

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Monday, 15 December, 1980.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): I should like to, at this time, apologize for an error in printing that occurred under the Private Members' Resolutions. Resolution No. 3 should be Mr. Desjardins and not Mr. Cowan as it was originally printed.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . .

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Regulations and Orders.

MR. CLERK: Your Committee met for organization on October 28, 1980, and agreed to hold public hearings as follows:

Winnipeg - November 17 and 18, 1980
Brandon - November 24, 1980 (November 25, if necessary)
Swan River - November 26, 1980
Thompson - December 1, 1980 (December 2, if necessary)

At the conclusion of the meeting of November 18, 1980, your Committee agreed to hold further public hearings in Winnipeg on December 8 and 9, 1980.

Your Committee heard representation from organizations and private citizens as follows:

WINNIPEG, Room 254 Legislative Building

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1980

Dr. F. P. Doyle - Private Citizen(Ste. Anne)
Sidney Green - M.L.A.
Vaughan Baird, Q.C. - Private Citizen
Reeve Dennis Heeney - Private Citizen (Brandon)
Mrs. Edna Graham - Private Citizen (Pinawa)
Mr. Lorne Parker - Private Citizen
Mr. Jeffrey Plant - Private Citizen
Mr. Vic Savino - Law Union of Manitoba
Prof. A. R. Kear - Private Citizen
W. Ross - Communist Party of Canada
Dennis A. Epps, President)
Walter Kuhl) - Western Canada Foundation

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1980

Mrs. Gilbert Proteau - Societe Franco-Manitobaine
Mr. Don Scott - Private Citizen
Evelyn Wyrzykowski)
Bernadette Russell) - Catholic Women's League
Georges Forest - Private Citizen
Dennis Cyr - Private Citizen

BRANDON, Agricultural Extension Centre

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1980

William C. Pearson, Q.C. - Private Citizen
Joe Thomassen - Private Citizen
Marion McNabb - Manitoba Women's Institute
Keith Baker - Group of Concerned Citizens
Marlene Michalski - West-Man League for Life
Beverley J. Peters)
Carol E. Potter) - Manitoba Action Committee on
Status of Women
Ray Howard - Private Citizen

SWAN RIVER, Legion Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1980

Leonard Harapiuk - Private Citizen
Con Artibise - Private Citizen
Alice Allen - Private Citizen
Ed Dobbyn - Private Citizen
Kelly Kirkpatrick - Private Citizen
Kenneth Carroll - Private Citizen
Dr. Gordon Ritchie - Private Citizen
Daniel Jamieson - Private Citizen

THOMPSON, Legion Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1980

Paul Jackson - Private Citizen
Bob Mayer - Private Citizen
Mrs. Marion Hodge - Private Citizen
Mrs. Joan Wright - Group of Concerned Citizens

WINNIPEG, Room 254 Legislative Building

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1980

Professor Gordon Rothney - Private Citizen
Charles Lamont - Private Citizen
Berenice Sisler - Private Citizen
C. H. Templeton - Private Citizen
Marjorie Blankstein)
David Matas) - Winnipeg Jewish Community
Council
Gary Gilmour - Manitoba Chambers of
Commerce
Alex Berkowits - Private Citizen
Georgia Cordes - Private Citizen
Donald Brock - Manitoba Catholic School
Trustees
- Association
I. Hlynka - Ukrainian Canadian Committee

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1980

Murray Smith)
Linda MacDowell) - Manitoba Teachers' Society
W. F. Green - Alerted Canadians Alliance
Carl Ridd - Church Society Committee,
Manitoba
Conference, United Church
Abe Arnold)
Jill Oliver) - Manitoba Association for Rights
Paul Walsh) and Liberties
G. F. Reimer)
A. F. Kristjansson) - Winnipeg Chamber of
Commerce
Mrs. Friesen - Private Citizen
Adele Smith - Private Citizen

Mrs. Asta Asselstine - Private Citizen
Roger Barsy - Private Citizen
Muriel Smith - Private Citizen

Your Committee met on Monday, December 8, 1980 with members of a Committee from the Legislature of the Province of Alberta and charged with the responsibility of looking into matters pertaining to constitutional reform.

Your Committee accepted the resignations of the following members of the Committee:

Mr. PARASIUK - November 24, 1980
Mr. STEEN - November 26, 1980
Hon. Mr. GOURLAY - November 26, 1980
Hon. Mr. MERCIER - December 8, 1980
Mr. FILMON - December 8, 1980

Your Committee approved the following appointments to the Committee:

Hon. Mr. GOURLAY - November 26, 1980
Mr. STEEN - December 1, 1980
Mr. PARASIUK - December 1, 1980
Mr. FILMON - December 8, 1980
Hon. Mr. MERCIER - December 9, 1980

Your Committee has not finalized its recommendations to the Legislature with respect to the matters referred to it and, therefore, recommends that it be permitted to continue its work under the same conditions as were authorized under the Resolution agreed to on July 29, 1980.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Member for Rhineland, I'm pleased to present the first report of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed.

MR. CLERK: Your committee met on Tuesday, October 14, 1980, to consider the resolution presented by Mr. Boyce, agreed to by the House and referred to the Committee on July 10, 1980, namely:

WHEREAS there appears an allegation published in the July 8 edition of the Winnipeg Tribune that

"Legislative Counsel R. H. Tallin and Deputy Legislative Counsel A.C. Balkaran participated in political debate Monday during committee review a Bill introduced by Mr. Mercier";

AND WHEREAS such allegation reflects on servants of the Legislature;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the allegations are referred to the Standing Committee on the Legislature on Privileges and Elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be empowered to examine and enquire into all matters pertaining to the allegation and things as may be referred to them and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon with power to send for persons, papers and documents and examine witnesses under oath.

Your committee, after hearing considerable discussion, agreed to the following resolution:

"The Committee on Privileges and Elections, having perused Hansard, finds the allegation referred to in the Resolution to be without foundation and recommends that no further action be taken."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies of each regulation made under The Regulations Act since the House was last called into session, being Regulation 16/80-223/80 inclusive.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery where we have 60 students of Grade 9 standing from Charleswood constituency under the direction of Miss Tinsley. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable First Minister of the province. On behalf of all members we welcome you here this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to indicate to you that the opposition will be foregoing their opportunity to ask questions today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform you that the Opposition is not foregoing their right.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Urban Affairs. I would

like to ask the Minister whether the situation with respect to the railway crossing at Keewatin, running north and south, which is aggravated by the delay in the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass but which certainly need a grade separation by itself, can he confirm through City of Winnipeg sources that on December 4 that intersection was blocked by CPR railway traffic for two hours out of the 12 hours of that day, could he obtain that confirmation? And, Mr. Speaker, if he does, does he think that, particularly in view of the delay of the Sherbrook-McGregor, that the grade separation which is now scheduled for 1983, could he urge that it be moved up in order to deal with a north/south artery which effects two very substantial residential areas of Greater Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I will seek confirmation of the facts raised by the honourable member and I will pass on to the city officials his concern about the construction of the project to which he refers.

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that on the day in question I am reliably informed that on one occasion this north/south urban artery was blocked by CPR traffic for a total of 400 seconds, or almost seven minutes continuous, this was the day on which it was blocked for two hours out of 12, and that would appear to be in violation of Section 251 of the Railway Act which provides for a maximum five-minute period, could the Minister of Urban Affairs, with his hat of Attorney-General, see whether indeed there is something that can be done about the inconvenience that is being caused to these citizens by virtue of sitting and waiting for seven minutes while a major urban traffic artery is stopped?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to review that matter.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether it is a fact that the political opposition to the Sherbrook-McGregor overpass is being financed by his department, through the appointment of a Legal Aid Solicitor, to represent a political opinion to stop an artery in northwest Winnipeg?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, there is no political opposition that is being financed by legal aid. I understand that a citizens group has obtained a legal aid certificate to contest the legal validity of certain action that has been taken.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this is a political question involving certain people who feel one way about whether the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass should proceed, and everybody wants rail line relocation but certain people have been waiting for it for a long time, and other people who have, since 1935, waited for another northwest traffic artery, would the Minister consider giving legal aid to the other people on the side of this dispute so they could go before this commission and indicate that they want, through whatever political legal process there is, to have this overpass constructed

so that they could resist what is being paid for by the Crown in a political case?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to see that happen.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. It relates to the HERD Maintenance Assistance Program of the federal government and the confusion that's been raised by some farmers receiving cheques and others not. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture can advise the House if he or his department have had any consultations or meetings with the federal government as to how this pay-out formula under the HERD Maintenance Program is carrying on. There has been one formula established, now it's been changed and farmers in one area don't get cheques and others . . . I wonder if he's had any communication with the federal government in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to acknowledge the Member for Roblin in asking a question which is of utmost importance to the farm community. We have had concern with the federal HERD Maintenance Program ever since it was introduced when, in fact, the payout to producers was supposed to 70 for beef cows and 140 for dairy cows; the day that they reduced it to 35 for beef cows and 70 for dairy cows we have been concerned. We have had ongoing communications on the different programs, Mr. Speaker, and I'll assure the Member for Roblin we will, in fact, communicate with the federal government to try and get clarification on the delivery of their program.

MR. MCKENZIE: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Agriculture will try and determine what the payout formula is at the present time. As I understand it the original plan was to pay it under township boundaries or municipal boundaries or the amount of rainfall in the area, but apparently now that's been changed to some other formula and that's where the confusion is. One farmer gets a cheque and his neighbour doesn't. I wonder if the Minister will check it out.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, there is concern I'm sure amongst the farm community as there is with the members of this particular government. I would assure the member that we will try and get clarification on the formula which the present program is being delivered. Again, it is a federal program and I would ask any communication, or the majority of communication, should go to the federal government letting them know of the displeasure of the way in which it's being received.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Community Services and relates to the child-related income support payments which were announced in the Budget and in the Throne Speech. I wonder if the Minister can tell me why the application forms are still not printed for this program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Mr. Speaker, for the information of the House, the final stages of the regulations, as well as the application forms, are in the process of being completed and they should be available within approximately a week's time, before a week's time.

MRS. WESTBURY: On another matter, to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the federal government has approved, in principle, the provision of day care for House of Commons employees and MPs' children, supported by all the parties in the House, is the Minister giving any consideration to the suggestion that was made by another member in the last session, that day care should be provided for employees and members of this House?

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the last session that our department is always willing to look at any request from any non-profit group that organizes itself for day care services, and they will be considered in the same way that any of the other groups would be considered. If you notice I said, non-profit operations, Mr. Speaker, and where the need is shown to exist.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister then tell us whether he is, at the moment, considering any application by staff people in the Legislative Building for the provision of this service.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any such request, but if it is before our department I'm sure that they will get that fair consideration that I've already suggested to the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct this question, I believe it is to the Minister of Transportation. My question relates to railways in the province that have been abandoned, and what I mean by abandoned the tracks have been removed, the ties have been removed, and the land is going back for other purposes. I wonder if the Minister of Transportation can give us any idea because farmers are concerned about this matter; what communication he's had with the federal government in regard to what's going to happen to that railway property that has been abandoned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

HON. DON ORCHARD (Pembina): Well, Mr. Speaker, we have, as many members in this House

are fully familiar, been attempting to find a proper formula through which the federal government can participate in vesting the railway right-of-ways on abandoned lines back to the municipalities and to the farmers. Now we have run into a series of obstacles to that and it is my understanding, from the last communication that I've had, that possibly within a few months we may receive from the federal government Transfer of Title to all of the rights-of-ways which were abandoned, I believe prior to 1971, but that may not be the exact year, and from thence we can proceed with the disposal of those railway right-of-ways to municipalities who may have an interest, and more preferably directly to the farmers through whose land those abandoned right-of-ways rail lines have passed.

MR. EINARSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question on the same matter. Because the municipalities concerned and the farmers who are concerned about this matter are wondering whether there is any chance and from the comments the Minister makes, can there be given any assurances to both the municipalities and the farmers whereas this land runs through, that they can be given assurances that because of real fencing problems that the farmers may have, that this matter can be cleared up by spring?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like very much to give the Member for Rock Lake that kind of an insurance. I thought that we could give that kind of an assurance last summer but we ran into further snags in the transfer process and it has been bogged down on a number of occasions in Ottawa. We have gone through a lot of negotiations. We believe that our position from the province is relatively clear as to what we would like to see done. The federal government has agreed to that and is in the process of transferring those titles to the province. As I say, I received an estimate of time, anywhere from several months to several years, and we are certainly pushing our federal counterparts to make it the several months rather than the several years.

MR. EINARSON: A second supplementary, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister refers to possibly several years, it concerns me to no end, Mr. Speaker, and I'm wondering — I don't know whether the Minister can answer this question but as he says that the provincial government is prepared to go ahead — what are the particular reasons that the federal government finds that are obstacles in its way for not proceeding on a more speedy situation in arriving to a solution to this problem?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I understand that some of the problem is that they want to assure that the titles are checked and rechecked and double-checked so that there is no potential for transferring a title to the province which may have an easement or a second call against it and that process has taken considerably longer than what they had anticipated. However, we are awaiting further word as to just how quickly the process can be completed. It's a concern to all of us, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. The Leader of the Opposition made a statement in St. Malo on December 1 stating that the present government has loosened up The Farmlands Protection Act, could the Minister of Agriculture indicate what changes have taken place since we took over?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Basically, Mr. Speaker, the main changes that took place where the non-resident, foreign owners were restricted from 160 acres down to 20 acres were one of the basic changes that we made with our legislation which was in fact tightening the legislation. The other one, of course, one of the major changes was to allow Canadians, all Canadians, to have the ability to buy Manitoba farmland, really removing some of the restrictions that were placed on them by the last government.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Leader of the Opposition is not aware of what is in The Farmlands Protection Act. I wonder if the Minister would consider sending him a copy of it.

MR. DOWNEY: It would certainly be my pleasure to send him a copy, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. JIM GALBRAITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has our Minister of Agriculture received any reply from the federal minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board regarding his letter requesting a 2.00 increase in the initial price of wheat?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that I am somewhat disappointed that we have not had an official response on the request to increase the initial price to farmers. That money that we're requesting for the farmers is the farmers money that is being held by the Wheat Board and we feel that when they are able to sell the wheat at something in excess of 7.00 a bushel that the initial wheat price should be increased from the 4.25 that it now is. We will be pursuing this issue further, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate the Member for Dauphin asking that question.

MR. GALBRAITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would our minister consider requesting the Canadian Wheat Board and its minister that they pay interest to farmers on these huge sums of money that they are holding on the farmers behalf?

MR. DOWNEY: Well first of all, Mr. Speaker, the first interest assistance would be if they did have the money in their hands they could alleviate some of the bills that they have or some of the costs that they are incurring by borrowed money, so I think that would be the first approach, it would be the most acceptable by farmers in western Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Minister without Portfolio

HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wonder if, by leave, I could make a very brief statement of a non-political nature.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member leave? The honourable minister.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate at this time to draw the attention of members of the House to the outstanding performance of two Canadians who yesterday in Bogota, Colombia won the world team championship of golf. I'm particularly interested, Mr. Speaker, because one of the team members Dan Halldorson resides in the Brandon-Shilo community, and it is the intention of the Brandon community to have a Dan Halldorson night on Thursday of this week. So I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps I can convey the congratulations and good wishes of this Assembly to Dan Halldorson and his partner Jim Nelford of Burnaby, B.C. in this outstanding achievement of winning a world golf championship.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the opposition, the official opposition, I'd like to associate ourselves with the remarks made by the Honourable Minister without Portfolio. Indeed congratulations and good wishes are well deserving to these people. We certainly trust that this view of the Legislature will be communicated to the individuals.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you upon your appointment for another term in a position which, let me assure you, will receive the respect and co-operation that that office indeed deserves on this side of the Chamber. I would also wish to congratulate the Mover and Seconder to the Throne Speech on their presentations on Friday.

Prior to the commencement of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one that indeed had served Canada well and I am sure that we all in this Chamber share a sense of loss and grief since we last sat in this Chamber with the departure of the former Governor-General, Jules Leger, a great Canadian, a great Canadian that served Canadians well.

Mr. Speaker, it was some four years ago that the then Leader of the Opposition stood here to reply to the Speech from the Throne. He discussed at some length the failings, as he saw them, of the government of the day. He spoke about the future of Manitoba. He asked if we wanted to be the first generation of Manitobans whose children must look

with difficulty to see if they can buy their own homes, whose children can't afford to own their own businesses and farms. He said and I quote "I believe that we do not have to settle for being the first generation of Manitobans who gave up the hope that most of our children can own their own homes or their own farms or their own businesses. I believe, he said, we don't have to settle for the kind of future where the most important ability our children will have is the ability to leave Manitoba". Further he indicated that it is time that we recaptured the hopes that Manitobans have always had for the future. "It's time", said he, "that we recaptured the excitement of working to make our community better and more prosperous". These were his words on this occasion nearly four years ago.

Within months the Leader of the Opposition, the present Premier, called upon the people of the province to join together in changing Manitoba for the better. He was rewarded, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest popular vote that any party had indeed won since 1915. The people of Manitoba placed their confidence, their hopes and their beliefs in the future into the hands of the present Premier and the present Cabinet, the Conservative Party of the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, there has been time for this government to prove itself, to show its stuff, to make a mark on the history of the province of Manitoba. The time is now approaching when Manitobans will again judge their government and chose the future path for Manitoba. People in this province had compared the record of three years of Conservative rule with those words uttered by the present Premier of this province as Leader of the Opposition four years ago. They have compared and they know this government has committed, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the greatest betrayal of hope and confidence that Manitobans ever had in their anticipations in the government.

Mr. Speaker, acute protracted restraint has become acute protracted disaster, and those have indeed become the hallmarks of this government; hallmarks indeed that have been broken promises, economic decline, secrecy, arrogance and bottomless hypocrisy. Their own words condemn them. Their own policies have brought Manitoba to its knees.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they offer a Throne Speech which is indeed the ghost of Xmas past. The Western Power studies are featured for the third consecutive time, but there is nothing new to say about the project's feasibility. Announcements made through 1980 have been recycled again and again, with no completed studies or agreements. They are the echoes of 1966 and 1969. There is much of Xmas past but there is nothing of Xmas present and as for Xmas future, the very word future appears only once in the Throne Speech.

Business closures and bankruptcies have become so frequent that many are not even reported, yet the government offers only its sympathy about interest rates. They offer to monitor interest rates and a continuation of aid for commercial research and technology. This province has suffered the non-precedented loss of population. But this problem, Mr. Speaker, is not even mentioned in the Throne Speech. This problem is not mentioned by a party that has wept over and over again in the past, while

it was in opposition, crocodile tears about the lost young people during years indeed, that were not years of population decline but rather were years of population increase.

Mr. Speaker, let me point out to the Member for Emerson, the Minister of Agriculture that indeed the 1978 Conservative loopholes in The Farmlands Protection Act, are big enough to drive a locomotive through, but we read in the newspapers that despite pledges of amendments, there will no attempt on the part of the Minister of Agriculture to plug loopholes. Inflation is eating away at Manitoba's standard of living, especially since wage levels here have fallen behind other provinces, but the Throne Speech ignores the problem.

In his reply to the last New Democratic Party Throne Speech, the present Premier expressed his disappointment that the Garrison Diversion project and Manitoba's native people were not mentioned in that Throne Speech. It should not come as any surprise to anyone that indeed there has been no mention of either in this Throne Speech. The Conservative motto seems to be promises made are promises broken. The rapidly rising cost of gasoline is not mentioned, nor is roads, rail relocations in the context of the Winnipeg Core development.

Despite endless questions from the Honourable Member for Rock Lake about the Port of Churchill — and we recall so well the honourable member again and again in the last session of the House, asking about the Port of Churchill — the Port of Churchill is not mentioned in the Throne Speech; it has been left to the Member of the Legislature for Churchill and for the province of Saskatchewan to document the diversion of grain from Churchill to Thunder Bay, there has been but silence on the part of this government.

Mr. Speaker, the omissions alone confirm the fact that this government has nothing to offer Manitobans except secret studies about new developments that may or may not happen; that may or may not be heavily subsidized by the people of Manitoba; that may or may not be unwelcome, as has been the giveaway of timber resources by this government in eastern Manitoba to Abitibi. Failure, Mr. Speaker, has made this government desperate. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that they will heed the report of the Churchill Forest Industries Inquiry report. Meaningful public debate of major projects can only take place if all information is made available to the Legislature and if financial relationships are not kept confidential.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some indeed do say that it is easy to criticize but we on this side of the House have an obligation to offer alternatives. The Premier himself, who's now speaking from the seat of his pants as usual, in the House, had this to say in a recent speech to the Conservative state dinner and in his closing remarks to the last session of the Legislature. One reads in the December 12 Winnipeg Sun, a quote from the Premier saying, "We have to remind the people of Manitoba just how bloody bad it was". Mr. Speaker, the backward looking defence of his record can be summarized as, we may be bad but they were worse.

I can understand how comforting it must be for the Premier to keep giving the same speeches, the same stale speeches that he made four years ago at a time

of great personal success. I must however remind him of his words in the Chamber from this seat when he stated, "The people of Manitoba did not put all of us here to gnaw the bones of old contentions, but rather to grapple with the future of this province and its people". We can learn from the past but those lessons must be applied to the future. Manitobans have learned some lessons in the past few years and I've heard that their conclusions about the kind of government that they want in this province.

It was my privilege to visit most parts of this province, indeed almost two-thirds of the provincial constituencies in Manitoba, since the House rose in July this year. I listened and I heard that Manitobans want a government that can be trusted again in the province of Manitoba. They know that this government began breaking promises as soon as it was elected. They want a government that is open and honest and willing to listen to Manitobans. They are tired of the flimflam, the much ado about nothing, which has been so characteristic of the past three years. Above all, Manitobans want a government that is willing to take realistic and constructive steps to rebuild the province's shattered economy.

This is the fifth session of the Legislature in little more than three years, but what is there to show for all that activity? Manitobans are wondering what has happened to this province. We see children in soup lines at the Salvation Army, almost — (Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, the response from the members of this government and the backbenchers across the way, indeed do characterize something about the sentiment and philosophy that is inherent on the part of so many across the way. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, it would be great if this Premier's ears were as good as his tongue. It might indeed be to the benefit of everybody in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, if this Premier would do a little listening to the people of the province of Manitoba we'd be in better shape today. If this Premier would indeed travel about the province of Manitoba and speak to the average Manitoban, then it would be to the benefit of us all.

Mr. Speaker, almost 1,000 Manitobans lost their jobs in just two of the many plant closures, Swifts and the Tribune. In Gillam we were told, by an elderly person in Gillam, that Gillam indeed was the town where he wanted to live out most of his remaining years. The man needed regular medical attention. The doctor at Gillam had just moved out. The man said that he could not afford to leave Gillam, to spend his last years in a strange town.

In Friday's Free Press, the owner of the Winnipeg Folklore Centre says, "There is no room for this type of store in a catatonic city". You can't have a dead city and expect these fringe stores to sustain themselves. It is noted in the same issue of the Free Press that McLaren Advertising and Philips Data are closing their Winnipeg offices, with Philips citing soft market conditions.

On that same day the Winnipeg Sun reported on the issue of hospital beds, particularly psychiatric beds, which we have raised repeatedly since this government cancelled plans to expand the number of hospitals. Chief Magistrate George Parkin is quoted as saying the whole damned system is such that you can't get a patient in when they badly need treatment.

Someone looking for jobs in the career section would find that there were 162 jobs advertised last Saturday, but less than a third of them were with private sector Manitoba firms. Is this the future of excitement and prosperity which Manitobans were promised? No; it is the opposite of what was promised but is a direct result of the economic policies of this government.

The Premier himself was a happy slasher. On October 31, 1977, as acute protracted restraint was being prepared the Premier said, "I've been told that there is an extra spring in the step of people as they walk down Portage Avenue". Mr. Speaker, today people are more likely to be walking down Portage Avenue to get to a bus going out of the Province of Manitoba. The true believer rarely falters and the Conservative Government itself is the vanguard of that North American movement.

On November 24, 1977, speaking about the measures prepared for the first session of the Legislature the Premier said, "Some of the paths that are being cut in Manitoba will assuredly be followed in Ottawa under a Conservative Federal Government". The Premier was correct, Mr. Speaker, to Joe Clark's everlasting misfortune.

On October 24, 1978, he told a New York audience, "The reductions we have made in the taxing, the borrowing, spending and size of government in Manitoba are acting as a spur to our ability to create employment". Yes, the worst job creation record in the whole of Canada, the worst job creation in the whole of Canada. On May 3 of that year the present Minister of Community Services told the Legislature that by reducing the tax we are going to keep more people here. On March 6, 1979, the Finance Minister told his ideological companions at the Fraser Institute that we will certainly have a revived economy. We do not hear much anymore from Fraser Institute and it's interest in Manitoba.

The Premier put it all on the line in his June 5, 1979 speech to the Canadian Manufacturers Association in Toronto when he described the government's role as saying, "The private sector and the market economy, a chance to demonstrate that it could create the opportunities, the prosperity and the quality of life we want in Manitoba." This government ignored warnings from this side of the House, from economists and even from many of their own supporters.

In February, 1979, the retiring and the newly-elected presidents of the Winnipeg construction industry said 7,000 to 8,000 jobs had been lost due to provincial government restraint in their industry alone. Mr. Michael Koffman of State Electric Company said to expect, as had been suggested, that the private sector will step in to replace government just is not realistic. No matter, in July, 1979, the Premier was still confident enough to call gloomy forecasts selective statistics and pessimism. He said that in 1979 Manitoba would have a growth rate of 3.6 percent, not the 1.5 percent that had been predicted by the Conference Board of Canada. Well, the Conference was wrong. Manitoba's growth rate last year was only 1 percentage point, and worse than any other province.

The speculative bubble of neo-Conservative dreams has burst. The bubble burst but, as with any speculative scheme, it is the ordinary people that are

out of pocket. We must try to salvage something from the wreck. Some of those ordinary people were Manitobans who went into business for themselves, including the 27 building and trade contractors who have declared bankruptcy this year. Some were farm equipment dealers who have been denied any assistance from the Manitoba government to help them through a period of sharp decline in farm income. There are the young people who put a deposit on furniture at Ollmann's who now may indeed never again see that money.

The Premier still criticizes my party for using what he is calling "selective statistics" although, Mr. Speaker, I must note that he and his colleagues are pretty selective in their attempts to show any concrete evidence of any upswing in the economy of the Province of Manitoba. The Premier is not making any predictions any more; he's not telling the world any more to follow Manitoba's lead. He, in the recent Throne Speech, ignored the employment problem in Manitoba, the fact we had the worst job creation record in 1979, the worst so far in 1980 and, according to the Conference Board forecast, the worst in 1981. He ignores the fact that if, as the Conference Board expects, our economy shrinks by 1.2 percent this year, that shrinkage will be the worst performance since records were started in 1961. It is not the first drought year as the Premier noted himself four years ago in his extensive discussion of the harm then being caused to Manitoba by drought. This government still ignores the fact that housing construction in Manitoba has decreased by about two-thirds from the disastrously low level of 1979.

The Conservatives were going to get Manitoba moving again and they have all right to Alberta, to Saskatchewan, to Ontario and even the Maritimes, anywhere, anywhere that jobs are opening up. This government and this Premier show absolutely no awareness of how their restraint philosophy has been turned into a snowball of misfortune for Manitoba; they do not see a connection between a freeze on northern construction; the demolition of the Department of Northern Affairs and the increasing numbers of northern Manitobans, particularly native people, who have come into Winnipeg in a desperate search for work.

I, and my colleagues, visited Indian reserves in the north where unemployment now exceeds 90 percent. Anything looks better and so these people come into Winnipeg where restraint has made it more difficult for social and education agencies to help them; where the employment situation means there are less job openings; and finally, where some of them feel they must send their children to the Salvation Army to get a decent meal. It took a battle to preserve the downtown school nutrition program which is a saving grace for hundreds of children. Thank God that program did not get axed by this government but is indeed a small mercy. This government of a Cabinet of financial wizards has said that Manitoba's relative decline in wage levels, the 6.8 percent increase in the minimum wage since September, 1976, and the opportunities offered by healthier economies to the West are all beneficial to Manitobans. Each of those factors have contributed to our drop in population.

Let the Minister of Economic Development, who twice wrote the Free Press this fall stating that certainly his government policy was one of reduced

overall investment in the Manitoba economy, talk about population decrease. To the furniture industry, for example, which is starved for customers because of almost no demand for new housing, plus higher interest rates; let the Minister of Finance explain the irrelevance of population decrease to the employees and the owners of home-building firms that are now in receivership. I'm sure that the residents of Neepawa would welcome a chance to have someone from that front bench tell them that the Manitoba economy is basically healthy as they struggle with a plant closure that is of greater impact to their town than the shutdown of Massey-Harris Ferguson is to Canada. Department store employees will be happy to hear they have nothing to worry about. Their industry is heavily dependent upon the number of people in Manitoba and the income level of people that are here. The latest report on department store sales issued six days ago shows that from October, 1979 to October, 1980 sales in Manitoba increased by 6.4 percent, the worst in Canada and well below the national average of 11.3 percent. Inflation of more than 10 percent in the same period means that department store sales here are selling substantially less goods than they were last year, a fact which should surprise no one, except the members of the benches opposite.

But this is still not a government which is prepared to face facts. When my colleague for Brandon East released his latest report comparing the economic management of the two governments, the Premier again charged selective statistics and the Minister of Finance said a comparison of 1975 to 1977 with 1978 to 1980 would show a different story. The Minister of Finance has actually brought his own credibility into question. Manitoba's growth rate from 1978 to 1980 is only one-tenth of the national average. For the entire 1970 to 1977 our growth was eight times better, and four-fifths of the national average. But if one just looks at the last three years of New Democratic Party government, 1975 to 1977, our growth rate was 84 percent of Canada's, even better than over the entire period, 1969 to 1977. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wonder if there is still anyone in Manitoba that still could possibly have any confidence in a Finance Minister that is so totally out of touch with the past performance of this province's economy; is there anyone that could still have any trust or confidence?

The First Minister may very well say much of my analysis is correct but the New Democratic Party is even worse. We have an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to present an alternative but some of the principles which would guide New Democratic Party economic policies are clear. We would put an end to the resource giveaway which have become a habit under the Conservative Government. The Trout Lake deposit was found through New Democratic Party government exploration and although the development of the deposit — Mr. Speaker, I hear the Minister of Finance that has so little understanding of the past performance of the economy of the province of Manitoba again shouting from his seat. Although the development of the deposit was a no-risk proposition the government was so desperate to have some mineral development it paid Hudson Bay Mining & Smelter Company a quarter share of the mine. Manitobans have lost half

their income from that new mine, income which will go to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelter's South African owners. A New Democratic Party government would have taken the opportunity for majority ownership of the Tantalum Mine, a highly profitable mine, and the only one of its kind in Canada. Manitoba lacks abundant oil and gas reserves or a dominant position in any resource except for Tantalum. Surely we must work to keep as much of the wealth and mineral wealth in this province as is humanly possible. Multi nationals like Inco have a dominant position which Manitoba cannot challenge but surely we should take advantage of the opportunities which do exist for the people of this province to increase their own state in its resources.

Other provinces have shown that with imagination and true belief in the future they can take a more active role in their economy and increase the flow of investment income, thus reducing the pressure on taxes and fees.

The last Throne Speech talked about the potential for new oil discoveries in the Virden field. Now that those discoveries have been made by a Saskatchewan Crown Corporation there is silence, silence about our oil prospects. Why couldn't the government of Manitoba have shared in that discovery?

We hear about the tremendous potential of the potash development that may or may not take place near St. Lazare. We have been told that again the company is guaranteed a healthy share of the province's interest in the potential mine and its potential profits. We do not know what assurances have been given to the U.S. based multinational which is involved because this government has refused for nearly seven months, nearly seven months Mr. Speaker, to make public their Letter of Intent regarding the known potash deposits.

There is talk about development at ManFor and we can only hope that they're not modelled along the Abitibi line. Alcan is completing a preliminary study to determine if they will do a feasibility study of a plant which would be completed in 1986 at the earliest. We know from the newspapers that they looked at Manitoba upon the province's invitation, that at first they were skeptical about the economics of such a smelter. Once more the lid of secrecy is being kept tightly on this development. It seems certain that Alcan is being offered incentives by a government now desperate to create the appearance of future prosperity, but meaningful debate cannot begin until the public and the Legislature are given full details.

No one wants to keep worthwhile industries out of Manitoba but equally those of us on this side do not want to see public funds spent on a pig in a poke or on subsidies for multinationals to do what Manitobans could have done on their own. We refer to the lessons of CFI and operation breakthrough, not because that initiative ended in scandal, but because it demonstrated clearly the folly of basic economic development upon handouts to buy multinational activity, which by its very nature will be conducted to benefit the multinational first and Manitoba only second.

It can be said that some Conservatives seem to forget nothing and learn nothing. The Throne Speech references to developments about which no

information is available and to hopes for a billion dollars worth of development echo too closely the Throne Speeches of mid 1960's and the 100 million development fund. A new Democratic Party government would have turned before now to Manitoba's single greatest natural resource, hydro electricity. The last three Throne Speeches have, on the question of hydro electricity, given a whole new depth of meaning to the phrase "lip service". Development is always mentioned but never started.

If this government applied its hydro policies to agriculture it would tell each farmer to take his income in a particular year, to place the money in a jar, bury the jar in his back yard. They would urge him not to borrow at the start of next year to finance his seeding because the crop might fail, or indeed the crop might not be sold next year. They would tell him to leave that money in the jar and not to waste it on clothes for his family or gasoline or his vehicles. That farm would not have much of a future, Mr. Speaker, and under this government neither has hydro much of a future. Hydro development must be orderly, planned, to help even out the cycles of our economy and prepared in a way that let northerners first, then other Manitobans, be trained to take advantage of the job opportunities that new construction will make available. However, we must never forget that this is a world of increasing energy shortages and spiralling energy costs. We have on the Nelson River vast potential renewable energy. Its development will not add significantly to environmental damage.

Manitoba places itself at the mercy of potential hydro customers when the government's stated policy is to start this much needed development only when new sales are made. It is very clear that in the discussion of a powerline to Saskatchewan and to Alberta, the government of Manitoba is the participant under pressure. In hydro, more than any other field, this government has shown they are afraid of the future and unwilling to invest in the future of the province of Manitoba. They have set this province back by dallying for three years and more.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder how the Member for La Verendrye, how he voted in the resolution that the Member for Churchill introduced to this House in 1978 when he called upon orderly development to take place. Now it is Let's Make a Deal time and future revenues might go the way of Newfoundland under similar circumstances.

The First Minister showed how well he understands hydro development when he stood here and said Jenpeg and Lake Winnipeg controls won't work very well and we didn't need them in the first place. That from a man who had, minutes earlier, been talking about drought. This year the First Minister was wrong by about 33 million and he will be wrong every time Jenpeg and Lake Winnipeg control continue to prove their value. Mr. Speaker, there are other ways in which a New Democratic Party economic policy would differ from that of the Conservatives.

We would do more than pay lip service to the thousands of small businesses that are the foundation of so much economic activity in the province. If there were no federal programs for small businesses the present government of Manitoba

would be offering them nothing but hope. The government is too busy looking for its one big deal with a multinational to think about the small businesses who depend a great deal upon the provincial economic climate.

Rural depopulation has simply not been a concern by this government nor has uncontrolled construction of malls in and outside of Winnipeg been of concern. I understand how a government which stopped most construction work in Manitoba would be reluctant to interfere with super abundance of malls. The end result has been chaos with more stores competing for less business. Most small businesses in Manitoba need only look over their bank records to know which party has their interests best at heart. The most tragic aspect of this government's economic disaster is that ordinary people are those who get hurt first and small businesses are the ones that go bankrupt while larger ones simply adjust and in the case of branch line companies, simply by way of closing their branch in Manitoba and moving out. The Winnipeg Folklore Centre disappears but Philips Data Systems just closes one of their many offices

In a four-year period from 1977 to 1980 prices increased by 39 percent but wages went up by only 22 percent. The results were felt by every Manitoban in the pocket.

A provincial government can only do so much about wage and price trends but this government makes this worse. The minimum wage in Manitoba has increased by only 6.8 percent since September 1976. The price of provincial services have increased, higher charges for tuition fees, for Autopac, for Pharmacare, for personal care homes, for Winnipeg Transit, and so on.

This government wanted to completely remove controls over the retail price of milk, although control of farmers prices were never to be changed. Low income for Manitobans would increase but multinationals like Safeway and Loblaws get the chance to draw more profit from Manitoba. One rent increase would be appealed by tenants and changed if they were unfair, that is still the case in most provinces. Here some tenants have had increases of 67 percent, many increases which double or triple the rate of inflation, and the government has done nothing to roll back those increases. Tenants who have tried to use the new legislation say it is hopeless. A New Democratic Party government would restore a form of rent control to deal with exorbitant rent increases, until there is a good supply of decent affordable housing again in the province of Manitoba.

Northern residents have been hit with a 29 percent increase in the cost of propane, to heat their homes and businesses. The Public Utilities Board did not even insist that the supplier, Dome Petroleum, justify that increase. The Conservative party believes in high energy prices. It is not surprising that they have done nothing about this price increase. A New Democratic Party would insist that such a massive jump in the cost of heating be thoroughly justified with full and complete disclosure.

The Throne Speech attempts to cover up for the Public Utilities Board by mentioning discussions with Trans-Canada Pipelines. It appears from questions asked Friday in this House, that northerners are supposed to pin their hopes on a natural gas pipeline

that no one has applied to build, and which does not appear in the national energy program. I suspect that with time we will see that this is just one more pipe dream, rather than a pipeline.

This government was so sorry to see the Crosby budget defeated, they've tried their best to implement it anyway. Provincial tax on gasoline has been increased so that every time the oil companies, or Alberta, or Ottawa raise the price of gasoline, there will be an extra 20 percent increase in Manitoba. Before the federal budget, the provincial tax was going up 15 percent. Thanks to the Liberal energy program, the Manitoba government may see its gasoline tax doubled by 1984. Small wonder that this government indeed has made itself the lap dog of Alberta. They will piggyback on every increase and I'm sure the provincial increases will continue to be so timed that they're camouflaged by other price hikes. That extra tax comes from people who are already hard pressed by rising prices. A New Democratic Party government would not have imposed such a tax at this time. It is especially hard on those who must drive long distances for work or for shopping.

A New Democratic Party government would, as the previous one, either freeze the fees charged for government services or keep increases to the minimum. Our party remains committed to acting, when absolutely necessary, to control the price of essentials like housing. We want to help Manitobans fight inflation. The present Premier just puffs away about federal deficits, to take attention from his own hand in the pockets of the people of the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I have found that Manitobans are anxious to have a government that is open, that is honest with them, that is willing to listen. They know that Manitoba lacks that kind of government today. In villages, in towns, in cities and farms and shop stores, in offices, in livingrooms, I've heard the same description of almost every member of the present Cabinet, a little autocrat. A Little Autocrat.

Local municipal officials ask why their advice is no longer sought by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The people in Thompson must wonder if the Minister of Government Services listens to anybody, after he offered to them to replace CRTC, after the Public Utilities Board which had refused to fight on their behalf, for full disclosure of propane heating costs in the city of Thompson. They must indeed wonder; very vocal on the CRTC, very silent on the Public Utilities Board.

Elderly tenants ask why the Minister responsible for rent stabilization ignored their pleas and cut off public hearings on rent control, then left them in the cold when rent increases of 25 percent, 30 percent, even 67 percent were handed down.

Fishermen ask what kind of Resources Minister would try to spring licencing changes on them without warning, without consultation. Manitobans who love the unspoiled beauty of this province ask, what kind of government would ignore the Jarmoc affair, and propose a condominium development for the Whiteshell, then remove the proposal while still refusing to hold full and public hearings on the proposed Whiteshell development plan.

Indian people ask what sort of government would send the Premier to their annual conference so

poorly informed, that when told hunting policy changes he had promised them in 1979 were not in evidence, would respond by telling them that it takes some time for these decisions to be communicated to all levels of government. Indians would ask how any government could remove their right to vote in municipal elections so quietly, that most of them only discovered the changes two years later.

The people of Nelson House told me, other MLAs and our New Democratic Party federal critic for Indian Affairs, that they had not seen their MLA for three years — the Minister of Labour for three years — and when we asked if they had been in touch with the Minister of Northern Affairs, they asked, who is he?

School board members, local council members, teachers and parents have all asked what is happening with the major education reform the present Minister began promising more than a year ago, and which the 1978 Throne Speech said was of major concern. They have not been involved in an open process of consultation such as that which preceded the 1977 draft of The Public Schools Act.

I was in Winnipegosis this fall, a community like many others, in its deep-felt concern about community control of schools. Last spring, the Minister of Education arrogantly told the House that he would have the problems in Winnipegosis solved, but in Winnipegosis people do not feel they have even been listened to and the problems persist.

The hundreds of people who once worked for the Winnipeg Tribune must wonder if they are being heard when only one political party leader, only one political party leader, failed to appear before the Royal Commission on newspapers and that leader was the only one in a position to have acted on their behalf, the Premier of the Province of Manitoba.

People who worked at Maple Leaf Mills, Monarch Wear, Western Sound, Jordan Wines, Thompson Credit Union, The Pas Credit Union, Neepawa Food Processors, McLaren Advertising, one could go on and on and on and it wouldn't do much good as far as the Minister of Economic Development is concerned because he just does not listen. And ask if this government is indeed listening to them as they start the commencement of a long, cold winter.

Hog producers on the brink of bankruptcy knew they were not being heard by the Minister of Agriculture who insisted that only Manitoba would not assist its hog producers, leaving them to struggle alone or be swallowed up by Cargill. Every Manitoban who depends in some way upon the food processing industry in this province must wonder if this is an open and listening government when they compare its silence on the Maple Leaf closure with the Throne Speech promise of new processing projects. The Conservative government was able to run to Alberta two weeks ago with a jumped-up scheme for a petro chemical plant. But where were they during the last three years as Maple Leaf expanded its plant in Calgary and let the Manitoba plant run down?

The autocratic quality of this Cabinet has become so well-known that the only answer to public discontent on the part of the First Minister was to hint at another shuffle. Many on the Treasury Bench today have become accustomed to just learning about one department before they are assigned to

another. We all read and heard about the shuffle which was to have taken place one month ago. It confirmed that with this Cabinet to be moved is never quite a promotion, it is more like a rescue operation. Perhaps at the last minute the Premier realized how very badly his government's basic competence was undermined by constant shuffles that had taken place. More likely he just realized that no matter how many times you shuffle the cards it's the same deck, it's the same old deck, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Highways has been just as arrogant as the Minister of Natural Resources, so he could hardly be expected to repair the damage that has been done by the Minister of Resources in the resources field.

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Environment has been a walking time bomb but what if the special skills he showed during the MacGregor spill and the rent control dispute were applied to local highway and road concerns, Mr. Speaker, it would be another disaster.

The Minister of Finance has become trapped in his own balanced-budget promises, but his lack of imagination in the Energy and Mines portfolio has meant a series of unfulfilled promises about large projects and smaller projects which are possible only through extensive public subsidies for private businesses. The Attorney-General apparently was not going to be shocked and that fact alone says much about the so-called new team which was supposed to have been assembled by the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, three years and more have shown Manitobans that this is a government of autocrats and even monthly Cabinet shuffles will not change that fact. Coffee and conversation on their part doesn't seem to help either. I attended a meeting of some 1,000 people in St. Malo three days after the Cabinet had folded their tents and slipped away from St. Malo, only three days after the Cabinet had slipped away. And with one voice, Mr. Speaker, the people in Emerson were asking, why do we see the Cabinet Ministers now after they forgot Emerson even existed for three years? Last minute public relations exercises and even the last minute hiring of many public relations advisors — by the way, Harry Martin is one of them. I thought he would never want to drink at the public trough but apparently he's working, writing speeches for the Minister of Finance at the present time. (Interjection)—.The quality has been indicated, too.

But, Mr. Speaker, this will certainly not change the contempt which so many of these Ministers are regarding the people of the province of Manitoba. To quote again from the First Minister's speech four years ago, "God knows they need a public relations officer." That's the kind of priorities we have with this government. The failure of this government to be open, to listen is so evident that I only wish they had spent more than five days on Cabinet tours since the Legislature rose. The New Democrats in Lakeside, in Russell and in Portage would have received the same boost, the same shot in the arm that New Democrats have received in Springfield, Emerson and in Brandon.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a month ago the contempt with which this government regards the people of Manitoba. They showed that contempt when, as people sat in the committee room ready to

make presentations about the Rent Control Bill 83, public hearings were cut off. That contempt was never more clear than the Premier's handling of the Constitutional issue. During the past session, when there was no dispute between the federal and the Manitoba government about the Constitution, the Premier refused to present a resolution on the matter or to set aside time for a special debate as had been done in most other provinces. He waited until he had gotten into a real scrap with the federal government and until my colleagues and I were growing tired of calls for committee hearings on the subject. On September 15 the Premier promised to place all documents before the committee; two months later our members were still fighting to get those documents.

The government's attention was focused on its court case with Ottawa and as at December 5, the Brandon Sun article asked, what's it all for? The lack of interest which appeared to exist seemed to be welcomed by the Premier. On November 15 he told the Free Press that Manitobans aren't all that interested in the committee hearings. The Winnipeg Sun said the Premier was not discouraged by the lack of interest; "It's accessibility that counts", he said. Then when it became clear that most briefs were not endorsing the government's position the Premier went further to discourage people from bothering to appear by saying, you don't operate government on the basis of what the majority of people who come before a committee say. When polls asked questions about the content of reform proposals and showed most Manitobans disagreeing with the Premier's he discounted polls and said the public did not understand the issue. When a poll showed public opposition to the Prime Minister's hasty and unilateral action, the Premier suddenly trusted the results and the public's wisdom and warned the Prime Minister to turn back and to turn back in place of public opposition. Interest in the Manitoba Committee hearings has continued to build so now they are in suspension.

On October 11, the Premier said any sign of substantial amendments to the federal resolution would be hopeful. He has since failed to seek such amendments on behalf of Manitoba and to ignore them as he goes about the province attacking Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is not the most pressing problem confronting Manitobans today. The Premier of this province and the Prime Minister of Canada have been able to use the Constitution as a means of avoiding the hard economic issues which confront them. And worse, the Premier of this province has played endless little games with the Constitutional issue insulting Manitobans deep love of their country. He has told Manitobans they are wise not to express their views on the issue and if they do express their views it would not matter to them. He has told them that when they disagree with him they are misunderstanding the issue, then when they agree with him, their will must be obeyed. The only people to benefit from this charade are the high-priced lawyers hired by both Canada and the Manitoba government to argue a court case which is premature, which is an excuse for the Premier to stop negotiating on the Constitution. Mr. Speaker, the final test of how open this government is in its treatment of freedom of information.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislature's resolution on this subject has been ignored; the Throne Speech makes no mention of this matter. We will watch with interest how this government treats Bill No. 4 in the present session. I can say here today that this party, in opposition and in government, will not ignore freedom of information. I can also make a pledge to the people of Manitoba that the New Democratic Party is listening, will continue to do so regardless of the outcome of the next election in this province.

You know, Tommy Douglas used to comment when he would get a rise from members opposite that when you indeed throw a stone into a pack of dogs and you hear some barking, then you know that indeed you have managed to strike your target. We will watch with interest how the government treats Bill No. 4.

The Northern Task Force which I and my colleagues have begun in October is a model for our party and for our caucus. This party has begun and will continue to provide Manitobans with a forum in their own community to express their concerns, to voice their opinions, to tell their representatives what they expect from a provincial government. We have no desire to become a prisoner of the Legislative Buildings; no wish to listen only to opinions that we agree with. The same should be true of every Minister in a Manitoba Cabinet but as the public know and as the records show it is not true. There must be an end to closed and secretive government in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, Manitobans feel despair about the future because of this government's economic failings. They are frustrated when they realize that this government is not listening, when it is secretive. But many, and particularly those who joined that great majority in October, 1977, are angry with the trail of broken promises left by the Premier and by his colleagues. The Conservatives pledged that they would not fire any civil servants but they were so anxious that the firings began before the new government even took office. Hundreds of qualified public servants were thrown into the streets, taking with them skills and knowledge that had been sorely lacking unfortunately in the past three years of this government. The Premier's pledge to stop young people and businesses from leaving the province by creating a more prosperous economy would be a joke if the failure to follow through on that promise, indeed, had not been so disastrous for Manitoba. There were so many promises and pledges that it is difficult to remember.

Some here will recall a press conference held on October 5th, 1977, to unveil the Conservative programs and policies for addressing the problems of the City of Winnipeg. Some 21 programs were listed. Where are they now? There was going to be an extensive housing strategy including a dispersal of public housing. It has been dispersed right off the map. Property taxes were going to be lower than in 1977; priorities established for the city; a charter was going to be introduced. Three years later one would not be receiving anything if not for some monies that are being received from the federal government.

Now the intercity employment program, the intercity housing construction, special training programs for the disadvantaged, programs this government cut or ended, may start up again under

a new name. This is a welcome development even when based on the soft federal dollars that the Premier once warned about. The core initiative will probably not include a form of rent control, yet many inner city residents are tenants, they would greatly welcome this sort of protection. There has been no vote to give the cities power to control demolition of valuable housing which had been promised. Food stores like Boni Co-op could be encouraged to replace those that are moving out of the core of the City of Winnipeg. If the community schools and programs had expanded, it would do much to stabilize inner city neighbourhoods. Most importantly, this government could have done something about jobs for inner city residents. I am not talking about massive distant projects that might not or indeed might happen, but the encouragement and expansion of locally owned businesses and training programs to help people enter gainful and meaningful employment.

The core area initiative will go to meet a great need, but this government could have made an immensely valuable contribution if it had intended to keep its promises to the City of Winnipeg. Part of the 10 point program was to help senior citizens. The help began with a winding down of senior citizens' housing to the point where only one hundred units were built in 1980-81. That was followed by a freeze in personal care home construction and new daily charge for seniors who must wait in hospital for a place in personal care homes. The five-year plan for personal care home construction was abandoned — great expense with higher interest rates, inflated prices plus the social and economic costs.

When the Minister of Health recently ventured out of his office into eastern Manitoba, we heard firsthand about the results of his personal care home freeze. Homes like Rest Haven, Menno Home, which would be uneconomic to repair, were to be replaced under the 1976 plan. Now they are faced with further deterioration of the old home and no firm date for construction of a new one. Some homes have been almost doubled in cost due to the delay in construction. The Minister of Health says his budget is so tightly stretched that he had to urge health care workers to be overworked and underpaid. The lack of funds for Manitoba health care led to strikes at many institutions, however, there was room in the Minister's budget for his corporate friends. Each year Manitobans will pay a special subsidy of 1.3 million because this government wants profit making personal care homes to be built in Manitoba. Many homes operated by religious and other nonprofit groups had been waiting years for approval to expand. Now they are bypassed by companies who squeeze a healthy profit from the care of our elderly. Under a New Democratic Party government not one more nail would be driven to build a profit-making personal care home in the Province of Manitoba. We would support only those nonprofit groups whose one desire is to undertake the tender loving care of those that have been entrusted to them.

Senior citizens are properly getting angrier and angrier about the way this government has broken its promises to them. The Premier promised dignified retirement. Few people expected that promise to mean an army of means tests. If a member of the Legislature talks to most seniors about the SAFER

program, he or she will get an earful about how they are treated like welfare cases. For a few dollars a month, the new supplement program for the elderly is worse. Many seniors watched those television ads and heard that sweet old lady with the big shopping cart talk about the dollars that she was going to receive and expected would be eligible. They heard they better look this gift horse in the mouth. Once again, there is a means test and if they qualify, those over 65 can get no more than 7.82 a month. If, as the newspaper ads say, this is for those who need help most, it is no help at all. Few seniors could feed themselves for a week on 7.82 a week — a month, I'm sorry, or even for a week or a day. The blue sky gang has struck again and our senior citizens are discovering that what you see is not what you get.

It could have done the Premier well to heed his own words about advertising campaigns by government. On August 19th of this year he said, if you get away with hucksterism, get away cynicism long enough, then you continue pushing your luck, it takes a cornflakes huckster to know one.

Senior citizens and many other Manitobans are in for another shock about the government's promises. It will come when they take a close look at the 1980 income tax form and see how many new deductions there are from the increased Property Tax Credit and the decreased Cost of Living Tax Credit Program. We are still waiting for the Finance Minister to offer any rebuttal to the calculation by the Social Planning Council that the average increase in tax credits will be 14 and not the 100 promised.

When the Premier replied to the Throne Speech four years ago, he made another promise of interest to seniors. He praised the Critical Home Repair Program and said everything about it was fine except for its budget. The budget, 5 million in 1977-78, was too small, he said. Mr. Speaker, since he took charge the budget has not been 5 million, last year and again this year it is only 2 million. It is a hypocritical betrayal of a fine program which could be used much more effectively to help rural and urban contractors through a very tough time.

The First Minister was very concerned about interest rates four years ago. Of course, this was well before Joe Clark unveiled his high interest rate policy and before Pierre Elliott Trudeau was able to repeat Clark's record high interest rate. Now the government does not look seriously at interest rate tax exemption or credit, something the Premier proposed. No, they will only monitor interest rates. The promise has been broken and many in this province find that they are alone when interest pushes them to the brink of abandoning the farm, selling the house, or closing the business. The effects of record interest rates can be seen in the latest report on farm income. Total net income is expected to fall from 340 million in 1978 to 100 million this year despite an increase of 360 million in realized gross income. Realized net farm income in current dollars is lower this year, last year and is forecast next year, than it was in 1978.

Four years ago the First Minister stood here and went through terrible wringing of hands about the drop in farm income, which he blamed mostly on taxes which performed then only a small portion of farm costs. The falling farm income did not rate mention in this Throne Speech, now that it has really

reached crisis proportions in Manitoba. The government does not appear willing to enact any standby loan moratorium act as a way to tell Manitobans that their government will not stand silent as rising costs crush still more economic light out of this province. The natural disasters of the past two years rate mention, but now that his promises have put him in power the Premier's basic message to the farm community is no different than on October 31st, 1977, when he said, "Most of the crop is in, the grade is down, and farm income may be down, but the natural enthusiasm and optimism of the people of Manitoba," said the Premier, "will see us through these problems."

Natural enthusiasm, Mr. Speaker, is a very frail reed when the wolf is at the door. Four years ago misadministration of day care was of great concern to the Premier. To acknowledge that, and I quote, "It will call for growing government support." We all know how this promise has been fulfilled; by forcing Manitobans concerned about day care to beg this government not to cut it back. Day care maintenance grants have been frozen for three years.

In the last session we had to watch the Cabinet play hide-and-go-seek with the long awaited day care expansion. At first they did not know where the new 4 million could be found; then they didn't know if it would be spent; then finally, Mr. Speaker, in September the Minister of Community Services acknowledged that the announced Budget was for 1981-82 and not for 1980-81 as the Finance Minister had said in May. People who are active in day care are still looking for evidence of the many new spaces and programs that have been promised.

The Minister who may not be aware of the Premier's old pledge about good day care administration has defended himself by saying the former New Democratic Party Government was no better. Mr. Speaker, this government took over the advantage of several years experience of public support for day care in Manitoba. Their failings are not excusable here.

Most recently, Mr. Speaker, we have seen the first signs in day care of the trend which is draining dollars and quality care from personal care homes, profit making publicly funded social services. The Alabama based McDonalds of day care and Great West Life have joined forces to increase their profit margin by building 100 profit-making centres. The private sector has a central and irreplaceable role to play in Manitoba. A New Democratic Party government would make it clear once and for all that the private role does not include social services for profit. We want religious and other community organizations to be able to spend every available dollar on care and attention for those who use social services.

Four years ago the Premier was expressing his deep concern about the native people of Manitoba. He said, "Native people like every other citizen of Manitoba have a right to expect real and effective help from their government as they wrestle with their problems." Today, one of those problems is that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has cut off per capita grants to Indian Bands and provincial funds to the Manitoba Metis Federation.

It was an honour for me to visit a number of Indian reservations in the recent months to meet with Indian

people from all corners of Manitoba. Some have told me how bitterly they regret the Premier and the Cabinet's indifference to their problems. They were promised much and have been given nothing except cutbacks, lost opportunities and a wall of silence.

Four years ago the present First Minister declared that the job of the Department of Education is to provide leadership. Today the Minister of Education is one of the ghosts of Christmas past. People can be sure that if they need help the Minister will be looking the other way. In Swan River, in Winnipegosis, in Elkhorn, in Thompson, in Sprague and so many other communities where the public school system is having real problems, this Minister has made himself scarce. Major reform of public school finances were under way when this government took office and in the 1978 Throne Speech they said it was a major concern. So major, Mr. Speaker, that nothing has been for almost three years by this government, in which the provincial grants have dropped to 45.2 percent of the public school revenue, the lowest point since 1963.

The Premier once spoke at length about his dislike of high taxes, but local special levies for public schools have risen since 1977 to from 44.2 percent of revenue, the highest level since 1957. School boards are finding that they must close schools or cut out basic courses, not because of declining enrolment but because local taxes cannot go higher without provoking revolt in the province because the province is not picking up the slack. An open review of public school finances could have been held in 1978 but today we see the Minister of Education rushing around like a rooster with his head cut off trying to patch together in the back room enough of a change to cool the public's anger over sky-high property taxes and schools that cannot meet basic education needs. People from the universities and community colleges say it is difficult for them to even get an appointment with the Minister. And he has been conspicuous by his absence from the dispute over a three-year freeze on the University of Manitoba's athletic complex, the shaky accreditation of the professional faculties at the University of Manitoba and the unexpectedly high cost of a building freeze imposed on the Assiniboine Community College.

This government has provided so much leadership in the Education Department that in 1979 they had to withdraw their Public Schools Act and in 1980 they were so ashamed of it that the government members would not enter into the debate. Groups from across the province asked that the new Act include the standard set by our government, Bill 58. Bill 58 was repealed however, and today there is still a feeling that the government does not understand the special needs of many children, and that it is dragging its feet on implementation of programs that would truly provide an appropriate education for every child in Manitoba. Teachers in Swan River are today seriously concerned at an attempt by the school board to overturn the binding arbitration established by provincial legislation but again the Minister has been out of sight.

There is a profound demoralization throughout the education system and this Throne Speech merely repeated the same tired phrase we've seen about the fact that there is still a provincial budget for

education plus a promise to update the 13-year-old Foundation Program, a program designed for a period of rapid expansion. It is almost embarrassing to mention that four years ago the present Premier also pledged to establish a clear core curriculum including French for all schools in the province. That is a promise best forgotten by all concerned to judge by the amount of time and energy that has been wasted in not achieving it.

Four years ago the First Minister declared that "a program built on the basis of federal dollars is a program built on soft money". That idea would be quite a surprise to the Minister of Economic Development whose department has become little more than a delivery point for federal programs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, with federal dollars — the Minister of Economic Development never enjoys hearing facts Mr. Speaker, it kind of gets to him. In fact, with federal dollars now representing about 40 percent of the provincial revenue, one wonders if the Premier thinks he is building an entire record on soft money. Few and far between are Manitoba government initiatives taken in the past three years without benefit of federal-provincial agreement to share the costs.

Four years ago the Premier was exercised about the fact that fewer and fewer young farmers could afford to buy their own farm. Government's loopholes in The Farmlands Protection Act have both driven up the price of farm land beyond its productive value, and made sure that in communities like La Broquerie less than half the land remains in Canadian hands. The Premier's pledges about farm ownership were broken as soon as the Minister of Agriculture removed the restrictions against non-resident ownership.

Manitobans must remain masters in their own house. A New Democratic Party government would restore those restrictions against absentee, corporate and foreign ownership. We hope to put this government to the test of its words with a bill of our own in this session.

Mr. Speaker, during the last election campaign the Premier promised specifically that his government would not sell McKenzie Seeds. No promise could be more clear, more precise and no promise better illustrates just how reliable the First Minister's word is. The Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation is still trying to flog the unique and important secondary industry at fire sale prices. (Interjections)

MR. SPEAKER: I realize there are numerous members in the Chamber who would eagerly like to get involved in the debate but we can only have one at a time.

MR. PAWLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A New Democratic Party government would refinance McKenzie Seeds so it can enjoy many more years of success. The Premier was alarmed four years ago that Manitoba was losing good doctors. This province suffered its only net loss of doctors under this Conservative government.

The Throne Speech promises a Health Research Council. The last Throne Speech promised expansion of the Manitoba Research Council but nothing was done, it still has the smallest budget of all the provincial research councils. There is much talk

about a priority on the health care industry, on research and on development. But you know the First Minister, it's interesting again from his talk, it reminds me, as he's mentioning his usual red herrings, of the article in Maclean's magazine when he considered Pierre Burton's books as being subversive. It's the same sort of attitude and sentiment being expressed from his seat today. Whoever heard of Pierre Burton's books being subversive, Mr. Speaker.

There is much talk about a priority on the health care industry, on research and development, but what did someone in the field, the new President of the University of Manitoba have to say more than a year ago, and I quote from Dr. Naimark's remarks: "Manitoba's reputation for excellence in the field of medicine is being threatened by the fiscal restraint policies of the government of Premier Sterling Lyon. No Manitoban can ignore the hostile atmosphere toward medical research in this province".

MR. LYON: You'll find it was denied the next day.

MR. PAWLEY: The Throne Speech expresses apprehension about the major federal shared cost program. This government's record in those programs and on the question of government spending makes me doubt its ability to convince Ottawa that restraint is unwise. The Manitoba government has passed as many expenditures as possible along to municipal governments in this province. It is clearly preparing to let local government and property taxpayers pick up the costs of the new RCMP agreements, and the termination of the Community Service Contribution Program.

Federal officials need only ask, why shouldn't we do to you what you are doing to municipal government in Manitoba? The Hall Commission recently reported that next to Prince Edward Island Manitoba was the province which withdrew the greatest share of provincial funds from health care under the new arrangements introduced in 1977-1978. The Canadian Association of University Teachers has demonstrated that in post secondary education, to which the arrangements also apply, the New Democratic Party government increased its share in the first year, after which Manitoba plunged from fifth to seventh place in relative share of revenue from the province.

This government has built a record of diverted provincial funds, and diversion of provincial funds is what we on this side have indeed been charging them with continuously, a record which justifies the arrogant and restraint-happy federal government plans to slash away at our health and education programs. The First Minister spoke at some length about national unity four years ago. He said, "Let us in Manitoba make very certain there are none who can mistake our own aspirations in this province for a fairer position inside Confederation with the mistaken positions that the anti-Confederationalists took years ago". He warned against even speaking to Rene Levesque. He who has indeed now joined forces with Rene Levesque in unholy alliance of provinces that refuse to even try and improve the federal government's hastily proposed resolution on the Constitution; who has not taken many

opportunities to distance himself from his old comrade and present unionist leader Dick Culver, a man by way who pledged to provide Saskatchewan with the same kind of leadership that Sterling Lyon he indicated, at the time, had given to Manitoba; who has let pass unnoticed the statements of a man who one year ago was Federal Minister for Small Business, Ron Huntington, who now calls for a western parliament and says, "If Mr. Trudeau's concept of federalism is nothing more than a brilliantly contrived vehicle to socialize Canada, then I would personally would rather see western Canada out". Yes, it is the same man who four years ago implied that the New Democratic Party government of the day was frozing up to Quebec separatists.

The Premier was correct when he told a September Constitutional Conference that the people of this province considered themselves Canadians first and Manitobans second. On behalf of all Manitobans, I urge the Premier to put aside his personal differences with the Prime Minister, a man that few of us admire, and start showing it is possible to differ with the Prime Minister, while standing up against western or eastern separatists, standing up for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this brief review of Conservative broken promises could go on and on, and on, but I close with one that in light of acute protracted disaster, which has been Manitoba's misfortune is too ironic to omit. The present Premier stood here as Leader of the Opposition and accused the then government of being "immobilized by the need to control growth and spending". He would not take that path, instead the Conservatives would "do it by putting a stop to government involvement in business". Their restraint program and the death bed repentance which has lead to only partial withdrawal of government ownership of businesses, speaks volumes about the reliability of the Leader who made that pledge of his economic program. No doubt there is at least one person a day who walks down Portage Avenue now with a spring in their step. It is hard to imagine that they do it because of the Conservative record in Manitoba, a record of economic decline, secrets, refusal to listen, an endless list of broken promises, that is what this government's record means to many Manitobans. No government is perfect but few have made such a mess of things in so short a time.

Within 21 months there must be a provincial election in Manitoba. This desperate government may succeed in buying a major new project with Manitoba resources just as another Conservative Government did before the 1969 election. I do not take it upon myself to guess how the people of Manitoba vote in that election, whenever it does come, however all that we can indicate, Mr. Speaker, is that we will promise to do our best for Manitoba as Leader of my party, Leader of the Opposition, fight that election when it comes, so that again in the Province of Manitoba we can have a province that we can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Brandon East that the motion be amended by adding to it the following:

"That this House regrets that this government:

- (1) has persisted in policies which have mismanaged Manitoba's economy; lead to a

decline of economic growth, from 80 percent of the national average under the previous government, to 10 percent of the national average; and to the worst job creation rate in 1979 and in the first 11 months of 1980, policies which have increased the cost of living for all Manitobans, particularly the elderly, working people, small business;

- (2) has broken its promises to the people of Manitoba; in particular young people, northerners, farmers, those in the Winnipeg Core;

- (3) has refused to listen to the people of Manitoba, has conducted economic and resource planning in total secrecy, causing a loss of confidence in this government, and;

- (4) has failed completely to meet its own standards of fiscal management and government efficiency."

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Transportation.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take a great deal of pleasure in entering into the Throne Speech debate at this juncture, particularly after having followed the Leader of the Opposition, who put himself to sleep with his own speech and forgot to put the motion on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I think in the history of this House, I don't think a Leader of the Opposition has ever forgotten to put his own motion before the House, following such a long and boring speech. It proves positive, Mr. Speaker, that this day ranks among the highest in my political career. Today ranks among the days in my political career to go along with the day that at a nomination meeting in Pembina constituency, before some 1,200 voting delegates at my nomination convention, that I received the nod to represent our party. This day stands well in importance to me as the day we won the election in 1977, and I won the seat as the MLA for Pembina, along with 32 other Conservatives under the good and firm and strong leadership of our Premier, Mr. Speaker. This day, Mr. Speaker, ranks in importance to me with the day after the election in 1977 and during the Throne Speech, I had the privilege and the honour of moving the motion on the first Throne Speech that this government ever put.

Why does it rank in those kind of days in political importance to me, Mr. Speaker? Because on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, of last week I listened to the most progressive Throne Speech that this province has ever heard in the last two decades. Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to watch the members of the Opposition come gleefully to their seats at the start of the session at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. There were a number of smiles and cheery looks on their faces. There were even some perky red flowers on their lapels but, Mr. Speaker, after page three only, of that Throne Speech debate, the colour was leaving the faces, the smiles were gone, the red carnations were wilting. Mr. Speaker, during page three and thereon the Leader of the Opposition lost the "w" in his last name and he turned into Paley, just to recognize his face and his features, as he saw the kind of initiatives that this government after three years of

work and reconstruction in the government process of this province has been able to bring towards the people of Manitoba as propositions for the future into the '80s. Very Paley, Mr. Speaker, very Paley.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important at this stage of the game that we step back and we take a look at the past three years in the province. The Leader of the Opposition just finished, Mr. Speaker, with a speech, I believe, that indicated that ours was a government of broken promises. He even made some further ridiculous claims, Mr. Speaker, that he and his party and their policies were going to be the salvation of the province. Well, Mr. Speaker, during the entire speech, and I listened all but two brief respites, I didn't hear one suggestion from the Leader of the Opposition, as to No. (1) what he would do in a positive policy direction; or No. (2) where he was going to find the wherewithal to solve the problems that he perceives from his standpoint in the Province of Manitoba. No policy, Mr. Speaker, nothing but regurgitation of things that are tired and worn out.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, I'm afraid after today has seen the vision of his political career go before his eyes as a drowning man, he sees the leadership slipping away, and he sees the chance of him ever becoming Premier of this province dashed and gone. And that has to hurt the Leader of the Opposition and I'm sorry that the Member for Transcona wasn't here to listen to the speech today, because the Member for Transcona would have to have a great deal of interest in his faltering leader, because I think he has alluded on several occasions that he would like to replace him. Mr. Speaker, he's not going to get the chance and its unfortunate and I feel no personal malice towards the Leader of the Opposition but in terms of pure political joy, I was pleased to see him falter and drop the ball today in his Throne Speech debate.

Mr. Speaker, going back to 1977, what were some of the campaign platform planks that the Progressive Conservative party laid before the people of Manitoba? First of all, they indicated that they were going to reduce taxes. I don't have to specify to members opposite what taxes have been reduced. We've reduced a number of them. Is that one of the broken election promises that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to in his speech? I think not, Mr. Speaker.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, I hear, I did not see it, but I understand that the Member for St. John's, that vehement opponent of the abolition of succession duties, who has becried us and derided us for feeding the rich in reducing the succession duties, on a television program very recently said, well, you know, we were about to abolish them, we were about to abolish them. That's what the Member for St. John's said, and Mr. Speaker, I will ask him to correct me if that was the wrong impression that the viewer of that program got and gave to me. If that is an incorrect supposition that the Member for St. John's put out, I will apologise publicly because, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe he said it, and if he said it, I certainly don't believe that he meant it, Mr. Speaker. What he is doing, along with his gang over there, is the typical Socialist/Liberal kind of campaigning where they promise the world and then after they deliver power then they do what they want. They

don't tell you what they're going to do beforehand, they only do it after.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other thing that I was very interested in hearing the Leader of the Opposition refer to, was all the good things that he was going to do for small business in the Province of Manitoba, like the corporate capital investment tax. Remember that one gentlemen? That was the good thing that he did to the small business community in Manitoba. They appreciated it, gentlemen, so much that they voted you out of power in 1977. Is that one of the majors you're going to do to restore the confidence of the small business group in Manitoba? Please tell us and tell the people of Manitoba on the election platform the next time we go to the people. Don't try to deceive the people; the people are wiser than what you think.

Mr. Speaker, are they going to create more jobs in Manitoba? Are they going to revert back to that tremendous record of job creation in 1976 that they so often refer to in glowing terms, of 4,000 new jobs per year, many of which were Civil Service jobs? Are they going to better that record of ours in which 30,000 jobs, all in the private sector, have been created since 1977? Are they going to replace it with the same kind of policies in 1977 that lead to 4,000 jobs per year? I think not, Mr. Speaker, but that was what they wanted, government control and create the jobs within the Civil Service. Have the taxpayers pay for the jobs that they wanted to create, not have private industry and private incentive create the jobs that are needed for Manitobans. Mr. Speaker, if that's the kind of job creation record they're going to back to — 4,000 per year, compared to the 10,000 per year on an average that we have had in our administration; tell the people of Manitoba that's what you're going to do, they'll be interested in hearing and they'll answer you the same in the next election as they did in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition referred to housing starts and how they are down, and he suggested we do something about housing starts. I had the pleasure in 1978 to accompany the Minister of Education to that booming community of The Pas. Mr. Speaker, whilst there I took the opportunity to tour Bell Avenue, and on Bell Avenue were 48 brand new homes built by that administration. They were fully built, landscaped and ready for people. There was one problem, Mr. Speaker, there were no people to go into those houses. Those houses were empty and they stayed empty for a year and a half. Is that the kind of housing thrust that the NDP want to put on this province? Have the government build houses that aren't needed? Mr. Speaker, I believe that the province had some 45,000 to 50,000 per home invested in those homes, and they ended up selling them up for something less than 35,000.00. Is that the kind of housing initiatives our NDP friends are going to tell the people of Manitoba they will institute? Tell them, tell them, gentlemen, and they will tell you.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they want to talk about changes since 1977. What about the Legislative changes in the family law package, which is the leading family law package in all the provinces in this great domain of ours, and who in the Constitutional talks put those policies and programs forth? Our Premier and our Attorney-General, to the credit of every women's organization in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, did those programs get support? No, I'm sorry to say they didn't get support and we are fighting to have those programs supported by the rest of the provinces and by the federal government. Are we wrong to be fighting, one out of 10, fighting against the majority for that kind of change? I think not, Mr. Speaker, and the letters from the women's associations across Canada say that we're not wrong. They say we're right and they encourage us to do it. Is that the kind of change that the NDP would have us do in constitutional talks, to back down on the principle that's right and correct for the people of Canada and particularly for the women of Canada? No, I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, what policy would the Leader of the Opposition have us present in constitutional talks? We heard him talk about how wrong we were doing things in constitutional talks but we haven't heard one word about he would have done or what his position is. We do not know, Mr. Speaker, and I suggest we will never find out because I don't think he has a policy. He will be like the Premier of Saskatchewan and sit on the fence and find which way the wind is blowing but the wind will blow him off the fence as it did to the Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

We took a position and our Premier in this province took a position on the constitutional change, Mr. Speaker. That position was not the popular position if you went according to the public opinion polls, but it was the correct position. It was the right position; it was the justifiable position. Since when, in this democracy, is standing up for what is right, what is justifiable and what is correct being on the wrong side of the fence as the Leader of the Opposition would have the people of Manitoba believe? I say we're right and furthermore, the latest Gallup poll says we are right. Public opinion in Canada is turning around. What has made public opinion in Canada turn around, Mr. Speaker? I want to tell you what; the leadership of the Premier of Manitoba has turned public opinion around as in his position of leadership of Chairman of the Council of Provincial Premiers. That has been a long time. Now can you feature, Mr. Speaker, can any of you people on that side of the House feature your leader as President of the Premiers' Conference in Canada and taking the . . . can you imagine your leader carrying the ball for the provinces? Mr. Speaker, very few Manitobans can. For instance, what was the question that was asked, gentlemen, what was the question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition about who recognizes someone? Who was the person he was looking for to be recognized? No one recognized — oh, that was it. They blamed my colleague, the MLA for Thompson, for never seeing him and wanting to know who their member was or who the Minister of Northern Affairs was. That was it.

I have Manitobans every day ask me who the Leader of the Opposition is. They wonder if it might be the MLA for Inkster because he's the most effective voice that the New Democrats have in the House today but unfortunately, he saw the fallacy in the way your policies are going and the way your backroom boys are taking you down the road, not to socialism, but maybe to the communism of the world

and he pulled out. He pulled out in his wisdom in a stand for the principles of socialism. You people are gone. You people are gone. You are leaderless over there and you saw the paleness come into you people on Thursday of last week and it was a political joy to see you lost and floundering. Today was a further evidence of that joy.

They talk about what have we done in three years. Well, we've changed mining regulations, Mr. Speaker, and we have oil exploration. We have hard rock mineral exploration in northern Manitoba to levels never before in the history of this province. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because we made incentive there for people to come in and do it. We didn't force any hard rock exploration to be a 50-50 partnership. Either our way or the high way was the way you did it. We changed the regulations to make it competitive with every other province in Canada. You will change it back. We would like to hear you say to the people of Manitoba that you will change it back because the people in Flin Flon would like to know that you're going to change it back, to go back to the years where there is no mineral exploration. The people of Lynn Lake would like to hear you're going to change it back so there is no mineral exploration in northern Manitoba. Tell the people what you're going to do and they will make the same decision as they did in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, the real fun comes when you put into perspective the last two years of the Socialist government in Manitoba, 1977 and 1976. This is where Manitoba, and I was part of the farm economy in Manitoba in 1976-77. That farm economy was very buoyant then and with a buoyant farm economy, Mr. Speaker, what was their record of job creation? Well, it was 4,000 jobs per year and at the same time they had Hydro ongoing, employing many many people in the Hydro projects. The best the Manitoba economy at that time could generate was 4,000 additional jobs for the people of Manitoba per year. Now, Mr. Speaker, certainly farming is not buoyant. I will be the first one to admit it because I am directly affected at home. But, Mr. Speaker, this economy, despite the fact that the farming has levelled off and not on the buoyant rise it was in 1976 and 1977, the economy has still been good enough to generate 10,000 additional new jobs per year on average. Now, Mr. Speaker, what does that telegraph to anybody who is a reasonable observer of the economy? That means that the confidence has been restored to the direction this government is taking the economy. Small business are making those investments in the economy of Manitoba to create the jobs. I just wish, Mr. Speaker, I beg members of the opposition at 7:30 tonight to watch CBC. There is the Points West Program that has a half-hour program on the Morden-Winkler area and they are out there showing what is different about those towns and why they are growing. Gentlemen opposite should watch it; it would be of great edification to you to watch that.

Mr. Speaker, so what has been the net result of the policy development, the tax cuts, the change in legislation that this government has put before the House and the people of Manitoba? I was very fascinated on Friday by a question from the MLA for Rossmere. The MLA for Rossmere asked, I think, the Minister of Economic Development what he had done

about some plant closure in town? Had he contacted them? Had he done anything about this plant closure? As if to leave the impression, Mr. Speaker, that the Socialist government for eight years were immune to plant closings and that nothing had ever closed down in Manitoba during their eight years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to refer members opposite to a town called Minnedosa; it's in western Manitoba. In 1973, the distillery in Minnedosa closed down. I asked the question, what did the government of the day do to prevent that and save those jobs and that industry for the town of Minnedosa? Mr. Speaker, the obvious answer is nothing and they did nothing for four more years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the question, what has this government done for that distillery in the town of Minnedosa?

First of all, Mr. Speaker, we changed the attitude towards private investment in this province. Something that was not in favour under the previous administration but we want, that's the first thing that changed in attitude. The second thing, Mr. Speaker, was, the Minister of Agriculture and his colleagues in caucus developed a program whereby we emphasized the further processing of agricultural products in this province. The third thing that happened was a tax change to make gasohol a competitive product on the market. What do we have now, Mr. Speaker, after three years of our government? We have a private Canadian oil company renewing the distillery that was closed down in 1973 under the Socialists to create jobs, to take grain products from the farmers in the local area to produce alcohol to solve the energy crisis situation that we are fast approaching. What has this government done, Mr. Speaker? I suggest this government has done a significant thing. That is the first plant in Canada to produce methyl alcohol for gasohol production. The first plant in Canada. Manitoba is the leader in that field. Do we hear our honourable friends opposite say anything about it? No. Why? They are a little bit embarrassed about that because when the distillery closed down in 1973 while they sat on their Socialist hands and did nothing. That is an embarrassment to the members opposite and it will always be an embarrassment as that plant produces energy for Manitobans, Mr. Speaker, from Manitoba products with Manitoba grains. That is the goal of this government and that is one of the examples of the success of our government.

Let me, gentlemen, give you one more example. There are many but let me give you one more; one that you probably haven't heard about. Following further on the Minister of Agriculture's policy of further processing of agricultural products grown in Manitoba to more marketable state, we have a plant at Harrowby, Manitoba, to crush oil seeds. Mr. Speaker, with an investment of 35 million-plus, and a creation of a number of jobs, 100-plus, I believe, is the figure; now, Mr. Speaker, I realize that Harrowby is not a place that is known to too many people opposite but it's very close to Russell and very near and dear to the Speaker of the House, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Speaker, that is a 35 million to 40 million investment, new jobs and further processing Manitoba agricultural products. That is a significant step towards the balanced economy that Manitoba needs, to utilize their agricultural products in finished

form and market them that way, rather than ship the grain down to Ontario to crush them in Windsor.

This brings another classic one that I have. I hear the Leader of the Opposition say that we should be supporting and going along with Ontario in our constitutional debate and in the energy debate. Mr. Speaker, who do we want as a friend for processing of our agricultural products as one small example? Do we want Ontario, where they talked the federal government in the DREE grants to locate a crushing plant at Windsow to do what? To take rapeseed at the Crows rate freight rates down there and crush it and ship the oil back to Manitoba or do we want to have a plant at Harrowby doing it? I suggest we want Harrowby but the Leader of the Opposition wants to go with Ontario because Ontario is going to help us a lot, gentlemen, in our industrial development program. The Leader of the Opposition, in terms of his drive for energy policy, would have us support Ontario and get our oil supplies from Ontario who gets them from the sheiks of Arabia at 38 a barrel. That's who he wants us to side with. Now, Mr. Speaker, I can't agree with the Leader of the Opposition and Manitobans don't agree with the Leader of the Opposition that Ontario all of a sudden is our friend and Alberta isn't, as he would like to paint it. —(Interjection)— thank you, I believe, Mr. Leader of the Opposition. That is food that is delicately used at home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out one other small economic development that happened right in my own constituency. It was a firm by the name of Tupperware. They have located in Morden and they now employ some 150 people. They are in Manitoba, employing Manitobans, and using vast amounts of electricity, Mr. Speaker, to produce products for sale all across Canada and North America. The Leader of the Opposition indicates that his Minister of Economic Development brought that plant to Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, prior to the election I understand the company had two choices of location, Manitoba or Alberta and depending on the outcome of the election it would have been Alberta with the Socialists winning, Manitoba with the Conservatives winning. Mr. Speaker, they are now in Manitoba which proves that. Alberta would have gained a plant with the Socialists on this side of the House after 1977 and that plant employs 150 of my constituents. I'm proud to have it in Manitoba and I'm proud to have that multi-national there. Go down. I beg the Leader of the Opposition to go down and tour the Tupperware plant in Morden and tell those people that they are working for a ruthless, multi-national corporation who is going to skin them alive. Go down and tell them because when they cash their pay cheques at the end of every day, they don't particularly care if that corporation has headquarters in Orlando, Florida. They are glad to have the jobs and so am I glad to have the jobs in Morden, Manitoba. It's a benefit to the community; it's a benefit to the province and it's a benefit to Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, those kind of projects the Leader of the Opposition would just as soon not have because he doesn't own them. He would rather have Saunders Aircraft in Gimli as his industrial thrust for the future.

Mr. Speaker, there is one other little project that I just want to allude to before I get into the Throne

Speech itself. In the Member for Brandon East's very own constituency is a company that I have very fond recollections of. It's called Simplot Chemical Company. Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to anybody in this House — and I don't even think the Member for Brandon East knows even though it's in his constituency — they are undertaking a 38 million expansion of their fertilizer plant in Manitoba today. How many people in this House knew that? The Leader of the Opposition sits there with a blank look on his face. He didn't know that was happening. Mr. Speaker, the agricultural expert from the NDP caucus, the MLA for Winnipeg Centre, has spoken. He says they are going to sell fertilizer cheaper to the United States. Mr. Speaker, do you know what is involved in that ammonia plant expansion out at Brandon? Do you know what is involved with that? They are taking two natural resources, one of them is natural gas from Alberta and the second one is electricity from Manitoba and they are manufacturing anhydrous ammonia for whom? For the farmers in Manitoba, the farmers in Ontario, the farmers in Saskatchewan and yes indeed, the farmers in the USA, and thank heaven that we are able to convert hydro-electricity in Manitoba to a finished product that moves out as an export product from this province. I don't agree with what the Member for Winnipeg Centre says, that it's a terrible thing to do. Go and tell the people who work in the plant that that's a terrible thing to do. Tell the people whose jobs depend on that ammonia plant running and the sales from that plant that you don't want them to have their job, go out and tell them that and see how quickly they show you the entrance to the plant as an exit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the members over here have failed to recognize, and I have to toss in if you'll pardon me, Mr. Speaker, and I know the members of the Press Gallery will pardon me, but these initiatives that I have alluded to are primarily outside of the City of Winnipeg, and during the Tupperware opening which was, I believe, last summer — it was quite a gala opening, very, very gala opening — I regret to say that there was no member of the Winnipeg media out there. They were busy covering the nine person layoff at a paint plant in Winnipeg and they didn't want to come out to Morden, Manitoba where there was 150 new jobs to be created.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have from time to time made reference that as far as our Winnipeg daily, and we're down to one now, goes, to report government news it has to be either negative or within the Perimeter Highway and preferably both. Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether that's right or wrong, but I do know there was not a media representative from the major daily newspapers at the Morden Tupperware opening. Now little be it for me to judge the motives behind that, but I believe Morden is a part of Manitoba. I believe Morden people receive the dailies from Winnipeg and I believe that it deserved — that kind of an initiative deserved some coverage. I had to search very hard to find coverage on the Harrowby announcement on the oilseed crushing plant. That is a 35 million investment. I would think that that might have been good enough for front page coverage, but it wasn't. I still don't know whether the Simplot 38 million expansion has

ever been covered by any Winnipeg newspaper. I don't think that is correct. I think Manitobans deserve to know more about the industrial development outside of the Perimeter Highway. I think that is a right that they deserve and should have. That is freedom of the press to report the plant opening in Morden constituency, to report the plant development at Harrowby, to report the expansion of Simplot Chemical in Brandon, all of which are going to create jobs and all of which are investment in Manitoba, for the betterment of Manitoba and for the future of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I want to allude briefly to some of the initiatives that are in the Throne Speech, some of these initiatives as I mentioned on starting of Page 3 had the "w" falling out of the Leader of the Opposition's name so he turned into Paley. Mr. Speaker, the first one on Page 3 is the Trout Lake ore body. Now, the Leader of the Opposition made a reference there. He made a vague reference that we work under their government — Tantalum, they would have never passed up the opportunity to take over 50 percent of Tantalum. The inference I believe he is trying to say is that we should have taken over 50 percent of the new Trout Lake ore body. Now he didn't say it though, Mr. Speaker, he sort of skirted the issue. He doesn't quite want to say it, because he doesn't want to tell the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company and Grange's AB what he would do until after he maybe gets the chance to do it. And he doesn't want to tell the plant workers up there what he would do. For instance, if the Manitoba government under their regime had developed the Trout Lake mine, where would they get it smelted? Would they build a new smelter in Flin Flon or would they expropriate the existing one? Maybe now we're getting a little closer to the economic policy that the NDP are trying to tell us they would put in, full expropriation of the productive resources of the country. Mr. Speaker, that brings an interesting little scenario to mind. We had that particular government over there in their farming policy decide, in their own wisdom, that the state should own the farmland. They had the State Farm Program.

It's interesting on the radio this morning coming in, Mr. Speaker, to see the latest development in Poland, that Socialist government in Poland, and who are the latest group that are forming a union. It's the farmers, Mr. Speaker. And what do the farmers want, Mr. Speaker? They want to own their own land. Here in Manitoba not three years ago, Mr. Speaker, we had a Minister of Agriculture that was bent on nationalizing the farmland ownership in this province. How soon we forget, Mr. Speaker, and the Member for St. Johns says that's a lie. Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. Johns says that's a lie — he's not even in his own seat and he's babbling it's a lie. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to hypocrisy we have heard it from the Member for St. Johns.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the next initiative on Page 3 is the potash development in this province. Mr. Speaker, under this government the potash wasn't created, it was there while potash mines were going into Saskatchewan from 1969 to 1977. Why wasn't a potash mine being built in Manitoba? Why? I think maybe it was because our Socialist friends didn't know how to go about talking to a company to develop the mine. Mr. Speaker, a year ago we

started negotiations, the testing has been done, and things look very, very promising. Now, Mr. Speaker, our friends opposite are deathly afraid of that — that was when the most blood went out of their face on Thursday, that's when they become the greatest chilled with fear, because the potash mine in Manitoba, on a deposit that was always there but is there because of this government, proves the failure of Socialism in Manitoba beyond a doubt, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the NDP opposition will vote against that when they vote against the Throne Speech and when they're doing that Mr. Speaker, they will be voting against the exploration by a second company on the deposit north of the known reserve. They don't want potash mines in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, they will vote against it, and if they don't they would be abrogating their principles of no growth in Manitoba that they lived by for eight years, Mr. Speaker.

Now going down the line, in the middle of the page on Page 3 I want to quote directly, "My government is committed to the maintenance and expansion of employment of ManFor" — that will be voted down by members opposite. Now, Mr. Speaker, ManFor is in an interesting time in its economic life because of changes in tariffs and things which would be much better explained by others in this House. ManFor needs new investment to guarantee the jobs that are there, and needs expansion to create more jobs. Now, Mr. Speaker, is the Member for The Pas going to vote against that? I suspect he will. He will vote against a measure to assure the jobs that are in the Town of The Pas stay there in the future, and there are more of them. I want to see you stand up and vote against that kind of a measure.

In the bottom line, Mr. Speaker, the bottom of Page 3 were the three cliches that very much hurt members of the opposition because it was the principles upon which we are going to develop Manitoba Hydro. First of all with the market; secondly using production of major inputs to the dams, etc. to the power houses, using Manitoba and Canadian contractors, and thirdly, to use as much of that hydro-electricity for the furtherance of industry and job creation in Manitoba. That is something our honourable friends find foreign because — in the second principle of buying inputs into the building of the plant is quite foreign to them — in that great formidable bastion of Socialism called Jenpeg we have six Russian generators, Mr. Speaker. That did a lot for job creation in Manitoba and in Canada, Mr. Speaker, it did a lot for job creation. It did a lot for job creation in Manitoba in changing and in modifying the horrid manufacturing process that those generators come in. Mr. Speaker, those principles they will vote against. They do not want to have jobs from further hydro development created by industries in Manitoba and Canada. They want to go back to their "buy Russia policy" — that's what they want to do, they'll vote against that second principle. The first principle of establishing a market, they'll vote against that because, Mr. Speaker, they built and they built and they built, and as a result hydro rates more than doubled in Manitoba to pay the carrying charges alone. And what did they build for? For identified markets? Certainly not, because we have a 40 percent over production capacity in

Manitoba. That's what they built for; they built for over capacity, and just to say, "We're good people. We're employing people by building hydro plants, but we're not going to tell you what it's going to cost you as taxpayers for us to do it. We're just going to be good people and take all the job goodies, that we're creating employment up in the Nelson River. We are great guys." And then they slam them with the bill three years later with three successive increases in hydro rates that double the hydro rate in Manitoba and founder the utility; that's the way.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is where you come to leadership in politics. It takes leadership to say and make difficult decisions. It would be the easiest thing on this side of the House to say we're going ahead and build all the dams and all the power stations on the Nelson River. We'd be heroes for a short while. But, Mr. Speaker, that is not the way you logically develop Manitoba Hydro. That has been demonstrated in the past. We're not going to be forced into the kind of mistake that was made in 1970, in the early 1970s under the NDP. It takes courage to hold back the development when it would be a popular thing to do. I would hate to see an NDP Premier making the kind of decisions that we have had to make in the last three years. They wouldn't have been made, Mr. Speaker, and we would probably be on the market today with another Hydro-Electric dam with no market, selling it at barely production costs on the international market, and that would be a fantastic return to the people of Manitoba of their future resource, and our rates would have been up another 50 percent.

So as the third principle, Mr. Speaker, we are already moving towards that. Mr. Speaker, that potash mine will use substantial amounts of electricity in Manitoba, that's industry within Manitoba. Simplot Chemical and their expansion to produce ammonia would use substantial amounts of electricity. Tupperware is a total electric plant in Morden. Those are industries in Manitoba using our resource. And what was the one that we are referring in the Throne Speech, but Alcan? Our gentlemen opposite will vote against that one too, because it is a multi-national and they don't think they like multi-nationals. But speak to the people who will be working in that plant and ask them. Go down to Quebec and ask the employees of Alcan and Quebec if they like working for a multi-national. Go to the people in B.C. who work for Alcan in B.C. and tell them.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member has five minutes.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tell those people that you don't want to, and then come back to the Union Hall in Manitoba and tell Dick Martin that you don't want Alcan because it's a multi-national and there won't be 700 direct jobs in the province. Tell Dick Martin that, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, and see how quickly Dick Martin whispers in your ear. He won't say it publicly but he will whisper in your ear and say, "I think maybe we better try to get Alcan in the province because it's good for the province."

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other thing that we are trying to do and we're negotiating, and here is where I find totally ridiculous the position, the public

position of the Leader of the Opposition that we should be siding with Ontario, the power grid. Have we undertaken negotiations with a power grid with Ontario? I must have missed that announcement. No, we're undertaking negotiations with a power grid with Alberta and Saskatchewan. And he is saying in energy policy, "We should go with Ontario". When the power grid goes to Ontario, Mr. Speaker, he will have some credibility in his position and until that time, Mr. Speaker, I quite frankly don't mind supporting some of the Alberta initiatives because our future growth and development of this province and of Canada relies on the successful development of energy resources in Alberta, not in Ontario, not in Saudi Arabia, not in Mexico, but in Alberta. It offends me, Mr. Speaker, when people do not want to develop the energy resources in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I would really like to see how the members opposite, particularly the members from the northern ridings, are going to vote against the proposal that Trans Canada Pipeline deliver natural gas to northern communities. I hope they vote against that one particularly in Thompson. Tell the people of Manitoba, in Thompson, you are going to vote against the New Democratic opposition. They will be interested in knowing.

Mr. Speaker, I haven't even got to the social programs, which are very very extensive and wide in this province. Mr. Speaker, I would like very much to spend another hour talking about the good things that are in these budgets, but, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am going to run out of time. Mr. Speaker, I am going to take a great deal of pleasure to watch each and every one of the New Democrats stand up and vote against this Throne Speech. Unless we have a few, what do you call them, duckers in the voting, where there will be a few absent, noticeable by their absence? There might be a few of that. Mr. Speaker, it's going to be great to see them vote against the initiatives in this speech.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, since the tone of my debate has been nothing but joy and friendly, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready for the question?
The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS McGREGOR (Virden): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and certainly I would like to congratulate you for your re-appointment and your generalship in this Chamber over several years, and also congratulate the mover from Minnedosa and the seconder from Springfield on the fine contribution of the Throne Speech. And to some of you, you may know and some you don't, this is rather unique to me, this is my first day of my 19th year of serving this Chamber. I was not the only one here that was elected in 1962, but I've only got one equal that was elected in 1962 and is still here continuously; the Member for St. Johns. Why I always claimed to be superior to him, because I was elected on three polls, he claimed he got his message to the press earlier, but in reality I was elected a little before him. Also I see some new people around here and I'm sure the pages and all, we'll find great co-operation with them and I wish this to be a good experience to

them. The one personnel I see missing is Ray Sly, who I understand is in the hospital and I would certainly wish to send the message to Ray on a speedy recovery because Ray has been here longer than any one, and I think Ray has been here something in the order of 30 years.

The other thing of encouragement I do see, and as a western Manitoba representative, we've always felt kind of done in by the Winnipeg press and I certainly understand why, they have masters, and while most of the papers go to Winnipeg, but this year for the first time we now have a press representative in Pat McKinley and I think that will augur well for our remarks getting distributed out to Westman area, because there is nothing more degrading than coming off the floor and trying to write your own cottonpickin' speeches to get out there, that I just — if anything I hate it is that. And certainly I see the lady who keeps track of who's in and out of the House and I always will congratulate here, as she's doing a good honest job. The one area that does bug me a little bit, now maybe Mr. Speaker, the lights on and that says I'm still alright to talk I guess eh? I've never really had it explained, I just noticed it flip on. But anyway there are times when we're out of this Chamber, like our very — not controversial — our pay bill, that I had made some statements for and the day that came up for second reading I was absent. Everybody thought I'd run, I've never in my life run for a vote, no matter how popular or unpopular it was. On that occasion I was representing my Minister on the Peace Gardens Committee at Bismarck, the day before and the day of that vote, and I would like to know some way, when I'm sent out by my Minister to do a particular job, that I could somehow get to the press and say, now I'm absent but this is where I'm absent. If I'm in the Caribbean, I'm not so sure that I'd want to tell her, but I likely would. But that was a very important meeting because we had to come up with a contractor and I sit there with North Dakota's State legislators and one US senator and on that occasion we did approve of a 5.8 million contract to upgrade the Peace Gardens south of Brandon, and also prepare for the 50th anniversary in 1981.

I'm certainly a supporter of one Canada. I've been in most all parts of Canada and will always defend Canada as one Canada. Often I think we sometimes within this Chamber, we look to the problems of the other person and really I feel we should be looking for even our opponents, better points if we're going to get co-operation, we must look. And we look to our francophone province, we can look to our oil-rich province, our potash-rich province, or industrial-rich province. If we look to find good things in them we're liable, I think, maybe have a better net result.

I was in Haiti, I guess almost a week today, and other Caribbean Islands and one thing I must say, I'm proud to represent Canada in any of those areas, and I was on the trip on my own pocketbook. But anywhere, Canada is well looked up to, no matter whether you're in an American audience, and it's a fact I took many pins, and I don't distribute pins of any nature in my constituency, but when I go on a junket like that, and that was with Canadian Pioneer Management of Companies that I'm a board member, and they also had the pins that I secured to pass on.

I notice in the Throne Speech that my Minister of Agriculture is typing up the foreign ownership of farmlands and I agree with him but I hope it isn't done in a way to interfere with people coming here, wanting to own land and become Canadian citizens. I guess the term is immigrant status purchases, because I think we need more people, we need that kind of money in from off-shore and I'm sure my Minister will take that into consideration.

I'm certainly pleased with the expansion of the four-lane construction west of this year's construction, past those fatally prone curves west of Brandon, that the older members have heard me preach on and beg for. I'd give most of Virden constituency years gone by, to get the start of that, now he's started I'm not sure that I want to give him away any of my hardtop, but anyway its pleasing to all people out there that have known so many of their close friends have been killed in that area, and its tremendous. The fatality rate on those curves — this chunk, whatever the mileage is, Mr. Speaker, I think it would take within one curve, there may be one little bit of a troublesome curve west of that, but whatever the mileage is, I'm certainly expressing the appreciation of the indication in the Throne Speech and no one will really know how much until the Budget comes down, how much and how many miles.

Also the encouragement of the potential at Trout Lake with government equity into that. CFI, or what we now know as Manfor Additional and what has this done for the north and The Pas? I worked in the north some thirty or more years ago and I used to go into The Pas and I used to go into Flin Flon and The Pas was not that encouraging a town and Flin Flon was a mining town, but today you go into those two towns, certainly not knocking Flin Flon but you only have to see the construction in The Pas, the modern motels, to know just how much Manfor has done. Or else, if you're going fishing, and you use the lumber road up into the Lake Kississing, all of which come about because of that expenditure that we caught hell for, and we give hell to the other people when they're in government, but again in true balance, and I remember the Premier in the mid-60s when he was predicting this and I think he was told that would not make a profit on an ordinary budget, but if you took in all the potential, all the trucking, the meals, then it would all show a profit and I think The Pas has the benefit of that.

One exciting thing I noticed in the Throne Speech and certainly it may be a long way off is hydrogen power. Now I had an article in my Rivers Gazette about a year-and-a-half ago and it showed some people in the States that are using this and I think that really has potential. Its probably again going to be expensive and again, as my Minister of Energy has said, is quite a few years away but that is something we've got up our sleeve, we've certainly got the water, that's where this comes from, with electric power or oil power to make it.

The potash ore body in St. Lazarre certainly we know the ore body is there and that area will be in Virden constituency. I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker, who will be representative. You might put some argument up, whether it's me or you, Sir, and that will be worked out in due course in the Kenton farmer style likely. We hear criticism of all this potential of not

really a firm deal but about maybe to happen, but is that not the real strength in this Throne Speech? Can you not imagine, if a year-and-a-half or two or three years down, the Alcan made its announcement, the potash made its announcement, the hydrogen; where would we be for our skilled labourers, our unskilled labourers? We have some lead time to get those people groomed up and professional people. I talked to many people this past weekend. I said it's not an absolute certainty but for gosh sakes, if you're going to upgrade yourself get with it now, get into the universities, get into the community colleges because somewhere down the track Manitoba is going to need you. And maybe we'll have to reverse the out migration because I believe the potential there is more, if they come on-stream, more than even our one million population could ever afford. But we can work to that to the benefit of all of Manitoba. And I say, that's the one thing, the advance warning of these potentials. And also this Throne Speech did mention the power grid and that potential.

I would like to say in answer to the Member for Rossmere last Friday, I believe, and more recently to the Leader of the Opposition, and in question Saskoil Drilling in the Kirkella area in the Virden constituency. There is a very legitimate reason why that. That was put up for auction, McGregor Oil or Schroeder Oil or Chevron Oil or Texas Oil or Dome Oil or Cal Oil; anyone could bid. It turned out Saskatchewan outbid everyone else at the highest price that's ever been bid on Crown leases. As a matter of fact, for your information, Mr. Speaker, 25 percent of oil leases went to Saskatchewan Oil and is this not the real example of free enterprise at its best? —(Interjection)— No. And also something that I've been urging for for many years, I see the Member for Inkster will recall our discussions some seven or eight years ago, when I was urging to have some kind of legislation —(Interjection)— if someone else wants the floor I'll sit down but I don't interfere with them. But there's an appointment in recent days of Ross Nugent regarding establishment of legislation regarding surface oil rights, and I'll just read a couple of lines of that notice.

"Surface rights holders have been seeking a legal mechanism for adjudicating disputes over compensation and damage payments and certainly I've been asking for this for many years. To meet this need and to encourage maximum exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas under a system that minimizes any detrimental effects the Inquiry Commission was established. The terms of reference call on Mr. Nugent to make an inquiry into problems arising from the acquisition and use of surface rights in Manitoba for the exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas." Hopefully, this will follow the lines of Alberta and Saskatchewan's legislation. They're not really compatible but if we come down the centre from the two of them I'm sure the . . . and that's not without problems because there are some problems and I realize that. I won't become popular with all if I take some credit for encouraging this but I believe it to be right.

Then I suppose the last point that I would like to mention, and this I'll sort of read. I'm proud and happy to report to this House some of the very

positive developments which have occurred recently in Manitoba's oil industry. As you are aware, most of the activity has occurred in the constituency which I represent, and Virden itself can justly claim to be the oil capital of the province. A remarkable transformation has taken place in the oil industry in this province during the past three years. The turnaround is a direct result of this government's decision to reinstitute Crown leases sales which I mentioned earlier, which had been discontinued by the former government back in '71. This was a very misguided policy approach in my opinion.

Fortunately this government took a major step towards restoring confidence in Manitoba's oil potential by holding its first sale of Crown leases in April of last year. A second lease sale was held later in '79. Those two sales resulted in the Crown receiving about 977,000 of revenue. Because of the success of those two sales, your government has held three leases in 1980. These sales of Crown-leased rights resulted in more than 1,900,000 of revenue being collected. Mr. Speaker, despite the terrible uncertainty which has been created in . . . Petroleum Industries this year by the action and the pronouncement of the federal government, the action of this administration to stimulate greater interest in oil exploration in Manitoba has proven to be worthwhile. No one is foolhardy enough to predict that there is vast pools of oil lying beneath the ground in Manitoba but I might say, Mr. Speaker, there are those who feel there is enough in Manitoba and I'm saying I think a minority group to supply Manitoba. That's not a bad potential and if prices come up, we know there will be many more wells that are not producing at this hour that will produce down the track. But we would know that the Williston Sedimentary Basin extends into southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba. Because of the recent encouraging discoveries in North Dakota's section of the Williston Basin, there have been a revival of interest in the potential of the Manitoba section of this Basin. However, we do have to be careful not to exaggerate the possibilities. I regret to report that in some sections of the news media there have been some rather wild statements made about oil drilling results in the Kirkella area and I think, Mr. Speaker, you are close enough to have heard those when four particular by-elections were going on in Saskatchewan.

The facts are these: The original Kirkella field was discovered back in '57, prior to '58 it contained 10 producing wells. It was — I'm speaking of Kirkella only, — it was in 1978 that Rideau Petroleum discovered a new field two miles southwest of the town of Kirkella, which contained two separate oil pools. To date, Rideau Petroleum has drilled 13 wells in that area and 9 of these are at present producing wells.

Then in April of this year Rideau Petroleum discovered another pool three miles southeast of Kirkella. There are now three producing wells in that pool area. Finally, in September the Sask. Oil and Gas Corporation drilled a successful well one mile northwest of Rideau Petroleum's first pool discovery. This Sask. oil well came into production in early November. At that time there was some news media report picturing the Sask. oil well as being a very heavy producer and that the area surrounding it had

a potential of providing 50 percent of Manitoba's oil production. These reports proved to be ridiculously exaggerated. It is regretted that all this overblown publicity seems to have been given to one well drilled by the Saskatchewan government agency, Sask. Oil. We appreciate the interest in Manitoba by Sask. Oil and we congratulate them on their success in drilling a producing well near Kirkella, but we should not lose sight of the fact that Rideau Petroleum, a private sector company, has been the pioneer in the Kirkella area. It is pleasing to note that a number of the other companies have displayed a good level of interest and activity in Manitoba this year. It's particularly gratifying that two of them are Manitoba based companies, namely Newscope Resources and Tundra Oil and Gas.

It is noteworthy that besides the sharp increase in Crown revenues from the sale of Crown lease rights this year there has been a good level of activity in actual new well drilling. Last year there were 25 new wells drilled; that total has been matched in 1980 despite the deep concern of the petroleum industry over Ottawa's high-handed approach to oil and natural gas issues.

At present there are about 700 producing wells in Manitoba, about 90 percent of the good quality oil being produced in this province is being shipped to refineries in Ontario, the remainder being refined in Manitoba.

Total production by Manitoba wells has been declining steadily since the peak set in 1968. That year output was 6.2 million barrels. The production had dropped to 3.9 million barrels in 1977 and by 1979 had declined to about 3.7. The total for this year should be in the order of slightly above 3.6 barrels.

Nonetheless, we must remain properly cautious about the overall oil supply in Manitoba. The oil pools are being steadily depleted. At present there is only one exploration oil drill rig at work in the province and that's a local company, Crown Drilling Limited, owned by some local Virden people. We cannot expect to witness any strong revival of drilling activity in Manitoba until the federal government turns away from its destructive approach in its natural energy policy.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, if there's one threat on free enterprise, it had to come one day I was in this House, and I pride in free enterprise and giving everyone a consideration, but the day the announcement of the Tribune closing, two great free enterprises, and I think that was rather insulting, to say the least, to us who pride in supporting free enterprise. Those two chains, I see they're getting geared in the papers and that's rightly so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I say, Sir, at the outset, that I wish you good health as you preside over your fifth session as Speaker of this Chamber. May I also take a moment and congratulate the mover and seconder of the Throne Speech, who made their contributions on Friday morning last, my two colleagues, the Members for Minnedosa and for Springfield.

During the last, roughly two months, Mr. Speaker, it's been my privilege to serve as Chairman of the

Statutory Regulations and Orders Committee which has been hearing the views and comments of Manitobans regarding the constitutional proposal. We have had a number of meetings here in the City of Winnipeg and have travelled outside the City of Winnipeg, and we have heard a number of very interesting and very well prepared briefs that have come before our committee and there are still a number of persons, as I'm sure you're aware, Mr. Speaker, that would like to make representation before this committee.

One fault that has been brought forward to myself more than one occasion is that I, as Chairman, show too much leniency towards questions asked by my fellow colleagues, the members of the committee, in answering the questions to persons making representation. For example, on the first day that we had the hearings in the City of Winnipeg we only heard 11 briefs. The second day we were even slower. We only heard five briefs in a full day of hearings. The questions from all members of the committee, in my opinion, have been very extensive, rather lengthy, and sometimes one member will ask the same question to the same party making a presentation that an earlier member had asked. But one question that the Member for St. Boniface often asks the people is, what is their feeling towards Canada, and I think it was mentioned in the Throne Speech and I thoroughly endorse it and I personally commit myself to a strong united Canada under a federal system of government that respects and recognizes the traditional powers and authorities of our various provincial governments.

I applaud the Member for St. Boniface when he asks that question to various persons appearing as delegates before us, because I believe that he believes as I do, that we should have a strong central government, but we have the ten provinces, they've been working for 113 years, I think that we need this system and it should be endorsed and enhanced for years to come.

We heard this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, make his reply to the Throne Speech. I made a few notes, and I notice that he poked a little fun at the Conservatives when he said that the Conservatives had a steak dinner the other night, and the speaker spoke before a very large audience. But I also read in the Free Press on Saturday where he spoke to a major NDP meeting which attracted 150 people, one-tenth as many people as we attracted. I also note that in the Free Press they said that the price of their dinner was considerably less than ours and he still was only able to get ten percent of the crowd that our leader was able to attract to a dinner.

The Leader of the Opposition made reference in his speech this afternoon about the soup lines at the Salvation Army and this being the Christmas time of the year and the newspapers and the radio stations and other service clubs, etc., usually try to raise money for the Christmas Cheer Board. Well, I heard recently that the Christmas Cheer Board is having difficulty finding suitable families in which to deliver hampers to, families in need, and yet the Leader of the Opposition talks about the soup lines down at the Salvation Army in downtown Winnipeg. So I would think that perhaps the Christmas Cheer Board with their surplus this year might help the Leader of

the Opposition in pouring soup for the few youngsters that appear at the door, and I think that the head person at the Salvation Army said that they were usually sons or daughters of men or women coming there for the services that are normally offered by the Salvation Army and that a few of them might be neighbourhood youngsters, but there are very few young people gathering at the Salvation Army asking for food allowances or for food. I think that the Leader of the Opposition exaggerated greatly today when he mentioned that.

He also mentions in his speech that sales in the retail stores are down in Winnipeg, and I can see why. I asked my friend, the Member for River Heights, about the numbers of students attending his college, and he says yes, they are down, mainly from rural Manitoba, and I asked him why, and he says mainly because of the droughts and the flood conditions and the high interest rates. The farmers don't have the money today with the high interest rates and with the drought conditions and the flood conditions they've faced for the last few years, they don't have the moneys and the surplus dollars in their pockets to send their youngsters to extra curricula studies.

The Leader of the Opposition was somewhat critical of the Premier and said that what he promised three years ago — well, the Premier of our province when he campaigned in '77, he promised a good sensible sound government, one that would reduce taxes and so on, and yet the Leader of the Opposition doesn't make any reference to the reduction in taxes. Fortunately my friend, the Minister of Highways, made some comments about the fact that this government has reduced taxes and tried to encourage industry in the private sector. He doesn't make any reference to the fact that during this government's day 30,000 new jobs have been created in the private sector. He never makes any reference to that, yet in the last three years of the NDP rule they created 10,000 jobs outside of the civil service, and the civil service, they had a wonderful record, Mr. Speaker, of creating jobs. A record that I would hope that a party that I belong to would never try to accomplish or equal.

The Minister of Highways made an excellent speech this afternoon and I just, as a city member, make two references to the Throne Speech pertaining to his department and to applaud him for his efforts to have Highway 75 from Winnipeg to the U.S. border four-laned. I believe, as many Winnipeggers do who use that highway on numerous occasions, that it is due time that it was four-laned and hopefully the moneys will be provided that over the next few years that that highway can be linked up to the major U.S. highway that has four lanes, so that the persons that are using that well travelled highway have the safety of the four lanes.

It was also mentioned in the Throne Speech about the continuation of the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway. Many residents of Winnipeg use the Trans-Canada Highway whether they're going from Winnipeg down to the Lake of the Woods in the summertime and using their cottages and the various resorts areas, and I'm sure that many members opposite use the Highway No. 1 or the Trans-Canada Highway west when they're going to Regina to find out what they should be talking about in this

Legislature and getting their message from Premier Blakeney. So if we get the highway to the Saskatchewan border eventually four-laned, it will be safer and better for the members opposite as they travel to Saskatchewan and look for some support.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned Hydro and I think that the Minister of Energy and Finance has done an excellent job in leading Hydro back to a restored position of financial stability. The days in Hydro in the last three years haven't been easy ones. I think every member of this House would recognize that fact. But there has always been a point that you don't build hydro generating stations if you don't have a market for it. The Minister of Finance and Energy, through the Hydro-Electric Board and his department, has been out seeking new markets and generating capacities will be increased as these new markets come on stream, and as we produce more hydro-electric power and sell it elsewhere we're going to be able to keep the costs to us as Manitobans as low as possible and we're going to try and keep the Hydro debt as low as possible. I applaud this government for a couple of years ago for introducing the five year freeze on hydro, and I would hope that when the five year freeze is up that the price increase doesn't have to be too substantial, nothing like what happened during the 7-1/2 years or 8 years of the NDP reign when the price tripled itself in that eight year period.

With major capital projects that will be coming on stream with Hydro as the new markets are there and that construction can go ahead, we're going to see a real boom in our economy with the new construction. As the Minister of Highways said earlier today, the purchase of equipment to be used in the new project will be made in Manitoba or at least in Canada, and we won't be going to the USSR to buy this equipment and so on, where you have to go to Vancouver in order to find a person that is knowledgeable in knowing how to repair the equipment and so on, and many times that equipment is in a broken-down state. So when the hydro generators that were made in Russia aren't working, we aren't making any money and we aren't producing any electrical power.

The Leader of the Opposition made some references this afternoon to economic development in Manitoba and my friend, the Minister of Highways, mentioned Alcan, and I've talked to some business people in and around Winnipeg and they really applaud the fact that Alcan might come here and hopefully will come here. Because with Alcan coming to Manitoba, we'll see an injection of 500 million worth of capital money spent in the Manitoba area.

We'll also see some 700 new jobs coming here. But I'm sure one of those environmentalists from over there will do their best to stop it from coming here, find a loophole that will stop a major plant coming and locating in the greater Winnipeg area.

Speaking of economic development, Mr. Speaker, at noon today I was over to a factory on Notre Dame Avenue that makes winter outerwear for people, the Gemini and Peerless clothing plants. I was talking to one of the senior men in the particular plant at noon hour, and I said, how many people have you got working in this plant, and he says, we've got 400 people working in the men's wear area and we have another 800 persons, some in Morden in the

constituency of the Minister of Highways, some 400 at their plant and 300 at another one, producing winter garments that are sold all over the world. So I said to him, what kind of income are these people that are working here on these sewing machines making? He said many of them make as much as 300 a week and I said, how many hours would it take them on a piece work basis to make 300, he said, 40, maybe 42 at the best. Our average person makes 250 a week and if they can't make 200 a week we don't want them because they're taking up a valuable piece of machinery and we would rather have someone else in there that can work at that speed and at that pace. They're prepared to go along with a new recruit and train them for up to a year before they evaluate them as to whether they are working to their capabilities and capacity and whether that space is worthy of allocating to that particular worker.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, made some reference to the fact of our inner city core area, the development area, and it was announced recently that the Winnipeg Core Area Initiatives Program has been agreed upon between the three levels of government, where both the public and the private investment will be sought to go into the core area of Winnipeg and help redevelop it. As a member of the Legislature from the City of Winnipeg and particularly from the inner city, I welcome this, but I also think that my suburban members welcome any moneys that are invested into the core area because many of us who grew up in the inner city eventually move and live in the suburbs, and those that do live in the suburbs are often related and have family that are still in the so-called inner city of Winnipeg, whether it be the core area or the areas that are on the fringe of the core area. I welcome any improvement that we can make in the City of Winnipeg in that particular area.

Day care was mentioned, and I think that under the Minister of Community Services that we have one of the most progressive day care programs that Manitoba has ever had. In fact, I am told that Norma McCormick, who ran on the Liberal ticket in the last election, who operates the Health Science Centre day care program, is applauding the program that our Minister is introducing and spearheading. That, Mr. Speaker, is unusual when you get a former Liberal candidate and a person who has worked most of their life in the day care field who isn't particularly with us politically, coming out and applauding such a program.

Then we have the new child related income support programs, we've got our shelter allowance programs and I have, in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, some five senior citizens homes and I do run across from time to time widows that are under 65 and who don't qualify for the old age pension, but their husbands were over 65 and they were living on his pension and when he passes away, they don't qualify for a pension because they haven't reached 65. So through the initiative shown by the Minister of Community Services, I can see now that some of these widows that were in this particular plight, are now going to be assisted and I applaud that.

Also in the field of housing, and again it was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, housing, and the Minister of Highways mentioned the great

story about housing in The Pas. I applaud our Minister of Housing, who is now coming out with a program to help low income families, whose rents are in excess of 25 percent of their total intake in gross earnings, and with a subsidy program that's going to help these families and keep them in decent housing and so on.

Health care wasn't referred to too often by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, but during the past three years under the stewardship of our Minister of Health I think that the medical profession in Manitoba and the government are much closer than they've ever been for the last ten or twelve years, and that we are now starting to see our graduates from the medical school wanting to stay in Manitoba, and particularly being encouraged to go to rural Manitoba where our medical doctors are very badly needed.

The Health Science Centre has seen a great deal of regeneration, and this is our major teaching hospital here in the Province of Manitoba and it's one that government should support and hopefully will support at all times of being a major health institution.

Also, although it was mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, research, medical research moneys; I'm pleased to see medical research gain a spot in the Throne Speech and to see that we in Manitoba are willing, as a government, to develop medical research and to spend taxpayer dollars in the field of medical research, because in recent years we've seen the federal government constantly withdrawing from the funding of medical research. We've also seen our wealthier provinces and the states to the south of us attracting our good medical researchers away with their high salary offers, etc., and hopefully in Manitoba from here on in we'll be able to keep as many of these highly trained researchers as possible.

We also have lately in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, the care for the elderly. It was mentioned in the Throne Speech that there are some 700 beds that are under construction right now and hopefully many of them will be on stream during the year 1981 for our senior citizens and our elderly. Two major priorities for the future in the area of our elderly people is our public and preventive health programs and our geriatric medicine, and geriatric medicine is fairly close to me with my wife being a Nursing Director of a nursing home here in the city and as the Member for Fort Rouge says, I'm not that old, but in the field of geriatric nursing in Manitoba today we have ten percent of our population that are over 65. In 20 years time it's going to be 15 percent, and in 40 years time it's going to be up to 20 percent of our population who are going to be of that age category. Another change in the years to come, with our elderly people, our elderly people are far better educated each and every year and their demands on government for services and on the program planners at the various geriatric centres is going to be far greater than it's ever been in the past.

I would like to say a few words on fitness, recreation and sport, Mr. Speaker, and mentioning how, under the leadership of our Minister of Sport — I applaud the Premier, a year or two ago, for putting Recreation and Sport together under one Minister because I think that's where it should be and it should have been there all along — but in Manitoba

in the last four years we have gone from 49 organized sports groups to 63, and many persons are spending much much more of their time with leisure hours and participating in areas of recreation.

In Manitoba we've also given the Manitoba Sports Federation a greater role to play in sport, we fund them and let them deal with the various sports bodies in handing out the grants that are given to the various sports groups as they need moneys to continue their programming.

In lotteries alone, Mr. Speaker, last year the provincial government gave the Winnipeg arena 4.5 million of which half came from lotteries and half out of the government budget. Last year we gave the YMCAs and the YMHA in Winnipeg 285,000 to help pay for some of their capital facilities that they were expanding. I applaud this government every time that they help in the areas of sport and recreation, because I think it's an important area of life. I hear a member opposite saying, why don't you say something about the field house? I'll leave that to another day, Mr. Speaker, and I'll discuss that at greater length at that time, because the few minutes that are left for me now, I will pass on that.

I was a little disappointed that my friend, the Member for Virden, didn't mention horse racing in his speech because I was talking to the persons, the senior persons, from the track the other day, and they tell me this has been the greatest year they've ever had at the track in horse racing and that the government left some money behind in the purses so that the owners are left with a few dollars. Earlier this year I had the privilege of being a visitor at the track rather early, like 6:00 a.m., to meet with a bunch of the owners and so on. I was surprised and astounded to find that there are over 600 persons working at the track every day of the week, and that it's a very large employer.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition gave us a rousing speech that put most of the members on this side to sleep this afternoon. He was followed by an excellent speech by the Minister of Highways, likely one of the best that we will hear all year, in my opinion, and I think that what has happened is that the difference between the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier of this province boils down to one word, and it's called leadership. We will be going into the next election with that person versus this person, and I don't think that there is any comparison whatsoever. There is leadership there. People know that the Premier of the province is a far better leader of his party; he doesn't have them in constant strife as they are opposite us.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, one note that the Leader of the Opposition did touch on was that in 21 months time or less, we will be into a general election. That was one of the most correct statements he's likely ever made in his life — he's likely counting every hour that he will remain as Leader of the Opposition before they replace him, perhaps with the Member for Transcona, who I'm told wants it very badly. But there is no comparison, the people in the Province of Manitoba know there is no comparison between the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier when it comes down to that one word and that is, leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you kindly.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member intends to speak, I wanted to adjourn debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Yes, I wonder if I may call it 5:30, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, if there is a member in the House who's going to speak tonight, that's fine; otherwise it would be better if I adjourned the debate.

MR. JORGENSEN: That's why I called it 5:30, I didn't adjourn debate, I called it 5:30.

MR. GREEN: In other words, Mr. Speaker, what the member is telling us is that there is some member going to speak at 8:00 o'clock tonight, on that basis, I'll . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hour is 5:30 — before we do that though, I think that I have to recognize the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs as adjourning debate. Order please.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I did not adjourn the debate, I called it 5:30. That simply means that I'm going to resume my speech at 8:00 o'clock when the House reconvenes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 o'clock.