



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, October 16, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): I would like to table two annual reports: the Employment Services and Economic Security Annual Report '88-89; and the Manitoba Community Services Annual Report '88-89.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing): I also would like to table the Annual Report of The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation '88-89.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): I would like to table the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, Third Annual Report, covering the year 1989.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I would like to table the first Three Quarterly Reports of The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct Honourable Members' attention to the gallery, where we have from the Niakwa Place School thirty-three Grade 5 students, and they are under the direction of Adeline Sokulski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Niakwa (Mr. Reimer).

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that Hansard is late today, and it should be delivered in the House by 2:30 this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Child and Family Services Layoffs

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr.

Speaker, every day Manitobans and Canadians are with sad news, dealing with our economy and the effect of our economy, and our society on children and families.

I have a question for the Minister of Family Services. We have been just informed that his department has seen fit to have two layoffs of night-duty workers in Child and Family Services, Northwest division, of the Province of Manitoba, people who are essential for families and children in our Winnipeg and Manitoba society.

My question to the Minister is: What Government action necessitated the layoff of these two workers that are essential for children in Manitoba?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, I tell the Honourable Member that we share the concern for the problems in society and will work very hard to work with groups in society to try and remedy them. I would say that a decision made by the Child and Family Services agency is made by their board, and staffing decisions are a local decision made by the Child and Family Services agency board. We have provided them with substantial funding increases the last two years. In 1989-90 the funding increase for Child and Family Service agencies was some 15 percent, and last year the improvement in funding was 16 percent. Those decisions are made by the local board.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, given that the layoff notice says to the staff that this is due to the chronic underfunding from the provincial Government and given the fact that 50 percent of the apprehensions at the Northwest Child and Family Services, according to the Reid-Sigurdson Report, take place in the evening, why is this Minister allowing the necessary staff for our children and for our families in northwest division to be laid off and removed from the community?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Member that since 1985 where agencies were decentralized and boards were created, the funding to these agencies has doubled in those five years. Certainly by putting the agencies into the communities there has been an increase in the

number of clients served as well, but those decisions that you speak of were made by the local board.

* (1335)

Funding

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Given the fact that the Minister of Family Services is accountable under The Child and Family Services Act for standards and services to children in our province, what action is he going to take to reinstate the underfunding for this agency to ensure that those night workers are there to protect families and children in this province?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): The agencies have had substantial increases in funding the last two budgets. I would say to the Member that staff from my department are working on a service and funding agreement with the agency and are in contact frequently to try and work with them to resolve their staffing problem.

Core Area Agreement Contingency Funding

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs. In the inner city of Winnipeg we are continuing to see increasing social and economic problems associated with poor housing stock, increasing in-migration of both new Canadians and aboriginal peoples, inadequate levels of education and declining services to children and youth.

Since 1981, Mr. Speaker, the Core Area Initiative has enabled us to provide some measure of hope for our inner city families. Even though this agreement will end on March 31, 1991, there has still been no firm public commitment from this Government on how they intend to proceed, and there was no discussion of core area issues in the Speech from the Throne. The City of Winnipeg indicated some months ago that they are prepared to move on this issue. Can the Minister tell this House when he is going to meet with his federal and city counterparts to discuss the future of these vital programs?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Housing): I thank the Member across the way for the question. This Minister, along with the other two shareholders, will meet on October 24. As a result of this Minister's initiative, I have written those two members to

extend the Core Area Agreement for one further year, to hold public hearings and to get into the process of what type of a Core Area Agreement would be reached if we do have one. However, I must mention, Mr. Speaker, that we will not wait until seven months past the due date as the previous administration did on the second core.

Ms. Friesen: I have a supplemental, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister indicate to the House and to the inner city families who are deeply concerned about the continuation of these core area programs what kind of financial commitments he is prepared to make on behalf of this Government to the renewal of these programs?

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, we will negotiate with the other two shareholders. That is the process that was done on the first agreement, the second agreement, and I must mention that as I say this Minister has initiated that type of a program. I have sent letters out to the two other shareholders. Again I must mention, we do not want the same type of disregard for the people who were involved in the second core to make those people wait for seven months into that core agreement before sitting down with those shareholders.

Ms. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister tell the House what kind of provisions he has made for emergency or contingency funds for the continuation of services to core area residents until the new agreement is reached?

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, I must mention to the Member across the way, I just explained that we proposed, and I have proposed in a letter to the other two shareholders, an extension of the agreement to have public hearings to do that process. I know that the Member as well as most Members, all Members in this House, have never been involved with the City of Winnipeg at a civic level. Maybe they will be glad to be involved in that process that we will be carrying through.

* (1340)

Sexual Assault Parole Review

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we have just learned today that children will continue to be victimized because there will not be enough intake workers to ensure that when they are being victimized, they are given treatment. But we really learned it in spades

yesterday in a newspaper story, which said that a man who had assaulted 16 children was given a sentence of 10 years, which with parole will work out to two and a half months per child.

Mr. Speaker, is it good enough for this Attorney General and this Government that a man should be back on the streets, having sexually assaulted 16 children? Sixteen children. Is it good enough that he will be back on the streets with parole in two and a half months per child?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, the issue raised by the Honourable Member is one that is constantly in front of the Department of Justice as we review every case that is decided in the courts. The case referred to by the Honourable Member will be reviewed and decisions made about where we go from here with regard to that case as in other cases.

Plea Bargaining

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, but the Crown agreed to the 10-year sentence. As a result, it appears of some plea bargaining for a guilty verdict. Is this acceptable to this Attorney General?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): All circumstances need to be taken into account in decisions made by the Prosecutions Branch of my department, not just a few, not just one, not just the ones that the Honourable Member might selectively choose. For example, in her questions yesterday dealing with Firearms Acquisition Certificates, the Honourable Member might do well to find out the facts of cases that she brings forward before she brings them forward, because sometimes all too often the Honourable Member gets her facts wrong. That sometimes leads all kinds of people to conclusions that are not correct conclusions.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, this is far too important an issue for the Attorney General to gloss over. Can he guarantee to this House that that kind of plea bargaining will not take place and further victimize the children of this community?

Mr. McCrae: My department is constantly reminded, Mr. Speaker, of the position this Government takes in regard to all issues relating to violence, all issues relating to sexual assaults, and all issues relating to children. We appreciate the concern of the Honourable Member, but I can

assure her that my department is very cognizant of these issues and very concerned.

ACCESS Program Student Recruitment

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed towards the Minister of Education. Students involved in the ACCESS program face an uncertain future. These are students from the inner city, aboriginal students and students from our immigrant population. The only way they can get a university education in many instances is through the ACCESS programs.

In light of the fact that a very large majority of these people ultimately end up with jobs in the community, will the Minister commit the Government to allow the people at BUNTEP, to allow the people at Norway House, and to allow the people at the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre to recruit students for the next academic year?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): I thank the Member for Kildonan for that question. Mr. Speaker, I guess I should reiterate to the House that this Government is committed to supporting students through the ACCESS program. For that reason, we have contributed a substantial amount of money into the additional—this year, over and above what the federal Government has committed because of the fact there has been off-loading of the responsibility from the federal Government onto the provincial Government.

Mr. Speaker, before we can go ahead with any new intakes into the ACCESS program, into the BUNTEP program at Norway House, we have to ensure that there is a long-term commitment made by the federal Government to these programs, because traditionally these programs have been cost-shared by the federal and provincial Government. We are committed to our portion of funding. We now await the federal Government's decision for long-term commitment to those programs.

Mr. Chomiak: I thank the Minister for those comments. Will the Minister stop using the excuse of the federal Government, his counterparts in Ottawa, and commit the Government today to commit \$2.5 million to continue these programs next academic year? The line-ups are waiting, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Derkach: It is very apparent that the Member

for Kildonan does not understand that a commitment is not simply for one year. But, indeed, when you accept students into a BUNTEP program, you have to have a commitment for five years, not just one year; otherwise, the entire program falls and is then unsuccessful.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we listened to the Member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickee), who said he was a student in the New Careers program that helped him to access certain employment in this province. Indeed, we are very supportive of those kinds of programs and want to continue them, but it means that we have to have a commitment of our partner and that partner is the federal Government.

* (1345)

Winnipeg Adult Education Centre Funding

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, will this Minister commit this Government to fund the money required by the Winnipeg Adult Education Centre in order to secure funds from the Core Area Initiative? Such funds may be in jeopardy as of Monday of next week.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, I think part of that question was answered by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme). As far as this Government is concerned, we are always committed to our share of funding for the ACCESS programs regardless of whether they are in the city, or whether they are in rural or northern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, there has never been a question of commitment from this Government to those programs.

Agassiz Youth Centre Living Conditions

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice, the Acting Minister of Justice. We have now yet another public condemnation of this Minister and this Government in the Ombudsman's Report for 1989. That report says in part, "It is the opinion of my office that the living environment and the physical conditions at Agassiz Youth Centre are deplorable. The Department has acknowledged that it is of concern yet no visible signs of progress in improving the living condition has been noted over the past year." It was not noted the year before either.

My question for the Acting Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, is how many years is this Minister and this Government going to ignore their obligations in the area of youth corrections in this province, how many promises and press conferences will be held, how many crises will have to come up before this Minister and this Government does their job?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to refer to the presence or absence of any Honourable Members in this House. I wonder if the Honourable Member would like to repeat the first part of his question?

Mr. Edwards: It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker. It is a rare opportunity.

Question for the Minister of Justice: We have now another report, the Ombudsman's Report for 1989, which condemns this Minister and this Government for their nonactions in the area of youth corrections. That report says in part, "It is the opinion of my office that the living environment and the physical conditions at Agassiz Youth Centre are deplorable." It goes on to say that, "The Department has acknowledged that it is of concern yet no visible signs of progress in improving the living conditions has been noted over the past year," and we know from the prior Ombudsman's report that nothing was done the year before that.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister: How many years is he going to ignore his obligations in the area of youth corrections in this province, and how many promises and how many press conferences will be held before anything is done?

Mr. McCrae: I would like to thank the Honourable Member for repeating. I think he repeated more than just the first part of his question; he put in the last part too which I heard the first time around. I have never and never will as long as I hold this office, Mr. Speaker, ignore any of my obligations, and I never have done that.

The Honourable Member should be interested to know that our department and this Government take a planned and reasonable and fiscally responsible approach to our obligations as opposed to the crisis management type of approach that we often hear from Members of the Liberal Party and notably by Members of the New Democratic Party.

It is perhaps fortunate for the New Democrats that they are not the ones who raised this question today because it is their shoddy record of neglect in the

area of corrections that brings us to the point referred to by the Ombudsman.

Before the report of the Ombudsman even was tabled, a number of projects totalling about \$25,000 were completed last year, including heating control upgrade plus temperature controls in the school, cottage D in the administration building. The reason -(interjection)- maybe the Honourable Member will give me another opportunity to finish up—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. James.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, the incompetence of this Minister is not my own conclusion, although I have made it, but it is the conclusion of the Ombudsman of this province in two successive reports.

* (1350)

Report Tabling Request

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My supplementary question is to the Minister of Justice. We do have the Ombudsman's report, which is public. Will the Minister make public the report prepared in the fall of 1989 and given to Treasury Board early this year, done by Dr. Agee of Ohio, which also we are advised lambasted this Government for the deplorable physical facilities at the Agassiz Youth Centre? Why, when he had that private report some many months ago, has nothing been achieved?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, there have been consultations between the Department of Government Services and the Department of Justice in 1989 to develop a long-term strategy for this facility and all corrections facilities, and a 10-year maintenance plan was developed. We do not just manage crises; we look at things on a long-term approach.

A total of \$1.4 million has been estimated for that 10-year maintenance program in this fiscal year. This fiscal year \$100,000 has been committed for the following projects: roof replacements of cottages A and B, and that project is to start during the week of October 22, 1990, upgrade all cottage washrooms, paint all cottage interiors, replace floor tiles in cottage A, installation of school auditorium intake-exhaust fans—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

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

like to remind the Honourable Minister that answers to questions should be as brief as possible.

The Honourable Member for St. James, with his final supplementary question.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice is having a—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Edwards:—rough first week. It is going to get worse, Mr. Speaker. The fact is he is—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Honourable Member for St. James would kindly put his question now, please.

Mr. Edwards: I have to start answering some of these accusations. Mr. Speaker, the fact is the Agassiz—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. I have recognized the Honourable Member for St. James for a question. Would the Honourable Member kindly put his question now, please?

Mr. Edwards: Will the Minister table the reports that he and his Government have received since the fall of 1989 with respect to the Agassiz Youth Centre which specifically lambaste his Government for doing nothing since they have taken office?

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, I will just pick up where I left off.

In addition to the other improvements that are going to be happening this fiscal year, I would refer to the cottage rear entrance doors, floors and stairs and stair coverings, the eaves trough—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. -(interjection)- The Honourable Minister -(interjection)- Order, please.

Point of Order

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Opposition House Leader, on a point of order.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, we are into only the third Question Period this Session and our Members have been following your advice in terms of supplementary questions, in terms of keeping questions brief. I would hope that the Minister, a former House Leader as a matter of fact, would follow our Rules and keep

his answers brief and to the matter raised and not abuse Question Period as he has been doing in his responses today.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Minister, on the same point of order.

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, the question was seeking information. The content of the answers have been to give information not before this House previously and to make that information available. The Honourable Opposition House Leader (Mr. Ashton) makes reference to answers and what should be in them.

I think all the Rules will tell the Honourable Member that he is not to dictate to the Government Benches what should be in the answers. I am giving factual information-filled answers to the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), and I am not quite finished.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On the point of order raised the Honourable Member is quite correct. I would like to remind the Honourable Ministers that answers to questions should be as brief as possible, should deal with the matter raised and should not provoke debate.

Also, on the same point I would like to remind Honourable Members that a supplementary question does not require a preamble and that a preamble should not exceed one carefully drawn sentence.

* * *

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister of Justice, to finish his response.

Mr. McCrae: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker. I have let the Honourable Member know what is committed in terms of projects for this year. I just wonder about priorities. I know that the Honourable Member a number of times has referred to other Justice capital projects. I wonder what his priorities are vis-a-vis hospitals for example in Minnedosa and places like Elkhorn where his Party has been dead against hospitals, but they are sure in favour of getting on with other projects.

* (1355)

Resource Recovery Institute Blue Bag Program Funding

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): My question is

for the Minister of Environment. We all know that Manitobans are becoming more and more sensitive to issues concerning the environment, particularly in the area of recycling. The demands for depots for collection of everything from tin to newspapers is increasing daily. We have learned today that the Resource Recovery Institute and the innovative blue bag program is in jeopardy when the blue bag program could close this week.

My question is: why has the Minister not acted upon the request it received in February for a one-time \$100,000 grant for this blue bag program, this unique program in Winnipeg?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to respond. Certainly I agree that Manitobans are involved and want to be involved in the capacity to recycle, but it has always been my contention that needs to be done, not only for environmentally sound reasons, but it needs to be done in an economically viable manner.

The request to the Resource Recovery Institute was received some time ago. It was conveyed to them that they would not be receiving the full amount which they had requested, but that they would be potentially receiving some money out of the Innovations Fund. The fact is that the Government of the Province of Manitoba had originally provided some funds to the Institute on a one-time-only basis as a matter of fact. We are now into a second request of a one time only.

Ms. Cerilli: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question for the Minister is: is he waiting for the institute to close before he acts? Is he aware that the City of Winnipeg is also going to be asking the Government to make this grant, this one-time grant, and the City of Winnipeg will make a commitment to funding the program if the province can give this one-time grant?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, I have not received that communication from the City of Winnipeg, and I would be surprised if they were communicating it through the NDP Critic. At the same time I am not dismissing out of hand any opportunity to make sure that we have explored all options for this project, but I think we should remind all Members of this House and the taxpayers of Manitoba that the province does not normally fund what are considered municipal operational costs. We are interested in receiving information and management plans about

the cost and the actual operation of a curbside recycling project and for those reasons we are interested in continuing the dialogue.

Environmental Programs Funding

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Mr. Speaker, can we get a commitment from the Minister then, since he referred to the innovations fund for the environment that he will, as promised, spend the full amount from the fund on environmental initiatives?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Yes.

Port of Churchill Grain Shipments

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger).

This year, despite the low prices prairie farmers have produced the second greatest crop in history. Has the Minister contacted the federal Minister responsible for the Wheat Board and requested him to order the elevator at the Port of Churchill filled this winter so that grain currently sitting on the ground will not be damaged, farmers will have more income and the railways will keep operating, and the board will be prepared for an early and successful year next summer?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, let me first of all indicate that this Government's concern with what happens at Churchill has been a very high priority with all the Ministers involved.

I also want to indicate that this year was a much better year in terms of grain transportation. I was just informed by the Wheat Board today that the total program for this year is 390,000 tonnes, but this falls far short of what we would like to see happen because we need a break-even point of around 500,000 tonnes, and we will be taking that suggestion under consideration along with the other discussions that we had with the Wheat Board on Churchill.

* (1400)

Mr. Lathlin: Mr. Speaker, since the elevator holds some five million bushels, why has the Minister not gotten a commitment from the federal Government

to keep the port going beyond this week when the last ship of the season leaves the port?

Mr. Driedger: I do not think I have enough time to answer that question in the full context of the way it was asked, but I have to indicate that I do not dictate to the Wheat Board or to the federal Minister what they should be doing. We have been constantly trying to influence them in terms of the importance of the Port of Churchill to keep it going to be viable and we have been relatively successful to date, and we will continue to do that.

VIA Rail Sleeper Cars—Churchill Route

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Finally, Mr. Speaker, on a related matter, will the Minister tell the House what success he has had in getting more sleeper cars on the VIA run to Churchill so that the customers do not have to book months in advance to take the train from Winnipeg to Churchill, hurting potential tourism at the Town of Churchill?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Manitoba Public Insurance Corp. No Fault Insurance

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of MPIC. In view of the recommendations of the Kopstein Report and the new Tillinghast Report, which states that if Manitoba adopted the Quebec No Fault Insurance Plan that Manitoba motorists could save \$63 million a year and allow a 21 percent Autopac rate reduction.

When will this Minister implement such a pure, no fault system in this province?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act): Mr. Speaker, the Member correctly identifies some of the figures that were included in the Tillinghast analysis of the Quebec No Fault Insurance system as applied to the Manitoba model. He does not, however, talk about the fact that a great portion of that money, that he indicates would be saved, would come from the pockets of those who would have a right to reimbursement as a result of injuries or accidents that they have been involved in.

I think we should clearly understand that this is a

piece of information that can be used to analyze the insurance system we have in this province, but it is not a final report.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that in Quebec, where we have such a system, the full amount of money goes to the injured party as opposed to a system such as we have here where monies are used up in legal expenses.

Given the impact of high interest rates and the GST on motorists, why will the Minister not bring forward a pure, no fault system this year instead of increasing rates from 5.5 percent to as much as 28 percent this winter?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, the Member is drawing a long bow between the GST and no fault insurance, but then perhaps only the somewhat demented reasoning on that side of the House could draw that relationship.

As I have said before, this is a piece of information that the Government will use to look at our insurance process, but certainly there are a lot of factors on both sides of the issue. I think the Member might be well to listen to some of the things that have been said by Mr. Rae in Ontario regarding his opinion of no fault insurance.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is so concerned about getting a debate in the public on this issue, why is he not prepared to release a copy of the Tillinghast Report?

Mr. Cummings: Got a copy?

An Honourable Member: We have got a copy.

Forks Renewal Corporation Housing Development

Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs. The Conservative Member of Parliament, Dorothy Dobbie mused aloud recently that what The Forks Development Corporation needs now is posh upscale housing. Will the Minister of Urban Affairs either torpedo that idea right now, or tell us what date construction is scheduled to begin?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Dobbie is not the shareholder at The Forks, the Honourable Jake Epp is. He has never put that forward at any Forks meeting.

Mr. Carr: Mr. Speaker, we will consider the idea torpedoed.

Downtown Development Agreement Co-ordination

Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood): With a supplementary question to the Minister, during the election campaign, the Conservative Party promised that there would be one downtown redevelopment corporation fashioned out of the North Portage Corporation, The Forks and the Core Area Initiative. Since there was no mention of one development corporation in the throne speech, could the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) please tell us what his schedule is for implementing that very progressive idea?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): I am glad that the Member is back with his one or two issues that he usually has. We are still back in the last Session.

I must say to him that unlike the Member across the way I, as a shareholder provincially, along with the federal and the city, will enter into those discussions. Remember it is a three-party partnership and we will enter those discussions and put our argument forward and hope we resolve that particular situation.

Crown Corporations Accountability

Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood): I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). During the last Session of the Legislature, the Auditor was asked to study Place Promenade and the North Portage Development Corporation. The Auditor agreed with us that chief executive officers of those corporations ought to be called in front of a Legislative Committee.

Could the Minister of Finance tell the House when he expects to call those chief executive officers so that Members of this House have the opportunity to question them?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a definitive response to the Member. I though will discuss the matter with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and attempt to give a more definitive date to the Member.

Crystal Casino Negotiations

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). For the past

several weeks the Crystal Casino has been shut down due to a collective bargaining dispute over the question of employee benefits. Yesterday the Premier, after a speaking engagement at the Manitoba Club, had the opportunity to talk to a number of the individuals involved in that strike. When asked what the Premier's thoughts were on the amount of money being lost, which apparently is \$35,000 a day, he responded that maybe we will have to close it down permanently.

My question to the Premier, is this the new style of bargaining for the Conservative Government? Here is our offer, take it or leave it, and if you do not like it, we will shut you down.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I had been at that particular location for a reception with the Dow Coming people, who had a sod-turning ceremony in Selkirk—reflecting along with the Member's colleague from Selkirk the fact that a pilot plant for the production of silicon metal was announced yesterday. The sod turning took place—jobs, economic opportunity for the people of the Selkirk region.

In respect to the question that he has asked about the questions that were asked of me by the striking workers, the very first thing that I responded to them was, please return to the bargaining table, have your differences worked out through the free collective bargaining process. That is why the process exists. I support it, and I assume that you do. That was my initial response to them.

There were a lot of shots taken back and forth about the amount of money lost, about tourism, about all sorts of other things, and my response was indeed that they ought to return back to the bargaining table to discuss that matter because that is where contracts are settled.

* (1410)

Premier's Statement

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, why is it that the Premier also made comments about the president of the MGEA, questioning the motives of the Government employees' association? Will the Minister now withdraw those comments and his own involvement in a very sensitive collective bargaining dispute? Will he withdraw those comments?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): You have to understand that I was a half block away from the location of their picketing. They transposed

themselves out of the place where they were entitled to picket and attempted to block my exit from the location that I was to confront me and have a discussion. As a result of that, Mr. Speaker, I openly talked with them and entered into a dialogue with them, and whatever I said was between me and those striking workers. If they want my opinion, then I am more than open and willing to give them my opinion about what ought to be done.

I will repeat that the free collective bargaining process ought to prevail and that they ought to go forward and attempt to resolve that at the bargaining table. That is the process that we as a Government support, and I would assume the New Democrats support that process. I cannot understand why they would want to do anything other such as bargaining here on the floor of the Legislature and entering into a labour dispute. I think it is absolute nonsense.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Ashton: We do not think it is appropriate that the Premier makes comments like that any more than the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) called doctors liars when he was supposedly negotiating with them.

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is: does the Premier (Mr. Filmon) honestly believe that statements such as that, that were made to more than 20 people, are strictly between him and those individuals? Does he not recognize his obligation as Premier to make responsible statements and not the kind of threats—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Member's question seeks an opinion, therefore out of order. The Honourable Member kindly rephrase his question, please. The Honourable Member for Thompson.

Mr. Ashton: I will rephrase it, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier (Mr. Filmon) withdraw the very clear threat to the casino workers that the casino would just as well be shut down as come to an amicable agreement between the Government and the casino workers?

Mr. Filmon: I make no threats at any time to any individuals. Any time any individual Manitoban wants to speak with me, if I have the time and the ability to do that, I will do that. I will enter into dialogue, and I will not be muzzled by the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) with his absolute foolishness.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe a New Democrat suggesting that I ought not to talk to people on the street who want to talk to me. That is absolute nonsense. He should be ashamed of himself.

Some Honourable Members: Shame.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Honourable Member for Concordia.

Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project Manitoba Interests

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the new animated spirit of the Premier.

I would ask the Premier, given the fact that we found out on Friday that Grant Devine was recklessly ignoring the environmental licence of this province, and given the fact that they have done so for the last couple of years and the Premier says he has a co-operative arrangement with all the western premiers, has the Premier (Mr. Filmon), as he has just indicated he liked to talk to people, has the Premier talked to the Premier of Saskatchewan and asked the Premier of Saskatchewan specifically to follow the law of the land and stop violating the environment of Manitoba in terms of water quality and quantity?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We have done what needs to be done which is take it to where the authority and the jurisdiction lies. That is the federal Minister and the federal Government. As a result of the letter that we read to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) on Friday morning, Mr. de Cotret, the federal Environment Minister, has indicated publicly that he will either withdraw the licence or seek an injunction to stop the work, because he has the authority, he has the jurisdiction, and that is as it should be, Mr. Speaker. We take our responsibility seriously, and when we want action, we go to where the action must be taken in order to achieve our purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Time for oral questions has expired.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): I seek leave of the House to make an announcement dealing specifically with House business.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Government House Leader have leave? Leave. The Honourable Government House Leader.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally announce at this time that the Government will be bringing down the budget for 1990-91, Wednesday, October 24 at 3 p.m.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): May I have leave to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Speaker, I would like to just briefly remind Members that today, October 16, is World Food Day, a day when we should recognize the number of people in the world who are short of food and recognize that we as a country have a surplus of food and that we have the ability over the past number of years and certainly in the future of being able to help satisfy the world need for food. We do an excellent job in terms of what our farmers can do in rural Manitoba and western Canada of supplying food for the world, but we have to remember that there are many people short of food.

The United Nations is recognizing this day and asking that we in terms of looking at being able to supply the world with food do that in an environmentally responsible way; two very important principles to keep in mind. Remember that the Manitoba farmers are attempting to do that in terms of recognizing the shortage of food in the world and being environmentally responsible in the process of doing it.

I would like to ask all Members to join with me in recognizing this day and remembering that our ambition is to reduce hunger in the world particularly for the young people of this world.

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

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our Party, I want to join with the comments of the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) in saluting those who have organized World Food Day today and also those who have organized local events.

I had the distinct pleasure earlier today to attend a seminar sponsored by high school students at Kildonan East high school. The Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose) was there and the Member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli) was there.

I think we were all impressed by the quality of the questions and the spirit of that school as they sought to work out what participation they could have in more equitably distributing the world's food resources.

If I can touch briefly, Mr. Speaker, we know that the population on this globe is going to double in the next 25 years. We know that we have the capacity now with the present food resources to give every individual, all five billion of us, the equivalent of 3,000 calories a day. That is not being done. Unfortunately, half of us are either malnourished or underfed on this globe. That is a shame.

I believe that we all in this House would do well to recommit ourselves, and I am sure we all do, to the principle of making sure that everyone on this globe has enough food each day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

* (1420)

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): May I have leave to make a non-political statement?

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

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to join with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) and other Parties on this important day recognizing World Food Day.

I think it is important, as the others who have spoken before me have said, that we all consider the future, on a global basis, of the food that is available to all people throughout the world, but it is also a time that we should reflect on our own communities and in our own society of those people who are also lacking good nutritious food for various reasons, either because the supply is not there or because of their inability to purchase it because of poverty and so on.

There are many in our society who are not able to have nutritious food and that is one of the jobs that all of us as elected officials in Government have a responsibility to alleviate in our own society, and I would like to draw the Members' attention to that aspect of World Food Day as well as the other

aspects that have been mentioned by the Minister when he made his statement and the representative from the other Party. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: On the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for an address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his speech at the opening of the Session, the Honourable Member for Inkster with 30 minutes remaining. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I left off yesterday at ten o'clock regarding promises that the previous administration, and now a majority Conservative Government, had made commitments to. I will pick up from where I left off and that of course was on the environment.

The environment protection is one of the platforms that this Government in previous throne speeches and the lack of addressing in this particular throne speech—we have seen they have failed to ensure that we have had proper PCB storages. I mentioned yesterday they failed to properly monitor the handling and storage of hazardous waste.

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

Actually, in one incident in the last two years, I did have a situation where we had biomedical waste where it was going to be stored within the boundaries of a residential area. Because of action from the company and the local representatives, including myself, we were able to ensure that the biomedical waste would not be stored in a residential area. The reason why it came up in the manner that it did was that there were no Government regulations to take care of potential problems of that nature, and even though the Government talked fairly highly of the environment, their actions do not follow or seem to follow the words that they tend to preach.

Madam Deputy Speaker, they promised a partnership with the people. They have intimidated our foster parents, we have seen; we have seen the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) call our fine doctors in the province liars; they have refused to appoint a staff nurse to the Health Advising Network; they

have refused to meet with child care workers, forcing them into strike positions. This Government, as the Tory Government in Ottawa, has operated on a confrontation basis. They do not know what it is like to negotiate, and we have seen that on numerous occasions.

They talk about open and honest Government, Madam Deputy Speaker. In the last budget they reported a deficit, when there was in fact a \$72 million surplus. I have often referred to that as the Manness solution of sorts. We have had the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) storm out of a legislative committee meeting resulting in a charge of contempt of the Legislature. For those that were not there at the time, I believe that it was a strong violation of parliamentary tradition and proceedings. Where Members of the Opposition were not able to continue to ask questions of the Government and to have taken part of it—it was kind of a sad thing to see, a sad day for Parliament, not only in Manitoba but parliamentary tradition throughout the world.

The Progressive Conservative Party says it needs a majority Government, as I referred in reference to the fund raising letter that they had sent out to implement a phase two. The throne speech, I believe, is a start towards that phase two or the better known hidden agenda, if you will. They established the \$200 million slush fund and that has led to many different types of debates, and I might touch upon that a bit later. Indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker, the slush fund will be melting awfully fast by the looks of things.

The Health Minister (Mr. Orchard) issued a gag order to his health care staff. Madam Deputy Speaker, this is the type of honest and open Government that the Conservatives have offered in a minority situation. I am willing to wager that that is not the type of Government that Manitobans want. Manitobans want and deserve an open and honest Government, and they have been denied that. Unfortunately, by the looks of things, they will continue to be denied that in the up and coming two years.

The Conservatives, under stewardship of Mr. Filmon, or the Member for Tuxedo I should say, promised better federal and provincial relations. In fact, Madame Deputy Speaker, the most famous line of them all that I like to refer to is what the Premier had stated during the provincial campaign on April 22 of 1988 during the provincial leaders' debate when he said, all I have to do is—and I

quote—I can call Brian Mulroney on the phone at any time and know that he will listen. That has proven over time to be very ineffective. The Prime Minister, for whatever reasons, has not been at the other end of that telephone, and I have to question whether that telephone even exists. He has been quoted as saying that Ottawa will listen to us when we have a firm proposal, be sure of that. That came out of Question Period on October 13, 1988.

Madam Deputy Speaker, obviously the Prime Minister is not listening to the current Premier (Mr. Filmon), the current administration or the past administration. I would hope for Manitoba's sake that he is able to change that around, because it is important that Manitoba receive its fair share.

We are not asking for more than our fair share, and the only way that is going to happen is if we can get better treatment from Ottawa. That means the phone lines have to start opening up, that the Prime Minister has to start listening to what the Premier is saying and what the Province of Manitoba is in fact saying.

In short, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have had Tories promise to revitalize the economy, promise good management, a restored health care system, environment protection, a partnership with the people, open and honest Government, better federal and provincial relations. Madam Deputy Speaker, we are still waiting. I must say the track record thus far, both as the minority and now majority Government, has not been very impressive when it has come to those promises.

We look at the throne speech and have to ask, what is it that it does in fact offer? I would suggest that if you do take a look at it, it is a very light throne speech. It does not really go into anything. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) have said why that is in hopes of being able to get back in Session in, hopefully, early February so we can try and get back on track, but it is—

An Honourable Member: Do you agree with that?

Mr. Lamoureux: The Member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) asked if I agree. I think it is important that we get back on track, and just as equally as important is that we ensure that we do what we can to bring in legislation that the Government is supposed to be committed to. There have been some movements towards that, and that is what I am going to refer to now.

There are other aspects that the throne speech did not even address. Those are the aspects that also I had planned to mention, because it is not minor things, it is things that the Government of the Day should have addressed in the throne speech, and I will comment on that.

If we take a look at the throne speech and go over the legislative agenda, we will find that we have four major pieces of legislation, one of course being the landlord and tenant legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is a long story with the landlord and tenant regulations, or amendments to The Landlord and Tenant Act. As the previous Housing critic for the Liberal Party, I followed very closely what was going on with that particular piece of legislation and the Minister of Northern Affairs falling behind, but maybe I will refresh his memory in terms of the course of events that led up to the carpet being pulled from under the rug of the Minister of Housing just earlier on this year. In fact, after being elected in 1988 in April, within a month the Premier came on the record and was quoted in the Free Press as saying that the landlord and tenant legislation would be put on the back burner.

We, at the time, had suggested that it should not be put on the back burner, that in fact it should be put on the front burner and had suggested that we would co-operate in order to facilitate the speedy passage of new landlord and tenant legislation and that we would co-operate in any fashion that we could. All we were asking for was the legislation to surface. In the fall of '88, we made reference of that and the Minister of Housing made comments that he would bring in legislation some time in the following year. We were quite hopeful that he would do that.

* (1430)

When we came around into the new year, we found that the Government did not have the legislation that it was talking about. We had hoped that it would bring it from the back burner to the front burner, but in fact that never occurred. What we did do, as the official Opposition then, was introduce Bill 2. Bill 2 dealt with mandatory condition reports. Philosophically the Government of the Day disagreed with having mandatory condition reports, and we will wait with anticipation for the new legislation to see if it deals with the mandatory condition report. It took a while, but the New Democrats did come on side on the mandatory

condition report. -(interjection)- Yes, we had to drag them. They were very hesitant on that particular issue, but they came around and supported us on the mandatory condition report. I think that sent a message to the Minister or to the Government, in fact. With a minority Government of course, with any positive amendment, and I believe that was a positive amendment. With the two Opposition Parties going together we could have put in a very good piece of an amendment to the landlord and tenant legislation.

Then, Madam Deputy Speaker, we went into the fall. In the fall the Minister of Housing brought forward the legislation, I believe it was late September, early October, and spoke so highly of the legislation, and the week after I stood up representing the Liberal Party and commented on the legislation in general and said basically in general that the legislation was good, it had some pros and cons, we were going to be submitting amendments that we believe would have made it better legislation. Then after making those comments, I also made reference to the fact that the New Democrats should stand up and put their comments on the record so that we could get it passed into the committee. Unfortunately, Madam Deputy Speaker, the New Democrats, the third Party at the time, felt it was necessary to stand that particular Bill, and they stood it for months.

It was not until December that again the Liberal Party stood up inside the Chamber and asked for leave that the New Democrats would allow it to go into committee, Madam Deputy Speaker. They granted us the leave. The New Democrats allowed it out of the second reading, but by that time the pressure from the landlords and the moneylending institutes and possibly from some tenants, the Government had changed its mind. The Minister of Housing I do not believe changed his mind. I believe the Minister of Housing was very sincere and was wanting to see the landlord and tenant legislation passed. I am convinced of that even as of today.

Unfortunately, for whatever reasons, the carpet I believe was pulled from under his feet, that in fact it was because of the Premier and the pressure that was put upon the Premier that that legislation was pulled. When we found out that, late January or the beginning of February it was, we stressed our concern. We said that we would even co-operate to the extent that we would go through committee on consensus. That even meant that the official

Opposition—and I would hope and trust that the New Democrats would have supported us in going on consensus so that no amendments that we were suggesting would be passed. The reason why we did that is that we believed that the legislation was in the best interest of the landlords and the tenants, that we were depriving, not our egos, but rather we were depriving good potential legislation to hundreds of thousands of Manitobans.

That is the unfortunate thing of it all, Madam Deputy Speaker. So I look over what has happened in the landlord and tenant area and concur and glad to see that it has been brought in with this particular throne speech. In fact, the Minister of Housing said when it was taken off the agenda the last time around that it would be a personal priority. I am glad to see that in fact it was entered into the throne speech. I think the current Conservative Government and the Premier would have had an awfully tough time had they not included it in this throne speech, because I know the Minister of Housing was very, very determined, and understandably so. To have the Bill yanked from under him I do not believe was fair and appropriate. I know myself, if I am ever given an opportunity to serve in a Government under the stewardship of the Leader of the Third Party (Mrs. Carstairs), that I would take it as a personal slight and I am sure that she would have the confidence in the Ministers to carry through on the legislation that we decide to take upon us.

An Honourable Member: Do not hold your breath.

Mr. Lamoureux: I will hold my breath, a lot can happen in four years.

Another piece of legislation that is mentioned in the throne speech is, of course, the final offer selection. Final offer selection, Madam Deputy Speaker, is a story in itself, and the biggest losers once again have been the unions and the business people, because what we have witnessed is the New Democrats on one side in the pockets of a few selected individuals in union movement and then we have the Chamber of Commerce in the pockets of the Government.

It is sad, because once again who are the ones that are getting hurt. We are finding that it is the employees, the union members and non-union members that are the ones that are getting shafted, because so few have so much influence in the other two political Parties.

The Liberal Party does not have a special interest group that dominates our Party. We are a Party that truly represents the people, a lot of people, and in the next four years the number of people will continue to increase.

It will be interesting to see what type of legislation and what form of legislation the Government will bring in under the FOS, if they will admit that what we were proposing six months or a little while back was in fact what we should have had in the first place, something that the New Democrats forgot to even put in, which showed their commitment of course to that piece of legislation, and that of course is a review. There was no commitment to a review. We had a sunset clause which brought the final offer selection to a dead end, and then we had the Conservative Government that was conceding that once it went to an end, if they could not bring it to an end itself, that it would never again appear.

What was needed and what is still needed is a review of the final offer selection and the Liberal Party has not changed. We feel it is essential that that review take place, an independent review so that if final offer selection is viewed by an independent panel as good legislation for both labour and management then let us bring back final offer selection.

If it can be brought back with positive amendments that will make it better legislation well then let us do that and then if the independent review comes up with a suggestion that FOS is not in the best interest of both labour and management then that should say something in itself. The key is in fact that it is an independent review, that we do not have the Chamber of Commerce or a few selected people from the labour movement dictating what is good for the labour and management in general. That is what is most important.

* (1440)

Another piece of legislation that the Government will be introducing is in regard to the GST. From what I understand, Madam Deputy Speaker, it is going to be addressing the issue of the cascading tax. I must admit it took quite a while for the Government to decide on what it was going to be doing with the GST. At one time it was very well known that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) was somewhat supportive of the GST, but he was quickly called into line by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and was told that, no, this is something that we have to oppose even

though we believe it is a good tax in principle, Madam Deputy Speaker—(interjection)—I must admit that I do tend to believe some of things that the Minister of Finance has said, and part of those things that he has said included unfortunately the principle of the GST being some form of a good taxation.

I disagree with that, I must say, but I am glad to see that the Premier had some influence over the Minister of Finance, even though I am not too sure if the Premier actually agreed in principle with the Minister of Finance, but we know why the Premier had instructed the Minister of Finance what he should be doing on that particular issue.

Fair taxation, Madam Deputy Speaker, is essential. People are fed up with paying taxes time after time. It seems to be just too easy to raise taxes, whether it is a personal tax; whether it is a gas, cigarette, whatever tax it might be. The Governments have to start being more accountable. We have to start looking at ways of having a fairer taxation system, and we heard so many different ideas. When we hear during the election from the now official Opposition, the NDP, both on a national and provincial level, talk about fair taxation. One has to ask the question, where were they—(interjection)—The Leader of the Official Opposition now says the corporations. Well his Government, the NDP, were in power for 15 of the 22 years. What did they do? Why did they not then try and bring that fair taxation? Why did they not then raise the minimum wage?

You know the problem with the New Democrats, Madam Deputy Speaker, in the past and continues to be today is the fact that they have a lot of talk. They fail to act on any of the principles that they like to preach during elections. I can recall when Ed Schreyer was elected, during the election he would say that if the NDP formed Government, the provincial sales tax was a regressive tax, that we would abolish the provincial sales tax.

What did the NDP do? Not only did they not abolish the tax, they increased the provincial sales tax. That is what the New Democrats are all about. They can talk, they preach about principles, but they do not actually act given the circumstances to do just that. Where were they when they had the corporation tax, when they had an opportunity to increase corporate tax? It is hogwash. They have to start living up. No doubt we have seen the New Democrats elected in Ontario, and let us see if the health care lines disappear. Let us see if that

minimum 20 percent corporation tax is slammed on Ontario businessmen.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I too, the Liberal Party would like to see fair taxation and in a Government situation you will see movement. Because not only does the Liberal Party talk about fair taxation, the Liberal Party in fact will act upon unfair taxation.

The other piece of legislation on the agenda is in regard to the translation and that will, from what I understand, wind down the re-enactment Bills. We are looking at most four, and I do not believe that there will be any problem in passing those Bills for the dates that have been suggested from the Attorney General's office. It is actually encouraging to see that we are following in line in regard to the translation because it is something that is long overdue and it is good to see.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have found that the Conservative Government, through its throne speech, has an opportunity to come up with new and bold initiatives. If we take a look at the throne speech and you compare it to the Order Paper and in particular some of the ideas that have flowed from the Liberal Party, I would suggest that the Government maybe should consult with the Liberal Party more, and they can use some of our ideas if they do not have any ideas of their own that they would like to implement.

I did want to make reference to a couple of these fine, Liberal policies that hopefully someday we will see implemented, if not soon, no doubt when we are given an opportunity will be implemented, because it is for the betterment of all Manitobans. I and the Liberal Party believe in fact that we do act upon things of this nature.

One of those things, which we have introduced now for the last couple of Sessions and something that the throne speech does not address and never has addressed and should be addressing, is the whole principle of a Pharmacare card program. The Pharmacare card program is a program that will benefit those in most need of the pharmaceutical drugs, people who are on fixed incomes such as our seniors. Seniors on fixed income do not have the cash at hand to be able to go out and buy their drugs and wait 30 days or whatever the number of days might be in order to receive their money back. In many cases it prevents a senior from being able to buy the needed medication in order to make their daily life that much more tolerable. It is a program

that is very progressive. Other provinces have implemented it. The excuses that the current Government, in particular the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), has given just are not acceptable.

What I find somewhat ironic is, I believe it was during the first Session, the New Democrats actually supported our initiative. I was encouraged to see that they too now support the Pharmacare card program, but not wanting to be outdone by the Liberals, Madam Deputy Speaker, they went one step further. They now say the deductible should be dropped.

Madam Deputy Speaker, once again, hypocrisy—or you cannot use that word because it is in Beauchesne's. They are the ones who brought up the deductible to the point at which it was. So, I think it is important that we be consistent.

I see my light is flashing, so I do not have very much more time. Can I ask, Madam Deputy Speaker, how much time I have? Two minutes. So much to talk about, I guess I will have to save a lot of it for the Budget Debate.

There are other ideas in which I would have liked to have seen the Government take in the throne speech. Multiculturalism has seemed to be neglected on the throne speech. Education is probably the single most important issue with the residents that I represent, possibly next to of course taxation. The current Government has not addressed it whatsoever. It is completely unacceptable, and I will be spending a lot of my time during the Budget Debate on education because it is something that is very important to my constituents and very important to myself.

On that note, once again I would like to say that it is indeed a privilege to be here, to be representing the people who elected me here, and I sincerely thank them. Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Madam Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to participate in this debate on the Speech from the Throne and to share some of my views and those of my Party and my constituency at the start of this Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Manitoba Assembly.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an enormous privilege to be elected a representative of the people. I want to take this first opportunity to thank the constituents of St. Johns for returning me for the

third time to this Legislature and for the confidence that they have placed once again in me.

I was certainly pleased to receive such a decisive mandate, and I take very seriously this responsibility for keeping the public trust placed in me and my political Party.

* (1450)

As you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the election in St. Johns constituency had the unique situation of two incumbent MLAs running against each other. I would like to take a moment to thank the former Seven Oaks MLA for his service to his constituency and in this Chamber and to offer Mark Minenko sincere best wishes for his future endeavours.

I want to pay tribute as well to all Members who are not here today, either because they have chosen retirement or because their decision was made for them on September 11. There are many such individuals to acknowledge, but as you can imagine my greatest sadness and sense of loss comes from the absence in our caucus, the New Democratic Party Caucus, of four Members who were outstanding parliamentarians, who served long years in this Chamber with integrity, honesty and sensitivity, and who served the people of Manitoba with wisdom and courage. I am sure all Members in this House will miss the presence of Bill Uruski, Maureen Hemphill, Harry Harapiak and Jay Cowan, and I hope that we never forget, either as a Legislature or as a society, the valuable contribution made by these individuals.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let me also at this time congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker for this Chamber. Let me also use this time to add my congratulations to the re-election of the Speaker of this Assembly.

In thinking about the past, it is clear that the Speaker of this Chamber has served this Assembly well for the past two and a half years. In looking towards the future, it is important to acknowledge Mr. Speaker's goal to have a Chamber of much greater decorum, of much greater respect between Members and a much better model for our future leaders of the Province of Manitoba.

We have all just come out of an election where we heard repeatedly from Manitoba citizens who have lost faith in politicians. They see politicians taking positions on issues that do not reflect reality, that do not represent the people.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we do not have to look too far to find the real source of that feeling of cynicism—as far as the Members across on the Conservative benches and their counterparts in Ottawa under the leadership of Brian Mulroney.

Manitoba citizens also see first hand, and from televised coverage of the proceedings of this Chamber, that politicians often act with silliness, with spite, and with scorn. So I, along with many other colleagues in this Chamber, want to wish Mr. Speaker well with his noble goal, his expressed intentions of restoring decorum and human decency to this Chamber, and in so doing of helping each one of us retain the faith, trust and confidence placed in us by Manitoba's citizens.

For my part, Madam Deputy Speaker, I will try hard to keep my questions shorter, to curtail my preambles, and not to get drawn in by the constant heckling from Members opposite, particularly the heckling, the infamous heckling of the Premier of the Province of Manitoba. I am not promising to succeed, but I will certainly give it my best effort. I see that we have a better chance than ever of restoring decorum to this Chamber because we have more women than ever in this Assembly.

Members in this House have heard me before on this theme, but the election of 11 women to this Chamber representing almost 20 percent of our Members is a significant development both in terms of our goal to achieve equality in all of our institutions and particularly the political arena, but also in terms of the increased potential of this Assembly for becoming a place of more co-operation, of trust and understanding.

Nous ne devrions pas oublier que l'expérience des femmes est unique, et qu'elle englobe leurs responsabilités fondamentales vis-à-vis la famille: leur participation très grande à l'échelle communautaire, leur rôle de chef de fil dans les domaines de l'environnement, et du maintien de la paix, ainsi que leur efforts personnels pour reconnaître l'égalité entre les peuples. Cette expérience est vitale pour la restauration de la tenue à la Chambre, pour notre croissance future en temps que société et pour la concrétisation des principes qui sont fondamentaux pour notre société.

(Translation)

We must not forget that the experience of women is unique and includes their fundamental responsibility toward the family: Their enormous

participation at the community level, their role as leaders in the environmental sphere and in maintaining peace, their personal efforts to recognize equality between peoples. This experience is vital for the restoration of us here in the Chamber and for our future growth as a society and for the materialization of the principles that are fundamental to our society.

(English)

In this context, Madam Deputy Speaker, let me say how pleased I am to be joined by four other women in our caucus bringing our female representation up to 25 percent, still a long way to go, but I must say a good example for our counterparts in this Chamber.

Of course, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not express my disappointment and that of so many other women throughout the Province of Manitoba with the presence of only one woman in this Government Cabinet. You know the Premier had an opportunity, he had a better opportunity than ever before to improve female representation at this level, but he chose to maintain a Cabinet that is truly and clearly a male bastion, hardly representative of the diversity so characteristic of Manitoba's population.

No matter, Madam Deputy Speaker, how short term the Premier says this is, it is still a setback for women and a setback for our goal of equality. Now compare this decision of this Conservative Government in the Province of Manitoba with the decision of the newly elected Premier of Ontario, the New Democratic Party Premier of Ontario, who appointed an almost 50 percent female Cabinet. That is not only a step forward for women and for equality, it is a great leap forward for women and for equality.

I could more easily accept the Premier's (Mr. Filmon) promise of redressing this imbalance in short order as he says if a commitment toward equality between women and men was somewhat, somewhere evident in this Government's actions and stated priorities. In the one document that highlights general intentions of the Government of the Day, that signals future action, that is a blueprint for the priorities of the Government there is not a single mention.

* (1500)

I believe for the first time in recent memory the Speech from the Throne draws a complete blank on

equality issues. There is not a single reference, Madam Deputy Speaker, not a subtle inference, not a fleeting passage on this most fundamental goal for our society today. Then again this Speech from the Throne draws a blank generally on issues of justice and fairness for the people of Manitoba. It makes no commitment to address the concerns of working people and their families, to address the issues facing the poor, the homeless, the people who use food banks, the children who go to school hungry, the people living with disabilities.

These blanks in the Speech from the Throne coupled with the right-wing rhetoric coming from the Conservative benches during this debate completes the picture, reveals the true agenda of the Conservative Party. The rhetoric that we have been hearing such as, there is no such thing as a free lunch, I heard that one yesterday; pull yourself up by your own bootstraps; if you work hard, you too can make it, and the comments go on and on. All of them reveal a Government that sees its role totally in terms of stimulating the economy and assisting business. The rest for this Government is left to chance.

There is no appreciation from this Government for the impact of external pressures on families, no protection for workers laid off through no fault of their own, no understanding of anything close to a community vision. For Conservatives vision of community is clearly a vision of a collection of individuals where survival of the fittest is the creed.

It shows up best in page 2 of the Speech from the Throne. Only from that perspective, only from the blinkered approach of the Conservatives could the international events, the worldwide change that we have seen in recent times be assessed only in terms of individual action.

I quote from page 2 of the Speech from the Throne, "a massive upsurge in individual action." There is no grasp from this Government, from the Conservatives of Manitoba, of the concepts of community spirit, of working for the greater good, of empowering the most disadvantaged members of our society. Yet, Madam Deputy Speaker, those concepts actually represent the heart and soul of Manitoba, because the spirit of co-operation and collective action that I am talking about are part of our history. They certainly constitute the dominant value system in my constituency, in the St. Johns constituency, and in my north end community.

As Members opposite know from their Premier, north end values are not to be taken lightly. I mean, after all, to take out a paid advertisement to expressly associate oneself with north end values, is to say those values are ones to which we should all aspire.

Madame Deputy Speaker, I for one certainly would hope that the Premier would aspire to those values. The Premier and all of his colleagues need to be reminded that the values of the north end are the values of justice, of fairness, of compassion, of co-operation. The values of the north end are the values that flow from the principles that never get mentioned in Conservative circles, the principles of equality, of liberty and of community. They are the kind of values that demand a government of action. Not a government that vacates the field, not a government that abdicates its responsibility for the health and welfare of all of its citizens, and that is precisely what this Government has chosen to do, and indicates it is going to do in this Speech from the Throne.

You know, over the past two and one half years, and now in this Speech from the Throne, the Conservative Government has not only ignored north end values; it has worked to erode those values, to single out the north end for cutbacks, to erode our pride of place and to harm our great sense of community. Only in the north end has this Government cut back home care services for the seniors and disabled, something regrettably that was supported by the Liberals in this Chamber.

This Government continues to ignore, and we have had very stark evidence of that today, the needs of families and children in the north end. It does so by continuing to refuse to accept any responsibility for the extraordinary increase in caseloads at the Northwest Child and Family Services Agency.

To sit back and allow two night intake workers today to be laid off is to say only one thing, to leave only one message, that it is okay for children to go without the protection they need and for families in crisis to be without the help that they deserve.

This Government has turned away from workers in the north end, workers hurting from unprecedented plant closures under this administration, a frozen minimum wage, the absence of pay equity, and the list goes on and on. Furthermore, Madame Deputy Speaker, this

Government continues to work hand-in-glove with the federal Conservatives, with the Mulroney Government on policies that are particularly harmful for the north end community. The GST and more corporate tax giveaways mean more and more of the tax burden being shifted onto the north end.

Where was this Government when Canada Post arbitrarily closed the sub post office outlets at four long-standing, community-based north end pharmacies, including, I might add, Chapman Pharmacy, an institution in the north end, providing accessible, efficient service since 1908? That kind of decision and that kind of inaction on the part of Manitoba's Conservative Government do not reflect north end values. That is not community preservation, that is community destruction.

The people of the north end sent a clear message in the last election. They clearly indicated they want representation consistent with their own values. They returned in large measure to their CCF, NDP roots, and they will have a team of New Democrats working actively on their behalf speaking up for north end values and protecting the rights of all members of this community.

* (1510)

You know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the same kind of decision, the same kind of judgment was made by many other Manitobans in the Province of Manitoba as evident in the new position of strength of the New Democratic Party in this Chamber. Those Manitobans sent a clear message to the Government of the Day and gave the New Democratic Party a clear mandate for pursuing the political action that we have proposed and the vision that we share.

Ils ont indiqué clairement dans l'élection du 11 septembre, que les Néo-démocrates parlent pour les Manitobains ordinaires, ceux qui travaillent et leurs familles. Ils ont indiqué que les gens se soucient pour leurs emplois et ceux de leurs enfants. Ils sentent qu'ils peuvent compter sur les Néo-démocrates pour donner une voix à leurs préoccupations. Ils ont dit que les banques et les grosses sociétés font des profits énormes tandis que la moyenne des gens ont du mal à joindre les deux bouts. Et ils ont dit qu'il y a des Manitobains riches qui ne payent pas un sou d'impôts, et ce n'est pas juste pour les Manitobains qui travaillent. Ils ont dit clairement que les femmes ont leurs problèmes à elles, et que les Néo-démocrates parlent en leur

faveur. Et à part cela ils ont indiqué que les Néo-démocrates sont ceux qui travaillent le mieux à protéger les programmes sociaux importants tel que notre système universel de santé, notre système de garderie, notre système d'éducation, et cetera.

(Translation)

They clearly indicated in the September 11th election that the New Democrats speak on behalf of ordinary Manitobans, working people and their families. They indicated that people are concerned about their jobs and those of their children and feel that they can count on the New Democrats to give a voice to their concerns. They said that the banks and big businesses make huge profits while average people have trouble making ends meet. And they said that there are rich Manitobans who do not pay a single cent in taxes and that this is not fair to working Manitobans. They clearly stated that women have their problems and that the New Democrats speak on behalf of those women. Moreover, they also indicated that the New Democrats are the ones who work the hardest to protect important social programs, such as our universal health care system, our day care system, our educational system and so on.

(English)

You know, Madam Deputy Speaker, as New Democrats we still have much to learn from our communities. Our plan of action is far from complete, but we have a long history as a political movement that is founded on a particular belief, a belief that is best articulated by Tommy Douglas, who said the measure of any community is in the amount of social and economic security which it provides even its humblest members. We also have a vision of community which is enunciated particularly well by John McNight, who says a community vision sees a society where those who were once labelled, exiled, treated, counselled, advised and protected are instead incorporated in community where their contributions, capacities, gifts and fallibilities will allow a network of relationships involving work, recreation, friendship, support and the political power of being a citizen. Now such a vision does not mean any lesser role for Government, as this Government is wont to do.

In fact, it means a larger role. It is a different role, a more difficult role, but a major role all the same. It is the kind of vision that requires Governments to support aboriginal economic development

initiatives like Neechi Foods in the north end and educational initiatives like the aboriginal survival school and the programs at the Winnipeg Education Centre. It means financial backup for parent-child centres. It means responding when communities make a commitment to recycle. There has been nothing more devastating to those committed environmentalists than to hear the kind of response we have heard today from the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings).

As has been indicated and revealed repeatedly over the last little while, Manitobans everywhere have shown a commitment to recycle, to be involved directly in environmental protection. They are showing the leadership and expecting Government to back them up, expecting Government to back up a community based non-profit organization prepared to co-ordinate recycling efforts to initiate blue bag curbside recycling programs to work with the community, to help the community do the job that must be done. Instead of that kind of backup today, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have again seen the abdication of responsibility, the vacating of the field by the Government of the Day, talking and claiming—using arguments of economic viability—and suggesting once again that the preservation of our environment does not warrant the kind of support, the kind of financial backing, the kind of commitment that an institute like the Resource Recovery Institute requires to do its job.

I want to add, Madam Deputy Speaker, in this context that just at the very time that this Government has put clearly on the record that it is not prepared to show any leadership on recycling, that it is prepared to abdicate the field and let whatever happens happen, at that very moment the north end of Winnipeg has shown incredible support and initiative for welcoming a blue bag curbside recycling program into our community. They have worked long and hard gathering signatures on petitions, presenting briefs to City Council. Lobbying politicians at all levels of Government, giving living proof that they are prepared to take on this difficult task, and precisely at that moment of community self-determination and preservation the Conservatives have chosen to ignore the wishes of community to abdicate its responsibilities.

Further, Madam Deputy Speaker, the kind of community vision that we are seeing today requires a role for Government, an active role for Government, that means such endeavours as

encouraging tenant participation in public housing and encouraging initiatives in co-operative housing. It means forsaking short-term political gain for long-term preventative programs. It means actively supporting community based health care initiatives. It means becoming a partner in community self-preservation, not just another obstacle the community must overcome. It means understanding the politics of community and not feeling threatened by well-organized community efforts or coalitions of community groups. It is clear, from the recent barricades put up around this building by the present Conservative administration, the Conservatives are threatened by collective, co-operative community action.

For a Government to have a community vision, it means keeping pace with changes in the community, keeping on top of new needs coming forward. It does not mean casting aspersions on previous efforts as this Government has done time and time again.

* (1520)

In the last two days, Madam Deputy Speaker, we have seen two critical situations presented to this Government, one the area of family violence, the other in the area of child protection. In both cases, the situations emerge out of incredible new awareness of some very serious issues in our society. They are the result of an exponential growth in needs facing our families and children. They require a response from a Government that is prepared to evolve its policies to keep on top of those changes, to come forward with new responses to meet new circumstances, but instead, this Government has chosen to hide its face in the sand—I am searching for the words so that I am not unkind about the intentions of this Government, but I certainly question the motives and intentions of a Government that is prepared only to cast blame and to fail to put in place new programs and policies that respond to the issues of the day.

In both those situations that we as a Chamber have dealt with over the past couple of days, we require innovation and a community minded spirit from the Government of the Day. There was nothing more exemplary of that community minded spirit in our community than the vigil held outside this building at noon today in the front of the Legislative Building, a vigil that brought together women and men and children and grandparents from every walk of life to express their grief and their sorrow, but

more importantly, to express their willingness and commitment to work together as a community, to work together with Government to find solutions for this terrible problem of family violence in our society today.

They do not get any solace from a Government that is only prepared to point at past actions and suggest that their hands are tied and that the mistakes were made years ago. They do not get any comfort from a Government that is not prepared to build on that which was put in place over the years and to build on the community spirit that is so prevalent in our society today.

Most fundamental to a community vision is the value of co-operation. Something this Government is also seriously lacking.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Wrong.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) says wrong, Madam Deputy Speaker. Yet he is probably the best example we have in this Chamber and on the benches of the Conservative Government for pursuing a style of confrontation and conflict rather than co-operation and collaboration. For it is confrontation and conflict that are the order of the day for this Government. Whether we are talking about child care professionals or foster families or child and family agency personnel or parent-child officials or doctors or nurses, the list goes on and on as examples of this Government's refusal to co-operate and live up to the community spirit that has been a part of Manitoba's history and traditions.

I hope the new Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) will bring a new approach to his portfolio. I also hope the Minister of Health has reformed his old ways, his old ways of calling doctors liars and of forcing nurses to take the unprecedented action of demonstrating on the steps of the Legislature.

It is our sincere hope, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the spirit of co-operation will characterize—let me repeat, Madam Deputy Speaker, because I want to make sure the Minister of Health hears this message. It is our sincere hope that the spirit of co-operation will characterize the Minister of Health's negotiations with the nurses of this province and that respect and understanding for the enormous pressure on this caring, giving profession will be the order of the day.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are all here because of a commitment to do the best for our constituencies, to advocate a certain vision of how we think society should look like. We are all here because we have a number of different emotions and feelings, a number of different sources of political courage. Those are emotions of anger, of pain, of hatred, of love. Some of us feel all of those things; others of us feel one or two of those emotions.

For Members on this side of the House, I want all Members in this Chamber to know that we are here because we feel anger at a world that is seeming to self-destruct through racial strife, through nuclear arms buildup, through environmental neglect. We feel pain at a society which ignores its homeless, the elderly, our children. We feel hatred, yes, Madam Deputy Speaker, hatred towards the injustice that occurs daily as the strong overpower the weak, and we have the emotion of love, love for the dream of equality and justice and peace on earth.

I am here, Madam Deputy Speaker, because I have all those feelings. My colleagues in the New Democratic Party are here because they have all of those feelings. I want to elaborate a bit on that in the few minutes I have remaining to me because I want to put clearly on the record why I am in politics, why I am in public life so that there is no misunderstanding, and so that the Members opposite will not be casting their analysis on my approach and my contributions in this Chamber, and so that Members opposite will more clearly understand why I and many of our colleagues in this New Democratic Party Caucus will often get angry or outraged or emotional or excited, all traits for which I make no apologies.

So to qualify and to paraphrase the words of Rosemary Brown, I want to say if my participation in public and political life does not involve fighting to eradicate poverty, pollution, abuse, violence, racism, sexism, discrimination, the exploitation of people of any kind rather than respect for one another and for our environment, and if my participation does not question the idea that might is right and that competition is the only way to survive, then there is not much point to being here at all.

The real public life, political life for me has been the opportunity it provides to enunciate a particular vision, a community vision, to speak up for the values of my personal life, my political party and my

constituents and to seek action that affects people's lives for the better.

* (1530)

As Madeleine Kunin once said: "To live a life where one transforms one's personal values into public action; can see real change take place—a flashing red light at the railroad crossing, better elementary and secondary schools, clean water, welfare reform, a nuclear disarmament treaty—that is truly exciting, that is political equality. That is where we must be."

I want to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, that is where we on this side of the House intend to stay.

My colleagues and I in the New Democratic Party will never stop communicating our vision, fighting for justice and fairness, and provoking actions in this Chamber and outside this building that affect people's lives for the better. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Madam Deputy Speaker: Before recognizing the Member for Kirkfield Park (Mr. Stefanson), I wish to draw to the attention of the House the presence in the loge to my left of the former Member for Springfield, Mr. Gilles Roch. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

I would also like to draw to your attention in the Gallery the presence of the former Member for Kirkfield Park, Mrs. Gerrie Hammond, the former Minister of Labour. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Eric Stefanson (Kirkfield Park): Madam Deputy Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased and proud to stand here today as the MLA for Kirkfield Park constituency and have this opportunity to address the Members of the Manitoba Legislature.

Firstly, I would like to join with the other MLAs in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your election as Speaker of this House. I wish you well in your position and am confident that you will perform your duties with competence and distinction as you have in the past.

I also extend my congratulations to the Deputy

Speaker both on her election to this Legislature and her election as Deputy Speaker of this House.

Also, to the Pages of this Legislature, I offer my best wishes as they undertake the challenges and commitments of their positions. To the Mover and Seconder of the Speech from the Throne, I offer congratulations for jobs well done. Both of these individuals set high standards of delivery and content which the rest of us should strive to match.

At this time I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the people of Kirkfield Park constituency for electing me to represent them. I consider it a great honour and privilege to represent Kirkfield Park, and I am prepared to work hard on behalf of everyone in the constituency.

Kirkfield Park constituency is located in the western part of St. James Assiniboia. It is a great place to live, work and raise a family. It consists mostly of single family dwellings along with apartments, condominiums and senior citizens' residences. My wife Myrna and I have lived in Kirkfield Park since 1973 raising and educating our two children, Kristen and Eric Jr., during that time.

Kirkfield Park basically consists of three community club areas which have many similarities, with also some differences. The Woodhaven area is the longest established and is located between Portage Avenue and the Assiniboine River. It includes Woodhaven Park and part of Sturgeon Creek. The Heritage-Victoria area, just north of Portage Avenue to Saskatchewan Avenue, is bordered by Sturgeon Road on the east, and School Road and Sturgeon Creek on the west. The Kirkfield-Westwood area is south of Portage Avenue to the Assiniboine River bordered by the Glendale Country Club on the west and St. Charles Country Club and Woodhaven on the east. The entire constituency is well served with green space of both a passive and active nature ranging from Sturgeon Creek and the Assiniboine River to the golf courses, ball diamonds and football fields. This certainly adds to the quality of life in the area in terms of recreation and outdoor activity.

Kirkfield Park constituency consists of individuals who are very involved in their community, whether it be at the community clubs, schools, churches, service groups or wherever. The people are very proud of their community and are more than prepared to volunteer and get involved for the betterment of the area. Good examples of this

community's spirit and involvement were the development of the Heritage Victoria Community Club and the construction of the Keith Bodley Arena, a community-owned and operated indoor arena.

The majority of homes in Kirkfield Park would be 25 years or older; therefore, in many homes the children have now either left or are currently attending a university, community college or training institute. Over time this has resulted in the closure of a significant number of schools in our community. As well, some businesses in our community face a special challenge with the declining population base and lack of concrete redevelopment plans.

The constituency is also well served with shopping centres, library and recreational facilities, basically all a community needs. It is also the home of some landmarks such as the St. James museum, as well as the T-33 jet at Woodhaven Park. All in all, Kirkfield Park represents an integral and vibrant part of the City of Winnipeg.

Now that I have described Kirkfield Park constituency I would be remiss not to mention the former MLA for Kirkfield Park, Gerrie Hammond, who has already been mentioned, who is in our Gallery today. Gerrie Hammond was first elected MLA in November of 1981 and served until the recent provincial election when she decided not to seek re-election. Gerrie Hammond earned the reputation of always working very hard for our community, whether she was supporting major initiatives or dealing with individual concerns or problems. I would like to thank Gerrie Hammond for her many years of dedicated service to our community, city and province, and wish her and her husband, Bob, all the best in the years ahead. I would also like to thank her for the support she has given me.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you why I wanted to become the MLA for Kirkfield Park. As we can all appreciate, this is not a decision a person takes lightly as it has a significant impact on all aspects of one's life from family to friends to business to personal activities and so on.

My interest in politics and community service started at a very young age. I was born and raised in Gimli Manitoba. When I was just a few years old my father, Eric Stefanson as well, became a town councillor and later deputy mayor. In 1958 my father was elected the Progressive Conservative Member of Parliament for Selkirk Interlake, and he remained

as the M.P. until 1968. Between 1958 and 1968 we participated in none less than five federal elections.

During the 1950s and 1960s my mother was also very active in local community organizations such as the Good Neighbours, Kinettes, Eastern Star and so on. Both of my parents instilled in me a strong sense of community involvement and participation and the satisfaction that can come from accomplishing things on behalf of people and communities. Therefore, my most important reason for wanting to represent the people of Kirkfield Park is a deep-rooted commitment and dedication to our community and to our province.

However, it is also very important to have confidence in your own ability to contribute and to represent your constituents. Living in Kirkfield Park for 17 years along with my community involvement throughout those years on both a local and city-wide basis has provided me with a good understanding of our community, the people and the issues.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to tell you a little about my background. I graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in political science. I subsequently obtained my chartered accountancy certificate in 1975. Today I am a partner in a local chartered accounting firm providing accounting, auditing and tax services to individuals and to small- and medium-size businesses both in Winnipeg and throughout Manitoba, particularly the Interlake.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of some of the issues facing Manitoba in the next decade, I believe our economy is one of the most important. So much hinges on our economy—our health care, our social services, our education programs, in fact, our entire quality of life. Chairing the Winnipeg 2,000 Task Force on Economic Development provided me with a unique opportunity to gain both a better understanding of Winnipeg's economic history as well as optimism about what the future can hold for Winnipeg and for Manitoba.

It is critical that we create a climate that will enable us to provide quality job opportunities for our young people so that more will stay and contribute to the economy of our province, to eliminate the anti-business perception of Manitoba and attract new business and entrepreneurs to our province, to provide a better taxation environment in order to spread the tax load over a larger base and help

make us more competitive, to integrate our education and training programs with our economic development activities, to take advantage of the major resource and market created by our aging population.

* (1540)

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but the main point is there must be a commitment and participation by all Manitobans to economic development. I believe that the commitment of participation will be well served by many of the initiatives announced in the Speech from the Throne. The Filmon Government started the process of improving the business climate during the past two years by raising the ceiling on payroll tax to help small businesses, by establishing a corporate income tax holiday for new businesses in the first year of operation and by reducing personal income tax rates by 2 percent.

Initiatives such as the Government's renewed commitment to freeze personal income tax and to strive to do more in other areas of taxation are very important for future economic development. Much of Manitoba's economic development must come from within our province and not just from attracting new business to our province. This strategy has worked well elsewhere, and it has been suggested that possibly as much as 80 percent of Manitoba's future growth can come from within, Mr. Speaker.

It is therefore very important to develop a program to identify opportunities for replacement of goods we import with goods we produce right here in Manitoba. Even though much of our growth can come from within we must continue to aggressively pursue specific investment opportunities from outside of our province.

The proposed Manitoba ambassadors' program, whereby we take advantage of the knowledge and contacts of former Manitobans scattered throughout the globe, will enhance our ability to attract outside investment.

The Filmon Government has demonstrated the understanding, and a continued commitment to economic development is of utmost importance for the future of our province. Businesses must have the capacity to provide new jobs to continue to spread the tax load and allow governments at all levels to provide services required and requested by the citizens of our province.

Another very important issue, Mr. Speaker, is our environment. We must preserve and protect this

asset through Government action to ensure that business activities coexist within our natural environment. Additionally, there are urban issues which must be addressed, including the size of Winnipeg City Council.

An important step towards providing Winnipeg with effective, efficient and accountable civic Government will be to reduce City Council to no more than 15 councillors. This change however leads to other decisions that must be made relating to the new boundaries, community committees, provision for full-time councillors and so on.

I look forward to sharing some of my thoughts and experiences, having spent almost eight years on Winnipeg City Council, serving as Deputy Mayor for two of those years and Chairman of Committee on Finance for two years as well.

There are many other civic issues to address, Mr. Speaker, ranging from a review of Winnipeg's future transportation needs to the consolidation of the North Portage Development and the Forks Renewal Corporation.

Another issue is Government itself. I believe strongly in obtaining value for money, particularly taxpayers' money. This applies to how it is spent and where it is spent.

More and more this is becoming a concern as all levels of Government seem to play a greater role in our daily lives. There is no doubt Government has a role to play, but sound judgment must be exercised in determining what matters are best left to Government and what matters are best left to other than Government.

There has been a commitment to strong fiscal management to keep spending under control so we can continue to keep taxes down for families, for small businesses and for farmers. I am confident that this proven track record of the Filmon Government will continue so that we can continue to provide funding in areas that are important to Manitobans, areas such as health care, family services and education programs.

Mr. Speaker, with the costs for these services continuing to escalate it is essential that we provide efficient, effective and responsible Government so that Manitoba taxpayers are receiving value for their hard-earned tax dollars. At the same time it is important that we establish our priorities to ensure we are meeting the needs of all Manitobans.

I believe that we can be an efficient and caring

Government at the same time. Some have suggested a strong focus on the economy and fiscal responsibility automatically works against labour and represents reduced services. That interpretation misses the basic point that a stronger economy can ultimately allow Government to take less taxes from more people instead of more taxes from fewer people while maintaining or increasing a level of service.

As well, in an era of high taxes at all levels, the public expects Governments to attempt at all times to provide services in an effective and efficient manner and to set clear priorities.

On the expenditure side, I was pleased to note in the throne speech that health care will continue to be the top spending priority of our Government. It is important as well to note that our Government will continue to give high priority to programs aimed at supporting the family. Also of great significance is the fact that we will invest in our education system to make it responsive to the challenges our children will face in the 21st Century.

This must be done, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our young people will be able to stay and commit themselves to our province and help create economic development opportunities. The implementation of a skills training strategy known as Workforce 2000 will be a positive step in matching talents to job opportunities.

On a national level, I am a strong proponent of an equal, elected and effective Senate to balance the regional interest of Canada with the larger population bases of southern Ontario and Quebec. I look forward to the all-Party constitutional task force seeking further public input to develop more detailed Senate recommendations.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, there are other important issues I could touch on, but I will leave them for another day. I do want to say, however, that I am looking forward to working with all Members of the Legislative Assembly in the best interests of all Manitobans. There is a lot to be done, but I am certain we are all up to the challenges that lie ahead. Thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: I would like to draw Honourable Members' attention to the gallery to my left, where we have with us this afternoon the Ukrainian Trade Delegation.

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

* * *

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your being appointed to oversee this Legislature once again. Your previous experience in the position assures us that you are capable of maintaining decorum and fairness for the workings of Government.

Congratulations also to all the Members of this House, old and young.

I would also like to thank the people of Radisson constituency for electing me to hold this public office. It is an honour to be given this opportunity. I feel privileged to be given the confidence of my Party and the community to be a member of this democratic process. I assure all those who have placed their trust in me that I will work to the best that I am able to carry on with the determination and principles that I have had in the past.

I would also like to thank my family and friends for their encouragement. I will be dedicated to representing the people of Radisson and to standing up for the principles of democratic socialism.

Radisson is a unique constituency made of a number of distinct residential communities separated by a large area of commercial, industrial and vacant land. To the west is East Kildonan and Elmwood, to the north the north Transcona yards and Springfield Road. To the east we take in a part of north Transcona and west Transcona that reaches to the east end of the city along Dugald Road.

Old south Transcona is a distinct community like a small town. It is isolated from the rest of Winnipeg and is surrounded by the CNR Transcona yards and vacant and sparsely developed land to the south. The community of Mission Gardens makes the southwestern border of the constituency of Radisson.

* (1550)

The Concordia Hospital, Transcona yards, furniture and bus manufacturing, malting, the federal Taxation Centre, and a myriad of retail outlets are examples of the various services, businesses and industries in Radisson.

The working people of Radisson are concerned about justice and fairness in society, justice facilitated by the laws and services of Government.

Many citizens confirm that they want fair taxes that will provide for the public schools, public health care and other social services that Manitobans should all rely on. Services that will make Manitoba a more equal and co-operative place.

The neighbourhoods, especially in Elmwood, are a mixture of a variety of heritages and are a good example of Manitoba's multiracial and multicultural nature. There are areas in Transcona particularly, that have a high number of retired home owners who are enjoying the investment of their many years of work. Home care, safe streets, fair tax structures and local recreational amenities are important to these residents.

There are also neighbourhoods less than 10 years old in some cases, where families are still establishing themselves. Quality accessible schools, safe work places, environment protection and cleanup, and the preservation of jobs for local workers are important to these residents. Many women in Radisson are eager to see the development of pay equity, its implementation, child care expansion and homemakers' pensions.

Radisson also has a large amount of subsidized housing where unfortunately, many residents struggle to make ends meet. Many of these people would like to work or would like to have a better job, but the economic policies in our country and our province do not see full employment as a possibility.

The runaway train of rampant capitalism in this country is engineered by Brian Mulroney, and it is widening the gap between the rich and the poor in all the residents of Manitoba. This gap between the rich and the poor is what we on this side of the House are dedicated to closing. Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne does not give us a signal in this Government's ability to address the challenges of the '90s. Rather, it seems this Government will now move to join in the policies and practices of the Tories in Ottawa with Brian Mulroney.

This throne speech is full of support for the status quo, and it reeks of this Government's tie to business. Again and again the speech contains phrases like reducing the burden of Government on the private sector. I do not have to tell you, unfortunately they are the only ones with the money.

I guarantee this House that I will continue to work, now as an Opposition Member, with youth, students, environmentalists, cultural minorities, and others working for change to oppose the agenda of

this Government. In this time of environmental devastation and high unemployment, we can no longer allow business to go where it may, exploiting workers and exploiting the environment. We need tough environmental laws and enforcement because whether it is hiring, and paying women in minorities fairly, or whether it is making buildings accessible to the disabled, or whether it is providing safe working conditions, fair wages and benefits, or whether it is protecting and cleaning up the environment, we cannot rely on business to do these things voluntarily.

We in Manitoba cannot afford a Government that does not believe in Government. We cannot accept businesses' greed and irresponsibility as a given. We as a society, and with this environment, can no longer tolerate the current notion of growth that exists, and the current notions of economic development.

When environmental disasters like the Exxon Valdez oil spill are good for the economy with an increase in the gross national product, there is obviously something wrong. When the economics practised in the developed world make a profit only at the expense of the environment, Third World countries and local Manitoba workers that it exploits, you do not have to be a whiz to realize we are at the end of the rope.

I am eager to work with the labour movement to show that the real problems causing environmental destruction in Canada, lie in Conservative free market economics and that business has been holding us hostage for far too long. If this Government starts to think more globally, it will see that the rest of the planet is also moving to a world vision of co-operation, realizing that economic competition is not sustainable.

I encourage this Government to get past the theatrics and partisan jargon and show some real leadership to addressing poverty and the environment and the destruction of the environment in the face of threatened business closures and unemployment.

The political analysis that I have developed comes from working in the community with various groups. Through working with various ethnocultural groups, I have learned the value of the cultural beliefs of a variety of the people living in Manitoba.

In working as an employment counsellor, I have also seen how many people in Manitoba suffer

systemic discrimination. They suffer this discrimination when they are brought to this country, full of hope to work in their professions, but are not hired in their field because their experience and training is not considered as equivalent. This, Mr. Speaker, is racism in action. When these people are underemployed by the Government, but the Government encourages them to enter the country, it is a national crime. I say that of course these people do not have Canadian work experience, and of course they may speak English with an accent, but that is no reason to exclude them from working in their professional field.

The throne speech shows insensitivity to these problems facing cultural minorities in Manitoba, but I will be reminding this Government often that we will not stand for the dismantling of settlement or language services for new Manitobans.

As a school counsellor and youth activist I am aware of how ageism is prevalent in our society, and under tough times young workers are most often exploited by being paid less and laid off first. This is not addressed in the throne speech.

Children and youth are the easiest victims in our society. They are the victims of this media age and oppressive consumer culture which assaults us all. We are beginning to see the effects of media advertising on the attention span and attitudes of some young people and this cannot become an unquestioned part of a market-driven culture.

Young people are working more to pay for education that we say is a right. Many high school students are jeopardizing their education by working 20 to 30 hours a week. I will be committed to supporting the efforts of student groups and young people and parents to truly democratize education so that students have a say in the real decisions affecting their education and their future. I support parents who struggle to play a role in their child's education.

If we are expecting students to pay more of their education we must raise the minimum wage. The throne speech does not address any of these issues. I wonder how many of the Members opposite could live on the current minimum wage. Young people, like others—this Government seems to accept that this is just the way it is.

Young people cannot afford to be cynical and hopeless. There is an urgency emerging. Young and old people alike are politicizing themselves,

organizing themselves, and speaking out. We witnessed this here in this building on October 5 when students came into the building asking to speak to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). I look forward to working with these activists and I urge them to continue to question authority and the powers that be.

Governments must support these community leaders whether they are promoting multiculturalism, working for accessible education, confronting homophobia and acceptance for gay and lesbian rights, working for safe working conditions, aboriginal rights or shelters for battered women. These community leaders are doing the real political work based on the politics they feel and experience in their daily lives.

* (1600)

This Government's paternalistic vote-getting approach to mental health and other community services is evident. The throne speech, like this Government's record, does not bode well for children and families in crisis. There was no mention of making services to Child and Family Service more accessible in communities. In fact, as we have seen they are cutting back these services and going back to archaic, centralized approaches that jeopardize the human contact that people in crisis need.

If these cutbacks are not enough, they happen after this Government spent \$2 million on an ad campaign encouraging people experiencing domestic violence to report it. I ask: report it to who?

The irresponsible, poor planning on the part of this Government is shown in this example. This Government has no ability to work with the women activists in this area to develop the programs that address the sexism that is behind domestic violence, and let us call this a crime of what it is. Let us name it violence by men against women. The result of a society which treats women as objects and possessions and which limits women's ability to earn a living and attain economic independence, yet it does not value women's work in the home. The economic policies of this Government will add to the oppression of women and leave them to be more vulnerable and unable to leave violent situations.

In closing, I look forward to bringing a feminist analysis to this House. Analysis which draws on the relationship between economic and social problems and uses a co-operative holistic process to working for change. I would have been expecting too much

if I had thought that the throne speech would address this and incorporate some of this analysis.

If Governments continue to ignore the interplay of economic and social phenomenon, as this throne speech has done, violence, racial discrimination, high student drop-out rates and poverty will continue.

I look forward to working with community groups in all of my critic areas, environment, multiculturalism, youth and sport, and I assure the people of Radisson that I have heard their message. A message of not wanting the politics of opportunity or a Government of the marketplace. As a Government representative, I am dedicated to using my skills and ability to foster community-sensitive and people-oriented Government services.

To paraphrase one of our great world thinkers, we must try for a world where people give according to their ability and receive according to their need. It is to this striving and the work of the striving that I am dedicated. Thank you.

Mr. Gerry McAlpine (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to rise today and add my thoughts to the record as we participate in the Throne Speech Debate.

I would first like to express my sincere congratulations to you on your election and resumption of duties as the Speaker of this Honourable Assembly. If you look on this as a vote of confidence from your peers, you will be most accurate.

I would also like to congratulate my colleague, the Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay), on her appointment along with the Mover of the throne speech, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), and the Seconder, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose).

I wish the Pages well as they carry out their duties and responsibilities in this Legislature. I hope they, too, will learn as I will in the next few months and years.

I would like to congratulate my colleagues and other Members of this Legislature on their success in being elected Members of the Legislature.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the constituents of Sturgeon Creek for electing me to represent them in this House. I want to assure them that I take the responsibilities of MLA very seriously.

I will always be cognizant that it is the constituents of Sturgeon Creek that elected me to office, and it is they who I represent in this Legislature.

I am reminded of a biblical passage which I believe accurately expresses my sentiments and I am sure those of all of us here: "Whosoever of you will be chiefest, shall be servant of all."

I would be very remiss if I did not express a special thank you to my campaign team, who worked diligently and tirelessly on my behalf, people such as Scott Johnston, Jim and Ruth Toal, Eric Sawyer, Marg Hewitt, Irene MacKenzie and many others who volunteered their time and to whom I am extremely grateful.

A special thank you also goes to my wife, Jeanie, and our children, Stacey, Diane, Deborah, Cheryl, and Laura, along with their many friends. My family supported me through my nomination, through the election, and now as I assume my duties as MLA for Sturgeon Creek.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that it is traditional for new Members to talk about his or her constituency. In keeping with tradition, I wish to outline several of the features, landmarks and boundaries of Sturgeon Creek.

If I may say so, the constituency of Sturgeon Creek is situated in the heart of St. James-Assiniboia in west Winnipeg. It is bordered by the Winnipeg International Airport to the north, the Assiniboine River to the south, Sturgeon Creek and Sturgeon Road to the west and it goes as far east as Albany Street at Bruce Park.

According to the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, January 1990, Mr. Speaker, Sturgeon Creek constituency boasts a population of 19,570 people, 9,165 of whom are male and 10,410 of whom are female. By ethnic origin the population is primarily of British descent, followed by German, French, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Italian and others who round out the population.

Industry plays an important role in Sturgeon Creek. In the Murray Industrial Park alone, we have such businesses as Hyster Lift Trucks, Way-Jax Industries Ltd., Armwood Windows & Doors, Frontenac Air Lift, Dorengo Association Ltd., Stephenson Equipment, Otto Bock Orthopedic Industries of Canada, Monsanto Canada Ltd., Boeing Canada, Hudson's Bay Distribution Centre, Wide Span Steel Development Corporation, Porth Construction (Man), Heli-Fab Ltd., and more.

In all, industries in the constituency of Sturgeon Creek employ 10,215 people. Government Services employs the largest number of people at 1,910, followed by the retail trade at 1,325. Health and social services 1,050, manufacturing 980, accommodation, food and beverage services 705 and education services 1,615.

We in Sturgeon Creek also have people employed in transportation and storage, business services, finance and insurance, wholesale trade, communication and utilities, construction, agricultural and related services, as well as the area of real estate.

There are many noteworthy landmarks in Sturgeon Creek, two of the best known being the airplane on the south side of Portage Avenue and Grant's Old Mill across the street. The plane is actually a T-33 fighter jet which was recently removed and taken to be refurbished.

The plane now sits proudly atop its pedestal painted in gold, blue and red and is illuminated at night.

Grant's Mill is a replica of the original one which was built in 1829. Guided tours are available and stone ground wheat flour can be purchased at the site. The mill is situated on the grounds of the Grace Hospital, which is run by the Salvation Army.

* (1610)

Our Government has allocated \$30 million for redevelopment of diagnostic emergency and out-patient care. This includes expansion of the west wing by 60,000 square feet. Construction is under way with completion set for the winter of 1992. Projects at Grace Hospital completed during the 1988-89 fiscal year include fire safety and ventilation upgrading in the amount of \$358,000 with additional fire safety upgrading at \$82,500; \$21,000 was allocated for asbestos removal and birth-room renovations. Interim funding in the amount of \$57,600 has been given to the Oncology Department and the Department of Psychiatry has been upgraded. Other projects are being completed or are in progress in the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Also in the constituency is Deer Lodge Centre, which once again is illustrative of our Government's commitment to health with 90 beds slated for the chronic care rehabilitation and brain damage area units. Health care is a strong interest of mine, and I will return to that in a moment.

The Sturgeon Creek constituency also has

beautiful Bruce Park complete with its cenotaph, where I recently had the pleasure to participate in a service on behalf of my Leader. I thank him for that opportunity. I will also be placing a wreath at the same cenotaph on November 11 to honour our war heroes of the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. I am told this is the only Remembrance Day service held outdoors in the city, and I invite all Members to attend.

Sturgeon Creek is privileged to have the armed forces base, and most of the personnel from the base also live within the area. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that this was the first in the history of the constituency, with all three polls on the base, I was fortunate to win every poll.

I believe that a large part of this success can be attributed to the Filmon Government whom these residents have come to respect and trust as solid sincere leaders of the economy and welfare of this province.

Also situated in Sturgeon Creek is an institution that you are all familiar with and use from time to time, the Winnipeg International Airport.

Travelling west on Ness from the armed forces base and airport grounds one finds the Living Prairie Museum with its tall grass prairie. This Government is committed to protecting this natural habitat as illustrated by the Endangered Spaces Program. We must continue to ensure that these natural spaces, such as the Living Prairie Museum, are protected for generations to come, not only for the ongoing beauty they provide but for the many things that we and our children can study and learn from for years to come.

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

Sturgeon Creek has a good mix of private dwellings and single detached dwellings and apartments. The largest apartment complex is the Courts of St. James bordering on the park-like setting of the Grace Hospital grounds and Grant's Mill.

In our constituency, people between 65 and 74 years of age total 2,145, and those over 75 years total 1,645. Senior citizens play a very important role in Sturgeon Creek. These early pioneers of our area continue to make large contributions to our province. As I canvassed in Sinawik Bay in Kiwanis Courts, Oakview nursing home, Legion Lodge, Strauss Drive and Deer Lodge Centre, I was struck

by the knowledge and zest for life of our seniors. Some are more than a century old. In their lifetimes, they have seen, done, experienced and lived through so much. Much of the wisdom of the ages is well documented, but the oral history that you get when talking with seniors individually or in a group is equally as important.

As mentioned earlier, health care is of great interest to me. I have nutritional interests, and I am a strong advocate of health and wellness as a basis for my understanding. As our population continues to age and health care becomes increasingly more important and more expensive, I feel strongly about putting greater emphasis on prevention. Our medical system currently diagnoses disease—give it a name and then treat it with medication. For the benefit of my fellow Members, information that is startling but is published in the *New England Medical Journal*, states four million people died between 1981 and 1988 from iatrogenic illnesses. These are deaths caused by the side effects of prescribed medication. The AIDS virus was responsible for 40,000 people dying during that same period.

Hopefully, as we continue to make advances in the health care field and the importance fitness plays in a person's well-being becomes increasingly more evident, we will be able to improve health care and lower costs to all Manitobans.

If I may, I would like to read from a source that I have in my possession, a booklet called "Regeneration". This is written by a Dr. Dean Black, Ph.D. in Gerontology, and he states from information documented in the *New England Medical Journal*, making reference to those residents in North America, and I read:

"Each year roughly 700,000 people die from medical treatment. That number comes from data published by the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the Centers for Disease Control. Medical reports call treatment-caused disease epidemic and indeed it is. Since 1981, AIDS has killed fewer than 40,000 people. Medical treatment has killed close to 4 million. This tragedy isn't caused by medicine; it's caused by what we're missing, not what we've got. What we're missing is a companion philosophy, a complementary healing principle whose gentleness will balance the harshness of medicine. The Chinese have the gentle healing principle. They summarize it under the general heading that we translate as 'regeneration', which means 'return to

the source'. The Chinese aren't the only people to develop this healing principle. Forms of it even exist in North America, but the Chinese are the world's regeneration experts for the simple reason that centuries ago they took one path towards health; we took another. It's time to reunite the past."

As I canvassed Sturgeon Creek, Madam Deputy Speaker, during the election, I met many people with varying interests and concerns. There were, however, common themes. I have already touched on health, but other themes included business, economic development, education and the environment. The constituents of Sturgeon Creek shared with me their high regard and interest in the free enterprise system. As referenced earlier in my speech, business contributions are many and varied in this constituency.

We are a vibrant community and much has been done over the years for Sturgeon Creek though much still must be done as we strive to make our area and Manitoba even stronger. Such areas as seniors' housing and development are extremely crucial with the seniors' numbers on the rapid rise. Our Government's commitment to increase business interests and development is also crucial to Sturgeon Creek. We still have lots of room for business to locate in Sturgeon Creek.

Madam Deputy Speaker, business creates jobs, jobs attract people, people pay taxes and as our population grows the tax base is spread over a larger number. Just sane, plain common sense tells us what we must do to make Manitoba strong.

* (1620)

At this time I would like to acknowledge the efforts of J. Frank Johnston who capably represented Sturgeon Creek constituency from its inception in 1969 to 1988. I must add, Madam Deputy Speaker, that Mr. Johnston did not do this alone, for were it not for his wife, Hazel, and his family he would not have been able to enjoy his many years in this Legislature. I also wish to acknowledge my predecessor, Iva Yeo, for her representation from 1988 to this year.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have been in a business of my own for the past 25 years. Twenty years of socialistic administration in this province has taken its toll on Sturgeon Creek and the rest of this province. I have seen businesses close and leave the province and take their employees with them. Our population has not changed in 20 years

with the result of administration of Ed Schreyer and Howard Pawley. That is one thing, I believe, we can change and see change under the Progressive Conservative Government.

I am proud to be part of this Government and in support of the throne speech. I see the business sector looking favourably on this province for a place to do business. I am ready, Madam Deputy Speaker, and able to rise to the challenge, with the assistance of my colleagues, of doing what I can to make Sturgeon Creek even more viable.

Education plays an important role in the constituency with several excellent schools, teachers and facilities to guide our youth. We have Silver Heights Collegiate which boasts the Baccalaureate program. Their excellent concert band has travelled internationally, and its members have been excellent ambassadors for Manitoba.

Sturgeon Creek Regional Secondary School where I am proud to say all my children attended draws students from all over, but specifically the west end of the city due to its composite nature. Many students from this institution have won national awards and have gone on to be leaders in their various vocations. As well, Madam Deputy Speaker, the St. James Assiniboia School Division office and the Manitoba Teachers Society are located within and play a part in Sturgeon Creek life.

For those interested in spiritual education the constituency houses several churches of many denominations. We are not without sports facilities either. The constituency has within it the St. James Civic Centre where one goes for such activities as swimming, skating, hockey and various activities put on by the Parks and Recreation Department. Across the way we have the Deer Lodge Curling Club of which I have been a member and the beautiful Assiniboine Golf Course.

Sturgeon Creek constituents are conscious of the environment. Being blessed with much in the way of green space, as well as the Assiniboine River and Sturgeon Creek, people are conscious of keeping our rivers and creeks clean and giving them priority. I share this desire.

I am proud of my Leader and colleagues' commitment to the environment in the throne speech. It is not enough to legislate against the people to maintain a clean environment. Enforcement will not suffice. It is a fact that Communist countries and socialistically

administered countries where residents are heavily administered to by government are among the worst offenders with regard to a safe environment. We are more likely to gain greater results by providing sensible alternatives and education for individuals in an effort to change our lifestyles. Government must in the '90s encourage and show people how to adhere to the three Rs, reduce, reuse and recycle.

As indicated in the throne speech, those choosing not to adhere must pay a higher price to pollute. I am supportive of the Filmon Government in the stand taken to create sustainable development for the business and environmental sectors of our fair province. I am proud to say the initiative has been taken up by many of our residents, and I am sure that with further education many more will join in the fight to keep our environment clean.

While we are plagued by noise pollution from the Winnipeg airport, residents for the most part are prepared to accept this in exchange for future development and for the community growth.

I wish to close with a brief explanation of my background and what I bring to this House. Jeannie my wife and I have lived in both the rural community and lately within the urban community of Sturgeon Creek, where we have lived for 21 years, raising our four children.

I am happy to say that I was able to make a contribution to the community over my 21 years by being actively involved in activities and being the founding chairman of Kinsmen Allard Arena and Kinsmen Hamilton Isbister Park.

I am a real estate broker by profession with a business interest in nutritional food products. I am actively involved with a local Youth Justice Committee and my church. I am a past director of the Winnipeg Real Estate Board and past chairman of the Public Relations and Constitutional By-laws Committee as well as being a past member of the Deer Lodge Curling Club. I am currently a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

I am proud to be a part of a Government with a positive plan to create a climate for growth and opportunity which will benefit all Manitobans.

Thursday, the throne speech emphasized our Government's commitment to a strong economy with new and better jobs for our young people. Madam Deputy Speaker, I also want to say I am pleased to thank my Leader for the confidence he has shown me in appointing me as the legislative

assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst). Included in these responsibilities are Sport and Fitness in which I hope to take an active part and participate by example.

I might just add, Madam Deputy Speaker, I started early this morning at daybreak in running five miles before getting ready for my day's activities, and I feel great about that.

I am also pleased with my Government's commitment to health, education and social services. We will continue to make Manitoba strong. I am proud to be a part of the Filmon team and look forward to my commitment to serve the residents of Sturgeon Creek for a strong Manitoba.

Thank you.

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Madam Deputy Speaker, as my campaign workers and the people of Brandon said the night of the election, back by popular demand.

I wanted to begin by congratulating our regular Speaker, but I congratulate you too as well of course for your appointment, because from time to time you will have difficult problems to confront as the Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Dacquay), but I wanted to take the opportunity as the appropriate occasion is now to congratulate our Speaker, the Member for Gladstone (Mr. Rocan), because it is indeed a difficult job from time to time.

Particularly I think back to last summer when we had our special Meech Lake Accord session when we had some very, very important matters to decide upon, and of course many Points of Order were brought up.

One in particular was brought up which the Speaker had to take under advisement, as he did for a few hours, and then made a ruling in favour of the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper), which was to the credit of the Speaker, Madam Deputy Speaker, because, as he rightly pointed out, if the House had not gone along with the Point of Order of the Member for Rupertsland, any legislation passed by the House at that time could subsequently be challenged in the courts and be declared ultra vires. So that was a very difficult time. I congratulate our Speaker for having done an excellent job then, and indeed in the past, and I certainly wish him well.

I have not been here as long as the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). -(interjection)- Well, there is

that margin there. Nevertheless, I am sure he will agree with me. I think that our present Speaker is one of the best Speakers we have had, at least in my experience here. We have had some good Speakers. I am not criticizing any of the past Speakers, but I certainly think that the MLA For Gladstone (Mr. Rocan) has been one of the best. I hope that he carries on and uses the balanced judgment that he has in the past.

* (1630)

I want to also do the usual thing, and many Members have as well, referred to their constituency, but I want to talk particularly about the electors of Brandon East. I want to thank them very much for the support that they have given me.

I recall the dire warnings across the way that were hurled at me, from time to time, that there was going to be a mysterious candidate come along who was really going to finish me off this time, a big heavyweight candidate, who was going to be very popular and had no problem in just—all he had to do was get the Conservative nomination and he would be elected. As I remember, as a matter of fact, Madam Deputy Speaker, that candidate was nominated by the Conservatives back in April. I understand the Cabinet and their wives were at the nominating meeting to cheer him on, and so there is no question that he had a lot of support from the brass in the Conservative Party.

In fact, during the campaign, I know that our Premier (Mr. Filmon) came on a number of occasions. In fact, the Saturday before the election, by coincidence, I happened to be campaigning door to door as I am wont to do during elections, in the same poll that the Premier came along. He came along to help the Conservative candidate and indeed our paths almost crossed a couple of times. I just wanted to inform him that particular poll that he canvassed in, I won fairly readily anyway. So I just do not know whether his presence made any difference at all. In fact, I am sure his two hours or so of campaigning with the Tory candidate really did not make any difference. Maybe it might even have helped me.

I would say that this last campaign, 1990, was a lot easier for many of us, certainly myself, than 1988. 1988 was a very difficult time. That is why I could not figure out why the local media was saying that this was going to be a tougher election for us in Brandon East. Having won the '88 Election by a

plurality of approximately 650 votes, I could not see, for the life of me, how the 1990 campaign would be more difficult and indeed it proved to be much easier, as I thought it would be, and the results came in. We had a plurality more than double what we had in '88. Our plurality was 1,544 votes; the majority was 54 percent. So I was very, very satisfied with the support of my electorate. In fact, in the seven elections that I participated in, this has been the second best election victory for me. The very best—anyone want to guess?—the very best, the very easiest—

An Honourable Member: '81.

Mr. Leonard Evans: '81. Right on!

Sterling Lyon went down to defeat very handily and in 1981 we did a bit better than that, but besides '81 this was the best that we have done.

I say that I am very proud of the people of Brandon East. I am proud of the workers. I understood my opponents, the Conservative opponent had to pay scrutineers on the day of election, \$100 for scrutineering. I am very proud of the fact that we had probably nearly 250 workers, volunteers on the day of the election who worked very hard. In fact I would say that we were embarrassed with the number of workers who were available toward the end. We almost did not know what to do with everybody that wanted to come on side to help maintain the Brandon East seat for the New Democratic Party. -(interjection)- I tell you, the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger), it is called an embarrassment of riches, embarrassment of riches in terms of volunteers that were ready to help us and ensure that we kept the seat for the New Democratic Party. I am very, very proud of the fact that for seven consecutive elections, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Brandon East constituency has been held by myself for the New Democratic Party.

We are into another Session. We have had a throne speech with the message in it, with an ideology espousing laissez-faire philosophy and fair enough. I think we are going to see a more open, right-wing Government than we saw the last two and a half years when this Government was in a minority position.

I would not for one moment hesitate to say that it is very difficult to be in Government today. It is very difficult to be the Government of Manitoba today, because the demands are great and growing and the resources are limited. Having been in Cabinet

myself for 15 years, it is not necessarily a new story, in fact it is a story that carries on. In fact, it is probably more difficult today than it was certainly in the mid '70s or early '70s. The demands are great, the resources are limited so I agree with the thought that has been expressed on the other side that we need a strong economy.

We on this side agree, in fact everyone agrees, that we need a strong economy. There is absolutely no problem with that. The question is, and this is where we differ, is how do we bring about a strong economy. Ultimately I would believe, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the Government side is to bring it about in whatever ways they see fit, but to minimize the role of Government in a true Conservative laissez-faire fashion. The less Government the better, sort of shades of Douglas Campbell, who was as we know, a Liberal progressive Premier. He was a Liberal progressive Premier—

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): I wonder if the Honourable Member would permit a question, a short interruption. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Did I understand the Honourable Member for Brandon East just a moment ago when he said it was required that we minimize Government? I just wanted to make sure that I have that right. I am taking copious notes of remarks from Honourable Members opposite so that I may be able to contribute . . .

Mr. Leonard Evans: The Member for Lakeside asked the question because I certainly would not want to mislead the Honourable Member. I said your position would be to minimize the role of Government. Our position is that Government has a role to play to improve the human condition, that the Government, and this is where we differ philosophically, that we see the Government has an activist role to improve the condition of Manitoba citizens in whatever way, whether it be enhanced social security, whether it be enhanced education, whether it be economic policies that are going to lead to more jobs in this province.

We will see in the next four to five years. Maybe it will only be three years, who knows? Maybe it will be two. I do not know, but we will see in the next while to what extent the philosophical bent of this particular Government, willing to practise, will achieve results.

I cannot help but note that the throne speech is clear in espousing the right-wing philosophy, the right-wing ideology of the Conservative Government we have. We keep on talking about controlling spending, reducing taxes further—everybody wants to reduce taxes, Madam Deputy Speaker, I might add, and no one wants to increase taxes, but what Manitobans want are fair taxes. This is what Manitobans, in fact what Canadians today across the land are concerned about, that their taxes are not fair, that tax burdens on corporations are being lightened, whereas the tax burden on individual Canadians and individual Manitobans are being increased.

I know some across will say, but we have to lighten the load on corporations because otherwise they will not be producing and so on. So there is a legitimate difference, but I am saying Manitobans want fair taxes, and we are here to stand up for ordinary Manitobans to ensure that there be fair taxes. I was quite concerned when I saw some figures showing that the number of taxes paid by individuals was growing in Manitoba, whereas taxes paid by the corporate sector was diminishing.

We do not have as much detail unfortunately for the province as we do for Canada as a whole in terms of which corporations are paying their fair share and which are not. But I have information which shows back a couple years, the latest figures I happen to have with me, for 1988, where 60,000 corporations in Canada paid no taxes at all. They include some fairly well-known ones—Algoma Steel, \$80 million profits, no taxes paid; Bramalea, \$33 million profits, no taxes paid; Brascan, \$263 million profits, no taxes paid. We can go on down the list—Confederation Life, Fletcher Challenge, Northern Canadian Oil, Standard Trust Co., Tridel, Xerox Canada, \$74 million, no taxes paid.

Madam Deputy Speaker, they paid no taxes, but they did pay to the Conservative Party of Canada. Donations to the Tories were of substantial amounts. Confederation Life paid no taxes, but they were prepared to pay \$11,186.52 to the federal Conservative Party. Brascan paid \$50,362.92 to the Conservative Party of Canada.

Well, I am using these as some examples of the 60,000 corporations who paid no taxes at all. Canadians and Manitobans do not want that situation to carry on. In fact, we can go even further. There are some corporations that not only paid no taxes, but also received federal largesse, received

in effect welfare payments from the federal Government. Central Guaranty Trust, had \$75 million profits but received a tax credit in addition of \$.86 million. Incidentally, they donated \$30,934.44 to the Conservatives.

Magna International, \$19 million profits, received a \$8.2 million tax credit from the federal Government, donated \$2,983.40 to the Tories. Power Corporation, profits \$214 million, they received a tax credit of \$2.12 million, donated \$17,143.40 to the Tories. Ranger Oil, \$15 million profit, received tax credits of over \$4 million, \$4.07 million, from the taxpayers, donated \$36,000 to the corporation.

What happened in 1988, Madam Deputy Speaker, was that the corporation tax rate was reduced from 36 percent to 28 percent. This is one of the reasons why you have thousands of corporations in Canada not paying any taxes. In the same time you have seen growing inequities in terms of personal income tax where more and more poor people, modest income people having to pay more, with the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer thereby.

* (1640)

Well, you have your majority. The Conservative Party of Manitoba, I should say the Filmon Party, has its majority, and now you can show Manitobans how you are going to develop this economy of ours and just what kind of programs we can expect.

I just hope that we do not get arrogant too soon. I sort of detect a bit of that among some of the Members, that you do have some humility in carrying out your heavy responsibilities of being Government.

It is going to be very difficult. It is easy to talk about a strong Manitoba economy, but we are living in a made-in-Canada recession. That is not a term offered or brought forward by the New Democratic Party. It is a term that has been coined by the Conference Board of Canada, which I might point out has been referred to time in and time out by our Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and other Cabinet Ministers on the other side as an authority for forecasting future economic growth rates.

This is a source that has some credibility, and this source says that Canada is definitely in a recession, and that we are experiencing a made-in-Canada recession, and that we can expect more inflation and more unemployment in the next six months as

well as a lower dollar. I say that this kind of scenario makes it very difficult to have prosperity in the Province of Manitoba.

The definition of a recession is simple in terms of what is commonly accepted by economists and that is you have two consecutive quarters or six months of negative growth. Stats Canada, Statistics Canada has already reported that during the first quarter of this fiscal year, April to June, the gross domestic product shrunk by 1.6 percent and a larger decline is now forecast for June to September period.

As a result, the Conference Board, this very respected think tank, has concluded that we are in the midst of a very serious recession. Of course what is going to make it worse, and is making it worse, is the fact that oil prices are rising so that we are going to have inflationary pressures there and also pressures which will make it difficult for some businesses to survive. At the same time, we have got the GST looming on the horizon unless the Senate is somehow or other successful in killing it or stalling it long enough that it will not come to pass, but otherwise Canadians are going to be faced with higher prices. There is no question that inflation is going to be with us in a larger measure in 1991 for that reason.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I could not help but note one particular comment in the throne speech which refers to—this is under the topic Making Manitoba Strong where there is reference to the Free Trade Agreement. Now I know Members opposite really and truly want to see a successful Free Trade Agreement, because they supported it hook, line and sinker. They not only supported it they advocated free trade, and they know that they do not have a leg to stand on in terms of jobs in the manufacturing sector because we have a long list of companies in this province that have gone out of business directly because of free trade, some indirectly because of free trade but many, many jobs, thousands of jobs, have been lost because of free trade.

I appreciate, therefore, that they want to grasp at straws and say, well, under free trade we have got more exports with the United States. Reading from page 4 of the throne speech document, it says: "Last year under the Free Trade Agreement, Manitoba exports to the United States increased by 11.5 percent."

Now that figure they get is from Statistics Canada. It is a rather crude figure. It is one that has a lot of items in there that should not really be in there and, therefore, it is not necessarily as good a figure as one should use. I simply ask: what about the imports?

So I was doing a little bit of research and I came across the document called Manitoba Trade with the United States, 1989, and lo and behold here we have a much more refined study of trade between Manitoba and the United States, going into infinite detail both in terms of exports and imports.

Madam Deputy Speaker, what this report shows is we did not increase our exports to the United States by 11.5 percent but rather the exports increased only by 2.2 percent. Now there are some conceptual differences, and this is explained in the report as to why you get a difference. For instance, they exclude certain handling charges, certain transportation costs that occurred outside of Manitoba, and they do not therefore consider it to be legitimate to be included in this estimate of exports.

Regardless, this is a series of statistics that has gone on for some years. It is a set of statistics that fit Manitoba's export and import trade into the economic accounts of Manitoba. So it fits into the estimates of Manitoba's economic performance.

Indeed, we did have export increasing, not by 11.5 but this study says 2.2. On the other side—and this is the interesting point—our imports also increased. They increased, according to this study, by 12.7 percent, and that is what I am concerned about. I am concerned about free trade where more and more of our manufactured goods in particular are going to be imported into Manitoba at the expense of Manitoba jobs.

This report shows what happened in '89 compared to '88. You can see where the imports of manufacturing goods in particular have increased substantially. Imports of manufactured goods from the United States have increased by 13.0 percent—this is 1989 over 1988. In the meantime, exports of manufactured goods made in Manitoba to the United States declined by 36.5 percent.

I do not know where our Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism is, but he should be aware of the fact that we have a diminishing exportation of manufactured goods made in Manitoba and the contrary is happening. We have a substantial

increase of manufactured goods made in the United States being brought into Manitoba.

I say this statement in here, that we have some kind of a boom going on in exports to the United States, is really misleading, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is misleading. If anyone took any time to do a little research on this you can see quite categorically that—and even if you took the 11.5 I would like to see what the imports are because the imports would probably be several times that, using the Statistics Canada approach.

Using this other study, we can see that the imports from the United States, as I said, increasing 12.7, exports 2.2, it is six to one approximately in favour of imports coming from the United States.

Because of that therefore—and you look at the merchandise trade balance for the year you see that we have an imbalance, if you will, where in 1988 we were importing more than we were exporting to the tune of \$537.7 billion. This last year, 1989, this increased to \$789.5 billion.

In other words, there has been an increase in our trade deficit with the United States of 46.8 percent. So how can you say the economy is strong? How are we making Manitoba strong? The study that is done shows just the opposite of it.

* (1650)

On the one hand we have figures of jobs being lost left, right and centre in Manitoba; on the other hand we now have the trade figures showing more imports of manufactured goods from the United States and a drop in exports of manufactured goods made in Manitoba.

You can go into detail. There are details. Fabricated metal products, we have them broken down here—

An Honourable Member: What about manufacturing?

Mr. Leonard Evans: Well, this is manufacturing—the total manufacturing. In total our exports of furniture have dropped by 11.5 percent; fabricated metal products dropped by 22.4 percent; electric and electronic products dropped by 35.6 percent; non-metallic mineral products down by 27.4 percent; chemical and chemical products 15.0 percent negative, and so forth. Manufacturing on the bottom line, our exports to the United States are negative 1.4 percent—1.4 change and on the other side the increase in manufacturing exports from the

United States is 13.0 percent and this is the first year of Free Trade. So I say this document is totally misleading. As a result, Madam Deputy Speaker, I say we have a lot to do, we have a long way to go to make the Manitoba economy strong, but please do not mislead the people of Manitoba that you are making the Manitoba economy strong.

Then we look at what is happening to employment, and I know Members opposite like to continually talk about some modest increase in the level of employment in the province, that there is some modest increase in the level of employment but, Madam Deputy Speaker, again when you look at the figures more closely you see that things are not that great. You find that there has been an actual decrease in the number of full-time jobs in this province and what I am doing now, I am using the latest figures we have, January to September. We are accumulating those nine months of this year compared with the nine months of last year and we have fewer people, fewer men and women working in full-time jobs in this province.

Well, what kind of strong economy is that? Is that making Manitoba's economy strong? What we have—whatever little job increase you see it as a result of the part-time increase. The part-time jobs have increased by 9.3 percent and this is something we do not want to see. Now I know Members opposite will say, well it is happening all over the country; it is happening right across Canada. Well it is, but to some very modest extent, some very minor extent. If you take the Canadian economy as a whole the increase in part-time jobs indeed has occurred, but it is only about one-fourth to one-fifth the increase in part-time jobs in the Province of Manitoba.

Unfortunately, what you find when you go campaigning door to door, as I did in the last election, you find probably one of the top issues was a lack of jobs, insufficient jobs in the City of Brandon, which reflects insufficient jobs, I believe, throughout most of this province. Where young men and women in particular are saying they could not find a job, they had had their various kinds of training and they were not looking. They were looking, but they were not successful. They were not able to land a job and these are good young men and young women and some not so young. Particularly people in their middle age or late middle age were having a very difficult time because in these times of slow

economic growth and stagnation we have older people who simply cannot work.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

You know, I was talking about the sad situation of our manufacturing exports to the United States. If you look at other indicators there is no question that the industrial manufacturing base of this province is being seriously eroded to a large extent because of the Free Trade Agreement. There is no question about that. You can look at it in every which way, shape and form. I know the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) likes to talk about increasing investment and so on, but again you look at the figures and you see, ah ha, where is most of the investment occurring. It is occurring in the public sector among our utilities, the Manitoba Telephone System, for example; it is increasing in Government's departments and institutions. That is where the big push for investment growth is occurring. It is certainly not occurring in manufacturing, because, Mr. Speaker, what has happened is that in 1990 the level of investment in manufacturing is expected to decline over last year. It is expected to decline by minus 1.0 percent. So that to me is indicative of the fact that there is a weakening of our manufacturing sector.

If you look at other figures, look at the jobs in manufacturing, again you see -(interjection)- Well, statistics are for measurement, Mr. Speaker, we have to measure what is happening whether we like it or not. We have to measure what is happening not only to employment, but to crime statistics, to social statistics of any type or whatever. We have to quantify. And when you look at what is happening to jobs in manufacturing, again taking the first nine months of this year compared to the first nine months of last year, and that is all we have, January to September, you see manufacturing jobs have declined by 14.0 percent.

There are 9,000 fewer people employed in the manufacturing sector than there were last year at this time. So that is another indication of weakness in the Manitoba economy. So I refer to investment, I refer to jobs, I can refer to manufacturing shipments. What is happening to the value of shipments from the factories? Well there again, it is virtually at a zero position. It is less than one percent which means we are going backwards because inflation is between four and five percent, and therefore what we have is a situation in real dollars

of a lower level of output from the manufacturing industry.

You could look at other aspects. I have talked about manufacturing. You can look at other things. Look at housing starts. You see that housing starts are down substantially. Now it used to be that the housing construction industry used to be very volatile and we used to get ups and downs and so on, but, Mr. Speaker, we have had housing decline for the last three years. In 1988, housing starts declined 35.5 percent, in 1989, they declined 29.2 percent, and so far this year, they have declined 21.2 percent. Three years in a row of housing start decline. It is another way of reflecting what is happening in Manitoba. In fact, you can go to other figures across the board and find various signs of weakness.

One telltale sign is the population exodus from this province. Between June of 1988 and June of 1990, we lost on a net basis, 18,000 Manitobans, 18,000 plus Manitobans were lost on inter-provincial migration. That is, we had 18,000 more leaving the province than came into the Province of Manitoba, and that, Mr. Speaker, reflects the lack of jobs here. Why did they go? Oh, some go for retirement and so on, but the bulk of people are going because there are no jobs here. Where are they going? They are going to Alberta, they are going to British Columbia, and they are going to the Province of Ontario.

So I say that while we all want a strong economy, for this Government to pretend as it does in the throne speech that we have a strong Manitoba economy, they are simply misleading the people of Manitoba, and those people are unemployed. They cannot find jobs, no, then we do not have a strong economy.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and recite and refer to other numbers that show that we have indeed an economy that is very shaky indeed, however, I would like to go on for a moment and talk about the budget, I mean last year's budget, because there were some interesting statements made in that budget, and it is going to be interesting to see what happens when the Minister of Finance brings his document down in about a week from now, next Wednesday.

The Minister of Finance, when he was on this side, forever pleaded with long-term planning. I think he wanted five years as a planning regime. Five

years was a time that the people of Manitoba and the Legislative Assembly should at least have a five-year plan for the Minister of Finance.

*(1700)

Last year he ventured out and gave us a one-year forecast. We got one year, and on page 26 I quote: the 1990-91 fiscal year departmental projections suggest that in order to continue all existing programs, an increase in expenditure to just over \$5 billion or about 5 percent over this year's budget would be required. Then he goes on to say, and I am quoting again: the revenue forecast shows revenue growth of about 2.5 percent over the '89-90 budget.

I do not know, Mr. Speaker, exactly what the forecast is. I do not have access to that information, but I do know that in the first quarter of this fiscal year the change was zero. There was virtually no increase in revenue to the Treasury of Manitoba.

If the forecast is going to reflect that, then I cannot see how his estimate of \$4.75 billion revenue will hold true. He goes on to say: I believe this is a conservative estimate, which reflects reduced transfer payment growth, the possible decline in mining tax revenue and the full year costs of tax reduction announced in the budget. Therefore the deficit, quoting the deficit, would be in the range of \$250 to \$290 million and then he goes on to say in these circumstances a further draw on the Fiscal Stabilization Fund could be warranted to protect important programs for Manitoba and to maintaining the tax reductions announced in this budget as well as continuing the course of fiscal responsibility, unquote.

I say, Mr. Speaker, unless he has some rabbits to pull out of the hat, unless there has been a turnaround in revenue from the first quarter, he is going to be looking at a lot bigger deficit than \$250 to \$290 million. He is going to be looking at something probably double that. Again of course it depends on what he does with taxes. It again depends on what has happened to revenue since the first quarter.

There are a lot of variables there, but I am simply saying what this exercise should have done is to make the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) realize that five-year planning, budgeting is almost an impossibility. It may be an ideal, but it is almost an impossibility and that is why it has never been done.

Which Minister of Finance in the history of

Manitoba has come up with five-year planning? We have this one year and it is going to be shown to be way out, just the very first year. In fact, further on in this page, page 26, I am quoting: this Government is committed to providing Manitobans with more information on our fiscal planning. This is the first Manitoba budget to provide an additional year's projection, the projection is of a preliminary nature, however, I believe the information is important to responsible discussion decision-making, unquote.

It is going to be interesting to see whether the Minister is now prepared to go beyond a one-year projection and give us that five-year projection that he said he had wanted to do when he was Minister of Finance.

The fact is that whatever happens the people of Manitoba want to be treated fairly and they want to know that they are going to get a fair tax break.

Talking about taxes, I must say I was very disappointed that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and this Government have decided not to take the federal Government to court over the GST. The people of Manitoba -(interjection)- well, I heard the explanation, but that to me is an excuse. There are other reasons why you could oppose it. You could use the approach that the New Democratic Party is using, and some other people are using, and that is, that the Government of Canada had no right to appoint one more senator than MPs in the Province of New Brunswick. Now you can argue about that, but that is being brought to court. What you would be doing is showing, not only the people of Manitoba, but the Mulroney Government that you are going to stand shoulder to shoulder with other provinces and 90 percent of the Canadian people, and 90 percent of the Canadian people who do not want this tax. In fact I am not surprised that you backed off on this. I am not surprised because this Government has been very soft on the GST.

In fact, at the beginning, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) was saying the GST was not a bad thing. I think at one point I believe he was saying that we would have more jobs because of the GST. I could not figure that one out, could not figure that one out, but that is what he said. That is what I thought he was telling us. So this Government is very soft on the GST, very soft on the GST and frankly there are all kinds of factors that affect transfer payments not just the GST.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask you how

many minutes I have left. He is not listening to me. If I have another—that is great. How many minutes? Two minutes. Okay.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the fact is as I said at the beginning, sure it is difficult to be in Government, but at least what we have from the Minister of Finance who I know is a very honest man and is true to his Conservative ideology, really is a small C as well as a big C Conservative really believes the less Government the better, and the faster he can cut taxes the better.

Now as far as programs are concerned that is another matter and that is where we are concerned, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned that we maintain health care for the people of Manitoba. We are concerned that we maintain the social services that Manitoba deserves and needs. We have to ensure that we maintain the level of education that we want in this province.

I do not believe that the economic policies of this Government are going to result in a strong economy. I clearly documented the weakness of the economy after two and a half years, two and a half years of Conservative Government. We are going to get a true right-wing agenda. Wait, we are going to see programs being squeezed, and we are going to see better deals for corporations at the expense of individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that therefore give this Government, maybe they will have four years, five years, maybe only two, who knows, whatever time. We have two majority Governments, one in Manitoba and one in Ottawa, and I really do not know how Manitobans are going to manage. I am convinced at the end of the term of this office, of this Government, that Manitobans will vote overwhelmingly for the New Democratic Party to have a Government that is going to care for people that will bring about fair taxes. They will have had enough, enough of the Filmon Government whether it be a Conservative Government or a Filmon Government, whatever they call it. They will have had enough and four years from now that will be it, game over. Thank you very much.

Mr. Ben Sveinson (La Verendrye): May I begin my remarks, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating you on your appointment. Judging by the remarks from both sides of the House you have done and will continue to do an admirable job as Speaker of this Assembly.

Also, congratulations to you, Madam Deputy

Speaker, on your appointment, and I wish you the best as you perform your duties in this House.

To the Pages I also wish the best as they perform their duties.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay tribute to a former Member of this Assembly, Mr. Helmut Pankratz, for his outstanding service and dedication to the people of La Verendrye. I wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all Members of this House on their election or re-election to the Manitoba Legislature. I also congratulate my colleagues, the Mover, and the Secorder of the throne speech on a job well done.

* (1710)

Mr. Speaker, I am here today because of the will of the constituents of La Verendrye. It is indeed an honour for me to represent them and I thank them for the strong support that they have shown me. In offering a few words of wisdom, I think that the reward we will get from our positions as MLAs will depend on time and effort we put in. I can say this because I too have served in public office before.

I have served the public in many different capacities. A few examples are coaching junior baseball, a leader in Boy Scouts, chairman of a parents committee, member of the task force studying the utilization of schools in Seine River School Division, school board trustee, chairman of finance, chairman of construction and renovations, member of the negotiating committee and member of the maintenance committee.

I have owned my own business for 14 years and worked in the labour force at Canada Packers, where I was steward in the UFCW Union for nine years and vice president of the same union for about five of those years. Mr. Speaker, I have had management training and was a member of the Carowan (phonetic) Toastmasters Club for four years. Before my election to this House, I was a federal meat inspector for five years.

Mr. Speaker, under redistribution the new riding of La Verendrye stretches all the way from St. Adolphe at the Red River to the Ontario border, and width wise from a mile south of Marchand across to Seven Sisters. This riding takes in approximately 3,000 square miles. The towns in the riding are St. Adolphe, Ile des Chenes, Landmark, Lorette, Ste. Anne, Richer, Hadashville, Elma, Whitemouth, Rennie, West Hawk Lake, Falcon Lake and Seven

Sisters. It takes in areas such as Rosewood, Dufresne, Ross, Ste. Genevieve, East Braintree, Medika, River Hills, McMunn and Giroux. The southeastern boundary runs from the Red River across from Ste. Agathe up to Niverville. It comes around Niverville on the northwest side, around Blumenort and then follows the Ste. Anne municipal boundary across No. 12 Highway coming back somewhat toward Steinbach. It then rounds La Broquerie on the eastern side and goes to a point one mile south of Marchand. From there it is practically straight out to the Ontario border. The northwestern boundary runs from the Red River up through Grande Pointe across 59 Highway down Prairie Grove Road and follows the Tache boundary out across No. 1 Highway out to a point where it would go almost straight up to Seddons Corner. It takes in Seddons Corner, Seven Sisters, and out then to the Ontario border.

Mr. Speaker, these are exciting and yet very challenging times for Manitoba, and I am sure all Manitobans would agree that Manitoba will be a major player on the Canadian stage as we move into a new year. In order to continue, we must have a strong and vibrant economy so as to sustain the services that are being provided. It is for this reason that I support the throne speech and the job that this Government has done in the past two and one-half years. This indeed brings me to some of the comments I heard while going door to door, and these comments differ somewhat to the comments I have heard from some of my opposition MLAs.

My constituents told me that they like Gary Filmon's style of governing. They said, he seemed down to earth and gave straightforward answers. They also said things like, Mr. Filmon was approachable, easy to talk to and he seemed to be very honest.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents recognize the need for deficit reduction, a deficit that was put there by the NDP. They recognize that it is much better to feed the people than to feed a debt that would just continue to rise and rise under either one of the opposition parties. Both the NDP and the Liberals showed that all their promises during the election would have put this province further into debt.

My constituents also recognize that people who want to start a business sometimes need a helping hand. This also was answered in the throne speech. Many people living in the new La Verendrye constituency commute to Winnipeg for work. They

recognize the need to encourage businesses in the rural areas as well as in the cities. Most people would like to work in their own towns or areas. It is for this reason they applaud the decentralization of government services.

Mr. Speaker, in most areas surrounding the towns in La Verendrye, like St. Adolphe, Landmark, Ile des Chenes, Lorette, Ste. Anne, and Giroux, we have a strong agricultural base. Our farming community is diverse, ranging from grain farming, dairy, hog producers, beef feed lots, to chicken and egg producers. These people are hard-working, progressive farmers. They are not looking for monstrous handouts, but they need some help because times are tough, and grain prices are low. They see a need to develop a better system of stabilizing farm incomes, either through a better price for their product or better controls on input costs or, where warranted, direct support. Mr. Speaker, our Government has a strong track record in helping Manitoba farmers.

Tourism also plays a major role in the economy of La Verendrye and indeed in Manitoba. From Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake to Seven Sisters, there are many rivers, lakes, and parks that offer tourists long hours of fun and relaxation. Mr. Speaker, you could go water skiing, swimming, horseback riding, golfing or just lie in the sun on a beautiful beach. You could also go fishing for a trophy fish or a breakfast fit for a king, like a lake trout fried in butter over an open fire. Doing these things and being able to observe wildlife in the Whiteshell Provincial Park brings tourists and people from Manitoba back year after year.

The people that live and work in the different businesses throughout the park are friendly, beautiful, hard-working people. It is these personalities that also bring back tourists year after year. Our Government is committed to making our province, our cities, our parks more accessible to other Canadians as well as our American friends. The upgrading of Highway No. 75 to four lanes, the upgrading of Nos. 11, 15, 101, and 44 increase the safety and convenience for our tourist friends who come to Manitoba from the United States to enjoy our tourists attractions.

* (1720)

Mr. Speaker, this Government in 1989 increased the tourism marketing budget by \$1 million. The Filmon Government through the Department of

Tourism provided assistance to some 500 tourist operators and developers for projects involving capital costs in excess of \$110 million and having the potential of creating 1,000 jobs, and \$238 million in increased revenues for Manitoba. I think this Government has put this province back on track, not out of danger, but back on track and the throne speech ensures the commitment of this Government to stay on track.

There are a few financial figures I would like to point out, just a couple. The first is on education. Capital expenditures, new schools and renovations in excess of \$6 million in the last two and a half years in La Verendrye. In the province the education budget increased by 7 percent and funding to universities also increased by 7 percent in 1989-90. This represents the largest increase in six years. The people of La Verendrye know this, know that this Government is committed to the education of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a number of comments directed toward our health care system by Opposition Members. Health care represents one-third of the total provincial budget, and it remains a top priority for funding by this Government. In the riding of La Verendrye this Government has built and improved hospitals and ambulance services. This throne speech indicates this Government is setting clear priorities and sticking to them coupled with a commitment to live within its means. Together this will help the Government to reach its goals of keeping taxes down and continuing to work towards reducing the provincial deficit. There is no doubt we are into tough times, but going farther in debt is not the answer. The reduction of the deficit in my eyes is ensuring a better future for our children.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, doing my part in a Government with a vision that will ensure a better future for our children is the reason I stepped into public life. I see this Government as the only Government that can and will ensure a better future for our children and all people living in Manitoba regardless of age, colour or nationality.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, as is customary, I would like to first of all congratulate you on your election to what is an important office for all of us in the Legislature. I think your reappointment is in no small measure due to the fact that you have

served this Legislature well. You have earned, I think, the respect of all Members in terms of your rulings, in terms of your handling of the House. Certainly you have exemplified the best in terms of non-partisanship, which is required by your office. You have shown sternness when it was required and humour when it was necessary and I think we all have a great deal of respect for the difficult task that you have and for the way that you fulfilled it.

I know that from time to time you have reminded me of my obligations as a Member and certainly called me to task on a number of occasions and I thank you for doing that. I hope not to stray as often in the future. I will forgive myself, however, if I do.

I also want to welcome the new MLAs, certainly my new colleagues into the Legislature, but also to welcome the new Members on the opposite side of the House. There is no doubt that this is an exciting occupation. It is also an occupation that requires certain sacrifices and the fact that you decided as individuals to allow your name to stand, that you made the decision to become involved, I think reflects well on your commitment to our province and to your communities. I welcome you here.

I should remind you, however, that it is a partisan Chamber. I recall when I was first elected in 1981, with a number of new MLAs and one of my seat mates was Harry Harapiak, the former MLA for The Pas, and we remarked -(interjection)- fine MLA—and we remarked, after watching the proceedings for the first few days, heavens, I hope we never behave like that. It was about six months before we did behave like that, and my friend from Morris suggested I have actually become worse. I am not sure that is true. I cannot be objective in terms of my own behaviour, but I do know that the partisanship in this Chamber is what, I think, also creates a healthy debate.

It is certainly my experience that the strength with which opinions are held has everything to do with the spirit of the debate, and that is what we are here for. Mr. Speaker, I certainly intend to explain my views of the Government's throne speech and the Government's legacy thus far.

We are only two and a half years, approximately, into a province that has been governed by Conservatives in Manitoba. There are always going to be a few who say that in fact those two and a half years have represented good Government and good management, but I think there is a growing,

significant minority—and will soon be a majority—of people who see things quite differently. I heard the Member, for example—and I want to commend the Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson) on his speech—and I heard what I assumed was a look at Conservative policy in the Filmon Government, a look at that Government through rose-coloured glasses, because I heard many comments and suggestions made by that Honourable Member which I have difficulty in confirming sitting on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Member said that this was the only Government that could get Manitoba back on track. Well, there is no doubt that the Government is getting on a track.

Unfortunately, I think it resembles more the track that Grant Devine has got Saskatchewan on, which is a track to nowhere, or you could say it is the Conservative federal Government. Maybe it is that track which has taken a prosperous country and turned it into a backwater, through initiatives like deregulation and free trade, and I might add, plunged the country into a deficit that is unheard of in any other province.

* (1730)

Certainly -(interjection)- we keep hearing, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) continues to chirp about the \$500 million deficit. I would think that the Minister of Health is intelligent enough to know that the Saskatchewan Government, the Conservative Government in Saskatchewan, took a province that had a \$300 million surplus and plunged it into a \$5 billion deficit in a matter of six and a half years.

So just for the edification of some of the Members who were not in the Chamber during the years 1981 to 1988, they should know that the Conservative Government of Sterling Lyon, which ran on a program of acute protracted restraint, left the province a deficit of almost \$300 million, left the province a deficit of \$277 million.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we did raise the deficit level in the Province of Manitoba from 1982 to 1986, but if the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) had been sitting in the chair as Mr. Romanow, as Minister of Finance, will in a few months in Saskatchewan, he will be looking at a province that has been effectively run into the ground.

When this Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) took over in 1988, the deficit had been -(interjection)- Mr.

Speaker, the Minister of Finance will have an opportunity to put on the record the financial position of the province, and if he has the amount of integrity that I believe he has, he will tell the people of Manitoba the truth about what the deficit was in 1988 when this Government took over. The deficit had been reduced from a high of \$585 million to less than \$200 million by the NDP Government of Howard Pawley. That is who. So there needs to be some facts put on the record about what the deficit was.

Mr. Speaker, let us be perfectly honest about the deficit. There is no one on this side or on that side who believes that deficits of the magnitude that we are experiencing, even this year, are sustainable in the long run. Clearly, they are not. Clearly, we want to relieve ourselves of our deficit as a province. There is no doubt that should be the long-term goal of the Province of Manitoba.

The question we have to grapple with, however, is whether Conservative economic policy is going to take us in that direction, and I want to pose the very real question: is there any evidence that Conservative economics is going to, absolve, relieve the province of its growing deficit? Is there any evidence after six years of Conservative Government in the federal House, the federal Parliament, that is the direction we are going? The answer is unequivocally, no. The deficit continues to grow by \$30 billion a year.

I want to ask you whether there is any evidence in Saskatchewan after -(interjection)- Mr. Speaker, I want to ask whether there is any objective observer on that side of the House who can look at Saskatchewan and say: yes, Grant Devine's plan was wonderful. That province is bankrupt. They are losing population. They have lost thousands and thousands of jobs. The fact of the matter is that they have a deficit that is out of control. That is Conservative policy.

What I see unfortunately from this Premier (Mr. Filmon) and several of the front bench is economic policy of Grant Devine, sell your assets, call that somehow economic development. Well, I am very familiar with the process of being in Government. I am very familiar with the process, and there are Members on the Treasury Bench in particular that want to continue to pat themselves on the back, and say, everything is beautiful, we are doing well in Manitoba. I have one very sobering statistic for Members on that side. Since 1988, in fact since the introduction of the Free Trade Agreement, which

perhaps is just coincidental in the decline of our economy, but since this Government took office, the Province of Manitoba has lost 20 percent of its manufacturing jobs, 12,000 manufacturing jobs.

Well, I told you that it is difficult to swallow, and you are going to continue to try and kid yourselves that Tory economic policy is the answer, some sort of panacea to our ills as a society, but I want, along with my colleague from Brandon, to list some of the casualties of Tory economic policy, to list some of the casualties of the Free Trade Agreement, the high interest rate policy of Conservative Government in Ottawa, the impact of lack of Conservative initiative in Manitoba. They include of course Interbake Foods, Indal, Western Outerwear, Canada Wire, Bristol Aerospace, Paulin's, Versatile, Varta, Toro, Northern Telecom, Campbell's, thousands and thousands of jobs that have disappeared from our economy.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, in fact eight, nine years ago, when I was Minister of Business Development and Tourism, there was a Member who sat on this side by the name of J. Frank Johnston. Do any of you recall J. Frank? J. Frank Johnston used to thump his desk and insist that rack and ruin was going to befall the province because of our lack of interest in the manufacturing sector. During our years in Government, the investment in manufacturing in Manitoba grew by an average of 9.8 percent. I want -(interjection)- Manufacturing. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is wrong. From 1982 to 1988, on average, the manufacturing investment in the Province of Manitoba grew by 9.8 percent. Where are we today? We have lost 20 percent of our manufacturing jobs, and Stats Canada will show you that in fact investment in manufacturing, for the first time, is actually a negative. We are seeing disinvestment in manufacturing.

Now, I do not care whether you want to blame it on Conservative economics or whether you want to blame it on the Free Trade Agreement, the fact is, this Government has failed miserably to get a handle on the consequences of the disappearance of those jobs—absolutely failed. What is most distressing for anybody that has read the throne speech is the absolute lack of concern, the lack of initiative. This Government, quite laughingly most people would say, talks about an activist Government.

Mr. Speaker, I took a little survey during the

election. I knocked on a lot of doors during the election, and I had a little game that I played with people who identified themselves as Conservative. I said, I will bet you a hundred dollars you cannot name the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. I did that 400 times. Do you know how many times I lost the bet? Not once. In fact, I am convinced that there are people on the front bench who did not know who the Minister of Industry was. -(interjection)- Industry, Trade and Tourism I said quite clearly, and there is.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) makes my point. He does not even know. He makes my point. This is the bet. There are Members on the front bench, when they answer the questions—and perhaps the First Minister is most guilty of all—who will stand and say, yes, but—well, some of those other things seem to be going well. He refuses to acknowledge the fact that unemployment is increasing, refuses to acknowledge the fact that investment is drying up, refuses to acknowledge the fact that farmers are in trouble, that people are struggling to keep their homes, that housing starts have disappeared. They plunged 62 percent in July.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a concern that the Government's agenda appears to be aimless. We have a one-page summary of what the Government intends to do in the current Session—a one-page summary. It is just titled beautifully, the current Session.

What do they intend to do in the current Session? Well, they say that they are going to introduce a "new" Residential Tenancies Act. Well, gosh, I think I heard of that before. That was the one that the landlords and the property managers got them to withdraw so they could gut, but the principle of introducing a new Residential Tenancies Act, where did that come from? In fact, it was an NDP Bill. In its original form, it was a New Democratic Party Bill and a New Democratic Government Bill, and, of course, it was a very thorough Bill. It was an excellent means of protecting the interests of tenants and landlords, but we will see the result of this reintroduction, this "new" Residential Tenancies Act.

* (1740)

The Business Practices Act, well, my colleagues have been working on this for three years, trying to get this Government to introduce it, another NDP piece of legislation. What is the only substantive measure this Government intends to introduce in

1990? What is the only substantive measure? A repeal of final offer selection.

You know, I have heard that before too it seems. This is the brain child of who—the new Minister of Labour (Mr. Praznik)? Let us repeal final offer selection. I think it has been tried. I think the facts were laid on the table pretty clearly last Session. It is not a good idea. The legislation works. But this is the new spirit we have of this new majority Tory Government—two pieces of legislation that the NDP introduced and one tired old attack on working people in the Province of Manitoba. What a powerful agenda, staggering agenda.

An Honourable Member: Mind boggling.

Mr. Storle: We have—mind boggling. Thank you. The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) adds. Mind-boggling agenda, a stroke of genius. Let us do nothing again. Well, you know, that sounds like in 1981, in my first speech I thanked personally the then Leader of the Opposition, Sterling Lyon, because I said there was one reason principally for my getting involved in politics, and that was the laissez-faire approach of Sterling Lyon to provincial economics in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the Sterling Lyon approach to Government was very much like Gary Filmon's. It is the "Look ma, no hands" approach to Government, the belief that somehow you do not have to plan, you do not have to have a strategy.

This group and this throne speech, quite frankly, is pathetic. You know, it is hard to overcome my indifference to this throne speech, but if I do overcome my indifference, I probably will vote against it. The fact is that there is not much to get passionate about. There are two pieces of legislation that may be worthy of support. We will actually wait until we see the meat on the bones of these two pieces of legislation, but the fact of the matter is the other piece is a very tired old retreat, and it comes from the Tory philosophy that the best place to start in terms of economic development is attack the workers, get rid of final offer selection.

An Honourable Member: What a silly statement.

Mr. Storle: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Brandon West (Mr. McCrae) may want to say that is a silly statement, but if the Member could stand up in his place when he has an opportunity and show me where there is some other agenda in this throne speech, I would certainly be glad to hear it. It also concerns me that other Members, perhaps the

newer Members who you would hope would bring some new insight into the Conservative discussion on issues in this House, seem so willing to espouse the rhetoric of some of the front bench Members and continue to look at what is going on in the province through rose-coloured glasses. I would have hoped that some of the new Members who had a chance to knock on doors for the first time and come to their own conclusions about what is going on in the province would not have come to this Chamber and talked about how wonderful things were and how carefully managed the Province of Manitoba was, because exactly the opposite is true.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some of the other failings of this Government to grapple with important issues in the Province of Manitoba. We talked about the seeming inability of the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) to attract any of the legitimate part of federal spending that should be coming to Manitoba. There are ERDA, economic regional development agreements, worth some \$350 million to the Province of Manitoba that have lapsed in the last year and a half.

The Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson) talked about the importance of tourism. I do not know whether he realized that the only tourism agreement that we have had in the province in the 1980s just lapsed, a \$30 million tourism agreement. Yes, it did allow the Government and the Minister responsible for Tourism to spend some money on developing our infrastructure, but the fact of the matter is the money ran out. The Government showed so little concern in the importance of tourism in our economy that that agreement has lapsed, and to date we have heard no plan to reintroduce any kind of a stimulus for the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard questions asked on a continuing basis, certainly by Members on this side, about the Northern Development Agreement and its importance to community development, more specifically, in northern Manitoba. What has happened to the mineral development agreement, an agreement that is important to the mining community and our mining communities in northern Manitoba, the Agri-Food Agreement, the forestry agreement, the transportation agreement that was going to be used to support our provincial capital as a transportation centre in the country as well as support transportation throughout the province both for cargo and passengers? What has happened to

all of those initiatives, initiatives that the NDP Government undertook?

It leads me to conclude that this Government intends more than ever with its new majority to maintain a completely hands-off approach to the economy, and I want to say categorically that that is backward thinking. There is no progressive country, no country that is advancing economically that believes in that kind of hands-off, no-planning, no-research, no-strategy approach. Whether you are talking about Japan or Korea or West Germany or the Scandinavian countries, those countries very much believe in a thoughtful approach to economic development.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that unless this First Minister pulls together some of the Ministers responsible for Economic Development and the Minister of Finance and starts to develop a strategy for our province, we are going to be in serious, serious trouble. Now, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) sits there today with a smile on his face, but I want to predict right now—and I told the Minister of Finance this two years ago—I said enjoy the windfall that we have created for your Government. I told the Minister of Finance, I said enjoy the windfall, enjoy the \$200 million extra in mining revenue, enjoy the increase in equalization payments. The bad news is it ain't gonna last.

The fact is that the deficit has doubled this year, will double this year, and the next year even looks more bleak. This Minister of Finance is going to be running a deficit that comes close to what the deficits were in the worst period of the recession back in 1981, '82, '83.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for Manitobans, the way out of this recession—depression—is going to be much more painful this time around, because in fact the infrastructure that I talked about earlier has disappeared. The 12,000 manufacturing jobs that have disappeared since 1988 are not going to be attracted back to Manitoba. They are not going to be attracted back without a tremendous cost to the Province of Manitoba, and that is because of free trade, the free trade sellout of our country.

We said in 1987, in 1988, when we started talking about free trade, that there were so many factors that would determine whether Canada was harmed by the Free Trade Agreement that we simply should not proceed with the kind of agreement that was then negotiated.

I remember in 1987 reading a Conference Board of Canada report that said, free trade was going to create 250,000 jobs in Canada. Mr. Speaker, if you read the fine print, it talked about the assumptions that the Conference Board made, and the assumption was that the dollar would be 72 cents. Then you read, back in the appendix, and it said that this assumption, of course, could be wrong, and if the dollar increased that, here is what would happen. At 83 cents, the Conference Board was predicting 360,000 jobs lost. What do you think is going to happen at 86 cents? You can do the progression.

The fact of the matter is we have sold out our country. One of the things that this Government should be doing—(interjection)—Well, I just hope that Members opposite do not take any of this to heart. I hope the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) keeps his blinkers on, because the people who are going to suffer the soonest are going to be the manufacturing sector and then the agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, the new Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) says, do you want them to suffer? No. I do not want them to suffer. I want someone on that side to pull together, maybe a little crew that believes that this whole strategy of free trade and economic continentalism deserves a second look, because it is going to devastate Canada in the long term.

Mr. Speaker, can anybody explain to me—and I have some good examples of businesspeople who have subsequently become opponents to the Free Trade Agreement, and I will give you one perfect example.

* (1750)

In 1988, I had a chance to meet with some members of the Canadian Manufacturing Association. One of those members was Mr. De Fehr, Art DeFehr—some of you will know him—who happens to own Palliser Furniture, certainly the largest furniture manufacturer in the Province of Manitoba, who was a proponent of free trade, not an ardent supporter, but said, yes, I believe that in the long term free trade will be okay for me. He said, the furniture manufacturing industries in Manitoba have a chance to export to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, he, like a lot of other people of course, was not counting on an 86-cent dollar. They were not counting on interest rates of 14 percent. They were not counting on the GST and a whole

bunch of other things that have been imposed on them.

Mr. Speaker, what has happened to furniture manufacturing in the Province of Manitoba since 1988? Out of three companies, two of them have gone out of business, and in July of this year, Art De Fehr of Palliser Furniture, one of the winners, laid off 50 people.

This individual is one of the most progressive, careful businessmen I have ever met. He is using the best technology that money can buy. He goes to Europe every second year to make sure that the technology he is using is up to date, and he is finding out that competing in that marketplace—Mr. Speaker, he is finding out that the impacts of the Free Trade Agreement simply could not be calculated on any firm basis. Now, he, along with Lawrence Thibault, the President of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, is saying, well, gosh, it sure has not worked out the way we said it would.

Well, I have news for Mr. Thibault, it worked out exactly as we said it was going to. It worked out exactly as Ed Broadbent said it was going to. It worked out exactly as the people in the Pro-Canada Network said it was going to. They said it was going to be a disaster, and you ain't seen nothing yet.

Mr. Speaker, I want to move on to another topic. Today—pardon me, it was not today, it was several days ago when one of my colleagues asked whether the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery) would intervene to protect Canadians, protect Manitobans, from the high price of gasoline. -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is going to make light of this as if there is nothing he can do. Well, I believe that the Conservative philosophy is it is better to do nothing than to do something, so they are not going to do anything.

Do you know what the irony was? If we had a Government that believed that, yes, these resources were Canadian resources, they belonged to Canada, and they should be used in a way that benefits Canadians, both business and consumer, if we had a Government like that, we could not act to use our own oil and natural gas to protect, to use as a business advantage in Canada.

The fact of the matter is that the Free Trade Agreement has required us to give up our sovereignty when it comes to control over energy,

one of the most important business inputs in our country.

The fact of the matter is that the Free Trade Agreement is something that this Government should be actively lobbying against. It is certainly—and if they do not believe that it is warranted, if they ideologically cannot bring themselves to the point where saying, oh, gosh, we made a mistake, we should not have supported free trade, then at a minimum they should be preparing to help the businesses who are here, and the people who are here, protect themselves against this agreement—protect this thing against the agreement. -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) wants to talk about a millstone around someone's neck. I will say that Conservative policies are hanging like an albatross around his neck, and it will not be long before the people of Manitoba can smell the stench! It will not be long!

In fact, in the City of Winnipeg right now, as unemployment rises a full percent, there are people out there right now who are starting to smell the stench of Conservative economic policy, and you may laugh, because I will tell you right now that the downfall of the Conservative Government, the downfall, and it is almost inevitable, the downfall will be because this Government wants to follow an economic policy, a Conservative economic policy, that is 50 years out of date.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the rhetoric, the persona of the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is more attractive than the persona and the rhetoric of Sterling Lyon. I have to acknowledge that. But the people of Manitoba are only going to be fooled by a smile for so long, only going to be fooled for so long. When their sons and their daughters, and their brothers and their sisters, and their parents cannot find work in Manitoba, when there are no jobs, when the only jobs that they can get are those service sector jobs that are left here, when we cannot, as a country—

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Quick fix.

Mr. Storle: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Morris (Mr. Manness) continues to say, quick fix.

Mr. Speaker, the only reason we have free trade in Canada is because Brian Mulroney wanted a quick fix. That is why we have free trade. That is what -(interjection)- Yes, I do, certainly believe that. In 1983 and 1984, Mr. Mulroney said, oh, free trade

would be the death of Canada. I will have nothing of it. A few of his business friends convinced him that was the quick fix. That the only reason the Canadian economy was slowing was because we did not have free trade. It was nonsense then; it is nonsense now.

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) wants to talk about a quick fix, that is exactly the opposite of what I am talking about. I am talking about a Government who has a responsibility to do some planning, a Government that has a responsibility to look beyond the next budget and say, what is going to happen in our economy five years and ten years down the road, and that certainly is not happening over there. Which list—

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) continues to insist that I believe there is a quick fix. I do not believe there is a quick fix. I believe that what it requires is a long-term strategic approach to economic development, and the quick fix of saying, let us free ourselves of all the fetters of tariffs at the border is a quick fix idea that simply did not work, and to get that quick fix, what did we do? We sold out our sovereignty, we sold out our energy birthright. That is what we did. No other country in the world has ever entered a Free Trade Agreement of the kind that we did. Mexico and the United States Free Trade Agreement does not include energy. When England joined the European economic community, it did not include North Sea oil. No agreement has ever been entered in that fashion.

When we have a significant advantage as a country, and incidentally, it is not just a business advantage, because we could also give ourselves or use our own energy resources to provide a business advantage, but we require it as a nation. We are not a nation like any other nation. We have long distances to transport our goods and to keep in contact with each other. We are not like any other country. We live in a climate that is very cold. We have an energy advantage that was given away.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I will not convince Members opposite that they should begin attacking something that they have supported on an ideological basis for the past two years, but the fact of the matter is that the Government has an opportunity and some would say an obligation to

show Manitobans where we are going over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, just before the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) gets too engrossed in another conversation, I recall a Minister of Finance who attacked the former Government—I should say a Finance Critic who attacked the former Government for not laying out a plan for Manitobans, an economic plan. This Minister has promised Manitobans a five-year budget, five-year plan. We have not seen a budget for 1991, let alone a five-year budget.

I hope that when the Minister of Finance this year introduces a budget that we see that kind of forward planning. Because if we do see it, it will be the only evidence from this Government thus far that they see at all beyond the horizon. If the Minister of Finance is forthright with the people of Manitoba, he will show that—it will show quite clearly that our economic circumstances are deteriorating and that the Government needs a serious economic plan, a platform they should put forward to the people of Manitoba. If they do not, then it is going to be a long, hot session. It is going to be -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) knows as well as anyone in this Chamber that if the First Minister's (Mr. Filmon) words on protecting health care and protecting education and supporting families in the Province of Manitoba is going to have any basis in reality, the Minister of Finance has to create some economic development in the province. We have to attract investments to the Province of Manitoba, and the simplistic thinking that somehow Free Trade was going to work some magic or, on the other side of that coin, the assumption that somehow giving corporations a break on their taxes is going to magically create those jobs is extremely shortsighted—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the Honourable Member will have four minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Tuesday, October 16, 1990

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