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of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

26 Elizabeth II

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

February 19, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed I should like to draw the Honourable Members' attention to the gallery on my right where we have 16 students of the English Language Class from the Red River Community College under the direction of Miss Karen Bruce.

We also must have a school class in the other galleries but so far I have not received information which school they come from, but we welcome you here this afternoon anyway.

I should also like to draw the Honourable Members' attention to the loge on my left, where we have a former member of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Paulley, and with him is the Honourable Gordon MacMurchy from Saskatchewan. We welcome you here this afternoon.

Before we proceed I should like to apologize to the members of the Legislative Assembly. Obviously I am quite rusty in procedure and on Friday I omitted to ask that a petition put forward by the Member for St. Vital be read, and the motion for the receiving of the report of the Finance Committee be received. I was wondering if it would be agreeable with the House that we accept that now as if being part of the proceedings and the report is accordingly received by the House. Is that agreed? (Agreed) Then we'll proceed with Orders of the Day.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Radisson.

MR. ABE KOVNATS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Petition of Les Reverends Peres Oblats praying for the passing of an Act to amend an Act to incorporate Les Reverends Peres Oblats in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I don't have a Ministerial Statement but at this juncture on the last occasion I indicated to my honourable friend that I would see whether there was unanimous consent to his reasonable proposal that the House sit tomorrow morning and all day Wednesday, that is, Wednesday afternoon and evening, as if it were a Tuesday, and I can tell him that the proposal was reasonable, has been considered and unanimous consent is given as far as this group is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet and because I am supposed to do it at the earliest moment, I wish to make a correction with regard to statistics which had been given to me and which I asked the Attorney-General to confirm on Friday my figures came from two sources, they relate to different things. The figures up to 1977 related to orders for sale, which is a step further in foreclosure proceedings, the figures for '78 reflected notices exercising power of sale, which is an earlier step. I can't give the honourable member the comparable figures for orders for sale because I was not given that, although I requested it, in order to indicate that it does make a substantial difference which I concede, I'm now supplied with figures for 1977 notices exercising power of sale 915, 1978 - 1,072. The reason for the difference in the '78 figure is that the previous figure included some outside the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, so I now would ask for confirmation of those figures and also the new figure for orders for sale when that is obtainable.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Attorney-General) (Osborne) introduced Bill No. 4, An Act to amend The Testators Family Maintenance Act and Bill No. 5, An Act to amend The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: My question is to the Minister of Government Services, I believe it is, with respect to the Norway House School. Given the Manitoba Government's present position of rejecting the previous NDP government's policy of allowing local school authorities to choose the architect of their choice for the construction of a school, I wonder if the Minister can tell us which one of his friends he has chosen to be the architect for that school and when exactly that architect will be in place and starting the work of designing the school which was approved . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the honourable member that question period is purely for the purpose of soliciting information and inferences that are implicit in that make the question out of order. Would the member like to rephrase his question?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Speaker, the simple question that I would like to put to the Minister is exactly when the architect which he has chosen or will be choosing to design the school at Norway House, which was approved in last year's session, when this will take place and when the people of Norway House can expect an answer from this Minister?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Minister of Government Services (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. In view of the statement made, I believe it was last evening by the Leader of the Opposition, that all Conservatives now support the entrenchment of minority language rights in the Constitution and that this is supported by such Tory notables as the Premier of this Province, can the First Minister indicate whether that statement by the leader of the federal opposition indicates a change in position of this Province and of the First Minister as compared to the position he took at the Constitutional Conference?

MR. LYON: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the answer is no, does the First Minister intend to contact his colleague, the Federal Leader of the Opposition, to determine whether he is using his name sort of out of place, or in fact he's falsely stating that he has the endorsement of the First Minister in this position?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the source of my honourable friend's information, I would be happy to look into his allegation. I only know of the comment that he is making by hearing him on his feet today. I'm not aware of any problem between the next Prime Minister of Canada and the present Premier of Manitoba at all.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I'm confused by the First Minister's answer because I was referring to the present Leader of the Opposition, not to the next Prime Minister of Canada, and I'm sure that the present Prime Minister and the First Minister have very little communication on this subject. I would then ask the First Minister if he can indicate whether in view of his position taken at the last Constitutional Conference that he believes matters of guaranteeing minority rights and language belongs to the Provinces, whether he intends to take any action at this session to bring that condition about in the Province of Manitoba, and to improve upon Section 133 of the BNA Act?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, as I think was mentioned the other day, I think there will be ample opportunity for that and other important subjects relating to constitutional debate which is going on and which will be going on for many months, and I hope, not too many years to come, to be

debated at length. I don't think the question period is an appropriate time to be debating it.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism. In view of the uniqueness of the total eclipse in Manitoba on February 26, did the Department of Tourism undertake any special promotional programs to encourage visitors from the rest of the North American continent?

HON. NORMA L. PRICE, Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, (Assiniboia): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we had printed and distributed 10,000 maps that shows the locations where the eclipse can be viewed. We also have had an excellent show which is ongoing at the Planetarium right now. I understand that there's been some discussion about our lack of advertising, but I would like to point out to the Honourable Member that for many months now all the hotel accommodation within any closeness at all to the locations of the viewing have all been taken up so it was of no value for us to advertise for people to come down and have nowhere to stay.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Winnipeg is one of the better locations as well, and has thousands of hotel rooms and motel rooms, is the minister indicating that, in effect, the Province did not spend any money on advertising in the rest of Canada or North America for this particular occurrence?

MRS. PRICE: Well, Mr. Chairman, we feel that the people who are interested in the sciences have certainly been well aware of it and they would be coming and the people that have not had, for the short time that they would be having a view of this, that we didn't think it was to our advantage to be spending our needed advertising dollars on that type of promotion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I then ask the Minister whether she would be prepared at this late date to undertake a crash program along the lines suggested by, I believe, the President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, who has criticized the government for its failure to properly promote this unique event. I would ask her whether she would be prepared to undertake a crash program in the remaining week in an attempt to attract several thousand visitors to fill the hotel rooms, the restaurants and the recreational centres of Manitoba.

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, I believe when the president of the Chamber of Commerce was airing his views on it he wasn't aware of the space that has been taken up by the people coming into the province, and I don't think at this time that it would be advantageous to us to be spending money in that direction.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Community Services. In view of the announcement of the YWCA that they will be required to close Osborne House for lack of funding, can the Minister indicate whether he has any contingency plan to replace that service or provide an alternative service for the women and children who are faced with the kind of conditions that were met by Osborne House facilities?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Not at the moment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that if the Minister has any concern about the closing of this facility, and if he is prepared to take steps now to meet with people from the YWCA and others in that particular field of child care' in light of the Throne Speech statement that this is a major preoccupation of the government at this time, will he take those steps to see what can be done to provide continuation of that service or something similar to it?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would just advise my honourable friend that I have not been approached by anyone connected with that particular agency or that particular service, which is apparently at the present time in some jeopardy. I would, with respect, suggest that at this juncture the initiative probably lies at the other end of the spectrum. My office door is open.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with the final supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if the Minister's door is open, will he be prepared to walk out of it in order to sort of meet with the officials, considering the seriousness of the conditions that battered wives face, and that, as a Minister, he has a responsibility to ensure that there are proper services available in the province for people who face those kinds of conditions?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, I am prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker. In essence, and in total, I would like to take the Honourable Member's question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in response to a question on Friday last from the Member for Inkster, he has referred to it earlier today and pointed out there is a difference between the numbers of notices of exercising power of sale that are filed in the Land Titles office and Orders For Sale, because an Order for Sale is the second step in mortgage foreclosure procedure after one month of default has occurred, as the member well knows.

I might say the approximate ratio of Orders for Sale to notices for exercising power of sale is approximately three to one. That is, Orders for Sale occur in approximately one-third of the cases where a notice is filed. I have the statistics, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the number of Orders for Sale made in 1976-77-78. In 1976 there were 171 Orders for Sale; in 1977, 283; in 1978, 444.

I'm advised, Mr. Speaker, that in order to compile the numbers of notices for exercising Power of Sale that have been filed, it would take someone in the Land Titles Office approximately two days to go through the caveat register book in order to compile those figures, Mr. Speaker, and that is the reason why the Registrar-General of the Land Titles Office, Mr. Lamont, who is still employed by the Land Titles Office and I hope will continue to be employed for many years until his retirement by the Land Titles Office — and the member has no cause for concern about his continued employment there, Mr. Speaker — if taking the position that's been the long-standing practice in the Land Titles Office, that information which is compiled from records is not ordinarily available to the public where extra work has to be done in order to produce that information for the public and as was the practice during the past administration, and in this case that where extra information is requested normally you're referred to the Minister responsible in order to compile that information.

Apparently last year some information was given to Mr. MacKay on Mr. Green's request, but it was not known to the Registrar-General and he did not personally authorize it and if he had known he would have referred the request to me for my approval.

Mr. Speaker, if the member wishes, we can go through the expense of having someone in the Land Titles Office spend two days to attempt to compile the number of notices that have been issued, and perhaps my Member for Inkster could indicate whether he wishes us to go to this particular expense. Apparently the information he has obtained was compiled through the Digest Business in Law Journal for the year 1978.

I can't, Mr. Speaker, indicate the reasons why there was an increase in the number of notices for sale unless it was a result of Manitoba Hydro's overselling of electric heating and people obviously can't afford to pay both their mortgage costs and their heating bills these days.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable the Attorney-General for his answer. May I indicate to him, Mr. Speaker, that I requested Mr. Lamont to furnish me with the same information that he gave Mr. MacKay last year, which is the Orders for Sale, which don't require a compilation, which are in a book and which we now know to be something over 400, I gather, was your answer.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Springfield, an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to His Speech at the Opening of the Session. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I adjourned debate on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, first I would wish to congratulate you upon your continuation of your role as the Chief Mediator in this House. We know that you will make every effort to act in an impartial manner, to put aside your own partisan feelings, and to continue to handle the proceedings of this Legislature in a fair manner. To that extent, Mr. Speaker, you will have the full cooperation of members of the opposition.

Secondly, I would like to extend congratulations to the traditional Mover and Seconder of the Throne Speech. They did their job well, and I wish them well during the present session.

Thirdly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the presence of the press gallery, and I do hope that we will be able to express ourselves with such clarity that they will be able to successfully communicate the events of this Chamber to Manitobans as a whole.

In addition, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the recent appointment of Edward Schreyer, Governor-General of Canada. Certainly his role in this Chamber and through the eight years of his premiership of this Province was one in which he contributed in a major way to the improving of the quality of life and the development of the better good of all Manitobans. And I believe that when history is written it will be written in such a way as to relate to the fact that he was one of the best premiers that this province has ever enjoyed.

Mr. Speaker, we do hope that the constituency of Rossmere will be represented prior to the conclusion of this session. I regret, as I indicated the other day, that a by-election has not been called in that constituency so that Rossmere constituents would be represented in the proceedings of this particular session, and we look forward to the First Minister, at the earliest possible date, calling that by-election and providing to the people of Rossmere an opportunity to obtain representation in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal firstly if I could, in possibly a light manner, with some of the rumours that I have heard around about this Chamber. For instance, after the announcement in the Speech from the Throne, that a review would be established in order to evaluate the respective advantages of public and private insurance, I understand that there is some speculation that one Mr. Fred Cleverley might be appointed to chair that evaluation, and of course, Mr. Speaker, we have no question as to Mr. Cleverley's impartiality. I say, Mr. Speaker, that his impartiality equates with the impartiality of the First Minister in dealing with the respective advantages and disadvantages of public automobile insurance.

Secondly, I would like to also indicate that we understand that the First Minister is still attempting to persuade Allan Fotheringham that he does not stand just a shade to the left of Attila the Hun. Apparently this accusation some months ago in McLean's magazine created some suspicion on the part of some of his colleagues that in fact he was becoming too much of a leftist. I gather also, Mr. Speaker, that there is conflict which has occurred between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Economic Development. It was the Minister of Education, who not so long ago indicated that the government would not proceed with any flighty and ill-conceived plans. He must, therefore, be somewhat chagrined by the fact that the Minister of Economic Development has proceeded with a flighty scheme in his recent well-publicized effort on his part to ascertain the state of birds in the province of Manitoba, including their sex habits.

I also understand that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has complained to the First Minister that the increasingly cumbersome job of acting as a clearing house in order to eye political appointments to the Provincial Boards and Commissions. Apparently, this dispenser of patronage has completed the dispensing of positions to all defeated candidates during the 1977, 1973 elections, and he is looking forward with some relish to completing the task in appointing and assisting all those defeated Conservatives dating back from 1969 provincial election in Manitoba.

I also gather that the Minister of Health and Social Development will be doing his best in order to restrict some of his boundless enthusiasm for Senator Duff Roblin, which he has demonstrated recently insofar as tendering proceedings are concerned within his own department. We are also told that the Minister of Government Services has changed his lock and key on his office door in order to ensure continued confidence of the various true confessions that he writes to the First Minister in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat difficult to deal with an irrelevant innocuous document, such as that that is before us. I believe that the Member for The Pas expressed it well the other day when he referred to the Throne Speech as being a combination of various information servicerelease forms, and that indeed the government was exercising its efficiency in this manner. And certainly upon a reading of this document, one is impressed by the fact that they have been able to bundle

together information service releases during the past six to nine months in putting them together within the Throne Speech. The amazing openness of this government, Mr. Speaker, is demonstrated on the very first page of the Throne Speech, when they indicate as follows, "when a consensus has been achieved between the provinces and the federal government on the main clauses to be amended in the constitution, it is the intention of my government through a Committee of this House to solicit the views of the people of Manitoba on such proposals." Mr. Speaker, we have to ask why after a consensus has been arrived at, why after this government has already placed its position before the Federal-Provincial Conferences, must we then expend public moneys upon hearings throughout the length and breadth of this province. Mr. Speaker, it demonstrates the lack of openness and the arrogance on the part of this government; that if there are to be hearings, if there are to be submissions invited from the public, let those submissions and beliefs be expressed after this government has already arrived at a decision.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon you to join today in exploring the very themes and principles of this Throne Speech. I invite the people of Manitoba to weigh this government's intentions seriously. We all must now consider our times, our future, the promise for tomorrow based on the realities of today, and the rather unfortunate, indeed thoroughly heartless government of today. Manitobans have come to know a great tradition in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker. The Throne Speech has come to represent a critical time of reflection, an occasion for the government to inform Manitobans of its plans for the immediate future based on its interpretation of today's situation. This government, Mr. Speaker, has achieved a remarkable feat. There is indeed a message for Manitobans' future contained in this document. The connection with reality is however totally missing.

I ask the people of Manitoba to consider our present situation, Mr. Speaker. I ask them to consider the reality of our times and the opportunity that this reality presents for Manitoba's future. For it is only in viewing this Throne Speech in this manner that the real meaning of this government will become clear. This government has one, but one simple four-line message for Manitobans. We don't like government, we don't like governing, we will destroy all that is true about government and we will do this under a facade, a facade in order to allow the real government to govern namely the social and economic elite of Manitoba.

This message, Mr. Speaker, is astute. It is rooted deeply in the interpretation of our social and economic reality. At the same moment this message, this Speech from the Throne archaic and this government all represent an response to reality. In 19th century vision, a purpose of non-purpose, this is tragic at a time when only truly purposeful action, in a vision of government as a positive instrument can effectively deal with the pressing realities of our economy and our social situation which results from it. Mr. Speaker, the Premier of this province and the the architect of this document would be well advised to recall that all true and great leaders get their hands dirty from time to time. It takes honest and hard and rigorous work to govern in these times and not a shedding of responsibility as we witness in this document.

What is our present reality and what does it mean for the actions of government? Manitoba's situation is a little different from that compared to other governments in the western World. It is of course an exception to this that the Manitoba economy exists in the shadow of other more powerful and wealthier economies such as those in eastern Canada and the United States. Mr. Speaker, we witness a series of statistics and indicators of the present state and health of the Manitoba economy. Let us begin with migration.

The determinants of migration over time are complex. Nevertheless, it is misleading to assert that this increase in the net exodus of Manitobans from Manitoba is of no significance — as the First Minister of this province has repeatedly attempted to do — or to contend that the increase is not linked to important indicators of economic opportunity as the Minister of Labour and the First Minister have suggested.

What the First Minister's failing to acknowledge the statistics indicate, is that for 1978 the previous downward trend and outward migration from Manitoba has been reversed. Certainly the downward trend over the years 1967 to 1976 has not been smooth and uniform, but it is nevertheless true that out migration from Manitoba in 1978 is expected to be at its highest level since 1969. In 1978 Manitoba's out migration will have increased two years in a row, something that has not happened Mr. Speaker since 1966, another year of Tory government in Manitoba.

For the Tories unfortunately, the trend during most of these eight years of previous Conservative administration tended to be upward or the trend in outmigration enjoyed by the New Democratic Party during their eight years in government, tended to be downward, thus, the level of inter-provincial outmigration during the last 4 years of New Democratic government was much lower, averaging about 4,000 people a year, while the level of outmigration during the last 4 years of the previous Conservative administration from 1959 to 1969, averaged approximately 9,000 per year.

The people we are losing, Mr. Speaker, are those with the most productive potential, the best-educated, the skilled and the creative and the innovative. In fact, Mr. Speaker, a recent study by Statistics Canada, clearly supports this fact. The study's main findings indicate that as the level of schooling increases, so does the degree of mobility. The levels of mobility were shown by persons in low-skilled occupations. It is not speculative to conclude that Manitoba's net loss through out migration represents a loss of the best educated and the most productive resource — people. How long, Mr. Speaker, can this province continue to provide adequate education for children, adequate care for its elderly, its handicapped, its sick, when there is a continuous drain taking place of its most productive and innovative members of the population from this province? Mr. Speaker, the present Tory government doesn't seem to care.

Only this past January, the Minister of Finance nonchalantly waived off concerns about the province's lay-off. He is quoted in the Tribune of Thursday, January 11th, 1979, as stating: "Those who have skills that can be used in other areas of government, such as secretaries, will likely be moved into other positions, but the specialists will have to look for work outside Manitoba if they want to continue to do similar work". Nonchalant attitude towards the retention of specialists and skilled people in the Province of Manitoba.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Minister of Finance) (Riel): Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. The rules of the House are such that when a statement such as that is made and it's untrue, attention has to be called to it. Reference was made to shifts, reference was never made by myself to shifts of people outside of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the honourable member that had he raised it as a point of order, we would consider it. It is not a point of privilege. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from a letter to the editor in the Free Press of January 24th, from one Randy Reichart, of Edmonton, Alberta. He states: "Come the end of August, my job ended. By the end of September, I realized that the only future I had in my home city and province was to collect unemployment insurance and I promptly returned to Edmonton. In 5 months of searching for a full-time job in Winnipeg, I found nothing. Inside four weeks in Edmonton, I found myself employed in a permanent job. I recall," he states, "Premier Lyon mentioning in a speech to I believe The Canadian Club last year, that it was the Manitoba government's desire to keep the young people of Manitoba in their native province. I see no evidence of this. Whatever they have purported to do, it is not working". No, Mr. Speaker, it is not working. Included in the signs of a weak Manitoba economy, are:

Item 1: The growth and real domestic product which is only two-thirds of the Canadian average and the third lowest in Canada.

Item 2: —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, if the first minister would relate back to 1976 he would find quite a different story, but he acutely ignores the 1976 statistic. Item 2: A 2.5 percent increase in persons employed compared with an increase of 3.2 percent for Canada, the third lowest in Canada.

Item 3: An average annual unemployment rate of 6.6 percent, the highest since the depression years of 1930.

Item 4: An increase in manufacturing shipments, which is the second lowest in Canada.

Item 5: An increase in retail sales of 9.9 percent, the lowest in Canada.

Item 6: An increase in average weekly earnings which was surpassed by an inflation rate of over 9 percent in 1978. This means that real wages in Manitoba declined in 1978.

Item 7: An increase in total investment of 1 percent compared with 6.1 percent for Canada as a whole, and I would like to point out to the first minister in response to his earlier interjection, that while private investment increased by 6.9 percent last year, in 1976, during the New Democratic Party administration, private investment increased by 25.2 percent.

Item 8: A sharp increase in population lost through inter-provincial migration, a loss of over 9,000 in 1978, compared with 5,000 for all of 1977.

Item 9: Bankruptcies in Manitoba increased to a record high of 658 in 1978, a 27 percent increase over 1977 total. In spite of all this, the Throne Speech states: My ministers have cause for reasonable satisfaction over the progress of the economy during the past year. If this government has cause for satisfaction with the economic indicators for the past year, then certainly Manitobans have no cause for satisfaction.

Item 10: The Conference Board has advised us that Manitoba's economy will grow by only percent in the smallest increase of any province in Canada, according to their new projections. Now, I know that the first minister has seen fit to attack the Conference Board of Canada. He's seen fit to attack

statistics, Canadian Dominion Statistics. With the performance, Mr. Speaker, of this government, insofar as it pertains to the economic health of Manitoba, what explains these generally negative indicators, you may ask, is that the government has paid no attention whatsoever, to the major features of the Manitoba economy, the reality of the mutual dependence between the private sector and the public sector in this province. The fact is that from 1963 to 1966, total public investment in Manitoba was slightly under 42 percent of all investment, and in Canada as a whole, the figure is 31 percent. In an economy like Manitoba's, existing in the shadow of other dominant economies, public sector investment is critically important.

The same divergence between the importance of government investment in Manitoba and its significance elsewhere, continued under the New Democratic Government. This is exactly what one would expect and as it should be, in a province where the private sector is overwhelmingly composed of small independent businesses. The more small independent decision-makers you have, the more important becomes collective action. Sustained investment levels in Manitoba have been due to consistent and responsible government activity during each year of New Democratic Party government.

The figures for 1978 investment intentions indicate that public sector investment dropped considerably last year, not only in percentage terms but in actual dollars from \$800 million in 1977 to approximately \$700 million in 1978. Now just to keep up the private sector would have had to increase investment by approximately \$150 million to make up for inflation, plus \$100 million to make up for the public reduction, for a total increase required, just to stand still, of \$250 million. The actual increase in private investment last year appears to have been in the order of \$115 million, based upon preliminary estimates which are subject to alteration. But they do illustrate the basic point that private sector investment increased last year but not sufficient to make up for the falling public sector investment in the Province of Manitoba.

Whether the Tories like it or not, Mr. Speaker, productive activity in Manitoba is interdependent and government activity has played an important part in economic development. The government still refuses to recognize the need for public sector involvement in the Manitoba economy. That is the reason that we will continue to lose thousands more of our promising sons and daughters from this Province. We lose them to antiquated, dogmatic philosophy, which should have been discarded long ago in the dustbins of history. The New Democratic Party alternative is to stimulate the economy by undertaking the public creation of wealth. This would be done by public works projects, such as hospital and personal care facilities and the development of other projects.

Other than those very important points which are unique to the Manitoba economy, Mr. Speaker, the general Manitoba reality parallels other parts of the western world in the following respects: First, public expenditures and public services have increased dramatically since World War II. Since this time western economies have remained basically privately controlled.

Secondly, these public expenditures have always served the dual purpose of aiding private and profitable economic activity and maintaining social development activities.

Thirdly, in recent years, Public expenditures for these purposes have dramatically outraced available revenues to governments. The tendency has created a fiscal crisis which is confronted by all governments. Government response to this crisis has normally consisted of one or more various possible solutions. This government, Mr. Speaker, as so clearly demonstrated in this Throne Speech, has chosen the most hideous, the most damaging, the most heartless of solutions to a very, very complex problem. The solutions proposed by this government are managed recession of the whole economy and a new arrangement between government and the private sector. With this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, this government is sending a clear signal to all Manitobans that it is choosing a blatant new arrangement with the insensitive corporate sector. This new arrangement is characterised by certain themes, all which are clearly demonstrated in this Throne Speech.

First, there is the sellout of the social purpose of government to private goals. b) There is the total stripping of the role of government through senseless bludgeoning and imprudent cutbacks. And thirdly, the creation of a facade behind which the government lessens its role in favor of the private sector.

We see in the Throne Speech the examples of privateering. For instance, insofar as Autopac is concerned and the establishment of a Review Committee in order to examine the pros and cons of public automobile insurance in Manitoba. It was only, Mr. Speaker, a week ago that the President of the Insurance Bureau of Canada indicated that he hoped that they would have, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, an opportunity to re-enter the automobile insurance field in Manitoba. He indicated preferably under the rules of competition, but if not under the rules of competition, he hoped it would be by way of the Quebec plan, which he acknowledged would bring to the private insurance industry in the Province of Manitoba two-thirds of the some \$100 million in premium dollar that is available to the insurance industry in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, what would this mean? It would mean the removal of some \$5 million to \$10 million

by way of profits that are realized by the people of Manitoba through their own insurance corporation into the hands of private insurance companies, many of those located outside the Province of Manitoba.

Secondly, it would mean the draining of millions of dollars, of premium dollar, from Manitoba, to other main head office companies outside the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that, as the Member for Inkster said only last year — and I would like to reaffirm what the Member for Inkster said — that if the insurance companies do re-enter Manitoba as a result of any arrangement made by this government, then the leases that are put together had better be short-term rather than long-term.

Mr. Speaker, what this government is desirous of doing, either through token efforts to indicate that they're in fact looking seriously at the question of private versus public insurance, or because there's already been a deal made with the private insurance industry, is an attempt to repay to the private insurance industry sums of monies which lie hidden within their undisclosed donations to their political funding in the last campaign in Manitoba. And we will never know, Mr. Speaker, just how many thousands of dollars from the insurance industry are included within that funding of the Tory party in 1977 in Manitoba. There's a repayment of political debt.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech was also revealing insofar as its intentions in regard to the mining and oil industry in Manitoba. There was an acknowledgement in the Throne Speech that concessions would be made to the ore and mining industry. It appears that this government again is issuing further declarations of its dependence upon the oil and mining companies in the Province. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that this government is prepared to crawl, to crawl on all fours to the mining and oil industries in this Province. Mr. Speaker, what we are concerned about, and what I believe Manitobans are concerned about, is the fact that mining companies and oil companies not be permitted to reap huge profits from Manitoba with minimum benefit to the people of Manitoba. We stand by the policies which were formerly proceeded with during the years of New Democratic party government in Manitoba, we stand behind those policies, Mr. Speaker.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we find the move, insofar as private auditors are concerned; now, Mr. Speaker, the government states on one hand that really they have no criticism of the Provincial Auditor, the Provincial Auditor is doing his job well, but on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, they see fit to strip the Provincial Auditor of auditors within his department or branch to do the auditing of some 13 Crown Corporations of government; and, Mr. Speaker, this from a government which claims to be a great business management, an efficient government, and they acknowledge greater cost, greater cost to the public of Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, without disclosing to Manitobans on what basis the awarding of these contracts to these large private auditing firms at direct cost to Manitobans take place.

Mr. Speaker, this again is further evidence of an effort on the part of this government, due to its ideological blinkers and/or its desire to repay, through potential for political patronage, certain interests within the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen so many instances recently of mismanagement, mismanagement on the part of the government across the way. We have seen the sell-out of ten Sauder aircraft for \$780,000, and Mr. Speaker, it was only two or three years ago that one such plane sold for \$650,000 in Manitoba. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, it's kind of a \$1.00-a-plane type of deal, buy one and we'll sell you the remaining nine for \$1.00 each. That's the mentality, that's the efficiency, that's the business sense that the government across the way exercise.

Mr. Speaker, during the past session of Legislature we were able to refer to the sell-out of the Lord Selkirk and we will have much to say about the continuation of the selective selling out of so many of our resources and Crown Corporations by this government with its ideological blinkers on. —(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, we have seen . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: What about Flyer., have they sold Flyer yet?

MR. PAWLEY: We have seen in this speech little reference about the problems of the City of Winnipeg. It appears that this government has abdicated any responsibility insofar as the City of Winnipeg is concerned. What we have in the Province of Manitoba are basic social and economic problems, which we had attempted while we were in government, from 1969 to 1977, to come to grips with, and that is the steady movement of our people from the rural areas and the northern areas and from remote communities into the City of Winnipeg. And we developed, through the auspices of the Member for Lac du Bonnet, a Stay Option Program. Mr. Speaker, I believe that that Stay Option Program, to some extent, was successful and was able to arrest much of this movement from rural and northern areas into the City of Winnipeg. —(Interjection)— But, Mr. Speaker, this government, this government has no interest in stay option; its only interest is to

leave matters to the unplanned situation of the day, the energy of the day.

So again, Mr. Speaker, we have the difficulty and the problem that rural communities — just as we had certainly during the eight years of our term in government but we attempted to contend with it — of more and more assessment for fewer and fewer rural people to handle. A lack of recreational and medical and educational facilities for our rural people and those in our northern remote communities.

But, Mr. Speaker, what has happened with this inflow into the City of Winnipeg is that we have increased problems in our core area from overcrowding and lack of proper housing facilities; the lack of decent recreational facilities. But, Mr. Speaker, there is not a mention, not an iota of comment in this Throne Speech about the need for an urban thrust, an effort to come to grips with these pressing social and economic problems confronting the City of Winnipeg.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is a reference to unconditional grants, some \$30 million, to the City of Winnipeg. But I found it interesting, Mr. Speaker, to read a letter which I believe puts the argument well, from someone who I believe to be well-noted in the field of urban policy and let me assure the honourable members, to my knowledge, one that is not a socialist and not a New Democrat but a man who usually reserved his opinions to express, in private; who found it necessary, Mr. Speaker, because of the betrayal by this government in so many respects, of urban Winnipeg, to express his views in a letter to the Editor. I refer to Mr. Andrew Currie, the former Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs. I would like to read to honourable members opposite —(Interjection)— two paragraphs from his letter dealing with the unconditional grants, some \$30 million, and the removal of themselves from any responsibility for transit in the City of Winnipeg.

"From memory," says Mr. Currie, "I am reasonably sure that \$30 million is less than the total of all conditional grants paid to the city by the province in each of 1977 and 1978 and even less again in terms of 1979 dollars." Mr. Currie continues: "Let's not jump for joy at this announcement for we could be indirectly assisting the Provincial Government's restraint program. We know when we receive our city tax bills and we read the bottom line." —(Interjection)— And Mr. Speaker, I believe that is what is happening to other municipal ratepayers throughout the Province of Manitoba. They're recognizing the con game which presently exists, of shifting financial responsibility from the shoulders of the Provincial Government and shifting it over to the shoulders of those at Local Government, whether it be at the municipal or the school board level.

Mr. Speaker, I say this to the Minister responsible for Autopac. Recently there was, on February 8th, a release by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation that indicated — in fact by the Minister himself — that the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation had just experienced the worst claims' month in the history of the corporation; claims reported in January exceeded by over \$2 million any monthly amount previously reported during the eight years that MPIC has been operational.

Mr. Speaker, to look at the streets of the City of Winnipeg and the lack of care being provided to those streets of Winnipeg during the past six weeks, indicates to me that restraint is having a very obvious effect upon the care of our streets in the City of Winnipeg; and Mr. Speaker, this is the direct evidence of some of the fender damage that is taking place because of lack of funding, because of the cutbacks by the Province of Manitoba to the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, we have a news release expressing the view of another Manitoba insofar as the cutbacks, insofar as assistance to Manitoba Local Government.

The MAST President, Ed Hart, in a recent news release stated, and I would like to read this news release for honourable members in case they omitted to review it in their deliberations: "But", said MAST President Ed Hart, "a 6 percent increase in grants from the government is not enough. It is anticipated that schoolboard budgets' increases for 1979 will average at least 8 percent. With teachers' salary settlements in the range of 7.5 plus increments, it will be impossible to hold budget increases to less than 8 percent. Even so the board will be cutting programs and staff due to declining enrollment. To maintain the same program as 1978 will require a 10.5 percent increase in property taxes. Included in the \$12.9 million increase in grants is about \$1.5 million for increased aid to private schools. This means that the increased aid to public schools is \$11.4 million. This is not really significant," said Mr. Hart, "when you consider that the total costs of education in 1979 will be about \$441 million."

"The government says that its policy is to support public school education costs to the extent of 80 percent. In 1978 government support including the \$110 million in property tax credit amounted to 74.3 percent. In 1979 this support will drop to 71.2 percent. It seems to me", says Mr. Hart, "that the government is moving in the wrong direction." That from the President of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

Mr. Speaker, also we note the lack of consideration for this government insofar as urban affairs are concerned by the fact that they have permitted the Department of Urban Affairs — tiny department as it was — to be swallowed up totally within the Department of Municipal Affairs.

And also the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we have a Minister responsible for Urban Affairs that is already more than overburdened with responsibilities in the Department of the Attorney-General and also with Municipal Affairs and also with the Liquor Control Commission. Mr. Speaker, what this does is symbolically indicate the lack of priority and the lack of consideration and the lack of concern for the problems of urban Manitoba. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, I hear comments across the way what my responsibilities were. Mr. Speaker, I was not responsible for Urban Affairs at any time. —(Interjection)— It was our government in 1971, I believe it was, that considered Urban Affairs to be such an important area of responsibility that it was made a separate department and the present Member for St. Johns, the Member for Inkster, the Member for Burrows, all at various times, assumed responsibility for that department.

Mr. Speaker, our record insofar as Urban Affairs will stand well in comparison to this government's record, insofar as Urban Affairs are concerned. —(Interjections)—

Mr. Speaker, the effects of this government's mismanagement in the restraint program has been to hurt those who are least able to protect themselves. In this, I must hold the First Minister of this province responsible for what is happening in the lives of so many Manitobans. Let me review some of the effects.

The government has tried to suggest that they have only eliminated the "fat", that they have not affected services to people. In fact, the First Minister only this last spring, stated that the Conservative Government would meet all the legitimate and compassionate demands that any civilized society would want for those who are disadvantaged and for those who are in need. —(Interjection)—

Well, Mr. Speaker, let us examine some of the evidence. Mr. Speaker, it's clearly obvious to any member of the Legislature by the increasing number of complaints, problems that are confronted by constituents in this province and I direct these remarks to the Minister of Health and Social Development, that there has been a steady deterioration insofar as the level of care provided through our Home Care policies and programs in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it was intended that Home Care would permit our elderly and our ill to remain in their own home, close to their loved ones, for as long a period as was possible; to avoid until the very last, the need for those elderly and ill individuals to enter into Personal Care Homes in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a gradual erosion of that program.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the increases in tuition fees in universities and community colleges, most affecting students with modest income backgrounds. And, Mr. Speaker, we interestingly find that it's not only New Democrats who are expressing alarm about what is happening in the province of Manitoba, and how government cutbacks are affecting health care institutions.

The Dauphin Herald of January 31st, 1979 contains a very interesting article. Huge black headlines, Mr. Speaker, huge black headlines, "Galbraith: Government Should Give Answer on Hospital", a ringing call to his constituents, and a ringing call to his government as a backbencher to do something about the hospital in Dauphin.

And interestingly, Mr. Speaker, talk about efficiency, not only is the hospital reconstruction and expansion not proceeded with as called for by the Member for Dauphin in his own constituency, but there has been some problem insofar as moving the meals, apparently, delivering the meals through a hot food cart to transfer it from the hospital to the home, and apparently as a result of months upon months of hold-back in this respect, finally a \$1,000.00 cart was made necessary when the construction of a connecting tunnel was also stalled by the government. That's what the news release states, that a connecting tunnel was stalled between the hospital and the personal care home in Dauphin. So, Mr. Speaker, I don't mind, I fully understand the Member for Dauphin's frustration when he is faced, like so many other members of this Legislature, in dealing with the continued decrease in health care facilities and services, as are so obviously taking place in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we have further evidence of the withdrawal and the cut-back in services insofar as the personal care home charge. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that per diems must be increased in order to meet additional costs in our personal care homes. What we object to, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that in 1978 to 1979 those increases, unlike the increases from 1973 to 1977 were higher than the consumer price index. Mr. Speaker, it is all right for this government to pay to its local government, to its hospitals and to its schools 6 percent, but Mr. Speaker, when it comes to expecting payment from Manitobans including the elderly and the ill in our personal care homes, they demand 8 and 9 percent. That's the sense of direction, that's the social responsibility demonstrated by the government of the day in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we will be awaiting information as to what is going to happen in respect to moving forward with housing for low income people in the Province of Manitoba. That's been basically stalled by this government. We'll be looking forward to what is happening insofar as the programs pertaining to the stripping of medical cards from senior citizens, some 1,770 senior citizens in the province

of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we have much to probe, much to ask this government about the cutting away of services, whether it's to our patients in our hospitals and to our personal care homes, whether it is the continued freeze insofar as construction of hospital facilities in the province — although I note there are some exceptions to that. It was only a month or two ago that an article was shown to me from, I think it was the Crystal City or the Pilot Mound newspaper, the good constituency of the Member for Rock Lake, announcing that the Crystal City hospital was going ahead. That announcement was made at a fat stock show in Crystal City in July of last year. There are many other communities in the Province of Manitoba that probably should follow the lead of the Member for Rock Lake, to encourage the holding of fat stock shows so that these important announcements affecting the communities can be undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, there was no announcement in this House, there was no public announcement; the announcement appeared in the Crystal City - Pilot Mound newspaper, and the announcement was made by the Minister of Health and Social Development in league with the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, indicating the replacement of a hospital may very well be needed, but Mr. Speaker, there are tens upon tens of other health care facilities in the Province of Manitoba who are awaiting announcement, that are awaiting movement ahead, not just a hospital in Crystal City and Pilot Mound.

Mr. Speaker, another area that has had its effects upon Manitobans are the cutbacks in northern Manitoba. Recently I spent some time in northern Manitoba visiting some of the communities in the north. Mr. Speaker, I direct these comments to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I believe that there has been one part of Manitoba which has been injured and which has been damaged most by this government. It has been northern Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, there's no wonder that this government, which seems to be carrying on the old policies of the Roblin-Weir government insofar as its neglect and abdication of responsibility in northern Manitoba, saw the defection of one of the most honoured and respected individuals in this House, Mr. Gordon Beard.

Mr. Speaker, in northern Manitoba there appears to be no northern policy to contend with the problems on the part of this government. Our mining communities are suffering, including the Honourable Member's own constituency, by continued loss in mining jobs, and there is no alternative policy developed by this government except handing out a few crumbs to the mining industry. Mr. Speaker, I was in the community of Nelson House, and Nelson House, Mr. Speaker, a community of some 1,000 natives, saw the benefits, Mr. Speaker, of effort on the part of the former Minister of Northern Affairs, to try to bring about some greater economic activity in that community. There were two economic development workers that were working within Northern Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the chief and the band members in Nelson House, they advised me, and after I had spoken as well to one of those individuals, that unceremoniously they were let go. They were let go on January 12th this year, after, Mr. Speaker, it had been indicated to them in October that they would continue with their positions till at least March 31. But, without any consultation, without any discussion with the local people as to what priorities, what that community would like to do for itself by way of social economic activity, these two workers were unceremoniously dumped.

In Leaf Rapids, Mr. Speaker, one of the few communities in the north that is in fact experiencing an improvement insofar as mining activity is concerned, I spoke to those that were involved in a program that is close to the Minister's own heart, to try to encourage greater movement of Metis families, Metis workers into the mining industry.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is no housing taking place in Leaf Rapids. There is no construction of decent housing and what, in fact, the Minister of Northern Affairs is saying to Metis families: "You will have to continue to live in Lynn Lake while the father and the husband works in Leaf Rapids. We're not going to build any more housing in Leaf Rapids." Then he indicates, down south, that he wishes to encourage greater involvement of native and Metis and northern people into the economic functions of northern Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I submit that that is hypocrisy of the worst kind.

For months, Mr. Speaker, this government has been saying to our reeves and to our councillors, to our mayors and our school trustees, school administrators, hospital administrators, nurses, public employees, all those that work in various public institutional facilities, that they simply cannot provide funding to keep up with inflation, let alone further improvements, because Manitoba doesn't have the fiscal capacity. They then brag in New York City, as the First Minister did, that they reduced the fiscal capacity of the province of Manitoba by some 83 million dollars. That's not what they say, Mr. Speaker, in Neepawa, or Birtle, or in Leaf Rapids, or in Swan River, when they are met by municipal councillors or school board members. What do they say, Mr. Speaker? They say the province can't afford it. What has been the effect of their policies? The effect of their policies has been to fly in the face of the commitments that were made by the First Minister himself when, as I mentioned earlier, that there was a commitment by the First Minister that a Conservative

would meet all the legitimate and compassionate demands that any civilized society would want for those who are disadvantaged and for those that are in need.

And what do we have? Mr. Speaker, we have the repeated announcements by the Health Minister, announcements to the effect that senior citizens that go on welfare will receive up to \$114.00 less per month through Welfare payments under new rules that have been announced; and the announcement of January 9, 1979, that the government has disqualified some 1,770 elderly from special medical status. We see Mr. Speaker, as I indicated that the Conservative government has increased the personal care fees at a rate higher and faster than inflation. We see no action Mr. Speaker, about the minimum wage, by the way, no action.

Mr. Speaker, I say this to members opposite, if they would like to stimulate purchasing power in the Province of Manitoba, to ensure that there is a development of greater productive activity in the province, then what better way would there be, what better way than to place more purchasing power into the hands of those that are lowest paid, the working poor in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, James Russell Lowell once said, "Truth forever on the scaffold and wrong forever on the throne." How true is this within the context of Manitoba today. Mr. Speaker, the wealth of this province stands in danger selectively of being sold out, sold out to large, private interests. The average Manitoban, the voiceless, stands in danger of their quality of life being severely damaged. Mr. Speaker, we recognize on this side that our challenge is great. Our cause Mr. Speaker, I believe to be one of the most important that any opposition party under these circumstances could be faced with. Mr. Speaker I would like conclude, by quoting from the words of our founder and leader of our party, J. S. Woodsworth, which I think best sums up the bases and the intents and the purposes of the New Democratic Party. Namely, that what we desire for ourselves we wish for all. To that end we commit ourselves on this side of the Legislature.

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

But this House regrets that this government:

1. has proved to be an inefficient manager of Manitoba's economy, driving businesses and people out of our province, and reducing Manitoba's real economic growth rate to the lowest of any province in Canada;
2. has imposed a fraudulent restraint program causing overall costs of basic services to Manitobans to be increased with increased user fees and real reductions in grants to universities, schools, municipalities and hospitals;
3. has pursued a policy of privateering the public sector by virtually giving away the assets which belong to all citizens of Manitoba, and by abdicating the proper role of government to ensure the development of our natural resources in the interests of all Manitobans;
4. has no urban policy, and systematically is abandoning the City of Winnipeg by ignoring its responsibilities to adequately provide for the fiscal and social needs of the Metropolitan Centre of Manitoba;
5. has deliberately neglected northern and remote communities and reduced services to and imposed burdensome user fees upon our senior citizens.

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard the amendment to the main motion. Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

HON. LLOYD AXWORTHY(Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Member from Kildonan, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard the motion by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge that the debate be adjourned. Is that agreed? The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Minister of Highways that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is accordingly adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. (Tuesday)