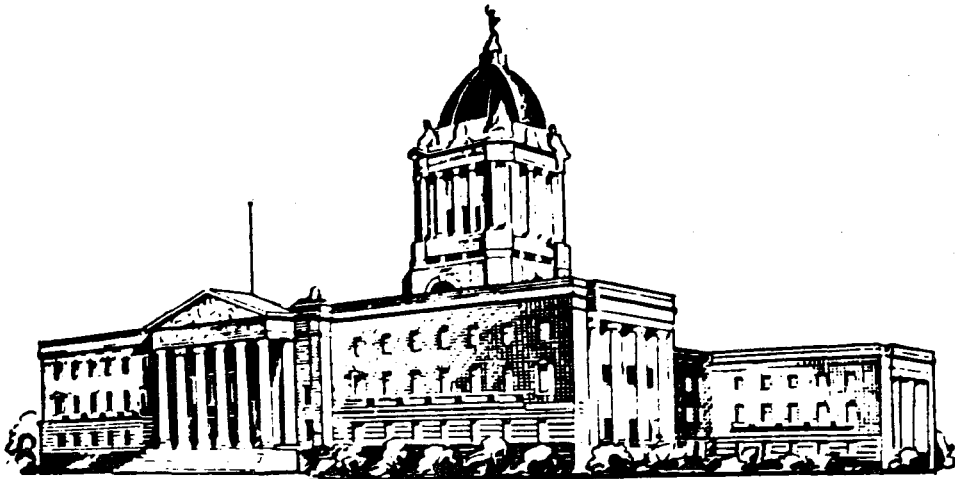




First Session — Thirty-First Legislature
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DEBATES
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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of MANITOBA

Friday, December 2, 1977

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): I would like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my left where we have 11 students of Grade 5 standing from the William Osler School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. McIntyre. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River Heights, Minister without Portfolio. On behalf of all the members present we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . . Oral Questions. The Honourable Member for Inkster.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister, with respect to the proposal by CCIL to obtain public monies. Would the Minister consider referring for recommendation on a straight commercial basis the most recent proposal of CCIL to the Manitoba Development Corporation Board of Directors, which in the past four years, Mr. Speaker, has not recommended any commercial enterprise which has had a problem, with the exception of one \$300 thousand loss which was participated in by the private sector as well. But other than that in the last four years nothing that that existing Board of Directors has done has resulted in any losses to the people of Manitoba, and their last financial year shows a \$4.5 million profit. Will the Minister consider referring this question to them for recommendation on a straight commercial basis?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I think we have dealt with this question at some length, but I would be able to say to my honourable friend, the Member for Inkster, that the proposals that were before us up until last Friday, when my colleague, the Minister of Finance, gave the government's decision to CCIL, that matter is closed. If CCIL have further matters or proposals to make, I can only assure my honourable friend that they will be considered carefully by the government and by any experts, or any expert advice that the government has available to it with respect to making a decision on a straight commercial basis, as my honourable friend says, without fear or favour, but also with full protection to the taxpayer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I assume, and I hope I am correct, that when the honourable member says any group of experts that the government has that he would include on that the existing MDC Board of Directors, which has performed so satisfactorily over the last four years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Health. Is the Minister satisfied that the late Mrs. Foster, I think, was sent home properly from the Misericordia Hospital during the partial strike, not only because of her condition, but the condition of her husband — he was the only one to take care of her and who had a pacemaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asked me whether I am satisfied that Mrs. Foster was sent home properly. The answer to that question is yes, I am satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: With that I don't know if my honourable friend doesn't know — would he still be satisfied after being informed that people were kept in the hospital that, in fact, had not even been paneled for personal care homes that had no business in an acute bed, and that had a private room at Misericordia Hospital, is he still satisfied that these people should have stayed and Mrs. Foster should have been sent home for her sick husband to take care of?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member may be putting a moral question. What he asked me was whether I was satisfied that Mrs. Foster was discharged properl. The answer to that

question is yes, I am satisfied that she was.

MR. DESJARDINS: Let me ask a question to my honourable friend. Is he satisfied that other people then were kept when Mrs. Foster was released, people who had no business there at all?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I can only tell the honourable member what I know. I have been advised that the discharge of Mrs. Foster was a medical decision made between the Chief Medical Officer of the hospital and Mrs. Foster's own physician. Therefore, she was discharged properly to my satisfaction. Those are the parameters for such discharges. That is the only information that I can give the member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface with a final question.

MR. DESJARDINS: Would you then say then that there are certain rules for certain people and not for others? I am not trying to say that it was a bad medical decision, I am not trying to put the blame on anybody, I want to make that quite clear. I am thinking of the condition of her husband also, and I am saying right now they are people . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I inform the Member for St. Boniface that this is not a time for making statements, it is a time for asking questions.

MR. DESJARDINS: May I ask the Minister then, Mr. Speaker, is he going to investigate the condition of people that were kept there, that I feel with the statement that is being made, people that had no business in that hospital to start with?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member asked me whether I am satisfied with different rules for different people. As I understand it decisions in those cases are made on a medical basis between the Chief Medical Officer of the institution and the patient's own doctor. The patient's own doctor presumably would know something about the patient's family and relatives too. That is the procedure, that's what was done. I can't answer for every individual request that was made by every individual doctor of every individual patient, but that procedure was carried out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface has asked two supplementaries. Order please. Order please. The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of the Environment could assure the House that of the four possible sources of water pollution at East Selkirk that measures will be undertaken to remove at least one of the possible sources, one of the known possible sources, mainly the pollution emanating from Right Angle Farms.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to inform the honourable member that Right Angle Farms as good corporate citizens of Manitoba have agreed to take whatever action is necessary to stop run-off into the quarry despite the fact that there is no conclusive evidence that that run-off is, in fact, responsible for the contamination of the wells in East Selkirk.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet with a supplementary.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister appreciates the fact that whether in fact the water from the farm is entering the wells does not take away from the fact that it is still polluting the environment in the area that flows into rivers and streams. That is still an environmental problem for the community, a stream by the way which is a recreational area. —(Interjection)— It is also listed as one of the four possible sources of the pollution in the wells. The Minister the other day . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I once more ask the member not to make statements, but to ask questions.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would then ask the Minister whether he was wrong in his answer to me the other day when he stated that he could not guarantee that the pollution was not coming from Right Angle Farms?

A MEMBER: That is argumentative.

MR. USKIW: It is not argumentative.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat that there are four possible sources of pollution. I said it cannot be conclusively said that Right Angle Farms is not one of those sources. Neither can it be said that they are one of those sources. That's his question; I won't respond to his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, could the minister then indicate to the House what actions are being recommended to the farm to bring the necessary corrective measures into place. —(Interjection)— He didn't tell us that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the owners of Right Angle Farms have stated that they are prepared to take whatever action is recommended to them. At the moment, my department has not made a recommendation to them. I can also tell the honourable member that I will be arranging a meeting with municipal officials from the area and with other interested people to discuss the problem. We are proceeding to attempt to define specifically what the problem is and then make a recommendation as to how it should be solved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask the Minister of Industry whether it would be possible for him to table in this House during this session the report on the loss of capital from Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Commerce. I think he would be the appropriate minister.

That is whether the government intends to make any representation to the CTC hearings beginning Monday concerning the new airline routes or the dropping of the airline route between Winnipeg and Toronto?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HONOURABLE ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Yes, Mr. Speaker, in a question to the Member for Brandon East in the beginning of this week I mentioned that we will be making representation. The staff is drawing up a policy paper right now. I have just finished meeting with them and we will be there on Monday making a representation.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate at this time whether the government's position will be in support of the western regional carrier maintaining those routes or whether they will be endorsing the application of the eastern regional carriers Nordair for access to the Winnipeg market?

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we are just finishing formulating a policy on that particular matter. We should have something by tomorrow morning on that and we will be releasing it in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HONOURABLE NORMAL PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Member for Churchill in answer to his question I took as notice the other day as to the format that's being used into the inquiry of the fatal accident at Flin Flon that the Mining, Engineering and Inspection Branch of the Department of Mines is investigating it at present. It is also normal procedure that the RCMP are looking into it. The Mining Inspection Branch is also working on it. As soon as they are all through there will be a full report given to both the company and the steelworkers' union.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources further to the question submitted by the Member for Lac du Bonnet. Do I understand from the minister that the only means of preventing effluent from a feedlot from entering into a stream such as is the case in this circumstance, the only thing that can be relied on is the good corporate willingness of the person who is polluting the stream? Is there no regulation that can deal with this question?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows the regulation prohibits any discharge of waste from feedlots into streams and the regulation has been in effect since 1973, and there are, I would venture, thousands of operations in Manitoba that are in violation of that regulation. In this particular case the feedlot in question was following recommendations that were given to them by the Department of Agriculture. They fully met those recommendations. They are now prepared to meet whatever other recommendations that my department gives them. At the moment they have not been given those recommendations but they have expressed a willingness to meet whatever they are although they do not accept, at this time, that they are responsible for the pollution that is causing the problem.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable minister for his answer. What I would really like to ask him is whether or not that in addition to — and we won't take it away from them — being good corporate citizens it is also a fact that it is against the law for them to continue to produce this effluent. So what you are saying is they are being good corporate citizens in being willing to obey the law?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I took a notice a question asked of me by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge relative to possible cutbacks in services or funding for community residences for the mentally retarded, with specific reference to a residence on Ebby Street. I would like to respond to that now, Mr. Speaker, by telling the honourable member that as I indicated yesterday there has been no such order issued by my department for any cutback. The situation pertaining to Ebby Street is an old one, it's an old case, it's a special case, outside the general conduct of the normal routine of funding practices and it has been on the books for some time, as a matter of fact it was a problem for the previous administration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Does she have an answer for the question she took a notice regarding the industrial death at Borden Chemicals on November 7th?

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, I do have an answer for the Member for Transcona. The Safety and Health Inspectors in my department and also the Elevator Inspector, all from my department are working on it, and there will be a full report given to the Attorney-General's office towards the end of this week, and at that time they will decide whether there will be an inquest necessary or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Thank you. I was wondering at that time if there is any indication or if you can give me any indication as to whether the report would be made public or some means of making the report public to the widow would be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, I would have to ask the Attorney-General what the format is on that occasion I will be only too happy to get back to the member for Transcona.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday last the Member for Brandon East asked me if I would look into the matter of layoffs and demotions of staff in the Traffic Department of the Manitoba Telephone System in the City of Brandon. Mr. Speaker I can report that I am advised by the Manitoba Telephone System that certain new technology described as telephone operator position system will in fact make a difference in the number of traffic operators that are required by the System, and that the new technology is being applied in certain centres, one of which is Brandon. As a result of this, there will be some new jobs created for craft personnel, but other adjustments in terms of the categories of employees will be reviewed in the light of these new technological improvements. This, Mr. Speaker, may be somewhat redundant because I believe that the member has received an explanation, which he requested by letter, a few days ago from the MTS. Nevertheless, there will be some discussions taking place between Union Management Committee in Brandon and officials of MTS in connection with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): I thank the honourable minister for his statement, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did receive the report yesterday after many, many efforts of trying to get the

information over some many weeks. I understand that the layoffs, and in some instances demotions, are related to technological change. I appreciate that. I have a supplementary question and that is, whether he as Minister can assure the House that the Manitoba Telephone System will make every effort to place within that large organization of thousands of employees those persons who may be adversely affected by this technological change. I think this is the question, people must accept technological change but is there an opportunity for those people, many of whom have given many many years of good service to the MTS, for those people to be able to be assured of some position within the organization?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, I think it could be said that we would expect and assume, and indeed be quite satisfied that the Manitoba Telephone System would make every effort to provide employment for those a whose categories may be affected by the changes which are now taking place in technology. And again I mention that these matters are going to be discussed, or there will be an opportunity for them to be discussed, during this month of December when officials of the MTS visit Brandon.

MR. EVANS: I thank the honourable minister for that information. Just one final supplementary, then. I appreciate his efforts and I appreciate that this matter then is still in the process of discussion and that there is a union management agreement involved. Is the minister telling us, however, that he cannot give the House any assurance that there will not be layoffs in Brandon at the Manitoba Telephone System, of some proportion?

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Speaker, what the member is requesting would be a very broad statement indeed, and I can only repeat that every effort is being made to accommodate any personnel whose categories may be affected by the reduction, due to technology, of the number of traffic operators required. But I do point out that there are additional jobs being created in those centres where the technology is being installed so that the total number of jobs may in fact not be reduced and could possibly be somewhat increased.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister in reference to the statement made by the Minister of Industry and Commerce that the staff of the department are preparing a position paper to present to the Commission. I would like to know if it is now the practice of the government to allow civil servants to prepare policy papers for the government and have them presented without any review or examination, or discussion by the cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the First Minister indicate then that if in fact these positions on important areas such as transportation are only going to be prepared by tomorrow and presented on Monday, can he indicate exactly when the government will be undertaking an assessment of those policy papers and reviewing them so that we can ensure that the elected representatives are making policy and not the civil servants?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can assure my honourable friend that the government will be giving consideration to the matters that he has raised. I can equally assure him that when he goes home, as he is able to at five-thirty tonight, other members of the government benches, as I'm sure our predecessors did, have to stay around to look at precisely such matters or grab snatches of time from here and there to do precisely such things. That's the job of government. It's a job my honourable friends across the way just finished doing. It's a job that we're doing right now. It's a job that unfortunately my honourable friend will probably never do.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, aside from the weakness of the First Minister's capacity as a prognosticator, which has always been held in doubt, I was wondering if he could indicate whether in fact the cabinet wanted his review of those documents, whether he can give us an assurance that that position paper will be tabled in this House and will in fact have been carefully reviewed by the full cabinet so that we can ensure that it is a document and a position paper that is endorsed by the entire government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Labour. I gave her some advance notice on this. Is she in a position to tell me whether inquiries have been set up into

two more industrial deaths in Transcona within the last week or so, namely the one at the CNR caused supposedly by an explosion of an anti-tank missile, and one involving a construction accident on Pandora Street?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, I contacted the director of the Workplace Safety who looks after this and the man that is in charge of it is out of town at the time and he said that he was quite confident that there had been somebody sent to the site.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General further to the question that you took as notice Friday, and further on Tuesday. Notwithstanding the fact that he may not be able to provide me with information pertaining to the commencement date of the Family Court project, could the Attorney-General provide assurance to the House that the Family Court Pilot Project will be launched during the calendar year 1978?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HONOURABLE GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, the project to which my honourable friend has referred is under review and as soon as we're in a position to make an announcement it will be made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to reply to a question that the Leader of the Opposition put to the Premier a couple of days ago with regards to the connection of the MDC and the Manitoba Forestry Complex. On March 25th, 1975, an agreement which prescribes that the Manitoba Forestry Resources Limited has issued from the province of Manitoba moneys for the operations in the form of preferred shares in the capital stock and as a result any freeze as it relates to the Manitoba Development Corporation has no effect on that particular complex.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Mines and Environmental Management, in respect to the dismissal by him of the appeal by the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul re Clean Environment Commission Order, did the honourable member give consideration to referral of the appeal to the Municipal Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHEAN: Mr. Speaker, this morning I took as notice a question from the Honourable the Member for St. Boniface which I'd like to respond to now. The member asked me whether previously announced construction at the Manitoba School at Portage was affected by the freeze. The answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, is that the only capital construction item approved by the previous administration for that school in the 1977-78 fiscal year was the new recreation building. As of this date nothing has moved on that building. Nothing was being done on it by the previous administrations so the situation remains exactly where it has been for the past several months.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, is my honourable friend saying that there is no freeze on that project?

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying that. But what I'm saying is that the situation remains exactly where it has been for the past several months. Nothing was being done on it at this juncture anyway.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, then the answer is, yes, this is affected by the freeze. It's a different thing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and concerns the matter raised earlier this afternoon by the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. Can the honourable minister confirm that the patient was discharged from the hospital without any supply of pain-killing drugs?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I'd uave to ask the honourable member to repeat that question. I'm sorry, I was reading some material on my desk and I apologize.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I asked the honourable minister if he could confirm that the patient in question was discharged from the hospital without being given a supply of pain-killing drugs?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could ask the honourable member if the patient to which he is referring is the one that was involved in the earlier exchange between myself . . . Mrs. Foster's? I don't know that to be the situation, Mr. Speaker. I know that the discharge was carried out under proper medical procedures followed by all such institutions in those cases. I can't tell the honourable member what supplies of drugs accompanied the patient. I presume her doctor would have taken all those conditions into account.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, can the honourable minister confirm that the pharmacy at the hospital was closed on that day?

MR. SHERMAN: No, I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker, but I might just say that the honourable member and the Honourable Member for St. Boniface appear to be asking me to make a judgement on a medical decision. I can't make a judgement on a medical decision. Whether it was the right or wrong medical decision I would not presume to comment. A medical decision was made.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. If the Member for St. Boniface has got a point of privilege . . . ?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the honourable minister is trying to place words in my mouth and that's not the question I asked him at all. I didn't ask him about a medical decision. I asked him if he was satisfied that they should prioritize and allow this woman to leave . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. That is not a point of privilege. Order please. The Honourable Member for St. Vital. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. SCHREYER: Yes, my point of order, Sir, is that it is important in terms of definition as to what constitutes a point of privilege. I believe, Sir, that the rules will show that misquotation, imputation of motives, wrong paraphrasing, attribution of remarks that are not correct attributed to anyone is a very bona fide point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this on a point of order? The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: I don't mind attempting to answer the honourable member's questions but I suggest that neither the honourable member or the Honourable Leader of the Opposition have a point at all in this case. I was asked a series of questions by the honourable member which I interpret as requesting of me a judgment on a medical decision. That is the way I read the questions from the honourable member. I have a perfect right to state that, he has no point of privilege on that point whatever. I am prepared to accept whatever other questions he may wish to put.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: On the same point of order, . . . right to interpret the question the way he wants. But I don't think that he has the right to misstate the question and I did not ask him the question. I asked him if he was satisfied. I did not ask anything about a medical person, I asked him if he was satisfied that the prioritizing was done properly and that a person was allowed to stay in a private room — a person that had never even been panelled to go in a personal care home — when a woman was released to go to her husband alone, who has a pacemaker, and I ask him if that was proper prioritizing. I am not blaming anything on the doctor for what happened to this person, I am saying is that proper proceeding, and is that the way we are going to treat the people of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I will be interested in checking the record but the honourable member did not start his series of questions by asking me that at all. He asked me if I was satisfied with the procedure, the proper procedure had been followed. He was Minister of Health for several years, he knows what the procedure is, and what I am saying to him is he knows full well that procedure was followed properly. That is my answer to him. If he is asking me to make a judgment, which I suggested he did, and I was immediately told I was imputing motives, I say I can't make that judgment.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, I will check the record of Hansard to see whether or not there is a

point of privilege. The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, if I might not ask my final supplementary to the Minister of Health, and ask him if he would consider looking further into this matter, including the availability of morphine to physicians in this city.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to cooperate with the Honourable Member for St. Vital on that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my question is not supplementary but flows related, it from the answer given by the Minister of Health to the Honourable Member for St. Boniface. May I ask the honourable minister that when he said that nothing had been done at the Portage Home, can I ask him to assure this House that the staff-to-patient ratio at the Portage Home will be maintained at present levels and not allowed to revert back to a ratio of one to three as existed in years gone by.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that assurance at this time. I would say to him though that when I said nothing had been done I was talking about the construction, and the construction freeze referred to by his colleague relevant to one specific unit, which is the new recreation building. On the staff-to-patient ratio that, Sir, is under review.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether I should ask this question to the minister responsible for the Emergency Measures Organization, but I will ask it to the First Minister indirectly. Would he contact the Armed Services to have them do a check in Transcona and ensure that there are no more supposed anti-tank missiles lying around in Transcona.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a supplementary.

MR. PARASIUK: I was not asking that question in jest. If in fact, someone is blown up by an anti-tank missile thirty or forty years after a war, I think that it is not a silly question to ask that a check be made. I don't know if there are some lying around or not, and I said I would have asked that to the minister in charge of the Emergency Measures Organization had I thought that that was the person that should do it, but I thought it would add more weight if the First Minister did it directly, and that is why I asked the question in that way. —(Interjection)— It is not a joke.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development, and ask the honourable minister if he can advise the House of the status of the Children's Dental Care Program which was instituted by the previous New Democratic Party government. Is it the government's intention to freeze this program at its present level or are you planning to continue on with the expansion and cover the entire province as was the plan of the previous government. As you realize only a portion of the province is covered. As a matter of fact, part of my constituency is under the plan and the City of Brandon, which is another section of my constituency, is not under the plan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the honourable member that this is a program that has occupied a great deal of my time since I was appointed to my portfolio. It is a program in which I have a deep personal interest and I hope I will be able to announce policies in that area that will meet with the honourable member's support and enthusiasm.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East, with a supplementary.

MR. EVANS: Yes, a supplementary. I thank the honourable minister for his answer. I wonder if he is in a position to give the House any idea of the time frame of policy making, decision making, about approximately when would he be able to advise the public of Manitoba, if not the House, the public of Manitoba when this decision will be made.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suppose it would sound cavalier to say as soon as possible, but that is precisely the position I am in with an emphasis on the soon, because the honourable member

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understands full well I am sure that there are contractual obligations involved and they cannot be left hanging for an undue period of time, so I think I can underline the word soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Boniface and may I remind all gentlemen there are only two minutes left.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Health to clarify one of the answers that he just gave. When he says that nothing was done at the school in Portage, does he mean exactly that, or does he mean that the construction had not started.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: I mean, Mr. Speaker, that the construction had not been started.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister of Urban Affairs who I assume is responsible for the Emergency Measures Organization for indicating that he will look into the matter. I thank him for being courteous on this. As for the other member who I directed the question to, sleep well.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. I point out to the honourable member who has just spoken that the question period is to be used to elicit information, not to make statements.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the honourable Member for Pembina and the proposed amendment moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. The Honourable Member for St. James.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, this is the first opportunity that I have had to speak in the House during this session. I would like to take the opportunity, Sir, to congratulate you, on your position as the Speaker of this Assembly and I am confident that you will do a thorough and efficient job, like you always have in any other responsibilities that you have had in this Chamber. I would also like to congratulate the members who have been elected to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Member for Lac Du Bonnet has a question.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member stated that this is his first opportunity to speak, I am wondering whether he would explain that to us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I see that the members on the other side are still full of exuberance and still but also a little smarting. Just a little bit. Anyways, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the Cabinet members and I am confident that they will do a good job for people of Manitoba, and I would also like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech. I know what it is like to give a maiden speech in this House and I was fortunate to have a House Leader that when one stands up to make that maiden speech all eyes will be upon and the House will be watching and listening to the general attitudes of your introducing speech and first impressions are lasting impressions I am proud to say that in my opinion the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech, I believe, gave an excellent contribution and I believe will be respected in this House by all members of the House and will be listened to and will be accepted. I would also like to comment particularly that I was greatly impressed with the speech of the honourable member for Wellington. I thought it was an excellent contribution to the debate and I am sure he will have many more contributions to make during debate in this legislature and I am looking forward to hearing him speak in this Chamber.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the people of St. James constituency for finding the confidence to re-elect me. I know in the last election there was some thought by people that possibly I was elected as a backlash to the government putting St. James into Unicity. It felt gratifying to be re-elected and with a greater plurality this time so that I thank the St. James people and it will be my duty and effort to see that they are well represented in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I notice the difference on the government side from the opposition side and I am sure the members on the opposite side also notice it. I'm sure there must be a load off their shoulders and

that they feel a little freer now and I would think particularly the back-bench members — we've already heard more from them than we often did when they were in government. I'm sure that their comradeship will probably improve too when they're in opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I also noted with interest that the Honourable Member for Inkster is still in good form and still able to keep the rapt attention of everybody in this House when he stands up and speaks. The honourable member is still doing the same techniques. He'll set up a particular working model to explain something and set his criteria, but he'll leave out some major items that affect the final results. I'm referring to the explanation of the ten people in the room — be careful government, because out of those ten people, five voted for the government, four voted for the opposition and one voted for the Liberal, and it just takes one. Mr. Speaker, what the honourable member for Inkster failed to mention was what affects that five, four, one relationship is the leader. We know that there is a leadership going on over on the other side. It's quite obvious. With all due respect to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition who is a good leader in the eyes of the opposition, he has indicated that well he's in or he's out, we're not too sure. It's quite obvious from the speeches given to date, that the Honourable Member Inkster is in the leadership race and it's rightfully so. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that of anybody on that side he deserves to be the leader if their present leader decides to leave. Then what happens to the ratio? What happens to that room when we walk into that room with the ten supporters and the honourable member for Inkster is the leader? Now it's the PC government with seven, two and one. Then if the Honourable Member from Lac du Bonnet decides to run, I think we'd end up seven, two and one too, because both gentlemen believe that the land of this country should be owned by the government and only the government. That will affect that five, four, one ratio. I am confident that if this opposition continues in the manner it has to date in debate in this legislature, it won't be five, four, one, I'm confident it will probably be six, three, one for the Progressive Conservative government next time around. One can use numbers and the honourable member forgot one little thing, the leadership change which will occur over there. I wish him luck in attaining the leadership because I believe he would make a good leader of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I also enjoyed the story of the three envelopes. I've heard it before from our Honourable House Leader but I'm trying to figure out why the Honourable House Leader the Opposition, why he hasn't explained to his colleagues that those envelopes were written by the government, not by the opposition, because they have already opened up the envelope and they're blaming the new government, they're blaming the federal government on the deficits that have been created because of lack of transfer payments. What I haven't figured out, Mr. Speaker, is what they have in that third envelope. Maybe we'll find out, I don't know.

MR. Speaker, I would like to remind the opposition of — and they're fully aware of it — what their attitude of the public was prior to the election, what their attitude was to government ownership, what their attitude was to government control, what their attitude was to government involvement in their private lives. I think they answered, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba answered what they thought about government involvement in people's lives. They answered with forty nine, thirty nine, eleven percent for the Liberals. I have to remind the opposition because they still feel that they have the majority of people wanting government control, wanting government ownership of businesses, wanting the government involvement in every-day life. I get that reaction being fed back to me in all the speeches. Yet, before the election when you talked to the truck drivers, they said we're going to vote for you this time. I ran into supporters who said I voted NDP but this time I'm voting PC. We've had it, we've had it up to here with government involvement. This is what we were told. — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we'll ever hear that in Burrows. The Honourable Member for Burrows, I would grant, probably could sit in this Chamber for the rest of his life and be re-elected and be re-elected. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, I wasn't campaigning at Burrows so I don't know what they were saying in Burrows. I can tell you what they were saying in St. James. They were tired of government in business.

What did the honourable member for Seven Oaks say the other day in his presentation? He thought that public money should be used for public — I agree with you — that we should basically see that public money is used for the public, but don't take the money if you don't have to use it, leave it with the public. Leave it with them. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, using public money to build buses that were sold to transit systems in the United States, transit systems in Alberta, transit systems in Ontario, that were sold below what they actually cost to be built, is that using public money for use by the public of Manitoba when we end up subsidizing these other transit systems? — (Interjection) — That was good public use of the money for the people in San Francisco. Was it good use of public money to build airplanes the major portion of which were going to be used outside the province below what it cost to build them and end up with a forty million dollar cost that the Public of Manitoba has to pay for? Is that why the people of Manitoba said "yes, we've had it up to here with government involved in everything". This is why we're on this side Mr. Speaker. This is why we're on this side. This is why there was forty nine percent of the vote came over here. People were fed up with the government being involved in business.

They also wanted a cutback in spending. They were tired of looking at their paycheque at the end of the month and seeing all the money going for income tax. They were tired of it, yet this opposition stands up and accuses the government that is thirty five days old, of being responsible for six hundred and fifty jobs being laid off at INCO. Who believes it? Does the Honourable Member for Kildonan believe that? Does he really believe that the six hundred and fifty people that are going to be laid off at INCO were the cause of this new government?

The honourable member for Rupertsland in his speech the other day said that this new

government was responsible for shutting down CCIL. When was it? Back in May they shut down on skeleton staff. Was the Progressive Conservative government in power then in May? Yet this opposition is making statements like that.

Mr. Speaker, there's one basic difference between a government-operated business and a private-owned business. I don't know — several of the honourable members on the opposite side have owned businesses or own their own business and they know what I'm talking about. If you run a successful business, or attempt to run a successful business, there are four basic rules: First you pay your employees; secondly you pay your taxes that are taken off, income tax or if you happen to make a profit at the end of the year, a corporate tax; thirdly you pay your suppliers and then at the bottom of the roll if there is any money left, the owner gets it. Now if a business continues to operate for a number of years where there isn't any money left after you've gone through the three steps, you start to put in what is known as shareholders' loans. That's what's been happening with government- businesses in Manitoba. One, they paid their employees. Two, they don't have to necessarily pay taxes, they have to pay the payroll deductions, the income taxes to the federal government. It's my understanding that in one of the operations that is presently government owned that we've had to issue special warrants to cover payroll deductions that have not been paid to the federal government. Thirdly, pay your suppliers. Fourthly, if there's a profit left — well so far there are not too many companies that we have had that have been operating at a profit — in over a period of time then you start to put in the shareholders' loans. That's what we've been doing in Flyer. That's what we've been doing in Saunders. That's what we did in ManFor granted. Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba are the shareholders. They are the shareholders that are putting in these loans. Our government has decided that hey, let's put on the brakes and see what's happening. Now, is that wrong? Is this wrong, Mr. Speaker, to put the control on the spending because what happens when you have to start borrowing money to pay interest charges? What happens, Mr. Speaker, to a business? That's the same as writing a cheque that will bounce. If you tried to do that in private life, what would happen if you start to try and write cheques to borrow money to pay for money that has already been spent or interest charges? This is what the province was getting itself into. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the opposition is trying to claim that through the restraints that we're guilty of the six hundred and fifty employees who will be phased out of INCO. We're guilty of the fact that back in May there were only a hundred people left to work at CCIL. Who are they trying to fool, Mr. Speaker, because the people of Manitoba weren't fooled the last time when they kept saying, well, we're in great shape, we're doing everything, that the economy is great.

The Honourable Member for Kildonan, I believe, is in the construction industry, or has closeness to it. He knows that the construction industry hasn't been healthy for the last year and a half. It's been starting to peak. He knows that the unemployment was high in the construction industry and it didn't happen overnight. It didn't happen thirty-five days ago, it's been building up. And why has it been building up? Why has it been building up, Mr. Speaker? Because the people who were able to invest in Manitoba didn't want to invest here. Why didn't they want to invest here? Because we had a corporate tax that was higher, we had income tax that was higher; we had inheritance tax if a chap owned a family business and he wanted to pass it on to his sons and daughters. This all builds up, Mr. Speaker. This business climate builds up into a state where people say: "I'm not going to stay in Manitoba," or "I'm not coming to Manitoba." So a new government comes in and says: "Well, let's change this business climate." And we've taken the step, at least it's the first step, in reducing income tax, and reducing corporate tax, and getting rid of the inheritance state tax, hoping and confident that the people will now recognize Manitoba as another area in Canada where they can establish a business. The labor market is here; we know that people are here to work and provide the needed manpower to operate these facilities. They know that they will have an opportunity to compete with other provinces now, based on taxes and so forth. So why won't they come in? Why won't they come in? There's a much better opportunity for them to come in now than there was a month ago.

And you can feel it on the street, Mr. Speaker, when you talk to people. The day after the election they felt relieved — many of them — it was there. I don't know whether my honourable members on the opposition side felt it; maybe the people that they were talking with didn't feel that way, but I'll tell you, some forty-nine to fifty-nine percent of Manitoba felt that way. — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that our opposition members will do a good job in opposition, and that's what this Chamber's all about, making sure that the government does its best job.

But I would like to remind the opposition that I represent all people in my constituency, the same way they do, and I don't always believe in the philosophies that some twenty-nine percent, I think it is, who voted for the NDP. But I still represent them, and when the Honourable Member for Inkster says that we have thirty-nine percent on our side, you people also represent the number of people who didn't vote for you over there, and they're watching. So it's not just a simple trade. I would think particularly they'll be watching the Honourable Member for Churchill; I'm confident that the people in Churchill are not as far left as the Honourable Member for Churchill is. They'll be watching carefully, they'll be watching very carefully. And it might be relaxing to be on the opposition side to throw out the remarks and the wild statements, and so on, but don't forget that we represent not only the people that elected you but also the other people. They'll be watching, so that five-four-one isn't as simple as the Honourable Member for Inkster puts it out to be.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the proposals that are being put forward by our government, the tax changes will bring back development in Manitoba and we'll get the economy rolling again. But it won't be a switch — we can just flip the light switch and everything turns bright today. The opposition

feels that that's the way it should be, but we knew it wouldn't be that way, that it would take a little while, it'll take a year or so to get going. But at least we're trying, Mr. Speaker. I'm confident that this is the right approach to the problem and what the people of Manitoba wanted. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks has a question?

MR. SAUL A. MILLER: Yes, if the member will accept a question. The member in his remarks suggested that the slump in construction in Manitoba was due to the tax policies of the former government, the ones that are based on the ability-to-pay. How does he explain the slump in Ontario, or even in greater degree than occurred in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, the only thing I can say is maybe because it's a minority government there, and there is even fear that possibly the opposition might become government some day.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE: Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be brief. I had wondered what I could contribute to this debate, but then I thought that perhaps it would be more interesting to the people of Manitoba to listen to what the Leader of the Opposition — I did it too — the Premier has to say relative to this supposedly short session. But I can't let the opportunity go by, Mr. Speaker, without welcoming the new members. I had wished that the government would have taken this opportunity to allow their members to speak, because it isn't a regular session, in that we get the opportunity in the parry and trust of estimates to really get to know each other. So I thought on the throne speech debate that their tactics would be that they would expose their new members to the public, but this wasn't the case. It not being a regular session, fellows are more kind than they were when I was a new member. If you recall the first time I stood up to try and put my foot in my mouth, somebody said my fly was open, or something, and it really threw me off.

But I want to commend the ministers in the way that they have tried to dig in and find the answers. I figure I owe some of the fellows on the other side a debt of gratitude, because some three years ago they stuck me with a portfolio, a few months before estimates and the fellows were relatively kind to me during the estimates. They didn't try to stick my hide on a fence. But, Mr. Speaker, some of the comments that have taken place in this debate — for example the Member for St. James mentioned the Member for Inkster's argument the other day, and I'm sorry the Member for Inkster isn't here because I wanted to tell him that I've already got my one. This woman phoned me and she said she was glad I had won. She had voted against me, but she was glad I had won, because she had been trying to get in touch with the Premier's office and one of the programs that they froze and cut out was a modest program that employed a few people that were having difficulty getting employment, taking people to the hospital, taking people for doctors' appointments — a small program, a modest program, but they cut it out. And they were trying to contact the Premier's office to raise their objections but of course they couldn't get through to the Premier. And I understand this, because he's a busy man. But nevertheless, as an old-age pensioner this had already cost her \$20.00, and she wondered how she was going to be able to sustain this after being promised. And she believed some of the things that the Conservatives were going through the province and frightening people and telling them that they were going to do much more for the senior citizens than we were ever able to do.

Mr. Speaker, I was a little bit apprehensive when we went into opposition, because I thought maybe we were going back into limbo, but they've restored my faith over there, because they want to go right back into, you know, the days of almost Little Lloyd Fauntleroy suits, where people behaved themselves and they get along to work for what the company tells you to work for, that you will prevail, that you will succeed in life, that you can catch the brass ring. It's almost as if the tunes that were played fifty years ago have been resurrected, so they're restoring my faith that me being in opposition will not be too long.

Mr. Speaker, there were many people who thought that this party would never form a government. But one thing that they can never take away from the government is the fact of the opposition at the time, that we did form a government. And there are many things that we did for the people. When people talk about government spending, and it's regrettable that we have the kind of fifth estate that we have that doesn't try to educate people in just exactly what they get for tax dollars. They get services for tax dollars. And when the provincial auditor goes out and insists that we account for things in a particular way, then he should at the same time come out with a balance sheet. When he says that we owe three billion dollars, he should at the same time come out and tell the people of the province of Manitoba how much we own for that 3 billion dollars. Manitoba Housing and Renewal, for example . . . how much of the assets of Manitoba Housing and Renewal? What are they worth in current terms? If we took every government operation that we, the taxpayers of the province of Manitoba owned and put them up on one side, and put the insignificant figures that you run around scaring people with on the other side, then people would finally see through it. If we operated the Manitoba Telephone System as Bell does, what do you think this is worth? If we operated Manitoba Hydro as private companies do, what do you think it would be worth? And there are private companies selling power, but yet, no, they go around and say: "governments can't operate business."

Hogwash. Hogwash. Public insurance . . . you're going to go back to the good old days of the private sector? —(Interjection)— Well I know they want business to operate government, but it's inefficient business that wants to operate the government.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in enterprise. I believe that if somebody saves money, that they're entitled to a return on that investment. I believe that if people work harder, that they're entitled to more than somebody who doesn't work harder. But, nevertheless —(Interjection)— Oh no, I'm not. I believe that if we're going to use taxpayers' dollars in any venture, that we're accountable to the public. This is good, bad, we've gained, we've lost. But take for example down in your own area —(Interjection)— Why did Canadian Cannery get out of Morden? Why? Because Canadian Cannery went to the federal government, and the federal government's got a pot of money. Unemployment in Quebec: they're going to solve their problems of unemployment in Quebec by expanding the canning capacity in Quebec. They built a new plant in Quebec. They let that one rot down there and they finally closed it. And, Mr. Speaker, if I was on the Board of Directors of Canadian Cannery, I would have made the same decision. But my responsibility to the stockholders of that company is to return the best I can on their investment, but nevertheless in the public interest.

To the people in your constituency, in your area, they're trying to raise special crops to make-a-dollar, make-a-living; it's the worst thing that can happen. But this is what happened — private business, private sector — this is a myth that some of you people who haven't been in business don't know about, and it really rancles me. I stood up on that side of the House and supported the Minister of Agriculture on this assistance to farmers. The people in this province want to work together to stabilize their production, I'll put a hundred million dollars into it. But nevertheless when farmers need help, it's help; but in the city of Winnipeg when my people need work and need jobs, you can't run a business. How many jobs at Flyer? How many jobs at the co-op? What are our people supposed to do? —(Interjection)— Starve? Put them on welfare. Let them eat cake. Oh no, no, no. Well, don't get excited, I'll tell myself that.

A MEMBER: Keep it cool, Bud.

MR. BOYCE: I'll give you a chance. I'll wait and see. The people lining up to come back. I remember the headline in the Winnipeg Free Press that sends the blind reporter over here that can't even count people in the gallery, that Manitoba was a good place to be from. In 1969 that headline was in the Winnipeg Free Press. I'll wait for all of the success stories to hit the front page of the Winnipeg Free Press.

But, Mr. Speaker, I just couldn't sit back and let my good friend over there from St. James get away with that which he laid on us. But I can't help but mention also that this session was supposed to have been to take care of the five-four decision of the Supreme Court, so the Chief Justice agrees that we're right. I was around when they made this decision and the arguments and the suggestions were that we did have the authority to proceed in this manner, to make ourselves part of the federal anti-inflation program — I'm still of that opinion but that doesn't make any difference. The Chief Justice and I, as far as the outcome is concerned, have to pass legislation, that's the way it is. But to be dragged into this House to forestall family law, that's another thing. And the Attorney-General, who I respect, in his capacity with the City Council I found that he is a man of integrity and he did what he said he could do. But I'm sorry. Next year I don't think that this legislation is going to be reintroduced at all, I think it will die. I think this is —(Interjection)— I'm entitled to my opinion. That the principles that are involved will go by the board; that you want to pass legislation at this session which was only called — only necessitated by the five-four decisions of the Supreme Court — that you want to do away with estate taxes. I'm sorry I can't get too excited about that.

The Leader of the Opposition —(Interjection)— the Premier, yes, well, he still thinks he is the Leader of the Opposition. I wish he'd stop chirping from his seat and then maybe I would think of him as the Premier. —(Interjection)— Well, we'll keep working at it, you keep working to keep me here and I'll keep working to get you out, okay? That's fair enough.

But when you're talking about saving \$5 million, for whom? The last figures that are out — 148 estates or something like that. And I have to go back to people on the telephone and say that you can't even find a few bucks to haul people that can't get to the doctor, that this is the kind of program that you're cutting back. You come out and you say that you're going to make it better for senior citizens and then cut out taxes for these people. It makes it most difficult except that you're insuring once more, more people learn that you really haven't got an interest people, that they can either have welfare or unemployment insurance or eat cake, or whatever you want.

But, one and three-quarters overtime, one and three-quarters overtime. Time and a half, they don't pay time and a half they only pay time and a quarter or time and a third or something else like that. You've got to create jobs by encouraging people to work somebody a little extra rather than see if they can accommodate somebody for a full-time job. That's the essence of it, you're not going to solve their problem. If you come up with some kind of a program coupled to the revocation of that particular piece of legislation that would be another kettle of fish, but just cosmetics.

I like the attitude of the government because it will get through to the people. The Member for Inkster was out, I wanted to tell you that I already got my one. I got my one —(Interjection)— a Conservative. She was candid with me; she voted Conservative. She's going to vote for us next time.

I really enjoyed the Minister responsible for the environment in his response to the former Minister of Agriculture's question about the causal relationships between . . . was it Left Angle Farm or Right Angle Farm or something is polluting the stream? Right Angle.

One of the first jobs I had when I got out of university was to test the effluent from a pulp mill flowing into a stream and when the sample exceeded the biological demands of the river it would kill every fish within miles. The samples used to disappear and one day I asked, "Whatever happens to these samples?" "Oh, you just don't worry about that. That isn't your job. You just test it and you put down the figures and the whole thing disappears." This particular pulp mill, they grew grapes in this whole area but they put a pulp mill there and within three years every grape within a mile and a half was dead. And the farmers went to the company and said, "You know our grapes died." "But we didn't do it." You've got to prove causal relationships. Did you ever try to prove anything in causal relationships? You know we had grapes here and they were growing nicely and you came and built a plant and every grape dies. You must have done it. Did you ever try and prove that?

A MEMBER: The grapes of wrath.

MR. BOYCE: The grapes of wrath it was. But going back down there I noticed the people in the community have finally forced them into putting two in-line . . . precipitators. Now they're growing grapes again, but nevertheless the company finally had to rectify the situation. But it was interesting to hear the tone of the member's speech, Mr. Speaker. I wish him well in his job. It's a difficult post that he has.

I wish the Minister of Education well. I was glad to see that they're continuing with that program out in Brandon. That the arrangements that they made with the federal government to cost-share on the staff development for correctional officers and the rest of it. I think that that should go ahead and I think that once you get all the details that are coming onto your desk I think that you might even personally be enthusiastic about the thrust in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, I would rather be over there than here, I would — in government with the rest of these guys. One it was the best job I ever had. of the things that I tried to do is that I tried to get a group of people together that wanted to be involved in that particular area and I think we were very successful. I am very glad that the staff who were there — I have stayed away from every one of them entirely because they're a very conscientious bunch and they're professional people — and I get the feeling, I get the understanding, that they're making the kind of commitment as professional people to the present government to see that they do a good job for them as they did for us.

Some people have said that the civil service doesn't produce very much.

A MEMBER: Who said it?

MR. BOYCE: Well, this is the indication by some people. But I think that you'll find that in the field of corrections and dealing with young people that the staff who have been gathered together in Manitoba is one of the best in the country and that the programs that they have initiated, that if you choose to continue them until such time as they get the full test, that you will see that what I say is true, that they are really one of the best staffs involved professionally in the country.

I said, Mr. Speaker, that I was going to be brief and I see that the Leader of the Opposition is back so we'll have more to say hopefully in the regular session on some of these bills on other matters.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I rise with some enjoyment to participate in the last stages of this debate on the amendment moved by my friend the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I do so after having heard at least a part of some of the discussions that have taken place over the last week on the Throne Speech, some of which I will be alluding to in the course of my remarks.

I am not, of course, unmindful of the fact that this is the first time that I am speaking from this particular chair, although of course not the first time that I am speaking from this side of the House. And I can report to my friend the Member for Inkster, the House Leader for the Opposition, that it's pleasant to be back on this side of the House. I only spent a year or so on that side of the House. his record has been that he has been over here longer than over there and that it's not only the air a little better over here but the challenges are greater, although he seems to be fitting in extremely well to his what I hope will be longtime and customary role as one of the chief antagonists of the government.

May I first of all, Mr. Speaker, congratulate you on your elevation to the highest office that this House has to bestow upon any of its members. You, Sir, I am sure, are just as mindful of your role as a fair and equitable arbiter of the debates in this Chamber as are the most experienced members of this House. I have no hesitation in saying at all — and I'm sure it's borne out now on all sides of the House — that I have complete confidence that you will live up to the highest and to the best traditions of your role as speaker. Your deportment, your rulings thus far bear out our faith in you and your abilities and we're sure that you will be able to guide the debates and the discussions in this Chamber with fairness toward all and with partiality to none.

I would also, Mr. Speaker, like to congratulate the mover and the seconder to the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable the Member for Pembina and the Honourable the Member for St. Matthews, two of the youngest members that we have on this side of the House. I took great personal pride in the speeches that both of these young men made but, more importantly, I take greater pride in their presence in this House. I think that both are going to have a long and productive lives of service to

their constituents and to their province, and I think that the manner in which they started off their legislative careers — that is the formal part here in the legislature — is something that all members around the House can be proud of.

I suppose I can be forgiven a bit of subjective and personal pride in the fact that their competence, their ability as displayed in their remarks to the House, indicates, as the Honourable Member for Radisson would say, some of the best that we have in the backfield. And there is lots more depth in the backfield.

I'm equally proud of my colleagues on the frontbench, the second row and the third row, and even those who have spilled over onto the opposition side because of lack of seats on this side. That's a good type of a spillover to have and I feel rather confident that after the next election there will probably be a few more sitting on that side of the House as a spillover from this side of the House.

But more importantly is the fact that as I looked at the list of members who had been elected, there are a number of us, including the person now speaking, who are shall we say longer term members of the House. But I took some joy from the fact as well, Mr. Speaker, that there are 17 by my count, 17 new members of the House, 14 of them residing on this side of the Chamber to the right of Mr. Speaker, and three of them within the ranks of the Official Opposition.

I wish particularly to congratulate the new members of the House — all 17 of them — for, first of all, their commitment to public service — because it is a commitment, secondly, their commitment to their own constituencies because they had to bear the support, or they had to find and to cultivate and to generate and to receive the support of the majority of their constituents before they could be in this House; and thirdly, to wish them some measure of success and some measure of enjoyment, but particularly satisfaction from the kind of service that they can give to the people of Manitoba, whether they sit on the government side or the opposition side. Because it is no disgrace, as the Honourable the Member for Inkster can tell you and indeed the Member for St. Boniface, it is no disgrace; in fact it is part of the system that governments change from time to time, that's how the parliamentary system best works, so that there is alternation between two conflicting ideas or two conflicting philosophies, that is quite proper.

I say to my honourable friends across the way that the government has changed and that is not the end of the world for the NDP, and they know that — may I say it is not the end of the world for the NDP any more than that it in 1969 heralded in what some of them thought was going to be the New Jerusalem. That didn't happen either. I say equally to my colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party that we have a fundamental responsibility which has now been placed upon us after being in opposition for some eight years, to bring forward those policies, to administer the affairs of the people of Manitoba in a way that is consistent with the mandate that we have received from the people of Manitoba. We're not always going to find agreement with our honourable friends opposite; in fact I'd be very surprised if we did. I think that, as has been said earlier this afternoon by the Honourable the Member for St. James, it is out of that conflict of ideas, it is out of that adversarial parliamentary system that the kind of parliamentary democracy that we still enjoy, not only in this province but in this country and indeed in the diminishing number of countries in the Western World — it is out of that kind of confrontation sometimes hot and heavy, sometimes done in a more civilized way, but nonetheless it is out of that kind of adversarial relationship that good government can emerge.

A good opposition can make a government a better government. I look upon my honourable friends opposite, many of whom I know as good opposition critics, some of whom I know as good workers in the government, and I look upon them to help us. Through their criticism, and I hope it'll be mostly constructive, I look upon them to help us provide good government for Manitoba and to tell us when we're not providing it, according to their lights and I'm sure they will because that's their job.

I must say as an aside, Mr. Speaker, that I've always felt having the respect I do for my colleagues opposite us in this House, I've always felt that members of the New Democratic Party were more at home in opposition than they ever were in government in any case. I think that they really feel more at home. They have never been in office federally in Canada and the prospects for it look pretty dim down the next twenty or twenty-five years as well, but they have fulfilled even with as few as eight or nine members, they've always fulfilled a functioning role in the parliament of Canada even though their numbers are small. I think today they're what, only sixteen members of the federal New Democratic Party in the House of Commons, sixteen out of two hundred and sixty four, but they have a role to play and it's a role that contributes to the ability of parliament to function in a democratic fashion.

So I say to my honourable friends opposite, don't be too disgruntled as I know some must feel about being in opposition. That's part of the job of being in parliament, part of democracy, any more than we should feel too terribly elated (although we might be permitted a little bit of elation after October 11, but for not too long a period) any more than we should feel too elated over the fact that we are now in government charged with those responsibilities which only five weeks ago my honourable friends had under their domain.

So I think all of us can take pride in the fact that the democratic system still functions in a free and unfettered way in the province of Manitoba. We hope it will continue thus for generations, centuries indeed, to come, but we have to watch it and guard it vigilantly to make sure that it continues to be responsive to what the wishes of the people of this province are.

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't close this initial part of my remarks without saying to my honourable friends opposite that over the next four years while they are in opposition, I hope that they can regroup themselves. We hear constant rumours of course about leadership changes, but that's within their province, not within ours. But I do hope very sincerely that they can refresh their spirits because I

know that eight years in government has its toll because those particularly on the Treasury Bench worked very very hard. I know that because I know my honourable friends across the way worked very hard and I know that my colleagues on the Treasury Bench and in the caucus here, are working very hard in government.

So over the next four years I hope they can refresh their spirits as they are freed up from administrative responsibilities, restore their humour and their goodwill. There's been a little bit of erosion in that and we hope it will come back. And as somebody else, I believe it was the Member for St. James, said this afternoon, perhaps there can be more of that camaraderie that used to exist in this House in previous years when many of us were here in different capacities, albeit more of the true camaraderie that I think should exist among legislators.

All of us from time to time, the present speaker included (by speaker, I mean myself, Sir, not you) all of us from time to time contribute to jibes and jests that occasionally we would feel better if we hadn't said. All of us do that. But I think that the 'give and take' of parliament is important. The heckling is important. There's no better heckler in the House than the Member for St. Boniface, the Member for Inkster and I hope they'll keep it up, because that's part of the spirit of parliament too. But after we leave the House, then I hope that we could leave the House as friends, united in the common desire even though we look upon it through different eyes or different lights, united in the common desire that we want to serve the people of Manitoba. And while we'll have our differences in here, those differences should not reflect upon the relationship that exists man to man, or woman to woman, in our common jobs as representatives of the people.

It is in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, that I would be remiss if I did not say to the Leader of the Opposition how much I believe personally — and I know I speak for the people of Manitoba when I say this — he deserves the thanks and the respect of all of the people of Manitoba for the service that he performed over the last eight years as the First Minister of this province. To him and to his family, and I've said this before, they have nothing but the best of will, I know, from all people in Manitoba. Partisan differences are one thing, but in terms of respect for the person who has filled that job, even though we have disagreed from time to time, disagreed fundamentally with what he was doing, the person has filled the job, the man has filled the job in an honourable way and he deserves the respect and has the respect, I know, of the people of Manitoba for that. And that is said, Mr. Speaker, any implication be left, without in any way discounting the fact that he may still aspire to come back to this side of the House, not withstanding some of the statements that he has made. But eight years as Premier of Manitoba is an outstanding record, I think, for any man or woman to have fulfilled and we pay him that tribute and we wish him well, not only in his present job as Leader of the Opposition but . . . R. SPEAKER: Order please. I'm sure the First Minister does not mind me interrupting his speech to welcome to our Chambers a gentleman who has graced our Chambers before, the Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker. The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING LYON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't think of a better way in which to be interrupted than by the presence in our Chamber at this moment of one of Canada's greatest parliamentarians, and a man who I am sure would have echoed the words that I was just speaking about the parliamentary process and who, may I say, is a living example of the continuation of that process and of the kind of contribution that that process has made to the maintenance of democracy in our parliamentary system in this country.

So we are pleased and privileged to have the Right Honourable gentleman with us this afternoon. I'm only sorry that he will have to bear through a few comments that perhaps will be a little strange to him in terms of the fact that he has not been around to hear the debate that was going on for the last several days. We welcome him in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, there are three points to the amendment that was moved by the Leader of the Opposition when he first spoke on this Motion the other day dealing with the question of the Marital Property Act, dealing with the question of taxation, the Succession Duty Act, and dealing as well with the statement that we are increasing the relative burden of taxation on lower income groups by providing tax relief etc. to those who have greater ability to pay.

He did as well, in paragraph two, mention creating undue incentives to Manitoba employers to utilize overtime hours at the expense of numbers of unemployed persons, potentially employable. In effect what my honourable friend has purported to deal with in his amendment, or purported to say, is first of all he agrees with the legislation to put Manitoba back under the Anti-Inflation legislation, legislation which I, in its introduction, pointed out was before my honourable friends. It could have been brought in by them in 1976 and which in turn, because of the Supreme Court case, has triggered this session because the failure to bring it into force and effect at the present time could have an impact on the public purse of something to the effect of \$50 million, aside altogether from the inequities that would be created as between the public and the private sectors in Manitoba.

So I was naturally expectant that the Leader of the Opposition would support this legislation and that is what he has told me. You then, can imagine my amazement Sir, on hearing the other day that two or possibly three of the members of the opposition are not going to follow the lead of the Leader of the Opposition with respect to legislation that one would have thought would have had unanimous support on all sides of the House. I merely say to those members that if they do not support the legislation now, what was their position when the government brought it in by way of Order-in-Council? Why did we not hear from them then, standing up and saying, "This government of ours has passed an Order-in-Council with which we disagree?"

We didn't hear any such ringing tones or terms from them at that time but now that they are safely

ensconced on the opposition side, now when they have no responsibility except to criticize, now they are bravely standing up and saying, "Well, we did a bad job of it; we didn't bring it in the right way but because the Tories are bringing it in, we're going to try to sweep up a little bit of political favour into our corner. Won't this or that union think we are pretty good fellows if we vote against this bill that the Tories are bringing in."

Well you know that kind of hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker, just doesn't wash. I think that the Leader of the Opposition was quite right when he said there was no alternative for him and for the members of his group, but to support this legislation because it is merely a continuation of a policy that was brought in by my honourable friends with the support of the then opposition. And I find it ironic that this kind of oddball — if I may use that expression — oddball kind of negativism, is arising now, possibly only for the reasons that I have suggested, and I hope that the motivations for the objections are higher than what I have suggested.

I remind my honourable friends opposite, Mr. Speaker, that whereas the Leader of the Opposition pointed out in his amendment to the throne speech. Here were his exact words: "This House expresses its regret that the government has, with one exception that has time urgency, given a priority to five measures that will," and then goes on. This matter has time urgency. I believe that the members of the opposition are aware of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that while we have been droning away this week on a throne speech debate, the city of Winnipeg has sent to the Minister of Urban Affairs a letter which was shown to the Leader of the Opposition, indicating that unless this bill was passed, the AIB Bill, was passed by the 4th of December, that considerable difficulty, if not embarrassment, financially could result to the city of Winnipeg by virtue of the fact that they would have to issue cheques on that date. Now the Minister of Urban Affairs is in the position where he could, of course, give no guarantee to the city of Winnipeg. And I'm not saying that the city of Winnipeg or any outside organization should be able to impress false time limits on this House or any other parliament, but I say that when the House is convened for the primary purpose of passing a piece of legislation which has some time urgency to it, then instead of twenty-three members droning away on a throne speech which is fine and dandy, but setting a new precedent in terms of special sessions in this House, the honourable members opposite have to accept some responsibility along with the members of the government if that legislation is not passed in time to meet the requests of at least one other public group in this province. I say that not so much by way of criticism as I say it by way of fact, that when I pointed out at the beginning of this session the precedent that the government was following with respect to a short session was a precedent from the 1961 session where there was agreement that the throne speech would be foreshortened in order that the House could get on with the business for which it had been called. I know that on Monday next we are going to be finishing, maybe perhaps even sooner, finishing the throne speech. But, at the same time, I think that notwithstanding the pious protestations of understanding time urgency with respect to the AIB legislation, and its impact on the public sector in Manitoba, my honourable friends opposite have not given, shall we say, that degree of urgency to the so-called urgent matter that is still before us, and which has still not had second reading. So perhaps next week, when this debate is concluded, we can really get down to business, and display to the people of Manitoba the fact that we are able to accomplish public business in a somewhat speedier manner than has manifested thus far.

The legislation is necessary, there is no fundamental disagreement about it, and I would hope that there would be agreement on the part of honourable members opposite that we should be able to pass it through its various stages into committee, and so on, with the least delay possible, and with by leave get it through absolutely as quickly as possible, and then if there is debate on the other matters, fine and dandy, but let's deal with priority matters first.

Now something has been said, of course, about the bill that is before us to abolish the Succession Duty and the Gift Tax Act. My honourable friends opposite, and I don't know how many of them are aware of this, could have been reading from a speech that was given by, I think it was Mr. Levi, one of the opposition members from British Columbia who was formerly a member of Mr. Barrett's cabinet in British Columbia, who when the provincial treasurer of British Columbia announced that B.C. was getting out of the succession duty and gift tax field last year, made a speech, the tone, the ideology, the philosophy of which has been echoed, re-echoed, and re-echoed again in this Chamber in the last week during the course of the throne speech, if not on the debate of the bill itself, which has had lesser attention. But, we expect this; we expect my honourable friends really to put up the party line, but we don't expect them to be so blind to the fact that the Succession Duty and Gift Tax Act is being removed in Manitoba because it has to be removed in Manitoba if we're going to be competitive with other provinces in terms of attracting investment and keeping investment capital here, and because the domino effect of having investment capital in a province is that more jobs are capable of being created, and that it's good for the private sector and it's good then for the people who live in Manitoba because it creates jobs.

Now, my honourable friends opposite, I know, don't believe too much in capital. In fact, the very name of their party, the proper philosophical name of their party — they're socialists, and socialists really do have a blind eye to the working of capital. They find it very difficult, you know, working in a country like Canada, because of course the private sector and the mixed economy that we have, and I'm willing to admit we have a mixed economy — (Interjection) — No, I'm not forgetting Das Kapital, I may get around to that later on in the session. But my honourable friends are blind to this and you know even in dear old Saskatchewan, dear old Socialist Saskatchewan, which has carried the tattered flag of CCF and NDP politics longer than any provincial government, probably, well certainly

since the end of the war, because they were elected in 1944. I remember, they were elected in 1944. But in dear old Socialist Saskatchewan, they got rid of the Succession Duty and the Gift Tax Act, and you never hear my honourable friends opposite make any criticism about the fact that Saskatchewan got out of it. But when Manitoba wants to get out of it, then it becomes something that's going to help the millionaires; it's going to help all of the rich friends of the Tories; it's going to help, you know, all of this small group that classically the Socialists feel any free enterprise party, or any party other than a Socialist is somehow beholden to. —(Interjection)— Nonsense. Nonsense.

I say to my honourable friends opposite that they should read what Mr. Smishek said when he introduced the particular measure in the province of Saskatchewan. Now, his words were very brief, his words albeit were very brief, but I'm going to read them back to my honourable friends just so they can hear another Socialist talking, introducing precisely the same measure that's being introduced by this government, and giving a few of his reasons, albeit brief. He didn't like doing it but he did it, and he did it in the public interest, and here's what he said, and I'm quoting now from page thirty of Hansard, and this is from the Saskatchewan budget speech delivered by Mr. Smishek on March 10, 1977. That's not too long ago my honourable friends should be up to date on that. Mr. Smishek said, in Saskatchewan introducing precisely the same bill that is before this legislature today, but of course it was being introduced by a Socialist, so I know that makes a difference: "Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has had a long history in the succession duty and gift tax fields. When the federal government abandoned the national taxation of wealth through estate and gift taxes in 1972, Saskatchewan introduced a succession duty and gift tax because we believe that a tax on wealth is a fair tax. The decision by the federal government to stop collecting these taxes on behalf of the provinces at the end of 1974 led the Atlantic provinces to eliminate these taxes." I hesitate to interject, Mr. Speaker, that I suggest there was something more than just the failure of the federal government to collect them that caused the Atlantic provinces to eliminate.

But carrying on with Mr. Smishek's quote: "In January of this year, the government of British Columbia announced its decision to discontinue its succession duty and gift tax, leaving only four provinces that continue to levy these taxes, and among these four Quebec has been phasing out of its tax. Succession duties and gift taxes have been a source of great concern to farmers and small business owners in Saskatchewan. In spite of the fact that less than three percent of estates in Saskatchewan are subject to tax, there is a widespread opinion that the successors of the average citizen will be subject to the tax. Therefore, I wish to inform you that succession duties and gift taxes will be eliminated in Saskatchewan effective January 1, 1977."

Now, as I say, Mr. Smishek was perhaps not as overblown as one would wish in the introduction of a measure which allows the people of his province to keep some of their own money. Not as overblown but at least he introduced it, he passed it, because he realized the realities of life, in his province, as indeed we realize them in our province and in Canada as well.

Until the government changed on the 24th of October of this year, Manitoba had the most penal succession duty act in Canada, and that was perpetuated by my honourable friends opposite on purely ideological grounds, merely because they wouldn't listen to the people of Manitoba. They wouldn't, as the Minister of Public Works said the other night, they wouldn't go out to rural Manitoba and listen to the farmers say: "Look, I've worked this farm for myself, and my father before me, and his father before him worked the farm, and got it into the state that it's in today, and you now are presuming to come along and tell me that when I die you're going to take what we have worked over four or five generations for?" That's what the farmers of Manitoba were saying. Why did my honourable friends not listen to them?

That's what the small business people in Manitoba — who provide about sixty to seventy percent of the jobs in Manitoba — that's what they were saying — the florists, the corner grocers, the small hardware operators — not the International Nickles, not the Hudson Bay Company, or any of those people, the small people who would have made an investment of capital and sweat and who said: "What right have you, Mr. NDP government to come along with the toughest tax laws in the land?" And you know what hundreds of them did, and the Minister of Industry and Commerce pointed this out the other day. Tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions of dollars left this province. Left this province. My honourable friends knew it, we knew it, all the accountants in Manitoba knew it, the lawyers knew it and so on. Left this province, so that my honourable friends opposite could wallow in their ideological bath of making sure that they were still taxing capital in Manitoba. Well, that is why it's brought in at this session, because it was contrary to the public interest in Manitoba to maintain it.

And I'll say it with a lot more gusto than Mr. Smishek. It was working a prejudice to the future development of this province, and of future jobs for young people. While my honourable friends wallowed in their ideological nonsense, they were cutting out jobs in Manitoba, and that's why we're repealing it here in Manitoba in this session, because it's been in far too long, and that's why Saskatchewan, with a government of the same political stripe as my honourable friends opposite, got rid of it because they at least, they at least were once able to put the public interest ahead of their own ideology, and they did, and they're to be congratulated for it. I regret that my honourable friends didn't have that kind of prioritization within their government when they sat on this side of the House.

So if my honourable friends want to continue to wallow in the speeches of Mr. Levi out in British Columbia, and they want to keep repeating that this tax is only going to help the few millionaires in Manitoba and so on, they can keep on with that nonsense all they want. But I tell you that there are thousands of people throughout the length and breadth of Manitoba, more particularly in the farm communities, and the farm communities still provide the greatest segment of our wealth in this province. Let nobody ever forget that fact, that agriculture is the base of this province. My honourable

friends learned on the 11th of October that you turn your back on that segment of our population at your own risk. And they did, in their years in government, they turned their backs on the agricultural communities of Manitoba, just as they turned their backs on the citizens of Winnipeg when they forced onto them a semi-unworkable form of government too soon, too quick, always manifesting, you know, one of the great problems of the Socialist. He wants to do everything yesterday, it doesn't matter if he does it well, as long as he does it, because he knows he's not going to be in office too terribly long and he wants to get it done yesterday.

And we see that in the marital property law. We see that in the city of Winnipeg legislation, which after four years of stumbling along with the city of Winnipeg are now coming to us saying, and we've said to them: "We're prepared to sit down and work with you and develop a workable piece of legislation." We're not interested in providing some kind of a monument to the Conservative party in Manitoba, we're interested in giving the city of Winnipeg, in consultation with them, a piece of legislation for that city that will work for the benefit of the people. My honourable friends like to go around building legislative monuments, particularly before elections. And that's why we had the marital property legislation pushed through the House in the last session. And my honourable friends opposite, you know, Mr. Speaker, they say, we have no mandate to bring in the bill, and the bill all it says, it's clear on the face of it, all the bill says is that the legislation is going to be postponed. The legislation doesn't come into effect until the first of January.

When we were sitting on that side of the House, just a matter of a few months ago, my colleague the Minister of Health, the Member for St. James, at that time, now the Minister without Portfolio, all of us said you are rushing it through too quickly, you don't know what you are doing. You don't know what you are doing, and they didn't know what they were doing. —(Interjection)— The Member for Sturgeon Creek. They didn't know what they were doing, and the other members on the committee who worked with the then Attorney-General and so on, kept telling them you are rushing this through. I use the expression, I use it in this House because I don't regard it as a vulgar expression, it is a legislative dog's breakfast in its present form.

If that legislation had been brought in, had been allowed to come into force in effect on the 1st of January, I say today, as I have said sitting from my place across the way only a few months ago, I guaranteed the then Attorney-General it would increase the business of every lawyer in Manitoba by at least 25 percent, because it was fraught, and still is fraught with litigious points that should be made clear. But they would not listen, they would not listen when other lawyers came before the committee. One of them, a well-known lawyer in Winnipeg who has worked for my honourable friends opposite in a legal capacity, he's a competent man who has worked for them for many years, and he came before the committee — you remember him — one night, and he said, "I am crazy to be here." He said, "I should be sitting at home. But I am here to tell you not to pass this legislation in its present form because all it is going to do is cause a tremendous amount of disruption in the lives of individual people, which are going to cause lawyers and accountants to make a dickens of a lot of money before you get around to amending it." He said that before the committee, and others followed and said the same thing, and on the 15th of October of this year, Mr. Speaker, there was a meeting, the largest meeting of its kind, held in Manitoba. Over 500 lawyers attended a Work Seminar on the Marital Property Law. I heard from leading members of the bench who were at that meeting — I was not at the meeting — that that group could not come to any resolution whatsoever as to major points of interpretation of the law, as to how they could advise their clients. —(Interjection)— So my honourable friend says, what about Monday night? I am telling my honourable friends some facts. If my honourable friend wants to continue to wallow in his self-inspired groups, that is his business. But I am merely telling my honourable friend some of the facts of life from people who have read the law and who know something about it and who are charged primarily with the responsibility of advising the people of Manitoba. They, and the accountants in Manitoba, can't tell you what that law means and that is why it has to be postponed in the public interest for a few months in order that it can be cleaned up. That was another legislative icon that my honourable friends opposite wanted to leave on their record. All all we are saying is you can have all the credit for your legislative icon, but as usual Conservatives coming into government after Socialists, we've got to clean it up a bit so it will be workable, and that is all we are going to do.

I leave this thought with my honourable friends on this point. We have the option, it was not one that was even considered. We have the option, we could have let that law come into force and effect — responding now particularly to the Member for Elmwood — we could have let the law come into force and effect on the 1st of January and I would guarantee him, that had we done that there would have been a delegation on the front steps and the front lawn and Memorial Park next March or April or May, when the full force and effect of this law was being felt by the people of Manitoba, demanding us to make the changes that we are merely taking time to make right now. I merely say that we can take all of slings and arrows that my honourable friends want to throw across the way, all of the questions about whether the law will ever be seen again. The Member for Winnipeg Centre just made some rather ridiculous comment about that. We will indeed take the slings and arrows from the different action groups whom I think believe honestly that the present law is perfect. Well, my honourable friend the Member for Inkster could tell them no law is perfect and so could the Member for Seven Oaks. No law is perfect. But there are laws that are too imperfect to be brought into force and effect at the present time, so we chose what we think was the responsible option.

The responsible option was to delay it for a few more months, to clean it up, to let the committee look at it, to hear further briefs and representations on it and my honourable friends say we have no mandate for that? That's exactly what we said across the House only seven or eight months ago.

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Always said that, that the law was being brought in too quickly. If my honourable friends, particularly the Attorney-General, if he will cast back into his mind I am sure he will find that he was receiving the same kind of advice from his in-House advisors at that time.

The former Attorney-General I am sure we will find out that he was receiving that same kind of advice at that time, but of course we did not hear about that advice any more than we heard about the income tax advice that he commissioned at that time and I haven't even talked about income tax implications of the law.

I am merely saying it has to be cleaned up, it has to be co-ordinated with the tax law of the country so that when it is brought into force and effect it can be brought into force and effect without husbands' wives having to trip off to lawyers, accountants, legal aid and so on. With a law that is brought in properly they won't have to do it.

May I say, Mr. Speaker, the law that will be brought in the next session of the House to be debated will not be a perfect law, it will have mistakes in it as well. We are not claiming that it is going to be perfection at all. It will be I hope a little bit closer to perfection, that's all. It's still going to have its pitfalls. I know the Member for Inkster would be the last one to suggest that any government brings in a perfect law. I am merely suggesting that this one was brought in too hastily and with too many layers of amendments on it to be intelligible to the average citizen in Manitoba — particularly to those professional people who have to interpret the law for the average citizen of Manitoba — what we are attempting to do is to clean up the job.

Now I am going to make this point before I leave the subject because somebody across the way, and I forget who it was, was trying to imply that the government was castigating in some way or other the legislative draftsman, particularly the senior legislative counsel of this chamber. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that such a silly allegation hardly requires any denial. The legislative draftsman does what he is told by the ministers to whom he reports. Any criticisms we have made of the form and the substance of that law relate to the front bench of the former government, not to the legislative draftsman.

The legislative draftsman takes his instructions from the treasury bench and from the government, so I know I need not make that distinction for the Attorney-General or G/ for the former Attorney-General or the Member for Inkster. But apparently somebody on the other side thought that we were criticizing the Civil Service in that regard. No criticism at all.

Mr. Speaker, there are any number of items that have been dealt with in the course of the Throne Speech debate that we have had. We have dealt with some of the questions relating to Marital Property Law in the course of these remarks. My honourable friends opposite however have been very quiet about another document. I haven't indeed heard them mention it once. They have been very quiet about the document that was mailed out to them just a matter of a week or so before the House came into session. That document is called the Report showing the interim audited financial data for the six months ended September 30, 1977, and projections for the year ending March 31, 1978. I wonder why it is that we haven't heard too much about that. — (Interjection)— The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks spoke on it? I am glad that he did because I am sorry I missed his speech because I know that my honourable friend is a knowledgeable man and I look forward to reading his speech in Hansard.

But we have had all of the other talk during the session about what terrible people the Conservatives are for delaying the marital law, not delaying, scuttling, that's what the word was, we are scuttling, and how it's terrible that we are helping all of our friends, the millionaire friends and so on, with respect to the Succession Duty Act, in precisely the same way that Mr. Blakeney did, and all of this nonsense that has been going on. We haven't heard too much about the kind of inheritance that the NDP left, not only the government of Manitoba, but the people of Manitoba, and how we are going to work our way out of this kind of inheritance.

Now if the opposition were really doing its job, Mr. Speaker, I would like some real concrete help from such members as the Member for Seven Oaks, the Member for Inkster, because I think they were among two of the most competent members of the former government, and I think they still have good ideas. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that we welcome their ideas either given inside this House or outside the House, privately or at any time, because they are two gentlemen of competence who I am sure at many times in their former duties had to ring their hands in despair at what they saw going on.

But here is the end result, for just this year, for just this year, and I would really like their advice now as to how we and the people of Manitoba start working ourselves back to a situation where we

are not contributing, by virtue of large deficits and so on, to the increasing inflation in Canada, because that's what the current deficit of \$129 million means. You add that up — and we are a small province — and I know they are going to talk about look at B. C. and look at Ontario and they are both bigger and richer, but on a per capita basis I say to my honourable friend from St. Vital, on a per capita basis the deficit in Manitoba is greater than the deficit in Ontario, this year.

Now there are some other facts and figures in here — and we could go through this page by page — but I know that hardly anyone across the way mentioned the fact nobody dealt with the debt in Manitoba. Nobody dealt with the debt in Manitoba. You'd think that in addition to the deficit that honourable members opposite would be interested in the heritage that they left us in the debt. When we were on the other side of the House, and I always tried to make it clear when I talked about the gross figures of debt, I would talk about the gross direct and indirect and guaranteed debt, and those were the same figures that we quoted by my honourable friends, in every prospectus that they had to issue, whether in Canada or in foreign markets' and there were the figures for the per capita debt. My honourable friend, the now Leader of the Opposition, when he sat on this side of the House tried to allege that I was using wrong figures and so on. If he had merely said there are net debt figures and there are gross debt figures there wouldn't have been any argument, because there are net debt figures and there are gross debt figures. But on either count the heritage that has been left to the people of Manitoba by my honourable friends opposite, is that we now have the second highest per capita net debt in Canada, and we now have the second highest gross debt in Canada. — (Interjection)— I repeat for the benefit of my honourable friends when I talk about gross debt, I mean direct debt, indirect debt and guaranteed debt because that's what gross debt is. When my honourable friend, as Minister of Finance, used to go to the financial consortia in New York, or in Toronto, who looked after the borrowing when he was Minister of Finance just a few weeks ago, they wanted him to talk about gross debt. In fact, they demanded that he talk about gross debt, and my only objection was that they would talk about gross debt, gross guaranteed direct, indirect and guaranteed debt to the lenders in the United States and Switzerland and in Germany and so on, but they wouldn't come home to the people of Manitoba and talk about it. That was my objection. I am not interested in refighting elections or refighting old battles but I merely say for the record that if my honourable friends will turn page six. It's not numbered, but it's page six. In this interim statement, the combined direct and guaranteed net debt, debt net of sinking funds . . . Now, my honourable friends — I'm subject to correction on this — but I think, my honourable friends, in their perspectives, never even deducted sinking funds. But the auditor in here has, I think, properly deducted the sinking funds. And last year we were saying that the gross debt for every Manitoban was roughly \$3,400 per head, and we were doing it on the gross basis, without deducting the sinking funds. On March 31, 1977, and these are the audited figures, and that was when the now Leader of the Opposition stood up and said I was out by a factor of 10, and I'd made it clear I was talking about gross debt. But here, what do we find now in the audited reports of Manitoba? We find that the gross debt as at March 31, 1977 less the sinking funds, is \$3,234,000,353, and that from March 31, 1977 to September 30, 1977, that debt went up approximately \$200 million more, so that the total gross debt, combined debt, less sinking funds again, is about \$3,434,078,626 as of September 30, 1977.

You work that out on a per capita basis and it comes with a population of 1,030,000 people, which is the estimated population of Manitoba today, it comes to somewhere around \$3,350, I don't have the exact figure with me. Which I don't think even my honourable friend from Inkster would argue with me about in terms of the fact that I was stating it at \$3,400 when I wasn't deducting the sinking funds from it, because he wasn't deducting them when he showed them, as I recall, in the prospectus.

So just to get that clearly out of the road once and for all, the debt is here, it is the second highest debt in Canada, and we've got to make sure that we're able, that we have the financial capacity within the private sector of this province, to meet the kind of debt payments that we have. The debt payments, Mr. Speaker, on the direct debt alone have gone up some fifteen millions of dollars just in this year, so that we're now paying out something like \$60 million and that's a rough round figure that I'm taking off the top of my head but it's in the statement — \$60 million in carrying charges alone just on the inner government debt.

Now I'm not saying that things that were done by my honourable friends opposite, many of them were not good — of course we agreed with many of them — but I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that it's going to take all of the best ingenuity, all of the best judgment that we can find in the next four years, to bring this province back again into a competitive position with other provinces, both in terms of taxation and in terms of debt, which have been two of the heritages that this previous government left to the people of Manitoba. And two of the heritages by the way, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Manitoba didn't want.

They talk about a mandate for us to postpone for a few months to clean up a piece of their legislation. I ask them where was their mandate to give Manitobans the second highest per capita debt of any province in Canada? I ask them where was their mandate? Where was their mandate to have in the course of construction when we came into office this year, facing a \$129 million deficit, \$75 million worth of buildings under construction, the most important of which were what? Parking garages for the government fleet, a new building for Autopac. — (Interjection)— No parking garage? No parking structure? Well, I think my honourable friend had better talk to his colleague behind him. You know we found out last year there wasn't too much interconnection between the ministers of the former government; we're just finding it out again that my honourable friends left that kind of capital construction program underway facing, as they knew, the kind of deficit . . . and I've only been talking today about the current deficit, I haven't even been talking about the capital deficit facing the

kind of current deficit of \$129 million that the people of Manitoba have to pay for over the course of the next few years.

Well, my honourable friends can complain all they want, you know, about things that we're doing as being typical of Tory governments and so on, even though the things we do are very similar in terms of taxation to what Mr. Blakeney does right next door to us. My honourable friends can complain all they wish about that but we're just going to carry on and do things according to what we believe to be right, and we're not always going to be right. I can assure my honourable friends that we're going to make mistakes just as they made mistakes because we have no monopoly on wisdom on this side of the House. That's why I reinvite them to help us from time to time because government today is a complex business, more complex than most people realize, and we need all the help we can get from them and from any groups in Manitoba. But we don't need blind confrontation. We don't need blind ideology. What we do need is a little bit more listening to the people of Manitoba.

I found when I ran in a by-election last year in a constituency called Souris-Killarney, of which I am very very proud and which now has the Honourable the Minister of Mines and Resources as a distinguished member from it, and had our great friend Earl McKellar as the member for many years before I sat in that seat, I found when I talked to the people in Souris-Killarney, and I found when I talked to the people in rural Manitoba generally, whether east of the Red River or west of the Red River, north of No. 4 highway or south of No. 4 highway, that they were saying very many of the same things about their concern about too much spending, too much waste that they saw manifested in their own communities, as I heard when I came into the City of Winnipeg in my own constituency in Charleswood. And I've said it before today, although I hear that a columnist has said this today, that there was a community of feeling during the election — if we may talk about that for just one moment — a community of feeling that this province did have to restrain its spending activities because the expense of the NDP government in Manitoba is becoming too much of a burden for the average fellow with a

My honourable friend the Member for Inkster was the one who mentioned these statistics, not I. I accept the fact that this government received 49 percent of the vote of the people of Manitoba, which is one of the largest figures, I guess certainly since the thirties or at least the 1940s. And as I say, we can't gloat over that too long. You enjoy it for awhile but you realize, as well, that that casts a tremendous responsibility upon you in order to continue to try to reflect the wishes, not just of those 49 percent, as the Honourable Member for St. James said today, but to reflect the consolidation of wishes of the people of Manitoba. And you're not going to please all of them all of the time, heaven knows, whether it's on marital property, succession duty, or whatever. But it does cast a tremendous responsibility upon any government with that kind of a mandate to make sure that it keeps in tune with what the people of Manitoba want.

If I'm any judge of the people of Manitoba today, my judgment is this: that they support the restraint programs that are in force and effect with respect to government expenditures, that they support the task force which is being co-chaired by my colleague the Minister without Portfolio and Mr. Riley, and they support the concept of it. May I add that they don't have any objection either to people in the private sector, whether they be capitalists, socialists, or whatever, volunteering their services to help the public interest. They don't have any objection at all. In fact, I'd welcome some if you can find some that would volunteer to come. But they don't object to that; they don't object to that.

Mr. Speaker, to having their taxes reduced. They don't object to having their personal income tax reduced. They don't object to having the small business tax reduced because that's what they voted for. They don't object to having the succession duty and the gift tax taken off them because that's what they voted for. And they don't object to having one and three-quarters overtime taken off the statute books of Manitoba because none of them wanted it in the first place, including my honourable friend's main constituency — at least the leadership of — The Manitoba Federation of Labour. I am never misled by the fact that the labour movement in Manitoba is socialist; it isn't. I am freely acknowledging the fact that the leadership — some of the leadership of the labour movement in Manitoba — is socialist, but not the rank and file. They've got too much common sense.

So I merely say to my honourable friends — and there are only a few minutes left — that we're doing the things that the people of Manitoba want done and they can rale at us across the way as they are entitled to do. They can continue to throw their ideological barbs as they are entitled to do, but we're going to continue to bring in those policies and to do the repair work that is necessary on behalf of the public interest in Manitoba, as we see it, granted as we see it, based on the mandate that we have from the people of Manitoba. That's what we're working on in this session. We didn't wish to have the session any more than my honourable friends did, but it's here and while it's here let's get some of the things done that have to be done. Let's get some of the work underway that has to be done and let's hear the criticism, and let's hear it in good will, and let's hear it in a constructive way. And as long as that is the way we work in this Chamber, and I think we can work in this Chamber, then we can have that kind of harmony and so on.

I conclude my remarks today, and there are many other things that I could have said today but there will be ample opportunity on Monday for any of us to get into the throe if we wish to. I conclude my remarks today by a comment that was made by a man I'm sure is read often by the Honourable the Member for Inkster because he was the successor of Professor Laskey at the London School of Economics, Michael Oakshot, and he made this comment which in some way sums up the situation in which the people of Manitoba find themselves today. "To some people", said Michael Oakshot,

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“government appears as a vast reservoir of power which inspires them to dream of what use might be made of it. They have favourite projects of various dimensions which they sincerely believe are for the benefit of mankind, and to capture this source of power it’s necessary to increase it, and to use it for imposing their favourite projects upon their fellows is what they understand as the adventure of governing men. They are thus disposed to recognize government as an instrument of passion. The art of politics is to inflame and direct desire. Now the disposition to be Conservative”, says Mr. Oakshot on the other hand in respect of politics, “reflects a quite different view of the activity of governing. The man of this disposition understands it to be the business of a government not to inflame passion and give it new objects to feed upon but to inject into the activities of already too passionate men an ingredient of moderation: to restrain, to deflate, to pacify, and to ieconcile, not to stoke the fires of desire but to damp them down because the conjunction of dreaming and ruling generates tyranny.”

MR. SPEAKER: According to Rule 35(3) of our rules for this Assembly it is now my duty to put before you the amendment to the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

QUESTION put on the amendment and lost.

MR. GREEN: Yays and nays, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. On the question on the amendment to the motion for an Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

A STANDING VOTE was taken the results being as follows:

YEAS: *Messrs. Schreyer, Evans, Uskiw, Green, Pawley, Miller, Desjardins, Bostrom, Fox, Walding, Doern, Boyce, Hanuschak, Axworthy, Adam, Cherniack, Parasiuk, Jenkins, Cowan, Malinowski.*

NAYS: *Messrs. Lyon, Enns, Jorgenson, McGill, Craik, Sherman, Spivak, Mercier, Downey, Ferguson, Johnston, Cosens, Banman, Ransom, McGregor, Blake, Gourlay, McKenzie, Brown, Minaker, Domino, Driedger, Orchard, Anderson, Galbraith, Wilson, Steen, Kovnats, Mrs. Price.*

MR. CLERK: Yeas 20, Nays 29.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion on the amendment lost.
The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned until 10:30 a.m. Monday morning.