, business people, former councillors and mayors, homemakers, real estate salesmen, insurance agents, court reporter, nurses, psychologist, steward and vice-president of a union, chartered accountant. We have a doctor too; we have chartered accountants, car salesmen.

We have engineers; we have ranchers, meat inspectors, a university professor, labour people, market gardeners, mechanics, sugar beet farmers, private investigators, artist, writer and author, pilots, historians, university degrees of various disciplines, and Mr. Speaker, we have five, very fine representatives on our side of the House who represent indeed the females of our society, and I am very, very proud of them.

Accusations such as these are becoming commonplace from the NDP ranks. They do not know that the people of Manitoba are indeed watching.

An Honourable Member: Do your job and make sure they do not forget.

Mr. Sveinsson: I will not let them forget. After showing you just how diverse the backgrounds of all our members are, it shows that we indeed do represent Manitobans from all walks of life. In other words, our government is very representative of the people of Manitoba.

Enough comments about the silliness from across the way. I would just like to say a few words on—

An Honourable Member: You really misrepresented us.

Mr. Sveinsson: Yes, yes indeed. There are a number of things that I believe we in society have to do. We must remember when we are talking about government, and I mean people of Manitoba, all people of Manitoba, government is government. We have seen lines drawn in the past, many years back between federal government, provincial government; provincial government and municipal; school board, hospitals and so on. It is like each one trying to protect their turf, if you will, trying to say in fact we want our fair share. Now, I guess what it does is, it forces us into a protectionist way, if you will. This is not to say that this is just a PC government, or NDP government or Liberal government. That is in fact how it has gone over the past many years.

Things that we can do: It has been mentioned by our member for Rossmore (Mr. Neufeld), pride, pride in our work, pride in our people, pride in our country, pride in our province, in our towns, our cities, our areas. It is very important because we are losing. We are losing jobs and we must ask why. Well, it is very simple. It is very simple why—

An Honourable Member: Free trade.

Mr. Sveinsson: The member over here says free trade. It just shows the understanding the member has. The fact is that we lose jobs because we are not competitive on the open market and we do have to remain competitive. It has to be. It is not just happening here. It is not just happening in Canada, in Manitoba; it is happening around the world. We have to remain competitive; in the type of global economy that we have today it is even more imperative.

Attempts to instill or bring back pride to Canadians and people within our areas is very important. Also, our communities, instead of crying, crying for government to look after all problems, all problems from home and, in fact in the communities, has to be a thing that, we have to take ownership for problems, some problems in fact relating to alcohol, drug and substance abuse is one.

I travelled all over Manitoba and talked to many Manitobans with a committee. It was just a short time back, and in fact the people of our communities, of our schools, of our areas, are taking ownership and are doing a super job and I commend them, and that is something else that we have to do. People within our communities, volunteers, firefighters,

ambulance people, police, people like that have to be commended for the volunteer work that they are doing. They are doing a super job, in fact we cannot do without it. Just believe this, if we had to pay for the volunteer work that goes on especially in the rural areas we would have deficits that would probably far surpass what is today, so we have to commend them and ask them to continue. The energy, the will to create, to get ahead, is always in the air when a new business is started or bought.

Mr. Speaker, a healthy country, a healthy province is a country or province with a working society. By that, I mean we all have to contribute. Social assistance recipients who are healthy should be in fact expected to contribute in some way for the money they receive. Handicapped people even should be expected to do whatever wherever they possibly can contribute. Many do already. If a job is not possible, perhaps work in a community centre, in some way helping out, would be the answer. Everybody contributing where they can.

* (1220)

I would like all of you to come with me one day to Dawson Trail Opportunities in Ste. Anne. At Dawson Trail they work with people with mental disabilities and are involved in our community living program. I would like you to see these people come in. They come in because they have a place and a purpose. They have work to do. They have work crews. They have a cafe there that they actually serve meals in. They work in there, right in Ste. Anne. It is called Dawson Trail Opportunities—super, super people, very loving people. When you come in there, you would just as likely get a hug instead of a cup of coffee first. [interjection]

Yes, I do too. They have a store in the back, again, which they work in. It is a lot of secondhand clothes but very good secondhand clothes. Much of it is made use of whether it is sold or sometimes given to needy people within a community. So they do both, but they do super work. Also, it is nothing to see them on the street, cleaning the sidewalks, or they are hired by towns and municipalities to go out around garbage dumps to clean up. They are working people with a purpose.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that it is easier said than done, but we have to contribute, all of us have to contribute. If we look around the world, wars, destruction, hunger should be enough incentive to make us work today in our society harder than we have ever worked before.

I would just like to say that when we look at the deficit that we have in Manitoba, I compare it to a mortgage. I compare it to a mortgage in this way. When you go to buy a home, you could spend anywhere in the amount of \$80,000 to \$100,000 in a matter of minutes. Well, the NDP, in a very short time, created a heck of a mortgage, a mortgage that we indeed will have to pay.

We will have to expect possibly a little bit less in areas sometimes in the future, but just think, after we are finished paying the mortgage, in years to come, we can then turn around once again perhaps and elect an NDP government just to remind us of the pain that we have gone through. I also would compare it to a child first learning that if you touch a hot stove, it is going to burn you and then a long time later going back just to try it once more just to confirm whether it did burn you or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. George Hickey (Point Douglas): I welcome the opportunity to rise and speak. I would like to congratulate you on coming back as our Speaker. I always welcome your fairness to the House and fairness to the members.

I would like to at this time congratulate the newly elected member for Crescentwood (Ms. Gray) and the newly elected member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Pallister). You will find that this is a very challenging role that we have in life, and I wish them all the best.

I would also like to welcome the new Pages who are here with us in this session and to welcome the new Clerk of Committees who we have sitting at the table.

Before I get into my speech, I had it all prepared and laid out how I was going to speak, but after hearing the former speaker, I cannot believe a political party that has five members from the affirmative action group bragging about their accomplishments. There are five out of 30. We over here have 20 members, and as of the 1990 election, the election of September 11, we achieved exactly 50 percent. We have five women; we elected four aboriginal members, and we elected one visible minority.

When we talk about the affirmative action guidelines, follow the affirmative action guidelines, when you want to increase your numbers, what you do and what our party proved that works, is you run affirmative action candidates in winnable ridings not sacrificial lambs. That way you keep the numbers,

because you need a fair representation of all people living in Manitoba. We have elected French-speaking members, but we have elected very, very few visible minorities, very, very few aboriginal MLAs, M.P.s, so we need to make an extra effort to make sure that that goal is achieved. You do not achieve that goal by running a member of an aboriginal group almost in an impossible riding.

I heard whoever chaired your elections state that there are some ridings that we could run a yellow dog in and we would win. Well, if you really want aboriginal members or visible minorities, maybe run some of those groups in those kinds of ridings. When you stand there and brag about five women in a caucus of 30, I think you better go back and do a little bit of thinking. When you are trying to achieve goals, the only way you will achieve those goals is by making sure that the group of people who are underrepresented in not only Manitoba but all of Canada, you make an effort to achieve that goal.

I hope that in the next federal election, we will see more aboriginal people running for all parties and the parties make an effort to recruit aboriginal people to run. That is the only way that we will achieve those goals. I would just like to put that on record.

I would like to speak a little bit about the constituents of Point Douglas. They are hardworking and very dedicated individuals. Point Douglas is a representation of all groups in Canada. I have met with all different ethnic groups and aboriginal groups and Filipino groups and Portuguese groups. They all have the same goals as everyone else, that is to get a training program to get a decent job and to fulfill their career goals and to look after their family and their friends.

Now, when we see the opening of 175 food banks in Manitoba, I think we are going backwards. It is 175 food banks. Now, we have 30,000 people

using food banks. I do not think that is a step in the right direction; I think that is going backwards, because we need some training programs, some job strategies. When you talk about a 300 percent increase in one year, there is something wrong, drastically wrong.

I was saddened when I was reading the paper the other day, just about a week ago, when they were talking about opening up a food bank in Steinbach, Manitoba. That is a farming community, and they have a thriving economy. They have businesses there and yet they are talking of opening a food bank. Now, if that has spread that far, I think we are in a sad, sad state of affairs here. I think we have to reflect on the direction that the government has taken. Maybe take a look back at how can we stimulate the economy, how can we put people to work.

Because a food bank is not the answer. It is to try and get people employed. That is the only answer. The more people we have working, the more dollars that the government will have through taxes, the more money the businesses will have to hopefully hire more employees, but we need to have an economic strategy that will create jobs.

When I heard the throne speech, I did not really hear any of that and we talk about people going backwards. If you look at just the City of Winnipeg welfare rolls, they increased by 42 percent from June 1991 to June of 1992. That is a 148 percent increase from 1983. That is 148 percent more. That is double—that is almost triple of people that have to go to welfare today. Why is that? There have to be ways of creating jobs for people.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for Point Douglas will have 33 minutes remaining.

The hour being 12:30, this House now adjourns and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Monday.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Friday, December 4, 1992

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