



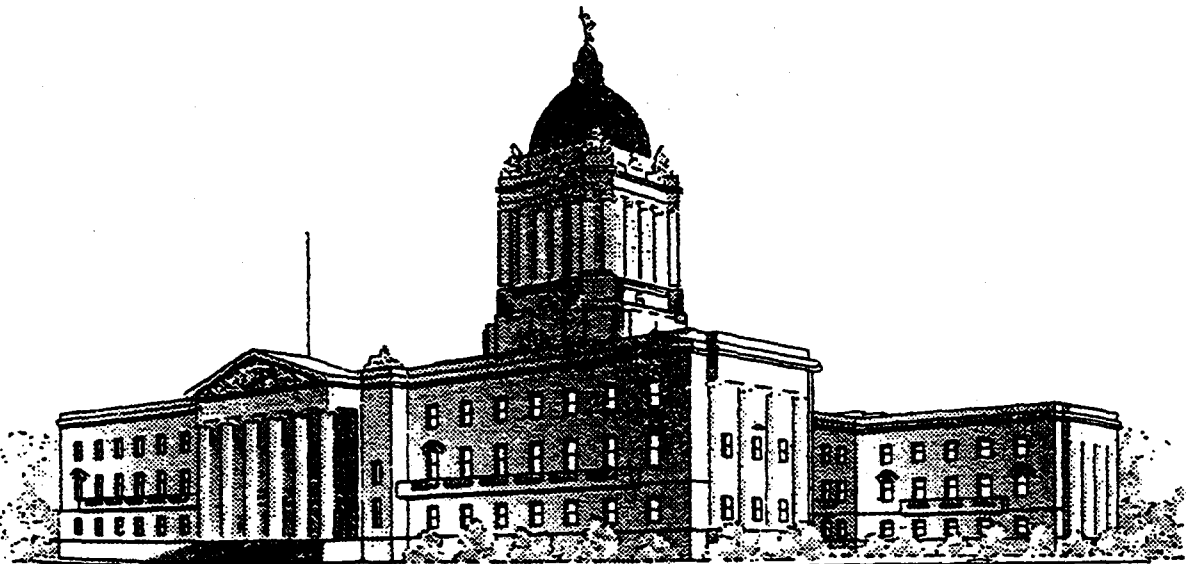
First Session - Thirty-Sixth Legislature

of the

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(Hansard)**

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Sixth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Party</u>
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	N.D.P.
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	N.D.P.
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	N.D.P.
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	N.D.P.
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ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	P.C.
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EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	N.D.P.
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GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	P.C.
HELWER, Edward	Gimli	P.C.
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	N.D.P.
JENNISSEN, Gerard	Flin Flon	N.D.P.
KOWALSKI, Gary	The Maples	Lib.
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Lib.
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	N.D.P.
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	P.C.
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TWEED, Mervin	Turtle Mountain	P.C.
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WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	N.D.P.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, October 4, 1995

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Federal Immigration Policies

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Luong Ly, Lieu Chau, Ha Ly and others requesting the Legislative Assembly to request the Government of Canada to cancel fee increases and instead institute policies that will encourage immigration to Manitoba.

Ms. MaryAnn Mihychuk (St. James): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Pablo Javier, Bernadette Javier, Mary Grace Javier and others requesting the Legislative Assembly to request the Government of Canada to cancel fee increases and instead institute policies that will encourage immigration to Manitoba.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Federal Immigration Policies

Madam Speaker: I have reviewed the petition of the honourable member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), and it complies with the rules and practices of the House (by leave). Is it the will of the House to have the petition read?

Some Honourable Members: Dispense.

Madam Speaker: Dispense.

WHEREAS Manitoba has been immeasurably enriched socially, economically and culturally by immigrants and their families; and

WHEREAS it was for this reason that successive provincial and federal governments have encouraged immigration to Manitoba; and

WHEREAS since 1993, the current federal Liberal government has reversed these policies by instituting a series of changes making immigration more difficult; and

WHEREAS the 1994 changes in quotas for family reunification class of immigrants were unfair and punitive; and

WHEREAS the fee increases for immigrants instituted in the 1995 federal Liberal budget are neither fair nor justifiable and border on racism; and

WHEREAS the new \$975 fee being imposed on adult immigrants is more than many immigrants make in their home country in an entire year, and will make it even more difficult for people from these countries to immigrate to Canada;

WHEREFORE your petitioners humbly pray that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba may be pleased to request that the Government of Canada cancel these fee increases and instead institute policies that will encourage immigration to Manitoba.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEESStanding Committee on Public Utilities
and Natural Resources
Second Report

Mr. Frank Pitura (Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Your Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources presents the following as its Second Report.

Madam Speaker: Dispense.

Your committee met on Tuesday, October 3, 1995, at 10 a.m. in Room 255 of the Legislative Building to

consider the Annual Reports of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the years ended March 31, 1994, and March 31, 1995.

Mr. Grant Holmes, chairperson, and Mr. Derek Smith, president and chief executive officer, provided such information as was requested with respect to the Annual Reports and business of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission.

Your committee has considered the Annual Reports of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission for the years ended March 31, 1994, and March 31, 1995, and has adopted the same as presented.

Mr. Pitura: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Emerson (Mr. Penner), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report of the Community Support Programs for 1994-95.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

J.M. Schneider Inc.—Pork Processing Facility

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I have a statement for the House.

Madam Speaker, we in this House should be very much aware of the fundamental changes that are occurring in our agricultural industry. Manitoba has always had a diversified agricultural economy. However, recent changes such as the elimination of the multimillion-dollar Crow rate and the St. Lawrence Seaway pooling benefit have accelerated the need for adaptation.

Madam Speaker, Manitoba farmers have shown that they are more than up to these challenges. Over this past year, we have seen record production levels of potatoes and other special crops. In livestock we have

surpassed the record levels of the mid-'70s in beef production and set an all-time high for hog production. As well, we have seen the rise in the level of nontraditional livestock numbers.

Madam Speaker, I have been told that it is the goal of the Alberta government to see that not a bushel of feed grain is exported from that province. I believe in the same goal for Manitoba for a very simple reason. When a bushel of feed barley is exported from Manitoba at a price of somewhat less than 10 cents a pound, so, too, are many jobs to regions where that feed barley is turned into value-added product such as pork.

* (1335)

When that barley remains in Manitoba, it is put into feed rations and fed on one of our many farms in Manitoba. It gains tremendous value so that the exported product can actually be worth several dollars a pound. This is why yesterday's announcement that the J.M. Schneider Corporation has chosen Manitoba in which to construct a new world-class, state-of-the-art pork processing facility is tremendous news to all Manitobans.

Not only will this plant provide for increased opportunities for Manitoba pork producers by utilizing a further 48,000 hogs per week, this \$40-million plant will employ some 500 people. They will produce a value-added finished product that will leave this province bound for the supermarket shelves of Toronto, Tokyo and the international community.

On behalf of this government, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the management of Schneider's in Winnipeg and in Kitchener for the confidence they have shown in Manitoba producers, workers and this government with this very exciting announcement yesterday. Thank you.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, in response to the statement of the Minister of Agriculture, we, too, would like to congratulate the management of Schneider's and the workers at Schneider's at the present plant for making a decision to locate a major investment in our province and a plant

in our province that will employ some 500 people, and as the Minister of Agriculture indicated, will help us to our continued provincial goal of having value-added jobs here utilizing our natural resources and our agricultural resources to their fullest capacity and to the fullest capacity of our province.

It is good news. In 1988, there were some 4,900 people working in meat and poultry product processing here in Manitoba. Regrettably, we are now down to about 2,600 employees according to 1994 Stats Canada reports.

I believe the last plant that had been announced as a new plant in Manitoba had been the Springhill plant. Before that, we had bad news in this province with Canada Packers not proceeding with their modernization proposal that was very important for our community and for our province, and before that Swifts. Luckily the Burns plant was modernized with support of the provincial government, I might add. It should not have been that way, but it had to be to keep the plant here, but, regrettably, we lost a plant in Brandon for finishing of cattle.

Madam Speaker, this is a good announcement but it also represents a real challenge for all of us in this Chamber. Hog production is very important for agriculture, as the minister indicated, with the changes in the Crow rate, with the changing of the pooling benefits. It also represents real challenges. I have listened to fishermen worried about the situation in their lakes with potential liquid manure. The ministers across the way have probably heard some concerns of other ministers about jobs in the tourism industry, and I sometimes find the debate is always, are you for jobs or against jobs? We are all for jobs. We are all for value-added jobs.

What I would like to suggest to the government is that we must have a way of providing leadership to make sure that this plant and the hog industry are sustainable in a way that is balanced across our province. I challenge the government ministers, those responsible for the round table on the environment and sustainable development, to meet this challenge as the challenge has been met by Schneider's to locate here, so that neighbours living beside neighbours can live in

harmony with this good news today and not live in conflict. Thank you very, very much, Madam Speaker.

* (1340)

Introduction of Guests

Madam Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, I would like to draw all honourable members' attention to the public gallery, where we have this afternoon twelve Grades 9 to 12 students from Pierre Radisson Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Chris Loewen. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render).

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Winnipeg Jets Keith Tkachuk Contract

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

The Premier knows that we have raised the issue of his signing of the operating-loss agreement with the Winnipeg Jets hockey team in 1991, a document he said would provide us peace in our time with the professional hockey team.

Madam Speaker, we have asked the Premier a number of times and on a number of occasions questions about his signature and our commitment as taxpayers to fund the losses of a privately owned hockey team through public commitments that the Premier made, especially at a time when we have cutbacks in health care—Dauphin was announced yesterday—cutbacks in education, when we see special needs kids being cut off in our public school systems.

Many people believe that the government has lost its sense of priorities. The most recent announcement, Madam Speaker, is that a hockey player will sign for some \$17 million U.S. with close to \$6 million U.S. or

\$8 million Canadian at the front end, at the taxpayers' end of that contract.

I would like to ask the Premier (Mr. Filmon), does he agree with the signing of Keith Tkachuk and the amounts of money that have been agreed to, Madam Speaker, for that contract?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Actually, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question, because there are some very, very pertinent pieces of information which should be put on the record.

First and foremost, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club has to operate in the bottom one-third of all hockey teams in the NHL, so that is an overall parameter around the kind of budget, the amount of money, that they can spend.

Secondly, once it was determined that the team would not be able to stay in Manitoba, discussions with the current owners is that we would not accept any front-end loading of any contracts, that depending on cash flow requirements or whatever, that any contracts would be dealt with on prorating the contract over the term of the contract, that for the upcoming hockey season, we would only be responsible for that portion of the contract.

I guess the best way, Madam Speaker, to outline that is in the case of the hockey player that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. It is a five-year contract, and the responsibility for the upcoming hockey season will be no more than one-fifth of the value of that contract. Any residual over and above that will be the responsibility of the current owners or the prospective owners whom they are currently negotiating with.

In fact, Madam Speaker, we do expect this one-fifth value of the contract to probably be reduced, and I believe the Leader of the Opposition has followed this issue, that there is now an equalization formula in place with the NHL that provides for compensation for exchange rates, so the one-fifth that will be allocated for the upcoming season will actually be reduced by an equalization return here to Manitoba.

So in the final analysis, the team has to operate in the bottom one-third. The contract has to be prorated, so only one-fifth is applied to this year.

At the end of the day, Madam Speaker, it is important for all of us that this asset be maintained, because we and the City of Winnipeg will receive 36 percent of the value of the hockey team which today is based on a value of some \$90 million, so we expect that at the end of the day, we will receive probably \$10 million or \$12 million net returned to our Treasury, plus the net benefit that our Treasury will have had over the course of this agreement, a net benefit of some \$8 million or \$9 million on top of that.

* (1345)

Mr. Doer: Madam Speaker, one fifth of \$17 million U.S. is still an obscene amount of money for the taxpayers to pick up. The Premier and his minister responsible for the Jets are now saying that they support the decision, and they want to match the deep private pockets of Chicago with the very, very nondeep public pockets of Manitoba. That is what they are basically telling the people.

We can cut health care. We can cut education. We can cut food for kids, but we can support this contract for a hockey player, Madam Speaker.

I would like to ask the Premier—it is his signature—when is he going to start saying no to the priorities of paying for millionaire hockey players and say yes to health care, education and food here in Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The point that has to be made is that by maintaining the Jets here, we have been able to keep some \$8 million or \$9 million more in the Treasury of the Province of Manitoba to pay for health, for education, for social services and everything else.

Madam Speaker, the maintenance of the hockey team here maintains a revenue flow, a cash flow, to the Treasury that over the period of the agreement has exceeded any money that we have put out, No. 1, and, No. 2, by maintaining the value of the franchise, which

is the players who are contained within that franchise, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson) says, we will get an additional \$12 million or so as well for the Treasury so that we can pay for health, so that we can pay for education, so that we can pay for social services.

Operating-Loss Agreement

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Two weeks ago, when the Premier, as he has done in the past, painted this rosy picture on the operating-loss agreement that he signed—I recall when the Premier signed it, he said, oh, this will only cost us about \$5 million over the next six or seven years, and we will be able to keep the team here.

Of course, the Premier promised to cancel this operating-loss agreement. His minister responsible for this fiasco promised to cancel it prior to the election campaign, another broken promise.

Madam Speaker, in the Auditor's Report, Volume 1, released last Friday, there is a contingent liability in the private sector fund of some \$8 million, half of which is the responsibility of the provincial government; in other words, another \$4 million. When the Premier answered the question about how much money under the operating-loss agreement we would lose this year, he failed to mention this amount of money as a contingent liability.

I would like to ask the Premier, how much money will be in that fund when the team leaves, and what will we be responsible for on top of the other commitments that this government has made on our behalf?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Well, Madam Speaker, I am surprised at that question from the Leader of the Opposition. At times, I wonder where he has been the last several months, because it has been perfectly clear, I think, to most Manitobans that the private sector notes are the first element to be paid out of the proceeds coming to the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, that if the team sells for approximately \$90 million Canadian, which has been a suggested figure, that the gross

proceeds back to the City of Winnipeg and the province are going to be in the vicinity of \$30 million, that the first payback is the payback of the private sector notes, with the residual \$22 million to \$24 million being split between the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba. That is how we get down to a net proceed to our Treasury of approximately \$10 million to \$12 million.

That will be the net return after the disposition of the hockey team, along with the return to date of some \$8 million to our Treasury, so over the term of the interim agreement and the disposition of the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club, our Treasury, the Province of Manitoba's Treasury, will be ahead by approximately \$20 million. I wish the Leader of the Opposition would purely listen to the facts and take them into consideration when he deals with this issue, Madam Speaker.

* (1350)

Emergency Physicians' Strike Mediator's Report—Recommendations

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Madam Speaker, from the very beginning of the doctors' strike, we have stated that the government has been slow to act.

According to the mediator's report, the failure of the government to act on previous recommendations of previous reports may well have been the reason for the strike, Madam Speaker.

Since the minister now has in his hands a letter from the doctors agreeing to the recommendations of the mediator's report and since the minister now knows the doctors are prepared to go back to work, will the minister instruct both his department and MHO, which is funded 100 percent by the government, to agree to the recommendations and immediately cease and end this strike?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, not only do I have an indication from the Manitoba Medical Association that they are prepared to accept the terms of the report of the mediator, I also have similar information coming to me from the Manitoba Health Organizations stating the same thing.

I would like to thank both of those organizations for their prompt response to the mediator's report and the recommendations in it. I have asked them already to meet immediately to finalize an agreement within the framework of the mediator's report.

I am delighted that we have reached this juncture without imposing on unwilling parties binding arbitration, as suggested by the honourable member for Kildonan, and without imposing on everybody a legislated settlement, as suggested by the honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux).

Yesterday, the honourable members asked for me to table the report of the mediator, Madam Speaker. I had not completed my review of that report at that time. I have now, and I now table this document for the honourable member in case he has not seen it yet.

Health Care System Emergency Services Review

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): I think all members of the House are very pleased, and it only took a month for the government to act.

My supplementary to the minister: Will the minister who has said he is monitoring the strike situation on a regular basis and, in accordance with a review of emergency services that he is mandated to do under the mediator's report, will the minister do a review of several incidents of death during the course of this strike? I am prepared to share with the minister the specifics that I have of at least three instances and a fourth incident that occurred last night. Will the minister undertake to do a review of those particular instances for all members of this Chamber?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): I told the honourable member and members of this House that while this disruption was in progress, we were monitoring the situation very, very carefully. The honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) raised a matter with us which we followed up and made certain findings as a result of that review.

If the honourable member has some other cases that we have not looked at, I would like to know about

those. We may already, but if we do not, I would like to know about it. Certainly, the one he refers to relating to last evening, I would like to know more details from the honourable member's point of view on that particular matter.

Mr. Chomiak: Madam Speaker, will the minister, when he does his review of the emergency services, as outlined in this mediator's report, which obviously has been agreed to by the government, also undertake prior to the implementation to provide to this House information concerning these recommendations and to the public of Manitoba, so they will have an opportunity to comment prior to the government closing emergency wards, as well as dealing with the serious issue of recruitment of and retaining emergency physicians at emergency wards?

*(1355)

Mr. McCrae: Madam Speaker, I neglected again to offer thanks to Mr. Jack Chapman, the mediator who has ultimately rendered a valuable service to all the parties in this matter, and, certainly, his second recommendation is that we forthwith instruct members of Manitoba Health staff in conjunction with the appropriate officials of each facility and the MMA and its members to immediately commence a full and complete review of the provision of emergency medical care.

Madam Speaker, we fully intend to do that, and the things the honourable member says are helpful, I believe, in that we need as much public participation and understanding of the issues that we are all facing together as possible. I would encourage as much of that as we can have.

This is necessitated all the more so by the very radical cuts to social programs from Ottawa. Certainly, Health is not spared the federal knife in this regard.

While the honourable member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) is urging certain actions upon us, I urge him to raise the issues with his colleagues and friends in Ottawa so that we can have a rational planning and policy-making and decision-making process for the future of health care in this country.

Dauphin Regional Health Centre Hemodialysis Services

Mr. Stan Struthers (Dauphin): Madam Speaker, there is a very great need for hemodialysis services in the Parkland area. The Dauphin Regional Health Centre has had the capability to offer full-time hemodialysis services but has not received funds from this minister to fill this need.

Given this government's cutbacks yesterday of the Dauphin hospital, can the minister tell the House whether or not the Dauphin hospital still has the capability to offer full-time hemodialysis now that this government has reduced the number of nurses in our hospital?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, one area of health care that has required attention each and every year from the government of Manitoba has been the dialysis program in the province of Manitoba. Unlike some other aspects of health care delivery, hemodialysis and the need for it has been growing at alarming rates over the years, and our response to it has been there as well, as can be evidenced through a review of the Estimates of the various years expenditures.

We work with health centres like the Dauphin Regional Health Centre and others in the delivery of dialysis services to Manitobans throughout the province.

Mr. Struthers: Given those words then, will the minister make a commitment today to the expansion of daily hemodialysis at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre?

Mr. McCrae: The commitment I make, Madam Speaker, is the same commitment I have been making, and my predecessor before me, and that is to continue to provide appropriate resources to meet the needs that exist in the various areas of our province.

Mr. Struthers: Madam Speaker, given what is happening with the regionalization of health care decisions, will the minister make it clear to the boards that he is appointing that strengthened dialysis services

to the Parkland region should form a part of the essential core services?

Mr. McCrae: I thank the honourable member for raising the issue of the development of regional boards throughout Manitoba, and I would be putting that and other issues to those boards to assist us in planning for program delivery in the various regions for the future.

I see an enhanced opportunity for improvement of service delivery, not only at the acute end of health care but also in the areas of health promotion and in community programming that we can expect to see enhanced through the process of the regionalization in our province.

Vehicle Safety Inspections Random Program

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Highways.

Madam Speaker, a year ago, this government ended a very successful random motor vehicle inspection program and replaced it with a private sector garage program which has numerous flaws.

Now, given that unsafe vehicles will now only be caught when vehicles are sold, and, recently, police found 50 percent of vehicles checked to be unsafe, I would like to know, will the minister now look at bringing back and expanding the random government inspection program?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, we are all concerned about the safety of vehicles on the road so that persons driving them and persons approaching them are not involved in accidents due to mechanical failure.

For the member's information, in the random inspection approach, about 25,000 vehicles a year were inspected. It just was not catching those that maybe we should have been catching. The current program will probably inspect about a third of the vehicles per year. Anywhere from 150,000 to 200,000 of the vehicles will be inspected. This is at time of sale.

What this means is that many vehicles that might have been put up for sale are not, because they know they will not pass safety or that the cost of bringing them up to spec will be too high, so they are now off the road.

That has been a statement from the industry in general, that many vehicles deemed unsafe have come off the road simply because the cost of bringing them up to spec is too high, plus the high level of inspection that is going on will definitely increase the safety of the vehicles on the road.

* (1400)

Mr. Maloway: This current program is a mess and this minister knows it. There are many cases of documented abuse.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the honourable member for Elmwood please pose his question now?

Mr. Maloway: Madam Speaker, why is it that a person can now drive a vehicle in an unsafe state for many years, and only when it is sold does it require a safety check?

Mr. Findlay: Madam Speaker, any vehicle is subject to being spot-inspected on the road by my officials or if the RCMP decide to pull one off the road, they have the opportunity to inspect it.

That has been an ongoing process, but I caution the member, a third of the vehicles each year will be going through this process. It will catch an awful lot of the vehicles that are unsafe.

Mr. Maloway: Madam Speaker, my final supplementary is to the same minister.

I would like to ask the minister, should the police be using their limited resources conducting safety checks?

Mr. Findlay: Madam Speaker, both the City of Winnipeg Police and the RCMP across the province have responsibility for safety on the road in many respects, and I do believe that where there is incidence

of a vehicle that is obviously in disrepair, they should take appropriate action.

Whether it is a small vehicle or a large vehicle on the road, that is part of their responsibility, and various officers in both police forces are trained to do that.

Health Care System Emergency Services

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

We in the Liberal Party are quite pleased that it appears as if the strike might come to an end in emergency health care services, but this government, through this strike, has clearly demonstrated that, in fact, the patient was not their first concern, and we are disappointed in that.

Now that it appears that the strike might be over, Madam Speaker, a lot of the concern that Manitobans are going to have is on the community health care hospitals and their hours of operation.

I have asked this question before, and I would ask the Minister of Health to give a straightforward answer. Is this minister going to be reducing emergency health care services in our community hospitals from 24 hours a day to 12 hours a day?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Health): Madam Speaker, I believe what we have been doing in Manitoba right from the beginning of the efforts on our part in government has been to put the patient first and to make the patient the focus of all health care decisions.

It is not good for the patient, Madam Speaker, to have a climate in health care that is poisoned by precipitous actions of the kind recommended by the honourable member for Inkster when he suggests we force emergency doctors and pathologists back to work, when we have found that through the help of a mediator we have been able to resolve the issues. It appears we have been able to resolve the issues in a far more amicable way.

I will tell the honourable member, as I told the honourable member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak), that we will follow the direction of the mediator and that I will forthwith instruct the appropriate members of Manitoba Health in conjunction with the appropriate officials of each facility and the MMA and its members to immediately commence a full and complete review of the provision of emergency medical care.

That is a position agreed upon by the Manitoba Medical Association, by MHO, by us at Manitoba Health.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, our community health care emergency services have been tracking referrals that have been sent over to the hospitals.

I would ask the Minister of Health if, in fact, he has some form of a summary that he would be able to share with us to indicate just what sort of an impact it has had.

One would argue that you could ask those patients whether or not this particular minister had their concerns first and foremost in terms of patient care.

Mr. McCrae: Madam Speaker, I have to admit that during this work stoppage, a patient waiting extended periods of time for assistance at an emergency room because the doctors decided to withdraw their services, that patient would indeed be wondering, well, who is putting my interests first?

I think that for the long term however, the outcome that we are expecting to arrive at will indeed be for the longer term best interests of the patient.

The honourable member asks about information being shared with respect to our monitoring of emergency rooms, and I expect that as we go forward with the review that we have been talking about, there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and debate and for information sharing.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, long-term best interests of the patients are, in fact, what the Liberal Party is attempting to achieve.

I would pose the question either to the Premier (Mr. Filmon) or to the Minister of Health and put it very simply, Madam Speaker, and that is, can either minister indicate or confirm publicly to Manitobans that emergency health care services will be made available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, under a Filmon administration?

Mr. McCrae: Madam Speaker, I have committed to an immediate review working with all the parties involved. I hope the honourable member will put his demands on paper and put a carbon copy of it to the Honourable Diane Marleau, Minister of national health and welfare and the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance for Canada.

Infrastructure Works Agreement Selection Criteria

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Madam Speaker, in a memo dated February 16, 1990, from Don Leitch, the Clerk of the Executive Council, referring to decentralization of civil servants, I quote: On the last occasion when the matter was discussed at cabinet, Honourable J. Downey brought a provincial map showing locations of decentralized operations. Please prepare a similar map using a provincial constituency map as the basis and showing the proposed decentralization moves.

I will table this if you wish.

My question to the Minister of Finance: Did the minister or cabinet use a provincial constituency map in this case in its decision-making process on infrastructure approvals?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker.

Report Tabling Request

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Well, will the minister give a firm commitment to this House to provide the Legislature with a copy of the comprehensive report which he has on this program showing the distribution of money by constituency?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I will provide the member and this House with a summary of all of the projects approved, and I believe in that summary it shows the communities. It is not by constituency, but if the member wants to plot those communities on a constituency map, he can certainly do that.

Madam Speaker, I would think by providing them with a summary of all of the projects by communities, if they want to undertake to plot them on a provincial constituency map, they could certainly do that.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Madam Speaker, will the minister acknowledge that he has this data in a computer and provide this House with any kind of analysis using constituencies, communities, infrastructure versus noninfrastructure projects?

Will he at least do the courtesy to the people of Manitoba and this Legislature to make that analytical material available so that all of us can see it?

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Speaker, I have already indicated I will undertake to provide as much information on the projects, on communities, on distribution throughout the province as is available. I am certainly prepared to provide information on all of the projects, where they are located, and I will undertake to do that very soon.

Winnipeg Jets/Arena MEC Proposal

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Finance): While I have the floor, Madam Speaker, I took part of a question as notice last week from the member for Crescentwood (Mr. Sale). He asked me to table a copy of communication between the provincial government and the Manitoba Entertainment Complex, and I am providing a copy of that letter at this time.

An Honourable Member: Is there a contract with that?

Mr. Stefanson: I am tabling what was asked for.

* (1410)

Women's Directorate Financial Planning Seminars

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Madam Speaker, the fall 1995 newsletter About Women, which is published by the Manitoba Women's Directorate, devotes two of its eight pages to a book entitled Becoming the Wealthy Woman and a workshop being sponsored by the Women's Directorate, the Junior League of Winnipeg and the Royal Bank on, quote, Money Matters—The A to Z of Finances for Women Explained.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Status of Women if she could explain the relevance to the many women on social assistance, the many women working for minimum wage or working only part time, of workshop topics such as Unravelling the Mysteries of RRSPs or Financial Planning—Making Your Money Work for You.

Hon. Rosemary Vodrey (Minister responsible for the Status of Women): Madam Speaker, the issue of economic security for women and how they plan for that economic security, how they develop that economic security was one of the No. 1 issues agreed upon by the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women at our most recent meeting in June.

One of the other parts that we realized is that governments cannot do this alone, and individuals cannot do this alone. We require partnership, so, Madam Speaker, we are very pleased to be in partnership with the groups mentioned by the member for Wellington, sponsoring a seminar which will deal with women's economic security.

Madam Speaker, economic security for women, economic planning for women, is relevant to all women in Manitoba.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister responsible for the Status of Women how she can prioritize a workshop for women who should be able on their own to plan and develop for their economic security from the local financial advisers available throughout the communities in Manitoba rather than spending the very limited resources of this

province and the Women's Directorate on providing information and assistance so that the women who are at minimum wage, on social assistance and in part-time jobs can also plan and develop for their social and economic development, so that they can actually have some money so they can plan for their future.

Mrs. Vodrey: Madam Speaker, as the member for Wellington knows, a number of women have not had the opportunity to interact with bankers, to understand the importance of credit ratings, to understand the importance of investing.

The member has referenced women who earn a minimum wage. Many women, Madam Speaker, are only entering into planning for themselves. In the past, many women have not done that.

We recognize the economic security of women both now and for the future is one of the most important issues that we can deal with across this country, and, Madam Speaker, we are very pleased to have partnership from within our community to assist women as they look at planning for their own economic security. That is all women.

Highway Maintenance/Upgrading PR 391

Mr. Gerard Jennissen (Flin Flon): Madam Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

On Friday, the minister admitted that over 125 construction employees of Manitoba Highways category A2 are being laid off for the first time in history.

Given the terrible conditions of many northern provincial roads, can the minister tell the House whether he will be following the recommendations of the Leaf Rapids community and make improvements on PR 391 from Leaf Rapids to Thompson a priority in the upcoming budget?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, I want to remind the member that because of weather conditions in '94

and concerns raised by the northern communities over the past winter, we did make some extraordinary considerations for the North, and in last spring's budget, in committed programs for the future, it was a 14 percent commitment to the North which was more than it has been in the past, recognizing the severe conditions they face.

We will use the same process for that and every region of the province in upcoming Capital budget expenditures that we will commit to.

PR 373

Mr. Gerard Jennissen (Flin Flon): Madam Speaker, will this minister be increasing maintenance on PR 373 this year, given the fact that poor conditions forced the closure of that road at least once last year?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, the department has certain standards of maintenance it uses for every road, but it always responds to emergencies that happen, weather conditions that are unpredicted. Certainly, when there are more wet conditions than normal, the standard is raised, so they always respond to the circumstance of the road to the best of their capability.

I want to remind the member, sometimes the weather can be pretty severe in a short period of time and can make it difficult for the department to respond to the full expectation of the public, but our intention is continually to improve that expectation level.

Highway Maintenance/Upgrading Northern Manitoba

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Madam Speaker, I too have a question on roads. We have been saying for quite some time that northern roads are in terrible shape.

I would like to table letters written by the minister to the federal Minister of Transport in which he states that air transport provides the vital transportation link which is denied them—this is the residents of Lynn Lake—by unreliable road conditions and actual road closures, and a further letter written by the same minister in which he

indicates, and this is a quote, the undisputable fact that Lynn Lake's 322 kilometres of road access is unreliable and a further quote, that much of it is still far below provincial road standards.

I have a very simple question, and it is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). I would like to ask the Premier, given the fact that this government has not put adequate resources in place—in the past years, it has cut the northern share of roads to its lowest level—and given the fact that the amount of money that is being contributed now is still not going to bring it up to basic provincial road standards, when will the Premier step in and treat northern Manitobans fairly and give them decent road conditions?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, the federal government, in its cutback approach, is certainly going to impact many airports in the North, particularly at Lynn Lake, because of their inability likely to be able to fund the continued operation of that. The federal government is just walking away from those airports.

Certainly, we recognize that the roads in the North were initially built to a pioneer standard, nothing close to the expectation level of people using those roads today. We responded on that particular road by a gravel project of some 99 kilometres, a half-million dollars of expenditure, to bring it up along with the ongoing projects, of which there are many, that are in the committed program for '95 and '96.

The expectation is we will continually elevate the standard of that road to the best of our ability, but at the same time, we do not intend to let the federal government off the hook of walking away from airport responsibilities in the North.

Mr. Ashton: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I would like to table a copy of a Manitoba highways map for 1995 which lists 373 and 391 as provincial roads, and since in the minister's own words, the condition of 391 is below provincial road standards, will he now do the proper thing and advise motorists of the fact that this government has not maintained those roads in an appropriate condition, perhaps, Madam

Speaker, because as the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) once said, northerners do not know how to vote right?

Will he come clean with Manitobans and other tourists, travellers, et cetera, and tell them just how bad the roads are in northern Manitoba?

Mr. Findlay: Well, Madam Speaker, I want to remind the member that we are here to serve all of Manitoba, as we always have been. I hear delegations from all over the province. Always they say, I want my road treated as No. 1. I have heard that so often my head spins.

Madam Speaker, we will continually evaluate all the input from my staff, from communities, from municipalities, from individuals and make assessments to try to continually elevate the quality of our roads to serve the travel needs of all Manitobans.

Port of Churchill Status Report

Mr. Eric Robinson (Rupertsland): Madam Speaker, my questions are also for the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

During the last federal election, and we have talked about this over and over again in this House, the current government that is in power in Ottawa promised to ship one million tonnes of grain through the Port of Churchill. Instead, shipments over the past two years have been some of the lowest on record with millions of dollars lost last year and expected again this year.

I would like to ask the minister if he has had any correspondence with the federal government, what he can report to the House and whether or not six ships this year are good enough through the Port of Churchill.

* (1420)

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, we are very disappointed at the federal government's follow-up to their commitment during the 1993 election that a

million tonnes should go through the Port of Churchill. Since then, they have actually shipped less through there than had been in the previous years, a significant shortfall in terms of their commitment.

We continue to write letters. We have meetings with federal ministers. I will meet again with the federal Minister of Transportation at the end of this month. We continue to raise the issue of the economic importance of the bayline, the Port of Churchill for the grain industry, for the mineral industry, for resupplying to Keewatin, for Akjuit, for tourism, but, unfortunately, we do not see the level of action from that end that is appropriate.

Certainly, the member also knows that the Wheat Board, which is responsible for moving grain out of western Canada to various markets, has a lot to say on whether grain goes through there or not; again, totally and 100 percent a federal jurisdiction.

Churchill Airport Terminal Construction

Mr. Eric Robinson (Rupertsland): Madam Speaker, I have another question to the same minister. I would like to ask the minister what action he has taken on the broken promise of a new \$7-million air terminal building at Churchill which was supposed to be built there this year.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Madam Speaker, in the context of the federal airport policy, which is to reduce the subsidies to northern airports over five years, effectively walk away from commitments, at least in the case of Churchill, they identified it as an isolated airport and would maintain support there.

In terms of their commitment to get on with projects that they have already committed, we continue to ask them to do it. The time has come, and I think it is important for the tourism industry, Akjuit and all the other activities there that this airport be maintained to an acceptable standard for the travelling public.

Madam Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

NONPOLITICAL STATEMENTS

Standard Knitting Ltd.—Export Award

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Madam Speaker, I would ask if I can have leave to make a nonpolitical statement.

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for Inkster have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, it is with great delight that I acknowledge a very prosperous business in the community which I represent, that being Standard Knitting or most people might know it as Tundra.

Just the other day, they were acknowledged as one of 12 Canadian companies to receive an export award, and I think that speaks very clearly to other industries throughout the province of Manitoba that there are many opportunities to be had for those who are prepared to invest in the province of Manitoba and to sell their merchandise abroad.

I know I have had the pleasure of touring this particular facility, compliments of Domenico Sacco, who is an absolute delight. I believe this is, in fact, one company that does not have a union in it. I think that speaks positively about—it is not an anti-union saying that I am trying to talk about. I do not want anyone to misinterpret my remarks. This is nonpolitical.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would remind the honourable member for Inkster that he was recognized to make a nonpolitical statement, and I would appreciate it if he would quickly complete his remarks.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Speaker, the reason I make mention of that is because there is a definite positive relationship that is there, that is assisted in terms of productivity out of this particular unit.

Well, I do not want the spirit of the nonpolitical discussion to drop, Madam Speaker, so suffice to say I give my congratulations to all the employees and the

employer on a job well done in terms of representing this province.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): May I have leave to make a nonpolitical statement, as well, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable First Minister have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Filmon: Madam Speaker, I want to join with the member for Inkster in expressing my congratulations to Standard Knitting, the makers of Tundra sweaters, as well, on their tremendous achievements.

I have been very interested in their progress ever since I met with a prospective buyer, Mr. Wang, in Hong Kong in April of 1989. At that time, Mr. Wang was interested in investing in Manitoba. He ultimately bought Standard Knitting and along with son, Michael, has been successfully operating and expanding that operation. They have invested, I believe, something in the range of \$7 million over the course of the last seven years in that facility and have expanded its employment base and expanded tremendously its markets. I mean, they have had in the past five years alone almost a 500 percent increase in their exports.

I was in New York to visit the financial community but happened to spend some time with the Canadian consul there and his staff in talking about continuing to promote Manitoba exports in their market, and they were, of course, telling me about several of the very extensive export operations from Manitoba that are featured very prominently in the New York market, one of the top fashion markets of the world, one of which is Standard Knitting, the second of which is Nygard fashions that are sold at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York.

The record of the expansions and the tremendous quality of merchandise of both of those operations, both of which I believe are in the constituency of the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux)—perhaps one is in the member for The Maples' (Mr. Kowalski) constituency, but they are truly a credit to all of the members of that company, not only the management and ownership who saw the opportunity but

particularly the staff that are turning out a quality product that is essentially taking away market from competitors all over the world in the biggest consumer market of the world.

So I certainly join with the member for Inkster in extending sincere congratulations to Standard Knitting.

National Award—Communities in Bloom

Mr. Frank Pitura (Morris): Madam Speaker, I beg leave of the House to make a nonpolitical statement.

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for Morris have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Pitura: Madam Speaker, on September 30, the National Capital Commission played host to over 200 mayors, dignitaries, national and local government representatives, participants, organizers and sponsors at the first national awards of Communities in Bloom, Canada's beautification competition.

The awards ceremony was the finale of the summer-long competition with communities representing every province competing in one of four categories, one for provincial capitals and three based on population size. Four panels of expert judges travelled tens of thousands of kilometres crisscrossing Canada to judge each participating municipality on beautification, environmental awareness and the level of participation by all levels of the community.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the town of Morris received the award in the less than 5,000 population category for most colourful tourist appeal. In capturing this award, Morris won out over seven other provinces from the Maritimes, Ontario, Quebec and the West.

While the people of Morris have always had a tremendous pride in their community and their province, this national recognition is certainly a welcome acknowledgement of their efforts. It is with a great deal of pride that I congratulate the people of Morris on this outstanding accomplishment. Thank you.

* (1430)

Yom Kippur

Mr. Mike Radcliffe (River Heights): Madam Speaker, do I have leave of this Chamber for a nonpolitical statement?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for River Heights have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Radcliffe: Madam Speaker, I rise today to advise the honourable members of this Chamber that today is Yom Kippur.

Yom Kippur is the most holy day of the year in the Jewish religious calendar and many of the constituents in River Heights are people of this faith. They are joining Jewish people all over the world attending religious services today. This is the Day of Atonement where each individual reflects upon the activities of the past year and resolves to go forward into the new year.

I would ask that we all join with these people and wish them best wishes for their activities in the next year. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Winnipeg Television Series, Baby & Me

Mr. David Newman (Riel): On this very busy day, do I have an opportunity, Madam Speaker, to make a nonpolitical statement?

Madam Speaker: Does the honourable member for Riel have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? [agreed]

Mr. Newman: I am pleased to make a statement about parenting. Today Baby & Me, a 13-week television series on parenting begins airing nationally on television.

Baby & Me is made in Winnipeg, a coproduction of the Victoria General Hospital Foundation and Buffalo Gal Pictures. My wife and I saw the premiere of the first show on breast-feeding last night. I commend this series to all new parents and parents-to-be.

The Victoria General Hospital Foundation conducted extensive research of parents who made it loud and clear that a program like Baby & Me was definitely needed, and now. Victoria General Hospital, with their nationally recognized family birth centre and their mandate for public education and community outreach, took on the challenge.

The stars of Baby & Me are real parents who candidly discuss life changes a new baby brings. Health care experts from Winnipeg and across Canada provide information and advice on topics such as colic, breast-feeding and balancing careers and parenthood.

This is an excellent example of how the public and private sectors can work in partnership to the benefit of the community as a whole. Parents everywhere will now be beneficiaries of the support of the generous corporate sponsors, service providers and volunteers.

Baby & Me will appear seven times per week on the Women's Television Network, WTN, beginning today, and throughout Manitoba on CKY television commencing in 1996.

Thank you.

Committee Changes

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Economic Development be amended as follows: the member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Downey) for the member for Kirkfield Park (Mr. Stefanson); the member for Emerson (Mr. Penner) for the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render); and the member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) for the member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson).

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, will you call Bills 2, 4, 6 and then the balance of the bills as listed on the Order Paper?

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

Bill 2—The Balanced Budget, Debt Repayment and Taxpayer Protection and Consequential Amendments Act

Madam Speaker: To resume debate on Bill 2 (The Balanced Budget, Debt Repayment and Taxpayer Protection and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur l'équilibre budgétaire, le remboursement de la dette et la protection des contribuables et apportant des modifications corrélatives), on the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson), standing in the name of the honourable member for Swan River (Ms. Wowchuk).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Madam Speaker: Stand? Is there leave to permit the bill to remain standing? [agreed]

Mr. Stan Struthers (Dauphin): Madam Speaker, I would like to take an opportunity to rise for a few minutes in the House today to speak about Bill 2, The Balanced Budget, Debt Repayment and Taxpayer Protection and Consequential Amendments Act.

I am going to try to outline some of the views especially from the rural communities in my constituency and hopefully some of the rural views on this bill that are contained throughout rural Manitoba. [interjection] As the member for Emerson (Mr. Penner) points out, I want to try to keep my comments very positive, as I always have throughout my tenure in the Legislature and from before that.

First of all, I do want to point out in as positive way as I possibly can that this Bill 2 is nothing more than a gimmick, and I want to assure the member for Emerson that that is the most positive way that I can put this.

First of all, it is a gimmick because of the record of this government over the last seven years. Over the last seven years, we have seen debts increase, we have seen deficits each year, we have seen cut-and-slash attitudes when it comes to funding programs that are needed by the people across Manitoba. We have seen deception in the forms of taxes rising and we have seen deception

in forms of covering up the taxes that have actually been imposed on Manitobans.

Madam Speaker, let us be clear. Nobody on the face of the earth would stand up and say that balanced budgets are not a good thing. It is universally accepted that if you are going to be in a position of handling public accounts, the goal in your mind should be to balance budgets. I have no problem with that. My problem is that the hot air contained in Bill 2 does not in itself produce a balanced budget.

I want to point out that there are jurisdictions all over the world, including in our country, where these jurisdictions do not need to have balanced budget legislation in order to balance a budget. It can be done without the legislation. I point back in our history at different times when provincial governments and federal governments have indeed produced balanced budgets without this kind of draconian legislation.

I might sound like I am blowing my own horn, but Tommy Douglas did not use balanced budget legislations and stiff penalties for his cabinet ministers to produce one balanced budget after the next in the years that he was Premier of Saskatchewan. What the CCF in Saskatchewan used was good, old-fashioned common sense. They realized that money does not grow on trees; you just cannot go out and pick up a bunch of money from a tree and use it to pay off the expenses that a province has. The CCF in Saskatchewan approached their financial responsibilities with common sense and did not use this type of legislation to get the final result of balanced budgets.

The budget sounds good on the surface, but in reality there is no foundation. What I want to point out is that over the last seven years we have been treated to a government who cannot run a lemonade stand without running a high deficit. We have seen a government who cannot run a lemonade stand without a million-dollar feasibility study and we have seen a government who could not run a 25-cent-a-cup lemonade stand without some type of tax break to help them out.

I want to get members to think a little bit about farming these days and, in particular, farm financing

and compare what happens in a farm situation with what this government is putting forth in Bill 2. Today, if someone was to start out farming, they would need a high outlay of capital at the beginning to get started. They might want to purchase some land, land these days running in the area of approximately \$50,000 a quarter, depending on what the quarter section of land is made up of, but we can assume that an average of \$50,000 for a quarter of land. And we all know that you cannot farm and raise a family in a profitable way on simply a quarter section of land. So you are looking at a lot more than one quarter of land at \$50,000 per quarter.

The farmer would need to buy a tractor. Let us just say a medium-sized tractor would cost the farmer in the area of \$70,000. Everybody knows that a tractor is an essential part of a successful farm operation. The farmer would also need to take his crop off, come harvest time. The farmer would need a swather in the range of \$60,000, a combine which in many cases can run upwards from \$100,000.

* (1440)

It becomes a very expensive venture, this farming business, a very expensive venture to start out with, which is one of the reasons why not very many new farmers are taking up the occupation of farming in Manitoba these days.

The main point, however, is that the outlay of capital at the beginning is great. The outlay of capital at the beginning is prohibitive, in many cases, to farmers starting out. So where is the farmer going to get this money to start out with?

First of all, in the fine farming tradition in rural Manitoba, the farmer is going to look for the best deal possible. The farmer is going to go from one farm sale to the next. The farmer will go from one auction sale to the next looking for good deals, looking for the best possible deal to bring his initial outlay of capital down.

If the farmer decides he is going to buy these pieces of equipment new, then he is going to go from one dealership to the next comparing what one dealership

to the other is going to cost him and then opt for the best deal in terms of new equipment.

So there we have a farmer with a huge outlay of capital that he needs to make to get started in farming. Where is he going to get the money from? Well, there are some farmers who are fortunate enough to inherit this equipment from one generation to the next. There are those farmers who inherit the equipment and the land already.

Now these farmers, No. 1, are few and far between. These farmers may be fortunate enough that they do not have to come up with this outlay of capital at the beginning of their farm operation.

Another option, I suppose, could be to approach the government for some type of start-up funds that one government from time to time has come up with to start out younger farmers on their way to becoming full-time, permanent farming families in the rural parts of our province. That is always an option.

But of course the majority of farmers do not inherit money. The majority of farmers cannot get started solely on the basis of one government program or another. The vast majority of farmers needs to take out loans, usually sustaining high levels of interest, but they need to take out loans to get started.

So what we have in the province right now is the majority of farmers who have incurred some sort of debt at the beginning of their farm career and now are out in rural Manitoba farming away, providing the food that we eat on our tables all across the province.

Could these farmers have started out if they had not had the availability of loans to get started in their farming operations? I further ask, would these farmers, if they had to live under the conditions of Bill 2, have been able to get started in the first place?

I propose to those listening in the Legislature that farmers would not have been able to get started if they had to live under the rules set out in Bill 2, the balanced budget legislation that we are debating these days here in the Legislature.

So right from the beginning, we can see that the provisions of Bill 2 are in fact counterproductive to what should be the fine objectives of providing employment through agriculture in our province. I want to also point out that even on a year-to-year basis, farmers need the loans in order to get the crops into the field, in many cases, to buy fertilizer and chemicals and the seed and granaries in which to store them and the final harvested grain that they take off the fields. Each year, from year to year, farmers begin their operations by taking out a loan once again. This is separate from the large capital expense that they have put out in equipment and machinery at the beginning.

Again, I would suggest that if the elements of Bill 2 were somehow included, if the farmer had to live by the rules of Bill 2, every year he would not be able to, or many farmers would not be able to, put the crops into the field. It is an investment. Farm communities, farmers understand what the word "investment" means. They understand what it takes in order to have a successful, prosperous farm operation. Those same principles should apply to those of us in the Legislature. Those same principles should apply to the government.

I want to talk, as well, about another example in which the proposals contained within Bill 2 would not make any sense. I have heard people from the government side of this House today, recently, during the last provincial election, even before the last provincial election, speak of how a family must balance its budget, implying that somehow the family would disintegrate or break up if they did not have a balanced budget.

Well, Madam Speaker, I would submit that, again, any Manitoba family would prefer to have its books balanced. They would prefer not to owe any money, but, if families did not, from time to time, take out some form of manageable debt, they would not survive either. Very obviously, a family needs a place to live. Families quite often will buy a home. Families very often will have to take out a loan to buy this home. I myself have a mortgage. Now where would families live if they could not have the option of taking out a loan and taking a mortgage out in order to buy a house? Should not the same principles that we are talking

about in terms of family apply to Bill 2? I would submit again that if families throughout the province had to live according to the proposals within Bill 2, the family situations across our province would be very grave indeed.

Madam Speaker, families in our province, from time to time, need to buy cars. I know for myself, I could not just walk into a bank, slap down a cheque for a car of any kind, not even an inexpensive one, without taking on some kind of debt. I would have a plan to pay off that debt, and I would not take on a debt that is much too far out of my possibility of ever paying it off. That is what we have got right now. It may be that I need my car in order to find employment, in order to maintain my employment. That becomes an investment, so the loan that I take to buy a car becomes an investment in order for me to get a job and to maintain that job. That investment or that debt enables me to be a productive citizen of Manitoba's society. Now if I had to live within the proposals here on Bill 2, I would not be able to take on that debt for a car and become a productive citizen of Manitoba.

Let us talk about investment families make in education. Some families have an opportunity to put money away over a period of time so that their sons and daughters can use that money, access that money at some point to go to some level of post-secondary education, college, university, whatever. Some families can do that. I submit that there are not a lot of families, however, in a position where they can take a lot of their cash on a monthly basis and put it towards a child's education throughout that child's life. What we have to remember is that we represent all the people of the province of Manitoba, not just those who can afford to put money away for their children's education.

* (1450)

Now these are the kinds of things that families deal with on a day-to-day basis: education, transportation, housing, the very basic needs, food, heat, all that sort of thing. How is a family going to raise money in order to maintain the basics of life and also have a little fun while they are doing it? Well, again, a family could inherit a lot of money. Not many families in Manitoba inherit big potfuls of money which would sustain them

for the rest of their lives. Those are the kind of people, though, that this Bill 2 is designed to protect. The vast majority of families in this country and certainly within this province are more in the stage of providing this investment on their own. Most families do not have silver spoons in their mouths; most families do not have the luxury of inheriting potfuls of money; most families have to try to survive month to month, and those are the people that I think MLAs in this Legislature should be standing and supporting.

How else could a family raise money? Maybe they could win a lottery? Well, there are not too many in this province who end up with bank accounts full of lottery money. Maybe the members across the way would suggest that they should pump loonies into VLTs and maybe, in that way, they will win enough money to send their kids to school or to buy a house or to buy a car, because this bill, if it would apply to families, would not allow families to incur some sort of small, manageable debt that they could use in order to invest in the family and the children of the family.

Maybe another suggestion would be that the people within the family should get second jobs. Maybe they could send grandmother out to work with the City of Winnipeg or they can send the youngest daughter out on paper routes. Maybe those are ideas that the government finds acceptable. Maybe we can put the children to work. That is also something that would be acceptable underneath the rules of Bill 2.

That leaves one more—just a quick brainstorming here—avenue open for any family in Manitoba, and that is to take out a loan. It happens all the time. It is a daily occurrence. Families take out loans for one reason or for another. Under Bill 2, this government is trying to tell us that families should not do that. Well, I think it is perfectly acceptable for a family to invest in itself and I also think it is perfectly acceptable for this government to invest in the people of Manitoba. The provisions of Bill 2 will curb the ability of this government to do just that.

The last specific example that I want fellow MLAs to think about as we consider Bill 2 is the plight of students. Young people all across this province who graduate from school based on their hard work, if they

want to go on to the post-secondary level, many of them find that one of the barriers is the high cost of post-secondary education. So right off the bat, the student has a choice to make: Do I want to go to school and pay that kind of money or do I want to take the chances of not going to school and not having to pay the high tuition, the high cost of books and, specifically for rural families, the high cost of room and board as you send your sons and daughters from rural Manitoba into the city?

Now, how are the students going to raise this kind of money in order to invest in their future and become contributing members of Manitoba's society? Well, again, maybe that student is lucky enough to inherit a bunch of money from a rich uncle someplace, or another good possibility is to marry into money. Maybe a student can find some money for education doing that. How many students across this province, though, to speak in terms of reality, are fortunate enough to inherit that kind of money? I would suggest very few are in that sort of position today in Manitoba. Again they could play the lotteries, they could play VLTs. Chances are though they are not going to win. Chances are they are not going to get enough money in order to afford to go to university, and chances are they are not going to find a summer job in which they can actually pay for their universities.

Again we are left with one more possibility and that is the possibility of getting a loan in order to pay for education. Again under Bill 2, if Bill 2 and the propositions involved in Bill 2 were applied to university students, then what would happen was that you would see a very drastic cut in the number of students going to university as, I would suggest, we have seen in recent times.

I want to take a moment, Madam Speaker, to address the referendum section of Bill 2, and I want it made perfectly clear that this is the part of Bill 2 that protects those in Manitoba society who already have it made. This is the part, I think, of Bill 2 that protects the rich.

In the bill, referendums are required if the government wants to increase the income tax, the corporate tax, the sales tax and the payroll tax. I want each and everybody here to realize that that is a

protection of the people in society who already have a lot of money. It leaves the door wide open for attacks on the middle-income group and the group in the low-income strata of Manitoba society.

In the reading that I have done on Bill 2, I came across a tax lawyer who indicated that the loopholes for wealthy people that are found in Bill 2 are wide enough to drive a truck through, and as this truck goes through the loopholes, he aims at the lower-and middle-income earners in this province and runs them down.

Bill 2 leaves the door wide open to broadening further the base of the provincial sales tax, something that this government has already accomplished in its 1992 budget. It is bad enough that we have a 7 percent provincial sales tax; it is even worse that the Conservative government would broaden that tax to include baby's clothing and books and other things in society. That is a very sneaky, underhanded way of raising taxes.

Bill 2 leaves wide open, as well, the possibility of new taxes which would not require a referendum according to this legislation, this Bill 2.

* (1500)

Another area that I am concerned with is that Bill 2 says nothing about the elimination of property tax credits. This is something that has already been done by this government. It has already been reduced once, I believe, in the budget of 1992. It was sneakily called a cut rather than being called what it was and that was an increase in taxes. People's taxes increased as a result of the action of this government with property tax credits. Bill 2 does not say that the government cannot do that again. There is still room for this government to eliminate or further reduce the property tax credit from where it is now.

So that is why I claim that this bill is nothing more than a gimmick. It is good window dressing, but when you look right into the bill and what it can and cannot allow this government to do, it becomes a sham.

Another part of the bill that I have some concerns with and I have been approached by many of my

constituents on is the ability that Bill 2 gives for this government to use Crown corporations, specifically the selling of Crown corporations, to balance the budgets.

I have to ask the question, how honest is this? We have in this province assets. We have some assets that are actually worth something. We have assets in this province that belong to all the people of Manitoba.

When a child is born, it has been suggested that automatically as they are born they have a certain amount of debt attached to them, but it makes sense and it is logical to assume that that same child has a certain amount, a certain number of assets, provincially owned, that they are born with as well. It is not fair just to suggest that that child, when he or she is born, only has the debt, because it is an absolute fact that they do have assets that they are born with as well.

It is also not fair for this government to come along, take those assets from that child, sell them off and use those assets to try and balance the budget.

I want to make as a specific example, Madam Speaker. I want to talk—[interjection] Permanent depression is a result of cuts to Brandon Mental Health Centre, not what the member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) is talking about.

I want to specifically talk for a minute about one of these Crown corporations, one of the assets that each child is born into Manitoba with, and that is the Manitoba Telephone System.

Now, what we have seen over the past short period of time is a splitting into four of Manitoba Telephone System. My worry is that that makes the whole corporation easier to sell. For me, I am worried that it also makes parts of the corporation easier to sell.

The other concern that I have is that the balanced budget legislation that is being proposed here puts governments, even this one, into a straitjacket, not allowing us to invest in some of the things in our province that have paid off over the long run, like the floodway. Think of how many millions of dollars the government in the '60s saved Manitoba over the long haul in flood claims. Think of all the money we saved

by investing some money at the front end. This government is saying that no future government should have that option available to it. It is a straitjacket.

I want to touch a little bit on the amount of trust and accountability involved in Bill 2. I want to point out that maybe, Madam Speaker, it is necessary that this government have some kind of legislation controlling itself because it certainly does not appear to be able to do it on its own.

It was quite amazing, I think, to people of Manitoba when they realized that the same government that talks a lot about fiscal responsibility had a \$762-million deficit one year, the highest in the province's history, but what we find out later is that that was not even the worst of it; a year later, they had an \$819-million deficit. That is what you added to the debt. What did you tell the people of Manitoba? Well, you told the people of Manitoba that year you had a \$330.5-million debt. Oops! It takes the Provincial Auditor to step in and tell the truth on the reporting of your own deficits, so maybe you do need this legislation to control yourselves, but I would suggest that most governments would not need this kind of straitjacket.

As I think of the material that I have read having to do with the balanced budget legislation and this government's fiscal performance, headlines jump out at me that suggest that Tories flunked math test, that Tories came out with an \$819-million deficit one year and reported \$330 million. What kind of trust can the people of Manitoba put in the financial integrity of a government that would do that?

Budget fantasy is another headline that pops out from the pages that I have read. Members of the government, former members of the government themselves have called into question the accounting practises of this government. Does it make sense or is it acceptable for a government to drain the Lotteries surpluses and use that to bring down the deficit? Is that acceptable? Are those acceptable accounting practices? I do not think so. The Provincial Auditor does not think so, but this legislation, Bill 2, allows the Finance minister to do pretty much anything he likes to produce a balanced budget. That is in the area of honesty and trustworthiness.

What about another angle here? Where does this balanced budget leave health care? Well, I can speak from recent actions of this government in which the health care of Dauphin has been absolutely negatively impacted by cuts that were made by this government.

Madam Speaker, \$1.4 million has been cut this year from last year out of the budget of the Dauphin Regional Health Centre. Now, that is without this kind of draconian legislation. What is going to happen in years down the road when the pressure is really on this government, when the federal transfer payments do start to kick in and bite, and they are going to be massive, we know that.

What is going to happen to health care when the choice of this government and particularly this cabinet is between funding health care or getting their own salaries reduced by 20 or 40 percent? I think that spells tough times in the area of health care.

What about education? We have seen cuts again in education this year. We have seen that without this legislation being in place even today. What is going to happen when this legislation comes in and starts to force even more and massive cuts to our public schools?

Madam Speaker, it reminds me of a farmer who has a pig. This pig is a grand champion at all the fairs in the area. The pig is famous. He is in all the newspapers and on television and radio. The farmer is interviewed because his pig is such a good one.

* (1510)

When somebody came out to see this pig at the farm, there he was living a glorious life in a pigpen. He is well fed and watered. He is safe. He is secure. He has got everything he wants, everything that a pig would want. He has only got three legs though. Somebody asks the farmer, why does this pig only have three legs? The farmer gave much the answer that I think this government would give: Why eat him all at once?

That is what is happening in education, in health care. You are taking apart different departments one leg at a time. My worry is that what is going to

happen—my worry about this legislation is that once it is in place we are going to start taking apart every department of the Manitoba government one piece at a time, much like the way the farmer was taking the pig apart.

I think what we have to do is look long term as opposed to short term. This balanced budget legislation, Bill 2, is very much a short-term, knee-jerk reaction to what has been happening across Canada and throughout the world.

When we lose millions of dollars in transfers from the federal government in the upcoming years, what is going to be the reaction of this government? What is going to be the reaction of the government in terms of child poverty? Will this government then turn and look at some long-term effective ways to battle child poverty? It does not do it now, and there is no legislation here.

Child poverty does not rate highly on the priority list of this government now, so when they are faced with the provisions of Bill 2, I would suspect the child poverty and any kinds of programs designed to help reduce the poverty, any program that would at least take us off the front of the parade when it comes to provincial provinces and their records on child poverty, I would suspect that this legislation will be very negative in terms of any kind of long-term strategy in fighting child poverty.

I also wanted to express my worry in terms of a government who would fund the losses of a hockey team, and we are stuck with those for the next year, if this legislation is put in place. We already have a government reluctant to fund to an acceptable level areas of health care and education and other areas, notwithstanding the amount of money we are going to put in to a hockey team in this province. I think that the government is absolutely abdicating its responsibilities.

Just to wrap up, I want to encourage this government to learn from the past, learn from governments who have balanced budgets without this kind of legislation. I want them to learn from the Californias of the world where this legislation has caused deep concerns, and I

want this government to use a little bit of common sense when it comes to the financial management of this province's debt and deficits and expenditures and revenues. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to put a few comments on the record with respect to Bill 2, the balanced budget legislation. I would like to speak in the context of this government's record on balanced budget and budget performance over the past few years. I would also like to speak about the impacts of this legislation and also some of the myths that are out there about what this legislation will do.

Madam Speaker, we believe that when you look at this legislation, we have to look at it in the context of how we run our family finances. If we really, really look at this, all of us would like to balance our budgets every year, but in actual fact that is not a reality and it cannot happen.

If we were to do our day-to-day business in that way, many people would never have the ability to own a home or to get an education or, within the farming community, buy a farm and invest in it, within the fishing community, major investments that have to be made and all of those things. If this legislation was applied, we believe it would be so restrictive that families would not be able to function.

So, Madam Speaker, as I say, we believe that to work towards the goal of a balanced budget is a good goal to work towards, but there has to be a realistic understanding that it cannot always happen.

Under this legislation, a poor family would never be able to make progress, and really it would only be the rich families who would be able to, without borrowing, buy a home, because in actual fact very few of us who sit in this House have the ability to buy a home with cash up front or buy a car or any of those things. We have to be able to borrow and take out a mortgage, whether it be on a home or on our land, and spread that debt over many years. For farmers to be able to buy a combine, which is a major piece of equipment right now, if you wanted to buy a new combine, you would be looking at somewhere between the range of

\$100,000 to \$150,000. Now that is a tremendous amount of money and considering where the farm economy is right now and considering the blows that the farming community has taken from the federal government with respect to the removal of the Crow benefit and other support programs, certainly farmers are under additional hardship. But even in a very good year it would be beyond most farmers' wildest dreams to be able to purchase a piece of equipment like that without financing, without spreading the cost over a few years, over many years, in fact.

This legislation if applied to a family farm would restrict them completely from growing in their field of employment. Very few farmers would be able to pay for their children's college education under this. I know there are many people in this Legislature whose children are just coming to the age of entering university and some who have already put their children through university, and the majority of us would not have been able to do that, to support our children, if we had to pay for it within the one-year budget. Without being able to borrow money and spread the costs over many years, it would be again, Madam Speaker, the wealthy who would be able to provide their children with an education.

Under this legislation it would only be the wealthy who would be able to continue their growth and prosperity and anybody from lower-income families under this legislation would not have the ability to finance various things that they need in order to improve their economic situation.

The Tories claim that this bill will put economic growth on a sound footing and protect taxpayers. We, as New Democrats, disagree. We believe that this is very unbalanced legislation, and it will endanger the economy and close the doors on a positive government action. It is also full of gimmicks and tricks that will allow the government to take advantage of taxpayers rather than protecting them.

There are some myths in this legislation that I would like to address, in particular the myth that since you balance your budget every year, why should not the government. Well, as I had indicated earlier, Madam Speaker, in actual fact very few people do balance their

budget every year, very few people. You can have a budget all set up and have things well planned out and then it may happen that you just have to buy a new car. If that is not within your budget, does that mean for that year you do not drive a car because you cannot balance it anymore?

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): You have to do it every so often.

Ms. Wowchuk: Certainly. The member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) says you have to do it every so often, and I agree, every so often, but that is long-range planning. You should not be restricting it to each year that there has to be a balance. I guess that is where I commend the Saskatchewan government in their legislation in that they have at least looked at long-range planning and they are balancing their budget over a four-year period, and that gives some room for flexibility to carry over things.

* (1520)

This particular legislation, Madam Speaker, is very Draconian. If it applied to a household, certainly the average family would not be able to buy a car and pay for it in one year, so they would be out of luck under this legislation. I am in that situation, and I know the majority of the people that are on this side of the House are in that same boat where they would not be able to buy a car. There are many other people outside, and people in the farming community, as I have indicated, would have great difficulty under this legislation.

Again, the only people who would be able to go to university would be those who do not need a student loan, and when we look at ourselves within this House and look at people in our community, there are many who would not be able to operate, not send their children to university.

The majority of us would not be able to buy a house unless they were able to pay for it in cash. Now if people were not able to buy houses, what would this do to the whole economy of the province? What would happen to the construction industry? What would happen to our unemployment rates? They are high

enough as it is, Madam Speaker, and we would end up seeing our unemployment rates go higher.

I referred to farmers. Farmers would not be able to operate nor would fishermen. Now I think about the logging industry and the people within the Swan River Valley right now, many who are hoping to get jobs in the forestry industry with the harvesting of wood. Again, if this kind of legislation was applied to the people who are hoping to invest in logging equipment or trucks, they would not be able to participate or have the opportunity to take any of those jobs, because this legislation, if applied to them, would deter them from investing. No one would ever invest in their future under this pay-as-you-go approach. This would be impossible for the average person to live with.

The other myth that we hear about this legislation is that this balanced budget legislation will protect taxpayers from greedy governments by requiring a referendum before taxes are raised. Well in fact, Madam Speaker, there are many, many loopholes in this legislation that will allow the government to raise money without holding a referendum. In fact, we could see property tax credits reduced without a referendum. You could see user fees applied to various administrations, something we have seen under this administration already, but we would see more of that. We would not see protection from that under this legislation.

We could see the goods and services tax applied by this provincial government. We could see the sales tax spread over an even broader base than this government has done in previous years. Again, those taxes could be raised without this government holding a referendum. So to say that the taxpayer is going to be protected from increased taxes is an untruth, Madam Speaker, because if this legislation passes, there are many loopholes that would allow the Finance minister to change the level of taxes, broaden the base. In fact, these taxes would hit most hard on low- and middle-income people while the government could end up giving great tax loopholes to corporations.

The other myth, Madam Speaker, is the idea that cabinet ministers will act responsibly because, with this legislation, if they do not balance the budget, they will

lose a salary. I think we could see the ministers actually punishing the poor and cutting programs in order to keep their budget in line just so they would not lose their salaries.

(Mr. Gerry McAlpine, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

The only way, for example, that the Family Services minister could protect him or herself from a salary cut would be to reduce welfare rates. Those are the dangers that are in this legislation. There is no way to ensure that, in order to balance the budget, the average person is not going to be hurt.

The ministers would have the ability to cut whatever they had to out of their budget in order to protect their own salary. I look at the Department of Agriculture. If it were the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Enns) who wanted to underspend, you have to question: What kind of programs would we see cut? Would those support programs that have just been announced by the Minister of Agriculture to help to diversify the agricultural community, value-added jobs, would those programs have to be cut in order to save the minister's salary?

Mr. Acting Speaker, I feel that it is a myth under this legislation that the ministers would be held responsible because their salary would be reduced. To save face and to save their salary, they would reduce whatever they had to within that budget. It would be the poor and low-income people who are going to be the ones that would suffer.

The other things we hear is that it is tough medicine, but balanced budgets in every year are essential for a healthy economy in the province. Balanced budgets sound like a good idea, but in reality it is not a new idea. It is a very old idea, and we have seen attempts at this practice before.

Throughout the century, there have been politicians who have attempted to balance budgets. When we look back, during the recession, there was a Premier by the name of John Bracken who made balanced budgets his highest priority. During that time, we had the depression and high unemployment extended for more than eight years. We saw work camps. We saw the

economy of the province just driven right down, so here we have a prime example. At a time when the government should have been investing in the economy during the depression, trying to get the economy going—there was a real opportunity for the government to get out—the priority of the Premier at the time was to balance the budget and in actual fact drove the province into a very serious recession, a prolonged recession.

We have to be prepared to invest in our province. We have to be prepared to invest in the future of our children, and there are times when government has to do those kinds of things. The myth that if we do not balance our budget every year, we will leave our children with a crushing debt is also an untruth, because there have been examples where Premiers have had the foresight to take the steps, to make investments in this province. The investments have paid off.

There is nothing wrong with borrowing money and investing wisely and laying a foundation for a secure and cross-productive future. During the Second World War we saw examples of this. During the Second World War, we saw where a Premier, Doug Campbell, put the province on a pay-as-you-go basis. Little was spent on schools and on hospitals, very little was spent on infrastructure. By the time the 1950s came around we saw that there were real problems.

Certainly there was a Premier from the Conservative Party, Premier Duff Roblin, who did have a vision and he was prepared to invest. One of his investments was the floodway. He was prepared not only to invest in the floodway, but Mr. Roblin said, who can say what the monetary cost is of not building roads and schools and hospitals? His government was prepared. There was a Conservative who did not need to bring in balanced budget legislation because no government needs balanced budget legislation.

If the government has the will to balance the budget, they will do it without legislation, but I digress, Mr. Acting Speaker. I was referring to a Conservative Premier who was prepared to invest and take out long-term loans. He started the process of building roads and schools and hospitals, and certainly he invested in the Winnipeg floodway, which cost a tremendous amount of money at the time. He was prepared to

invest, just as Premier Schreyer in his day was prepared to invest, in the health and welfare of this province.

* (1530)

There are still marks of the work that was done under Premier Schreyer, but unfortunately actions taken by this government are destroying the healthy economy that we had, the investments that were made in schools and in hospitals under previous Premiers, such as Premier Schreyer, are being destroyed by this government. We are seeing our health care system gutted by this government.

We are seeing our education system progressing to a system where it is, again, only the wealthy who will get an education.

This legislation will not address the needs of our young people. This legislation will not maintain Manitoba as a wealthy place where our young people can continue to live and prosper. This legislation will restrict all of those things, Mr. Acting Speaker.

I think that when this government talks about balanced budget legislation, they should really look at their record because I think that their record is in fact very poor. This government had many opportunities to bring in a balanced budget if they so chose without this legislation.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I want to quote from the Crow Wing Warrior from Morris, Manitoba, certainly not a place that has strong supporters of—[interjection] A hotbed of socialists, as my colleague says. A very strong Conservative area, but in this article it says, and I quote: It took the Filmon government seven years to finally get around to the balanced budget and legislation to ensure such budgets. During those years, the Filmon government ran deficits including the all-time record deficit of \$745 million in 1992-93.

In fact the Filmon government once had the golden opportunity to give Manitobans a balanced budget a long time ago when the Fiscal Stabilization Fund or rainy day fund was created. During the initial years of the Filmon government, they turned away from balanced budget in favour of running a deficit.

Where was this idea of balanced budget legislation? I have to think, Mr. Acting Speaker, that this somehow came about just to have some idea before an election, and it sounded good. I go on: The Filmon government used what would have been a surplus to create a rainy day fund. The deficit was run in order to make up for the surplus used to create the fund.

One line that Premier Filmon likes to use is that New Democratic Parties and Liberals voted against his government's balanced budget legislation last March prior to the election. Filmon tries to create the illusion that the opposition are nothing more than free-wheeling, tax-and-spend politicians. That is amazing considering the Premier was responsible for the all-time record deficit of \$745 million.

As Leader of the Opposition, Gary Filmon stood in the Legislature to vote against the budget that would have provided the province with a surplus of \$58 million. A surplus, imagine that. This Conservative government when they were in opposition voted against the budget that would have had a surplus. Hypocrisy at its finest. In 1988 NDP Finance Minister Eugene Kostyra tabled what would have been a balanced budget according to the Provincial Auditor's office. Mr. Filmon and his Conservatives stood against a balanced budget and now they are bringing in legislation because it sounds good. In today's day, it sounds good, but in actual fact, Mr. Acting Speaker, although it sounds good there are more loopholes in this legislation to raise taxes than this government will admit, and this legislation that they are proposing is very draconian and will hurt the poorest of the poor in this province.

And I go on with this article: And what of the balanced budget Premier Filmon and Mr. Stefanson have? It is full of leaks, this editor says, a balanced budget, a rare infusion of \$145 million from the federal government as part of a readjustment to transfer payments, a balanced budget which does not account for the coming cuts totalling \$245 million, thanks to the same federal government. A balanced budget from a government depending on \$230 million to be made off gambling in this year—\$230 million from gambling, that is what this government proposes to balance their budget with, Mr. Acting Speaker.

As the Filmon government prepares to pass their balanced budget legislation they should keep in mind one thing: The serious flaws in the March budget are so bad Premier Filmon and his cabinet ministers might all be \$20,000 short in their pocket. As I say, this is taken from a paper in Morris, Manitoba, people who are strong supporters of the Conservative government, but even those people who are strong supporters of this government are being very critical of this government for creating—[interjection] No, the people are being very critical of this, the editor, but I am surprised that government members and the member for Morris (Mr. Pitura) who has read this editorial, I am sure, has not stood up and put his comments on the record as to the views of his constituents with respect to this legislation.

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, there are very serious concerns with this legislation, and I think that this legislation will cause a downturn in our economy. If this legislation were to apply to a family, families would not be able to function, and I think that there are many myths. This was legislation that the government brought forward before the election because it sounded good. The government should, if they are bringing this kind of legislation forward, be looking at—

Mr. Acting Speaker, I would hope that the government would reconsider what they are bringing in in this legislation, because I feel that it will have very negative effects. If we were to apply the same kind of legislation to our family operations, it could not work. It would be impossible for families to function. A farming family could not function—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McAlpine): Order, please. The Chair has recognized the honourable member for Swan River. Those members who wish to indulge in conversation would do so outside the House or in the loge. I will continue to recognize the member for Swan River to continue with her remarks and ask members to give her that time to have her say.

Ms. Wowchuk: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

If this legislation were to apply to a family, Mr. Acting Speaker, and a family got into a serious financial situation, it would result in them having to sell off their assets to pay off their bills. We do not want to

see governments having to sell off their assets to pay off the deficit, and we do not see how this can work.

* (1540)

We saw in 1994, this government sold McKenzie Seeds, a money-making Crown corporation, and manipulated that sale so that the proceeds could be put into the 1995-96 expenditures. We see them create slush funds.

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, with those few comments, I want to say that I have serious concerns, as our party does, with this balanced budget legislation. If we were to apply this to a family situation, it would not work. I also feel very strongly that if the government has the political will to balance budgets, if that is their political will, they can do it without legislation. There is no need. They can operate. Just as this government has the ability to run up debts right now when they want to support the Jets, they can run up that debt. If they have the will to pay off, to balance the budget and have a good record, they can do it. It has been done.

The government should take a look at the examples of previous NDP governments. Look back at the governments that were in Saskatchewan. Look back at what Roy Romanow did in writing down the debt created by Grant Devine. He did not have balanced budget legislation, but they had the political will to treat people humanely and also address the concerns of debt that was created by Conservatives.

This government has run up great debts, and they have that ability. There are ways to do it humanely and treat people well without cutting back on hospitals, without destroying the education system and without putting a burden on the poorest of the poor in society. They have that ability to do that, Mr. Acting Speaker, without legislation, but it takes political will.

Unfortunately, this government has a very narrow vision. They do not have the vision that previous premiers had, such as Premier Schreyer and Premier Duff Roblin, just for a comparison of both. Those premiers saw that it was important that you invest and you make long-term investments for the future of this province.

That is not what we have seen when we listen to what the government has done with roads in areas where people do not vote right, according to some of them. We see that this government does not have the will, and I believe, Mr. Acting Speaker, that even with this legislation we will not see—with this legislation, if it passes without amendments, we will see a deterioration in the quality of life of people in rural Manitoba, in all of Manitoba. We will see the poor and the middle-income people suffering even more than they are. We will see the wealthy prospering because it will be the wealthy that we will see loopholes created for, and it will be on the poor that we will see the government expand their tax base on, which they will be able to do without a referendum. We will see the programs cut because ministers who are going to be losing \$20,000 of their salary are going to make all the cuts they have to to ensure that they are not the ones that suffer, and it will be the poor that will suffer. We will see social programs cut. We will see education cuts, and we will see health care cuts.

There is a much better way to do this. The government does not need this legislation. What they need is the will, and I hope the government will recognize that they have many opportunities to create a better life for people in Manitoba rather than increasing taxes and cutting back on services, as we have seen under this government. Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

Mr. Jack Penner (Emerson): Mr. Acting Speaker, it is with some trepidation that I rise today to address this subject simply because of many of the things that the opposition members have said about this legislation, and in my view the complete lack of understanding of how government should function, how the business community functions and how business principles can be and should be applied to the operation of government as well as any other economic activity that is viable over the long term.

For that reason, I cannot help but reflect over the past since the time that I started in business myself, into the business of farming. Some of the things that the member for Swan River has stated in her remarks just now caused me some great concern, because I know that she and her husband also farm in the Swan River

area, and she left the impression, as a number of the opposition members have from time to time, that government would be restrained from taking positive initiatives to address periodically situations of economic concern, whether they be child poverty, whether they be health care issues, whether they be transportation initiatives, infrastructure initiatives and those kinds of things.

The reason I say it appears that there is a complete lack of understanding about business principles is something that I think has been prevalent in the socialist ranks ever since they took government and became a party of some consequence in this province and I think when we go back as far as the Schreyer administration demonstrated clearly their lack of understanding on how you should apply those economic principles in the operation of government.

I remember well, and it is some 20 years ago, when many, many people in this province, and most of those comments were generated by then-members of the Legislature, said that governments should not really worry about borrowing money, because principals really did not have to be repaid. A lot of the economists of the day at the time said something similar. They said it was silly to apply taxation to buy down the debt.

In other words you could keep on borrowing and borrowing and borrowing, and that is true, Mr. Acting Speaker. That is true if you are willing to apply under the same principles increased taxation and increased taxation and increased taxation in order to maintain your revenues to offset your deficit.

Now, they certainly were masters at applying those increases on a regular basis, because they certainly did borrow unendingly, even though their revenues increased very dramatically in some years and they had surpluses generated during those years, but did they apply the principles of true business to government? No.

That is what concerns me about the remarks that the honourable member for Swan River made and many remarks that opposition members have made in this debate.

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

It demonstrates clearly a lack of understanding of what this legislation will and should do. There are no restrictions, Madam Speaker, on borrowing in this legislation. Government can borrow if they can demonstrate that at the end of the day they can raise enough revenue to offset the borrowing, the same as any farmer or any businessman or anybody else can from time to time.

*(1550)

It appears to me that the reason we really need this legislation, Madam Speaker, is to guard against the ruthless, unprincipled, unmanaged governments that we have seen in the past. I would suggest to members opposite that had they truly applied business principles to the operation of government some 20 years ago when they ran very significant surpluses, and the government of the day, of course, made every attempt to spend every dollar they could to make sure that all the money was spent instead of putting some of this money into a rainy-day fund or a bank account or as you and I would call it, Madam Speaker, a savings account so that when revenues in fact fall, as we all know they do once in a while, you could write a cheque on your savings account and at the end of the day balance your books.

The lack of the knowledge and understanding of those business principles cause us now to have to introduce legislation that will put a great deal of liability on those politicians that are now espousing we do not need this legislation, that when they want to change this kind of legislation to follow their archaic principles of economics that would cause them to have to go before the public in a referendum to make major changes to this kind of legislation— therefore, Madam Speaker, this legislation should stand loud and tall. This is why people in all parts of Manitoba support this kind of legislation because they want some form of law to be applied to those ruthless spenders on the other side of the House. We have heard nothing but, nothing but saying, spend more, spend more, spend more. In other words, bring on the Binx truck, the Brink's truck—sorry about that, Mr. Clerk, I did not mean to use your name in vain.

I say to you that I really do believe that the Brink's truck is something that the honourable members opposite, when they were in government, used far too often. They unloaded at the backdoor without having any recognition of the need to put some in the front door from time to time to ensure that next time there would be something to unload.

So, Madam Speaker, I would suggest this whole matter of legislation before us is as simple as running my farm. When my wife, Dora, and I first got married we really did not have any money. We did not have any land, but we did want a farm. See, we did want a farm. This is what the honourable members opposite do not understand.

We went to the bank. We said to the bank, you know, in order for us to be able to make a living for the two of us, in order for us to build a base, to raise a family, we asked them whether they could borrow some money. You know what the banker said? The banker said, well, if you can demonstrate to me that over a 20-year period you can raise enough money off of that farm and earn enough on that farm to repay not only the principal but also the interest and are able to demonstrate that you can make your living off of it at the same time, I would consider borrowing you some money.

You know what, Madam Speaker, that principle is enshrined in this legislation. That is exactly what this legislation said, that in order for a government to spend more in any given year you have to go back to the banker. You know who the banker is? The people of Manitoba. You have to ask the banker whether they are willing to put more money into your operation, so the monies that need to be raised need to come from the people that are going to pay the bill at the end.

This legislation clearly states that in order for politicians to make promises to constituents during elections on education, on health care, on child care, on highways, on anything else, they better ask their banker.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Penner: I really did not want to excite the honourable members opposite to the point of them standing in the aisle and wanting to sort of raise the roof. I know we have a light shining from above and that really reminds me, Madam Speaker—and I know that we are not allowed to bring exhibits into the room, and I really do not want to, but this whole issue of balanced budgets and the reasons for this legislation bring me back to a principle that is age, age old.

It really got me to thinking about an apple, a nice, shiny, red apple. By the way, this apple was grown in Winnipeg. It is a Manitoba-grown apple.

Madam Speaker, I am going to put the apple away, but the apple reminded me of a story, a Biblical story where Eve held out an apple to Adam and said to Adam, if you will, I will give thee.

And that is really the principle that should be applied to government, because politicians are so vulnerable when it comes to during election times or just prior to election times that they will from time to time promise far more than their economy can deliver. So Adam found himself in a position that after he partook of the apple, he found himself in a position that he could not remedy himself of later, and so are governments the same way.

I say to you, the opposition members want a free, open door that they can make promises to Manitobans without having any fear of financial retribution and responsibility at the end of the day, and that is why we need this kind of legislation, to prevent ruthless politicians from going out on the hustings during a campaign debate or other areas and saying to the electorate, we will give you anything you want, we will borrow enough money to pay for it, we will not care whether we ever repay the debt or not.

But what we refuse to tell the electorate at the same time is that the interest clock is going to keep on ticking, and at the end of the day you are going to pay \$640-650 million a year in interest costs. We will take that out of the mouths of children, sick people and those people who need highways, and we will give it to the banks, and that is the principle that the opposition members want to maintain.

I say to you, Madam Speaker, that principle can no longer be applied. This legislation clearly demonstrates our will and our desire as a government to ensure, to put an insurance policy in the hands of the electorate and say to them that when we need to spend more money than we have, we will come to you and ask you how much we can spend. I will stand on any platform anywhere in this province and defend the principles of this legislation to no end. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

* (1600)

Madam Speaker: I wanted to get clarification as to whether the member for Emerson (Mr. Penner) wished to continue debate on this when this matter is again before the House or whether indeed he sat down because I stood up because it was four o'clock.

The honourable member for Emerson will have 24 minutes remaining when this matter is again before the House.

The hour being 4 p.m., as previously agreed, time for private members' hour.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Res. 22—Political Advertising and Government Guidelines

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Transcona (Mr. Reid), that

WHEREAS the provincial government has spent hundreds of thousands of tax dollars on partisan advertising of provincial government programs in Manitoba newspapers and on radio and television stations around the province; and

WHEREAS at the same time as the provincial government has spent this money on advertising, they have underfunded the health care and education systems by \$20 million; and

WHEREAS the same provincial government has been attempting to use employees of provincial

government programs to appear in Conservative Party advertising; and

WHEREAS in 1993 the Provincial Auditor called similar ads "questionable" and stated that the provincial government should implement guidelines for government advertising.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba request that the Premier consider following the advice of the Provincial Auditor in this matter and "consider developing more explicit guidelines in this area, specifically defining the extent to which the political element is acceptable in ads paid with tax dollars;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly request that the Premier refrain from further provincial government advertising campaigns while such guidelines are being developed.

Motion presented.

Mr. Maloway: Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to speak today on this resolution.

I feel it is an important resolution, and I think it is important that the government understand that there is a deep concern over on this side of the House on this matter and in fact in the minds of a number of people in the province when they see taxpayers' money being shovelled into advertising campaigns by this government that are really nothing more than an extension of the political party's agenda of the Conservative Party. We have pointed out consistently over the last couple of years when this type of advertising has occurred.

I want to say at this point, Madam Speaker, that if the government were to advertise and its advertising were not so blatant and perhaps was done on a consistent basis over the four-year term of the government, perhaps it would not be so noticeable.

But it becomes fairly blatant and really noticeable when the acceleration in the government advertising occurs just before the period preceding an election, or when the government, as happened two years ago, was

perilously low in the polls, had just lost the five by-elections and as part of its effort to get back in favour with the public proceeded on an unprecedented advertising campaign.

On that basis, while we did not expect that they would and could govern themselves in such a way as to stop the political advertising, we took the steps at the time to request of the Provincial Auditor that she intervene and attempt to request that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson) at least develop some guidelines that could be used to determine the content of government advertising.

We gave the minister a year to work on guidelines. We asked on several occasions how the guidelines were progressing, and nothing was done. I guess it should not surprise anyone on this side of the House that nothing was done. But at the committee meeting the other day, the Public Accounts committee, I asked the Finance Minister about these guidelines that he promised a year ago, that the Provincial Auditor had requested he develop a year ago, and his response was that there are no guidelines in any other part of the country and because of that he really did not see much of a future in developing these guidelines. At the end of the day he does indicate that he is going to keep looking at it.

Now what that tells us, Madam Speaker, is this government has absolutely no intention of developing guidelines. It has no intention of controlling the government advertising amount and content. It proved during the last election that it will stop at nothing to win an election.

Now, there was a very good example of abuse of government advertising last year. Members will recall the government brought in a home renovation grant, a \$10-million grant, and embarked on this huge advertising campaign to sell it to the public. At the end of the day I would suggest to you that the government probably spent more time, more money, advertising that \$10-million program, in fact probably more than they gave out in grants, because at the end of the day there was a very low uptake on that particular program. The advertising was of a saturation nature at the beginning of the program.

Many of the advertising programs that the government does partake in are not there to inform the public. I have no objection with the government advertising program that gives valid information to the public, but the feel-good type advertising that this government has produced over the last four years is nothing more than an extension of their political party ads.

Now, Madam Speaker, another area of political advertising this government has been very involved in has been the lottery ads. I have a problem with the concept of even advertising lotteries. I understand that lotteries are here and they are here to stay. I do not think they should be expanded any more than they are at the present time, but why is it necessary to advertise gambling?

I mean, one only has to turn on the TV to see these mindless ads encouraging people to gamble. I mean, good God, people in this province do not need any more encouragement. They can buy lottery tickets everywhere you turn. When you turn on the TV, you see Don Cherry, and dogs on a teeter-totter, selling Sport Select tickets. This is something that the government, I feel, if it does not intend or if it does not want to cut back on the number of VLT machines it has currently, if it is not prepared to cut back on the gambling that the province is involved in at this point, surely there would be no harm done to ban advertising by the Lotteries Corporation.

* (1610)

I see it as totally nonproductive and certainly counterproductive if we are trying to, in some ways, discourage gambling or at least put the whole process in perspective. The idea that somehow we should advertise and build false hopes in people, that somehow even the poorest amongst us can put out a dollar and win a million dollars, or \$14 million, I guess, was the last big lottery, is certainly not something that the government should be condoning. As a government, I think, any government is not well advised to be promoting that type of activity.

The Grow Bonds were another very good program that this government brought in, and we have

commended them for their Grow Bond and their HydroBond program in the past. But, once again, why is it necessary for the government to expend extraordinary amounts of money, why is it necessary to approve extraordinary amounts of money for feel-good advertisements on Grow Bonds?

If we could bring this collection of ads to the House now and show them to the members, I think the members would have a good laugh looking at this advertising because, as the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) well knows, where is the content in these ads? Where is the information on the Grow Bonds? It is simply a taxpayer-paid ad for the Conservative Party going into an election, and notice now six months after the election, I am not aware of any government advertising on TV. Maybe the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) knows of some, but why is it that somehow a year ago, just six months before the election, there were ads, just wall-to-wall ads.

There were the lottery ads; there were the home improvement ads. They could not buy enough time. There were not enough hours in the day to run the ads. There was not enough money in the government coffers. They were pouring the money into the advertising campaign, and now just six months after the election, where are the ads? Where is that need for the government, at this point, to explain the Grow Bond program? Well, I guess everyone understands it now and it is not necessary.

Clearly the members should understand that we do not have objections to the government advertising information programs, but when they are tantamount to the canoe ad—everyone remembers the famous canoe ad in the 1990 election with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) floating down the river paddling, maybe he was in a big oversized bathtub for all we know, but we got the impression that he was in a stream somewhere with his canoe. To me that is very—[interjection] That is an election ad, that is right. So the member is agreeing with me that that was an election ad, certainly not very informative, I might tell you, but how is that canoe ad any different than those dozens of ads we have seen supporting the Grow Bonds, supporting the Home Renovation Program, supporting the Lotteries Corporation, nothing but feel-good advertising

designed to promote and enhance the image of a failing government, because that is what it was doing at the time. It was failing and people knew it.

So much like O.J. Simpson has the money and resources to buy what he wants, this government is much the same way. We are down 10 points in the polls, we get thrashed in the by-elections, so what is the answer? You know, a million dollars will not do it so the answer is hire some advertising firms to get us out of this mess that the member for Pembina put us in, right, and they put together an advertising campaign that solved the problem for them. By the time they got into the election runup last year, I can tell you that that advertising campaign had clicked in and was getting results, and they know it. Anybody in that caucus who was briefed by their polling people after last August knows that their numbers were going up four points a month because of this advertising campaign.

They smile. [interjection] The member says, that is not why they were going up four points a month. Well, that is exactly why they were going up four points a month. Their stock started to improve last August 1 when the airwaves were hit with this wall-to-wall, feel-good, quasi-political or blatantly political advertising that should have been billed to the Conservative Party. So this government outspent us before the writs were issued. They had spent their entire advertising budget before we had—

An Honourable Member: Got out of the gate.

Mr. Maloway: —got out of the gate. That is absolutely right. We could not get out of the gate.

The members like to talk about a level playing field. Well, you know, they are all in favour of a level playing field when it comes to them. Right? A level playing field for everyone else, but when it comes to them and their interests, that does not happen, and we saw what they did. The playing field became very unlevel. As a matter of fact, it was, as the member yesterday was talking about Don Cherry and his dog scenario. That is a funny ad, but the big blue dog was sitting way up as high as you could get on that teeter-totter when those writs were issued in January. It could not get any higher. It was impossible to spend any

more money on advertising. You could not possibly have spent any more.

Now, I am sure they see that it worked for them once, and they have another four and a half years to go before the next election, so I guess we will have to sit here and wait and see what new goodies they come up with for the next go-round.

The point is, we do not expect them not to advertise, and we have said that, but blatant carpet-bombing advertising in advance, you know, six months before the election right up to the election, is not a level playing field. It is not a level playing field. It is misuse of public funds is what it is.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member's time has expired.

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to respond to the member for Elmwood on this resolution. I totally reject all parts of his resolution and the comments that he has made here today. It is always interesting listening to that member try to make a case, and some of the speeches that he has made over the years have surrounded issues like this.

During the election campaign, the member and his party talked almost exclusively about health care, and I see that he still has to incorporate that into his resolution here indicating that that health care system is underfunded. The people did not accept that. We spend 34 percent of our budget on health care, and the member has not learned yet that people, whether it is health and education, are going to judge those systems on the merits of the system and not on how many dollars you spend.

* (1620)

The member tries to confuse the issue by talking about O.J. Simpson today, talking about the advertising of a Crown corporation and talking about some of the government programs. On the one hand, he says it is good to advertise government programs when it is for information, and he wants to be the one who arbitrates whether they are appropriate or not, the people of

Manitoba are always asking about government programs and are wanting to know about government programs, and I will get into some of those a little later.

The member was a member, along with the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), of the Pawley government who spent over \$2 million over a two-year period advertising the Jobs Fund, I might say a program roundly criticized by the three-time loser who leads that party. He was one of the biggest critics of that program.

Yesterday there was some debate about the Home Renovation Program. I am told that the member for Elmwood's (Mr. Maloway) constituency was one of the biggest drawers on that program, scores and scores of people. I suspect the member for Elmwood was out there promoting and advertising that program himself, and probably he should be happy.

I think that there were very few constituencies that accessed that program more than the member for Elmwood, and it is important that Manitobans wanted to know about that program. I mean, on the one hand he wants his constituents to access that program; then he wants to come to the House here and criticize the program.

For a small investment on the part of government, the Home Renovations Program saw a total of \$43 million invested in the renovation of older homes. This provided jobs for many Manitobans and employed either directly or indirectly some 730 people. That was a very, very successful program, and it would not be successful if Manitobans did not know about it.

The member is confusing what he calls political advertising. He refers to the campaign of 1990 and some of the effective ads that were used then and tries to compare them to the type of advertising which presents information that Manitobans desire to have. I am not sure why he would be so critical of a program that members in his own constituency accessed to such a large extent.

I might say that in the area of tourism Manitoba has seen a dramatic increase in the number of tourists coming to Manitoba over the course of 1994. In fact,

it was double the national average and represented \$7 million in increased revenues to government. Again, these things do not happen without putting out some publicity, doing some advertising, and the member is against that sort of thing.

In fact, it is interesting, with all of the good news that is happening in Manitoba, there has not been one question over there on business expansion and tourism since this session started. A lot of these things happen because of the advertising, getting the message out, whether it is in tourism or whether it is in home renovations.

The member in his speech referenced Grow Bonds. He said it was a good program that they supported, but if you follow his arguments, he did not want government to tell anybody about it. He did not want communities to know about it.

There have been many, many successful Grow Bonds and issues. In fact, Rimer Alco from Morden, which was one of the first—and I think one of the members here recognized one of the administrators from Rimer Alco who received a national award. The Grow Bonds were very instrumental in having that corporation achieve the success it has and right across Manitoba. I know the new member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Tweed), in the town of Killarney, the Country Woodshed who—[interjection] You have a long memory.

Point of Order

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): On a point of order, Madam Speaker, I know that from time to time certain words have been declared unparliamentary. I would like your ruling on the question of whether in referring to a proper name "woodshed" as in Country Woodshed, the name of a business in Killarney, is appropriately used in this House as opposed to "woodshed," which is used in another context.

Madam Speaker: The honourable government House leader was not really up on a point of order but on a point of clarification. Indeed, the context in which the honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and

Citizenship used the word is indeed parliamentary and not unparliamentary.

* * *

Mr. Gilleshammer: I thank you for that clarification, Madam Speaker. It just shows the length they will go to to keep a good program down.

There have been quite a number of Grow Bonds corporations started across the province, most of them, if not all of them, in rural Manitoba. There has been a total investment of over \$21 million by Manitobans and the creation of 448 jobs in the 19 Grow Bond corporations that have been started. Again, these would not have the success that they have achieved without some form of government advertising and information dissemination across the province.

Manitobans have to be aware of these programs to take advantage of them, to make them work from within their own community. So we have seen, in areas of tourism, in the Home Renovation Program, which the member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) promoted within his own constituency and the Grow Bonds, three of the main programs that government spent advertising dollars on within the last year, being very, very successful and helping Manitoba to grow, creating jobs—[interjection] Well, my good friend wants to know about the information on Lotteries.

I can recall, when members across the way, all they would talk about was secrecy, that you never tell anybody, you never advertise the programs that the Lotteries Foundation proceeds go to towards. The corporation and government came forward with a number of programs, the lottery beneficiaries awareness program, which allowed Manitobans to learn more about the programs. I recall the pamphlet that was put out at the UMM convention, exactly what the members were asking for, and then they simply roundly criticize it when it comes out.

The members want it both ways. They want to talk about secrecy and government programs that are a benefit to Manitobans, but they do not want anybody to advertise about it. These programs have been very, very successful. It has been part of the upswing in

Manitoba business. The fact that we have a lower unemployment rate than almost every province in Canada is a result of things like the Grow Bonds program.

I might just mention the sales tax rebate. Over \$24 million was leveraged in new homes being bought by Manitobans, a program that was widely accepted across the province and used by many, many Manitobans to create more jobs and assist, I think, almost 400 first-time home buyers through rebates. Again, when this program is advertised across the province, the members criticize it. I understand that they do not like the success that our government has had in coming forward with innovative programs which have assisted Manitobans from one end of this province to the other.

So I totally reject the statements made by the member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway). He knows very well that government has to have the ability to put out pamphlets and newspaper advertisements and materials to make Manitobans aware of programs that government is promoting. All these programs that we have talked about today, the tourism initiatives, the sales tax rebate, the Home Renovations and the Grow Bond program, have been very successful because there has been good policy developed around it. There is a wide acceptance of them across the province, and they have been very successful in putting Manitobans back to work and creating more jobs within the province of Manitoba.

* (1630)

The member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) who brought forward this resolution is well aware of the discussions that took place between 1981 and 1988 in terms of the way the government of that day, the Pawley government, conducted itself. In fact, when the Lyon government left office in 1981, there was a staff complement of 23 in the Communications Secretariat. By the end of 1988, there were 116 positions there, people totally dedicated not to productive work within a lot of those departments, but simply an obscene number of people doing advertising for that particular government.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Again, this government has considerably downsized the number of people who are involved within government to promote government programs. Again, the communications, the advertisements and the promotion of these programs has been very, very successful.

The member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) wants to link that success, of course, to electoral success. Well, the people of Manitoba had a chance in April to study the policies and the campaigns of all three parties and made some very wise choices and made their decisions. I know that the member for Elmwood is still smarting over that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have no difficulty in saying very clearly that this resolution brought forward by the member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is not acceptable to us, and I am sure that other speakers here today will make that very clear to members opposite. Thank you very much.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I must admit that I am almost shocked and surprised at the speech that we have just heard from the minister, because what the minister is saying—and I assume he is speaking on behalf of some of his other colleagues because even though this is private members' hour, I am sure his speech does reflect his caucus's position—but what the minister is suggesting is that we say no to the Provincial Auditor.

If he would care to read the resolution—in fact, I will even give a copy here to the government House leader to read it directly—it is very clear that this is based on a simple request that we made to the Provincial Auditor that there be guidelines for advertising. In fact, I will be continuing this discussion with the government House leader later because I am sure he is very interested after reading this resolution.

I am surprised that anyone on that side would have any difficulty with a resolution that talks about—and this is a quote from the Provincial Auditor—developing more explicit guidelines in this area, which is the area of political advertising, and specifically define the extent to which the political element is acceptable and

that it is paid with tax dollars. What is wrong with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

I want to deal today with the context, why a member of this Legislature who has raised this issue at Public Accounts would actually have to bring this before the Legislature in private members' hour. Well, it is for two reasons basically. One is it is obviously a concern I think all of us should have. I mean advertising should be for informational purposes by the government, not for political purposes.

The second point is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this issue has been raised in Public Accounts. I have copies of the transcripts from Hansard. It was raised by our party. It was raised by the then other opposition party. It has been raised continuously. I have raised it in the Legislature. Many people have raised it in the Legislature. I just want to go a little bit further to point out to the minister why we have raised it.

I find it very interesting that the minister would suggest that somehow these ads were just totally innocent. They were only there to inform people about certain public programs, and they just, of course, coincidentally happened to expand dramatically the number of ads, the amount of ads, just coincidentally around what might have been called the first pre-election window last year. It was just coincidence, I am sure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the ads—and I think this is important because there are a number of ads that create a lot of concern—one of them was the so-called ads on rural development, because what I find interesting was the slogan they used was the same slogan they used in their caucus mail-outs.

It was the same slogan they used in the provincial election, you know, this Manitoba Strong, and then I guess they must have taken it from some of these beer ads. I am sure they got their inspiration from the XXX, but this Manitoba Strong, if you look at the content, it is identical. It is absolutely identical, the government ads, the Conservative caucus mail-outs—and, by the way, they sent tons. They sent tons of leaflets out with this Manitoba Strong, copies of various items of propaganda and, by the way, not just to their own constituencies. They sent it into coincidentally constituencies such as Flin Flon, Transcona, I believe,

Crescentwood. I do not know why they would have sent it out. This is just informational to inform their constituents. But the fact is they ran ads with that specific tag on it.

Now what other things have we raised in the Legislature? Well, one I found rather amusing—and this, again, I guess was just informational, again, was the money that was spent, the \$44,000 that was spent by the Rural Development minister on these newspapers that were sent out across rural Manitoba. I remember we did—in fact, both opposition parties actually checked the pictures and there were 17 pictures of guess which caucus—the Conservative caucus. In fact, in one of the issues there were seven pictures of the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Derkach).

I am sure this was only to do with government programs, and it was just coincidental that the department was putting out a newspaper that had seven pictures of the minister and 17 pictures of the PC caucus. No pictures of any other members of the Leg., and that was just coincidence. It was strictly for information, perhaps, I guess, to make sure that people recognized what the Minister of Rural Development looked like when he travels rural Manitoba.

That is not the only ad they rented. Can anyone forget the Lotteries ads? Now this is the government—just remember this. This came out just recently. This is the government that received figures on the community-by-community breakdown of Lotteries funds, VLT funds, in November at cabinet. It had been requested by the Free Press in May of 1994. November, they got the information. We had the Minister of Finance (Mr. Stefanson) get up and say in committee, well, we could not get it out; we could not break it down via the community basis that was requested.

It took them seven months, till after the election, before they released that information in June of this year. This is on the one side. On the other side, there was nothing stopping them putting out \$2 million of advertising just coincidentally leading up to the election, talking about some of the, quote, benefits of Lotteries expenditures. They had Hollywood-style productions. They had these ads. They were run on a

saturation basis and just coincidentally did happen to deal with an issue that was of concern to a lot of Manitobans, the great expansion in terms of gambling.

Now, this is the government that could not get the community-by-community breakdown for VLT revenues released? It took them seven months, but they could run a \$2-million advertising campaign? [interjection] The minister says they were good ads. They had better be with the price that was paid by the Lotteries Foundation. They had better be, because I have seen Hollywood pictures produced for lower budgets than some of those ads.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you run through the cumulative impact. There was reference made to the Home Renovation Program. We said right from the beginning that there were going to be difficulties with that program. There are a heck of a lot of people out there that would like to renovate their homes that do not have \$5,000 to put down to attain that \$1,000. Some of us suggested that it was a Tory program designed for Tory constituencies. [interjection]

The member points out, perhaps even the program was designed for the ads, because what I find interesting is, the percentage that was spent on advertising for this program, the percentage that was spent on the REDI program, in terms of advertising. Let us recall that these programs did not say, you want information on the REDI program, contact us.

The REDI ads, they went around—and I will tell you, they probably created more jobs in the advertising industry with that program than they did in rural Manitoba. You look at the amount that was spent on advertising the successes of the REDI program. I tell you, you know, there were some, not many in northern Manitoba, but the fact is, go to anybody in private business and give them an advertising budget where they are going to be running 40 percent and 50 percent cost of advertising to deal with the results of those programs.

* (1640)

If anybody on that side can with a straight face say that there were not political motivations for those ads,

I would like to hear them say so, because I can tell you, they would be very, very naive if they believe that. Everybody in this House knew that this was part of the Conservative re-election agenda. They were running polls. They knew that they were weak in the area of jobs, so they had to do something.

So what did they do? It was quite brilliant actually. They took the same programs, and they recycled the ads. They recycled those ads. I mean, the small potato ad, you know, it got to the point where there was this big debate in the House between the Liberals and Conservatives over small and big potatoes. I mean, this was going to be part of the election campaign. You know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? It worked.

I mean, it is not surprising that they did not advertise other elements of what the government was doing. I mentioned about VLTs. They did not advertise how much money was taken out of rural communities. They did not do that. The Jets, they did not advertise that one very well in the election. There was not a single ad saying: Your government has made a real smart investment in the Winnipeg Jets. You are going to buy into the Keith Tkachuk contract here. Have we got a deal for you.

None of that, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, this government that was so concerned about informing Manitobans, what did they do about those critical issues? Absolutely nothing.

How about health? You know, it was interesting because they did try some PR under Don Orchard's rule as Minister of Health. They hired an assistant deputy minister, went around the province, gave seminars on health reform, and then, of course, something happened called the by-election. Then we got the current Minister of Health (Mr. McCrae) who has—I mean, I give him credit. He has managed to mumble his way through two years of health care reform, never once giving a straight answer in this House.

It is interesting. Dauphin Hospital, you know, they did not advertise what health care reform Tory style was to the people of Dauphin. It was interesting that they got assurances throughout the election campaign, do not worry; it is not a problem. So what happens?

Within a few months after the election, Dauphin gets it, Flin Flon, the same thing.

What I like too is the way our hospital system works in Thompson. We had the Conservative candidate, ran on health care reform. He actually did. So what happened? They received the lowest vote in 25 years. Thanks to our wonderful system, the Tory candidate has now been appointed to—guess which board in Thompson—the hospital board. There is democracy for you, Tory style. He is now sitting on the hospital board. He is a fine individual, but, I am sorry, when you get 1,300 votes, the lowest number of votes in 25 years—in fact, the Tories in Thompson got fewer votes than the NDP candidate did in Arthur-Virden—I mean, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is something wrong there.

But, you know, the government, under this Minister of Health, did not go out and say, here is what health care reform means to your community hospital. They did not say, here is what health care reform means to urban hospitals; here is what it really means to you in terms of services. In fact, they ran—and at least they paid for it in Conservative dollars in the election—those famous ads of the Premier saying, do not worry about it; just think of all those great experiences you have had in the past with health care.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, those were brilliant ads. They were brilliant ads. They were totally misleading, but they were brilliant. In fact, I think there is a common theme here. You know what? I will say that the Conservatives are good at one thing, advertising. They are better than the New Democrats. They are better when they are in government on abusing government ads for political purposes. In the election, they have more ads than we do. They have a lot more money than we do, and they will say anything to get elected. If anybody doubts that, take any of them, they will say anything to get elected. Run their ads through.

What I would be interested to do—and I remember Filmon in the canoe in 1990. Does anybody remember that ad? It was Gary Filmon, friend of the environment, you know, warm, fuzzy sweater. That one, that canoe had developed quite a few holes pretty early on in the mandate. I will say, if you remember the ads—by the way, I want to get videos made of these

ads to remind people periodically, especially those people who, in the final week, decided maybe they would give this government one more turn, give them a chance, vote for them because, you know, they won the election. I do not discount that. I have never questioned that, but look at those ads.

Remember, like I said—they said do not worry about your health care. I asked the people in Dauphin, Flin Flon, Thompson, people here in the city of Winnipeg, what is the reality?—those ads or the reality of a government that is now back in with a majority doing whatever the heck it wants in that area?

You know, I went through other areas with their ads. They were talking about how fiscally responsible they were. The Winnipeg Jets, you know. Remember what they promised in the election? It was \$10 million. They did not advertise that because, I tell you, rural and northern Manitoba, in many areas of the city, a lot of people would not agree even to \$10 million. So what did they do? As soon as they got elected, they forgot all that gloss, the PR that they put in place, and all of a sudden the ante was raised to \$35 million. We have seen secret money put forward in the infrastructure program. We have seen the deal collapse.

We are seeing this bizarre spectacle of us, the taxpayers of Manitoba now paying for one of the biggest contracts that has been signed in a long time. We are competing with the Chicago Black Hawks, you know, the third highest in the NHL, and we as taxpayers are paying for that. Now, this government is so concerned, this party so concerned about information. They did not advertise that in the election. Vote for us and you will own part of Keith Tkachuk's contract. Boy, that would have gone down real well in a lot of constituencies they were fighting and they won them.

The bottom line is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we admit Conservatives are better at one thing, and that is running misleading advertising, either as a government or as a political party, but, you know, they should not have the right to continue to do that in government. The Provincial Auditor states very clearly that a lot of their ads were very borderline and questionable—the Provincial Auditor.

So I ask this question: Is it unreasonable to ask what this resolution does? Very clearly it says one thing, let us have guidelines. Well, the Conservatives can still run misleading election ads, but let us make sure that at least when it comes to the taxpayers' money that is being put forth for these ads that there are guidelines so that it does live up to giving out information and not the kind of political agenda that we saw from this government, coincidentally, six months before the provincial election.

I submit to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is so reasonable that even some of the government members, particularly the new members who were not part of the government that brought in these ads—they do not have any ownership of this. I am sure if they ask their constituents, they would agree with this. How much more reasonable can you get? Guidelines. That is all we are asking for.

So I urge members opposite to keep an open mind on this. I say to the new members in particular, now is your chance to say, enough of what happened in the past, let us have some integrity in government and have the guidelines that the Provincial Auditor has requested for advertising.

Mr. Mike Radcliffe (River Heights): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today on this issue as well. I feel bound in duty to bring some information to this House today.

I listened to the honourable member bring forth this resolution, and I am astounded. He is coming from a party that in 1988 had 116 communicators on the public payroll—116. The prior Conservative government had 23. Here is a group of people that have made a business out of advertising. They have the nerve, they have the temerity to come before this House today and suggest that there should be guidelines.

I want to share with the honourable members of this House today that on the day before Mr. Walding ended this regime of the NDP rule in Manitoba, do you know what their budget was for spending to polish their image? \$13.2 million.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Not enough.

Mr. Radcliffe: That is right. The honourable member for Inkster says not enough. That is what the honourable NDP government did. They just tried to throw more money at their problems, and they were told by the people of Manitoba that it does not work. You do not just throw more money at problems. That is right.

* (1650)

There was a comment, there was a judgment made on the strategy of the NDP government on their advertising and on their communication. This is the judgment that was levelled against that party: The Manitoba government is spending too much on public relations people to sell its program; the ribbons and bows you put on it are more important than the actual package.

Who said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Do you know who said that? You are right, Mr. Minister of Health, it was Gary Doer.

This is the very leader who now purports to come before the people of Manitoba and try to say that there should be guidelines. He was not saying it then.

I think another essential item that should be disclosed to this House today, the Manitoba Home Renovation Program that we heard about in the previous discussion in this House today. We were led to believe that this was a nothing program, that it was going nowhere and that the people of the province of Manitoba were not picking up on this program.

Mr. Lamoureux: He said it was a Tory program.

Mr. Radcliffe: That it was a Tory program, says the member for Inkster. Well, let me tell you, the real information, the real facts are, in the district of Elmwood.

Do you know how many grants were made on the Home Renovation Program? One hundred and eighty-nine grants. That was the third highest in our province.

There is an old adage, Mr. Deputy Speaker—

Point of Order

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Thompson on a point of order.

Mr. Ashton: Yes, on a point of order. Under Beauchesne's provisions it is customary that members quoting from documents are therefore required to table those documents.

The member directly quoted from a document that he has that is a constituency-by-constituency breakdown of the program, and I would ask that he table it as is our rules under Beauchesne's.

Mr. Radcliffe: On the same point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe that the quotation that my honourable friend is citing only applies to a letter and does not apply to anything else.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for River Heights is correct. Under Rule 29.1: Where in a debate a member quotes from a private letter, any other member may require the member who has quoted from the letter to table the letter, but not from any other document.

Point of Order

Mr. Ashton: On a point of order and I am raising it in terms of Beauchesne's Citation 495, and the provision does apply strictly to ministers in terms of documents, Mr. Deputy Speaker, both including letters and other documents.

While it does not strictly apply to private members, it has been practice in this House that when members quote a specific document that they also table that particular document. I would ask if, not as a question of direct ruling, that as a matter of courtesy if the member would do us the courtesy and provide that information from the document that he is reading from.

Mr. Radcliffe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I believe the record will show that no reference was made to any particular document. The information, like everything else in this honourable government, there was open information provided. The information that was

germane was provided and put on the floor, but there was no reference or cites made to any particular document.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Under Citation 495(6): "A private Member has neither the right nor the obligation to table an official, or any other, document."

The honourable member does not have a point of order.

* * *

Mr. Radcliffe: Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I thank you for the guidance that you have offered to us today. I would like to cite for the edification of the honourable members present an old adage which goes like this: That if a single tree in the forest falls and nobody was there to hear it, was there any sound? It is imperative not only that this government present the best programs and the best governance to the people of Manitoba but that we also tell them about this governance. There is no point in having marvelous programs unless the people of Manitoba know about it. For example, the Home Renovation Program, to which I made previous reference, obviously the people of Elmwood were informed, and they certainly liked it. They found out about the Home Renovation Program. [interjection] That is right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to inform this House that in 1983 the NDP created a Communications Branch to the honourable then Maureen Hemphill's Education department, and they spent \$315,000 in one department. The Education critic of that day, the now honourable First Minister, was cited as saying, it is apparently nothing more than a propaganda machine for this minister and her department. There is a difference between the public's right to know and setting up a self-serving propaganda machine.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that this is some of the relevant background that gave rise to the motion that is before us today. I think, when the honourable member comes before this House and says that ads are questionable, that government employees are used, that there is \$20 million of underfunding and

there is partisan advertising, that when you put those sort of allegations in the context of the profligate spending that we see, that came from the prior administration, it has absolutely no credibility.

This government, as the honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship (Mr. Gilleshammer) has said, the sales tax rebate, the tourism programs that we put before this—[interjection] The what?

An Honourable Member: Toryism.

Mr. Radcliffe: Toryism. Yes. The tourism, the Business Start program and the Grow Bonds, these are some incredibly earth-shattering programs which have turned the economics of this province around, have attracted the imagination of the people of this province, and they voted—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The first hour of private members' hour has expired. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for River Heights will have five minutes remaining.

We will now deal with Resolution 23.

* (1700)

House Business

Hon. Jim Ernst (Government House Leader): On House business, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a general agreement amongst members that for tomorrow in private members' hour we will deal with only one private members' hour at five o'clock due to the late start because of the Governor General's visit tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that tomorrow there will be only one private members' hour which will commence at five o'clock? Agreed? [agreed]

Res. 23—Pre-European Canadian History

Mr. George Hickes (Point Douglas): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale), that

WHEREAS the teaching of Canadian history in Manitoba schools is vital not only in instilling in our children a sense of Canadian culture and identity but in developing an understanding of why our country is as it is today and how it arrived in its present form; and

WHEREAS the First Nations and Inuit peoples living in Canada today played a vital role in the development of our nation; and

WHEREAS the history of those First Nations and Inuit peoples extends back untold centuries prior to the arrival of the European settlers in Canada; and

WHEREAS the cultural, political, economic and social diversity among Canada's First Nations and Inuit peoples is not currently reflected in the curriculum of our elementary and secondary schools, the focus of which is on First Nations and Inuit peoples as a barrier to settlement and colonization or at best as an ally to either the French or the English settlers, leaving them bereft of identity apart from the colonizers; and

WHEREAS First Nations and Inuit peoples are often portrayed by history textbooks and in the educational system in general in stereotypical and misleading ways, fostering racism and ignorance among children which lasts into and beyond adulthood.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the provincial government to consider initiating a new Canadian history curriculum which includes a pre-European history component highlighting the diversity and complexity of First Nations and Inuit peoples' cultures across Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the provincial government to consider developing a curriculum component dealing with the effects of European colonization on First Nations and Inuit peoples which is a sad yet very important chapter in the growth of Canada, and one of which many Canadians remain unaware.

Motion presented.

Mr. Hickes: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to speak today on this resolution. I believe that this legislation is essential in order to bring justice to the aboriginal peoples of this province.

By creating an educational system that recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of the First Nations and Inuit people of our province and in Canada, we will be able to begin the process of reconciliation with the aboriginal peoples in our province. In this manner, the resolution would not only address a variety of the demands of the native peoples in our province but also convey a better understanding of the aboriginal peoples and their needs and aspirations to other nonaboriginal communities that make up our society. The development of such an appreciation would create not only a more harmonious but also a truly just society.

Resolution 23, the pre-European Canadian History resolution, calls for two changes in the current provincial education system. Firstly, the legislation proposes that the provincial government initiate a new Canadian history curriculum. This new curriculum will include a pre-European history component highlighting the diversity and complexity of the First Nations' and Inuit peoples' cultures across Canada.

The second change the legislation calls for is that provincial government develop a curriculum component which deals with the effects of European colonization on First Nations and Inuit peoples. These effects have unfortunately been a sad but fundamental aspect of Canadian history. The changes that are called for in this resolution are not extreme by any means. These measures are simply another manner in which to strengthen our educational system.

By teaching young people about the aboriginal peoples of this land, we are giving them a greater understanding of their own homeland. Such an understanding is essential in understanding our current situation. To date, this has been the problem.

Students in our school system have been taught that the history of Canada began in 1497 with the arrival of John Cabot. Prior to his arrival, the land that would later be known as "Canada" was simply inhabited by hunters who wandered the land in search of food in a

day-to-day existence. It was rarely, if at all, mentioned that these people had a rich culture and a way of life.

As a result, many within Canadian society do not have a thorough understanding of the native communities in this country. This lack of understanding continues to lead to tensions between aboriginal and nonaboriginal societies. Tensions that arose at Oka in 1991, and the recent outbreak of hostilities in Ipperwash, Ontario, and Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia, are only the tip of the iceberg.

If we are to ensure that incidents of this kind are avoided in the future, then it is necessary to deal with the issues at the heart of the matter in a just and equitable manner. This can only be done, however, by understanding the demands of both aboriginal and nonaboriginal communities.

Unfortunately, the establishment has failed to appreciate the hopes and aspirations of the native community, instead dominant society has historically pushed the aboriginal communities into the fringes in the hopes that this segment of society along with the concerns will simply disappear.

The native peoples of our nation, however, will not just disappear. They are an important aspect of our society and sooner or later leaders within the nonaboriginal community will have to deal with First Nations and Inuit peoples.

By alerting our provincial education system to include a pre-European aboriginal component, we will be beginning the process of reconciliation by initiating the development of a bridge of understanding between the aboriginal and nonaboriginal communities. By instilling this appreciation in our young people, the future of the entire community will be more harmonious and just.

In today's educational system, Canada prior to the arrival of the Europeans is a subject that tends to be neglected. Rarely do students learn of the cultures and ways of life that existed for thousands of years prior to the landing of the first European ships on the coast of eastern Canada. Students fail to recognize the fact that there existed a rich and diverse mixture of cultures in

what is now Canada. For example, in the far North tribes such as the Dogrib and Inuit lived off caribou and moose, whereas in the east, tribes such as the Mohawk and Huron, in addition to hunting, also tried their hand at agriculture.

In the central plains regions, the Assiniboine and Sioux hunted the bison to survive, while on the Pacific coast, tribes such as the Haida tended to comprise much of their diets with food from the ocean.

All of these tribes and the various other ones did come into contact with one another. Occasionally, tensions arose and conflicts followed but, in many cases, trade became the order of the day. In fact, it is the aboriginal peoples who were the first traders on the continent. It has been shown that the trade between some of the tribes was quite significant, and elaborate systems of trade were developed. For instance, some systems of trade were able to move traded goods thousands of kilometres away from their place of origin. For example, archaeologists have discovered shells which originated in the Gulf of Mexico in sites in Manitoba.

Another aspect of Canadian history that has also tended to be neglected has been the sacrifices that the First Nations people have made either voluntarily or at the hands of an oppressive government. The aboriginal peoples of Canada welcomed the Europeans to this land. In fact, many native people saved the lives of many newcomers who fell sick when they came to this strange new land. In this manner, both groups coexisted. They traded and co-operated with each other in order to survive. Some aboriginal peoples even consented to share the land with the newcomers. This they did through the treaties that they signed.

* (1710)

Unfortunately, the sharing that they had in mind was in no way similar to what the Europeans had in their minds. Unfortunately, this was to become the sorry state of aboriginal and nonaboriginal relations. The Europeans, and later the Government of Canada, viewed the native peoples as an obstruction to the development of the nation. As a result their policies were intended on weakening if not destroying the

aboriginal way of life. This was done in a variety of ways. Native people were captured as slaves for the Europeans. They were contaminated by the Europeans' alcohol, religion and law, and they were exposed to European diseases. In fact, entire villages were wiped out by foreign diseases.

These were only a few ways in which the aboriginal culture was attacked by the colonizers. As the First Nations people began to slowly lose their way of life, it became all too clear that foreigners with their smallpox and brandy, guns and blankets, law and religion had come to stay. Unfortunately, much of this aspect of the development of Canada tends to be ignored in today's educational system. As a result few Canadians have a full grasp of the enormous contributions and sacrifices that aboriginal peoples have made to our nation.

The introduction of an aboriginal perspective regarding the history of the First Nations in Canada will therefore benefit mainstream society. The native peoples of Canada have a great deal to teach the mainstream society. One specific example is the aboriginal world view regarding nature. The aboriginal people were environmentally friendly long before such a term existed. The native peoples have lived sustainably with their environment for thousands of years. They seem to understand the land and all the resources around them. Only with the benefit of such an understanding could one expect to live in regions such as the Arctic. This is exactly what the many native tribes did.

As one researcher stated, despite being one of the most inhospitable regions on earth, the Canadian High Arctic was home to people for thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans in the 17th Century. To survive, native peoples adapted to a constantly changing environment and produced thriving cultures in an unlikely setting. Long and frigid winters accompanied by a scarcity of animal foods and raw materials demanded technological ingenuity and a strategy for survival unique to the Arctic. In this context the native peoples had to truly appreciate the environment in which they lived regardless of the region. By being able to do so, they were able to survive while ensuring that the land would continue to

be able to satisfy the needs of the people into the future. This is a lesson that has a great deal of bearing on our society today.

The catchwords of sustainable development are continually being espoused. However, very little appears to be changing. Perhaps, if mainstream society is able to expose itself to a traditional aboriginal world view in which the Earth is respected, then perhaps sustainable development may become a way of life rather than simple political rhetoric.

Understanding between the aboriginal and nonaboriginal people is especially important in Manitoba. It is appropriate that our province's name is Manitoba, which in Cree and Ojibway languages means place where the spirit lives. It is our province of Manitoba that has one of the most significant aboriginal communities in Canada. In addition, it is this aboriginal population which is expected to increase drastically in the upcoming years. In this respect, aboriginal youth are crucial to the development of this province. It will be this upcoming population of aboriginal youth who will have an important leadership role into the next century.

In order to be prepared for this role, it is necessary for aboriginal youth to understand their history. Without appreciating their historical development, these members of society will be lacking a grounding. They will, in a sense, be ruthless. Furthermore, it would be difficult for them to discover where they will be going without first understanding where they have come from.

There are also other social reasons for implementing a new Canadian history curriculum. If the youth in our province are exposed to the realities of the aboriginal people, they may develop a greater understanding of the plight of the First Nations and Inuit peoples. With such an understanding, it may be easier to battle racism and discrimination within our society.

Until recently, few people questioned the practice of giving one perspective in examining the history of our nation. Such a practice, however, is an obstruction and limits the ability for aboriginal people to gain a sense of empowerment.

In addition, such an approach does not challenge the dominant thought. Thus the thought fails to develop. It becomes stagnant, with little chance of development. Thus education may promote understanding and respect among the various groups that make up this province. By providing a history of Canada prior to the arrival of the Europeans, aboriginal youth will be given something to feel proud of. They will no longer simply be considered the aggressors or the allies to the European colonizers but rather individuals and communities in their own right. Through such a sense of pride, aboriginal people will be encouraged to continue to contribute to our community development. Only by possessing a sense of pride can individuals become productive citizens within a modern society.

Resolution 23, the Pre-European History resolution, is a very crucial piece of legislation. It is the first of many steps that are required in fostering a clear dialogue between aboriginal and nonaboriginal persons alike. Only through such changes can native peoples begin to feel they are indeed respected and cherished in our modern nation. This resolution, firstly, recognizes the rich and diverse cultures of aboriginal peoples and, secondly, acknowledges the monumental sacrifices made by Canada's First Nations and Inuit peoples. This resolution is crucial in order to bring honour and justice to the aboriginal peoples in Manitoba and also in the rest of Canada.

I hope that all members of this House will join with me in displaying their support for this resolution.

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the member for Point Douglas as well for his comments. The member for Point Douglas is one whose dialogue with me on other matters has always been well motivated. I am pleased to listen to his remarks today because I believe, in this instance, as in others, he also is well motivated here and not playing any political games but rather speaking from the heart on a very important matter with which I agree.

The member indicates a problem that has been in the past in existence. It is a real problem. He indicates that until recently people did not question the perspectives taught. He is correct. I would, for his comfort, indicate

that recently people on this side did indeed begin to question the very matters he has raised for the very reasons he has raised them, and wish to indicate to him that we have already begun to do exactly what he is requesting here. We have gone so far as to have materials printed and distributed. We have curricula currently being revised. We have met with people who have also talked to us about aboriginal perspectives.

In fact, just yesterday, I met with the Social Planning Council on their committee dealing with racial prejudice and biases, and, again, one of the things that we were talking about was this very thing to the point that we have accepted an offer from that particular committee to take a look at our aboriginal perspectives as they are developed to see if it does not meet anything, in their opinion, that we still need to meet.

* (1720)

Just to indicate to the member that he is absolutely on the right track and to give the assurance that we have already begun to do what he has asking for the very reasons he has asked it, I will just read you an excerpt from the Foundation for Excellence, which is the book that we put out, I think, in September, or it was being developed last year, and I had the privilege of sending it out in September. It describes the goals for integrating the aboriginal perspectives into the curricula. It says, as one of our stated goals, I am quoting now, aboriginal perspectives will be integrated into curricula to enable students to learn the history of Manitoba and Canada before European settlement and to give the perspective of aboriginal people, as well, since that time.

Each subject area will address the perspectives and accomplishments of aboriginal people. The goal in integrating aboriginal perspectives into curricula is to ensure that all students have opportunities to understand and respect themselves, their cultural heritage and the cultural heritage of others. Aboriginal perspectives apply to learning experiences for all students. However, there may be unique and particular experiences that apply specifically to aboriginal students. Aboriginal students are both learners and participants in aboriginal cultures and may not necessarily be an expert in their culture.

I am going to just break from the quote here for a moment to speak to an issue the member is probably very deeply familiar with, and that is to those children who, for whatever reason, have lost their heritage or culture, so they need to be reacquainted with it or to understand the part that it still plays in their lives.

Their knowledge about their culture may be the same as that of other students in the class—that is a quote—but if they do have extensive knowledge about their culture, it can benefit the entire class. All students learn in a variety of ways, and this should be taken into consideration. The intent is to ensure that high expectations and supportive learning experiences and environment apply to all students and not just to nonaboriginal students.

The aboriginal perspective will be integrated in Manitoba, kindergarten to Senior 4, which is the old Grade 12, kindergarten to Grade 12, in all elements such as the foundation skills, resource-based learning, differentiated instruction, curriculum integration, aboriginal perspectives, gender fairness, appropriate age portrayals, human diversity, antiracist-antibias education, and the one to which the member was referring at the conclusion of his remarks, sustainable development. Here the comment about sustainability and the long experience in living in a sustainable way with nature, particularly in the far North, are most appropriate.

That is the statement of intent, but, to go back and sort of enlarge upon it a little bit, we did make the decision that we would teach the pre-European part of the people who live in our part of the world. North America did not begin with the arrival of the Europeans, and we recognize that. That is why we have said that we will be learning the history of Manitoba and Canada before European settlement and also to give the perspective of aboriginal people since the arrival of the Europeans.

There are two very important components there.

Again, quoting from our Foundation for Excellence, the development of curricula will be guided by the following goals. We have goals of aboriginal perspectives for aboriginal students which would be to

develop a positive self-identity through learning their own histories, cultures and contemporary lifestyles and to participate in a learning environment that will equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to participate more fully in the unique civic and cultural realities in which they will live.

The goals of aboriginal perspectives for non-aboriginal students, because we set goals for them as well—they have the two groups who will see the aboriginal perspectives, integration through the system, in differing ways. One will be those students of aboriginal ancestry and the others will be those students of nonaboriginal ancestry. Our goals for those students who are nonaboriginal in terms of aboriginal perspectives are (1) to develop an understanding and respect for the histories, cultures and contemporary lifestyles of aboriginal people, and (2) to develop informed opinions on matters relating to aboriginal people in the populace.

We are also working, as a matter of interest—Manitoba Education is working through the western consortium to develop curriculum material with respect to aboriginal people for other provinces.

The member made a very interesting and true statement when he indicated the very large proportion of our population that are aboriginal. Because we do have such a large per capita population of aboriginal people in our province on a percentage basis, I think it is imperative that we ensure that their learning experience and their knowledge of who they are and their backgrounds, culture and their ability to interact with others, the cross-cultural awareness training that will be essential if we are to live as a cohesive society able to work together and live together and be productive as individuals and as a province. It is very important that we do not forget these items.

We will see in our aboriginal perspectives specific items where you deal specifically in discussions about aboriginal peoples, their ways, their culture, and we will also see the integration through all subject areas.

There are two approaches that could have been taken. One approach would be what I would call the token approach which I do not like particularly although it is

better than nothing which would be to say, all right, boys and girls, Friday afternoon at three o'clock you are going to sit down and you are going to learn about race relations, antibias education, aboriginal perspectives and that is it. But when you go back then to your other classes you do not have to worry about it anymore. It is better than nothing, but it is much better I think to have your class on those things, those items, those perspectives and then go back and find that when you are studying geography, for example, and you are talking about a particular river that you do more than just talk about the particular river in terms of the voyageur went down it.

You go back, you talk about the river in terms of perhaps information you may have through archaeological digs, the kind of people who have been around the river and that type of thing which would include in many instances our aboriginal people. You can learn a lot about people that have been lost through historical records by archaeological digs and so on.

So we see that permeating literature, the stories that are read, the literature that is read, the music that is taught, the artwork that is done, the history, the geography, the human relations, all of those subject areas should have this component in. And it is not enough to have a class that says, this is this is this is this about our aboriginal peoples and go back into a class where we are going to have math taught by a teacher who has not been properly sensitized to this issue and in two or three unthinking comments completely undoes the class.

It is extremely important, and I talked yesterday as well to some people at the Faculty of Education that our teachers be learned in these things, that they learn the subtleties of language that can lift up or put down. There are many, many ways in which the simple use of a phrase can tear a person to pieces or undo 16 weeks of positive cross-cultural awareness understanding.

And so those things have to come right from the Faculty of Education if we are going to really have it permeate the system. The teachers coming out have to be fully aware of what we are doing and why we are doing it and not inadvertently destroy the integration we are trying to put in here.

So it has, I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I am saying is that I appreciate what the member said. I think his comments are good. We have started to do the very things he is asking. The document that came out in September, I would be more than pleased, in fact, could probably benefit from his own background and experiences particularly in the North. I would be more than pleased to sit down with him, go through our plans, and if he has got any input on the Inuit or northern aboriginal people's perspectives, I would be most grateful to receive it and seriously consider it.

* (1730)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this meaning something here? My little light is blinking. Is that telling me something?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You have one minute left.

Mrs. McIntosh: Okay. Thank you. I have never looked down to see it blinking at me like that, like a winking eye.

We are very concerned about this topic. It is a very important topic. There has been a tremendous amount of single-minded viewpoint expressed in our system in the past. Curricula does need to be updated to reflect a better and more accurate understanding for all students, aboriginal and nonaboriginal, as to our land which we do now share, but the aboriginal perspective must not be set aside as insignificant or of passing interest. It is a very vital and real component of our society and our province and will have and should have a lasting and positive impact on all that we do.

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

Madam Speaker, I will conclude my remarks on that and again issue a very sincere invitation to the member at his convenience to meet with me at some point and go through any ideas he might have. They would be given very serious consideration.

Mr. Peter Dyck (Pembina): Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise and speak to this resolution, simply to indicate the concerns and also the areas that we are approving of in this resolution.

This government recognizes that an important part of its children's education is learning the history of the aboriginal people both in Canada generally and within Manitoba specifically. In the document, *Renewing Education: New Directions*, a Foundation for Excellence released to the field in August of 1995, our government took the necessary steps towards ensuring that the education system in Manitoba was strengthened, and ensured that the history of the aboriginal people played a vital part in this renewal.

Madam Speaker, as such the government has taken steps to ensure that Manitoba school children learn about Canadian history, geography and culture at an earlier age level than is currently being stipulated. This education would include knowledge of pre-European Canadian history and the important role the aboriginal community has played in Canada's development. As part of the *New Directions* guidelines, content will be covered earlier in the curricula so that topics related to the Canadian studies that are currently covered in Senior Levels 3 or 4 will be addressed before the end of Senior Level 2.

Students within the Senior Levels 3 and 4 will be offered new courses that may include opportunities for further in-depth exploration about Canada and the Canadian issues. These issues will include studies about our First Nations people as well as the many other nationalities that make up our country and our province.

Madam Speaker, if the *New Directions* document simply eliminated Canadian history without ensuring coverage of Canadian content prior to the end of Senior 2, there would indeed be cause for concern. Now, fortunately, this is not the case, and, in fact, quite the opposite is true. Expectations for student learning of Canadian history will actually be increased as the compulsory kindergarten to Senior 2 outcomes and standards are developed. Knowledge of Canada's history will not be an option for Manitoba students. It will be a compulsory and vital part of their education from kindergarten to Senior level 2.

Further, with content of material being covered earlier, Manitoba students will have an even greater opportunity to learn about the history, geography and

culture of our great country and province. Along with this opportunity comes increased and earlier exposure to the important role aboriginals played in pre-European Canada. Therefore it is clear that the government of Manitoba has taken a very proactive approach to ensuring that the young people of Manitoba are taught the important role the aboriginal people have played in our history and what a vital role they will play in its future success.

However, while this government has recognized how important it is to have history courses include a pre-European component, we also realize that this is not the only means of ensuring that Manitobans understand the aboriginal historical perspective. Madam Speaker, therefore, I am pleased to say that this government has undertaken a number of initiatives to facilitate and nurture the understanding of the aboriginal heritage.

One such initiative is the support the government provides the Canadian Native Arts Foundation. This foundation recognizes and endows the artistic endeavours of the aboriginal people. As such, the government of this province is providing the opportunity for members of the aboriginal community to develop and express their many artistic talents. This creates an opportunity for those who may never have been exposed to the art of aboriginal people and the history that is expressed through that art to observe and appreciate its cultural value. This type of initiative is an important noninstitutionalized way of bringing the aboriginal heritage and culture to the mass population who may not otherwise have had such exposure.

Madam Speaker, through these means, a true appreciation and knowledge of the aboriginal heritage can be garnered and cultivated.

Further, this government has committed, as part of its educational renewal initiative, to the inclusion of aboriginal content and perspectives in all newly developed curricula at every grade level. This initiative underscores the fact that, as part of our government's overall goal of improved education in Manitoba, there is a systematic effort to further improve the dissemination of knowledge regarding the history of this country's aboriginal people. Further, our government is not just interested in increasing the

amount of pre-European Canadian aboriginal history taught in the schools, but it is also determined that it be taught accurately and correctly. As such, we have committed to establishing an aboriginal perspectives resource team, comprised of targeted aboriginal educators.

Madam Speaker, the recruitment process for these teams' members will ensure that it is composed of a diversity within the aboriginal community and reflects a variety of cultural viewpoints and experiences. It will be the responsibility of the resource team to develop the aboriginal content for the curriculum and ensure that it is a true portrayal of the history of the aboriginal people. This reflects the will of this government to work in partnership with the aboriginal community as it relates to education and their heritage.

Madam Speaker, once the resource team has completed developing the aboriginal content for the curriculum, a Program Development branch consultant will then act as team leader to co-ordinate the process for integration into the particular curriculum. Thus not only will the new education directions ensure that aboriginal history has a more prominent position in the education system, native educators themselves will play a significant role in ensuring that what is taught is an accurate and true reflection of the history of their people.

Also, as a further measure, an aboriginal steering committee shall be established to ensure that the curriculum clearly reflects the aboriginal content. Therefore, it is without question that this government is committed to an accurate teaching of pre-European aboriginal history to young Manitobans.

* (1740)

Further, to ensure that aboriginal views can be heard on a wide range of educational programming, every curriculum committee established by the Program Development branch will have a resource team representative as a sitting member.

To further ensure that the aboriginal perspective is noted throughout the education system, the New Directions initiative requires that the department team

leader and the curriculum frameworks writing consultant have the responsibility for ensuring that all new curricula courses include aboriginal content and perspectives before they are released.

As well, editorial staff will especially edit to ensure the inclusion of this departmental requirement. Therefore, this government's education renewal package provides for an aboriginal perspective throughout the process of curriculum development in a responsible and consultative manner. This is reflective of the importance this government places upon the education of its young people and on the importance aboriginal history plays in that education. Yet, this government has recognized that, while it is an important step, changing the curriculum alone is insufficient to ensuring that the aboriginal perspective is properly communicated in all our classrooms.

It has been acknowledged that an important part of the renewal process is the people who deliver this message to our young people—the teachers. As such, I am pleased to say that this government has taken steps to reform teacher education in this province. It is clear that the ethnic composition in our classrooms has been changing significantly over the past decade, and I am sure that we can all attest to that. With this change comes the demand for our teachers to be responsive to the many needs that are inherent in such diversity.

This government has recognized that the personal and educational needs of people are largely determined by the circumstances of their individual upbringing, and as such, Madam Speaker, we have stated in the New Directions document that teachers must be able to respond to student diversity, including that of our aboriginal students. Therefore, the teacher education reform will place an emphasis on the development of these skills.

It is also clear that this government has positioned itself as a leader in education initiative. It is also clear that a major part of that initiative is a desire to heighten the awareness of the aboriginal culture and perspective in the K to Senior 4 levels. Our government has paid special attention to ensuring that the aboriginal perspective received its due consideration in K to Senior 4 education reform.

Madam Speaker, it has been similarly responsive to the aboriginal culture and perspective in Manitoba's post-secondary institutions through its educational renewal initiatives.

It is important to note that aboriginal communities themselves are playing an increasing role in the development of post-secondary education programs. I am particularly pleased by this development because it is the partnership between the aboriginal community and the education system that will ultimately define the success of the initiatives put in place to increase aboriginal content and perspective in our schools.

Further, Madam Speaker, indications of the strong voice aboriginal communities have are seen through the college preparation for Natives Program Advisory Committee and the Urban Native Integration and Adaptation Program Advisory Council.

Other examples of aboriginal participation include: Yellowquill College in Portage la Prairie, Gods Lake Narrows community-based university program, and the Northern Metis Education Program in Lynn Lake.

Through these formal mechanisms, aboriginal communities ensure that the historical aboriginal perspective, including the pre-European historical era is fostered in Manitoba. It is also important to note that the University Education Review Commission devoted a significant portion of their review to the aboriginal people of Manitoba.

Their report focused on the importance of aboriginal participation and education. As post-secondary renewal unfolds, the educational perspective will be an important thrust. Therefore, this government has made great strides towards ensuring that pre-European Canadian history and the aboriginal history in general is an important part of the education curriculum in Manitoba.

This is in fact a due acknowledgement of the important role the aboriginal community has played in the development of this country and the crucial role they will play in its future.

I thank you very much.

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): I am glad to have the opportunity to support my colleague, the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes), in his resolution on the incorporation of pre-European history into the Canadian history curriculum in Manitoba.

It is an important issue. It is one which speaks to the development of all our children as citizens, people who understand the entire past of Manitoba and who have a sense of the way in which it could be shaped in the future.

It speaks also, I think, to the community of Manitoba to a people who have done, over 12,000 years, great things together, and who have the possibility in the future of being united in a new kind of future for a very different kind of province. I do not think any Manitoban can be unaware of the changes in the Manitoba population, in the great growth in aboriginal people who suffered enormously as a result of disease and starvation and famine at the end of the 19th and early 20th Century.

That population has now begun to rebound and the great youth and energy of that population is something which must be important to all Manitobans. So I think from the perspective of both the education of all our children and of the nature of Manitoba as a community, that this resolution is very important.

I accept in good spirits the minister's intent. The minister I think has also spoken of the importance to her of the integration of aboriginal history and aboriginal perspectives into Manitoba's education. I think she is quite sincere in that and has incorporated into her programs for the development of new curriculum approaches in Manitoba. I will not say they are actually new curriculum yet, because we have not seen them, but certainly new approaches to Manitoba's curriculum. She has incorporated the possibility of aboriginal perspectives and an aboriginal resource team.

I think, Madam Speaker, we also have to look at what we have lost in Manitoba under this government. I think, first of all, the minister I think assumes in her development of curriculum and in her proposals for the development of resource-based curriculum that

somehow the knowledge exists out there, that it is just waiting to be picked up off the library shelf and put into the curriculum and developed by the various specialists. In some areas that is true, but in many areas and particularly in the area that this resolution speaks to, the area of pre-European contact, it is not true.

* (1750)

Indeed, there have been some, and the government of Manitoba over the years has played a very important part in the developing of aboriginal resources, and I will speak perhaps to the kinds of materials which were developed by a previous government, by the Pawley government. You will find, for example, in the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship some of the most important booklets and information on precontact European history that were developed in that period.

I am pleased to see that this government has maintained many of them in print. I am thinking of substantial books such as *The Oldtimers: first peoples of the Land of the North Wind*. I am speaking of the booklet series that deal with the trading routes of Manitoba, with *The Pas and Mossy Portage*, of the ancient circles of the Dakota entrenchments. There is a wide variety of pamphlets from *Historic Resources* which were initiated under the Heritage Council of Manitoba in the Pawley years. I am glad to see that the government has continued those because they are a valuable source for teachers and for students.

In fact, for the pre-contact history of Manitoba, they are in fact almost the only source, because we are talking here, Madam Speaker, about 12,000 years of history. It is something, it is an area of research which needs to be developed not just by historians but by archaeologists. Archaeology is an area where this government has in fact reduced its support. We used to have a very successful public archaeology program at The Forks where students across Manitoba were brought to The Forks and they could sign up for a dig; in fact, there were long, long waiting lists sometimes carrying over to another season. Students across Manitoba, first of all, were introduced to the discipline of anthropology and to archaeology so that they know how information and knowledge was in fact created.

They were also enabled to make discoveries for themselves, one of the most important elements of education as a whole.

But where has that program gone? Well, it does not exist anymore because the provincial government withdrew its support. And yet there we were digging a site of 8,000 years of occupants. It was being dug in a very central population where students from the age of from Grade 3 upwards were enabled to take part in the discovery and expansion of knowledge. But this government which now speaks so highly of pre-European contact and education for all students was the one which chose to eliminate that program.

Let us look at museums. We used to have a program in the museums where there a discovery box went out from the museum to enable students to touch and to feel the elements of archaeological discovery, and through that discovery box taught about archaeology as well. So students who could not come to The Forks, students who could not come to the Museum of Man and Nature had that opportunity.

Well, as a result of the cutbacks of the federal government in particular, but also to some extent of the provincial government, those kinds of outreach programs of our museums have been greatly reduced.

Let us look at another museum, Kenosewun on River Road in, I believe, the constituency of the member for Selkirk. That was a federal-provincial program which created an excellent museum. It was based upon a dig which explored the most northern reaches of agriculture in all of North America. At about A.D. 1000, there were aboriginal farmers on the banks of the river at Lockport. Through a joint program of the provincial government and the federal government, under the Agreement for Recreation and Conservation, that was excavated and dug, and a museum was developed which explained, in a very small locale and through a variety of exhibits, including an archaeological exhibit, including a specially developed film that was developed and presented to all peoples, the history of that region.

But that museum is not open on a very long basis. The support for it has been withdrawn, and both the

federal and provincial governments have withdrawn their support for that Agreement for Recreation and Conservation which developed the Kenosewun Museum.

So although the member for Pembina (Mr. Dyck) spoke about the government's support for the Native Arts Federation, I think that might be the only area where we might find support for aboriginal issues in this government. Let us not forget that this is the government which has done nothing about the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Let us not forget that this is the government which did nothing about the Abinochi Aboriginal Language Program, and let us not forget that this is the government which abandoned the Indian and Metis Friendship Centres.

So for the government now to speak in matters of great sensitivity, and I accept the minister's intent on that basis, I think we must also examine the experience that we have had with this government in aboriginal issues and with the losses that have occurred to aboriginal peoples and indeed to the whole community in this period. It does, I think, give me great cause for concern when the government talks about the opportunities for students in history to understand the issues of aboriginal peoples because, of course, we know, as a result of the activities of this government, there will be no Grade 11 history. There will be no compulsory history. Students will in fact be able to graduate from Manitoba schools with American history but not Canadian history.

As the curriculum stands, and indeed as I understand the minister's plans, there will be elements of history and social studies at the Grade 3 level, at the Grade 6 level and at the Grade 9 level, as there are now. That is where the government intends to put some precontact material or pre-European history material. Well, I certainly support them if they do do that, but let us not forget that what we have lost is the Grade 11 level. We have lost the 17-year-olds. We are now going to be teaching this material to 10-year-olds, to five-year-olds and to the Grade 9 level, and that is a loss. Let us be quite clear about it. Let us also remember that this is the government which has reduced the Native Education branch, the one which developed curriculums, which developed new materials, which

dealt with the parents. It has reduced them from 17 people to three.

The minister and I, during Estimates, had a very frustrating discussion about this. The minister seemed to maintain that these people had been dispersed to the regions where they were continuing to develop curriculum. But you talk to anybody in any region of Manitoba and what they tell you is that these regional people have turned into regulators and inspectors, that they are not developing curriculum, that they are not developing materials.

Indeed I ask the minister to tell me where indeed were the materials she expected they were developing. Of course, they are not producing anywhere near the amount that Winnipeg No. 1 or Frontier School Division is. So, again, I accept the minister's intent. I accept her great concern for the development of pre-European history in our schools, but where is the place for it, where are the materials, where is the development and the focus within the department that there used to be?

I would contrast this, Madam Speaker, to the work that is going on in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. I think this is a government which believes in a competitive approach to education. I ask the government to look at what is going on in those provinces, at the Meewasin Authority, for example, in Saskatchewan, at the world heritage site in Alberta and at the world heritage sites in British Columbia. None of those have taken place in Manitoba. We had a proposal under the Pawley government for a world heritage site, looking at the aboriginal presence and the aboriginal communities of the area in the Churchill region, but nothing has happened on that.

So, again, Madam Speaker, I want to conclude by saying I support this resolution. I hope that it will pass. I hope that the government will understand that simply writing a line in a policy document does not mean that

something will happen. I believe also that this government has a great deal of ground to make up in its relationship with the aboriginal community and indeed in its perspective upon aboriginal issues in Manitoba.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Just very briefly, the concept which the member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickey) has pointed out in the resolution is something which we do support. It would be nice to see more aboriginal content, if you will, the founding nation being involved in the Canadian history. The member for Wolseley (Ms. Friesen) has pointed out some of the inadequacies of the current curriculum, much of which we would concur in. With those few words, we would be quite content to see it pass.

Mr. Frank Pitura (Morris): Thank you very much for the opportunity to put some information on the record in regard to this resolution.

I was very, very pleased when the Foundations of Excellence with the New Directions proposed that Canadian history be included in the curriculum throughout the entire school system rather than just concentrating in a particular year. I think that the honourable member across with his resolution, it is a very good resolution and it has a lot of bearing to it.

I would say that our government has already started on that course in terms of addressing some of the concerns that were placed in that resolution. We are now going to see that the teachings or the aboriginal way of life in terms of what it was pre-European will be—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for Morris (Mr. Pitura) will have 14 minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is adjourned; however, when the House is adjourned today, it will stand adjourned as previously agreed until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Wednesday, October 4, 1995

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