



**First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

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37 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
<b>ALCOCK, Reg</b>	Osborne	LIBERAL
<b>ANGUS, John</b>	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BURRELL, Parker</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>CARR, James</b>	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
<b>CARSTAIRS, Sharon</b>	River Heights	LIBERAL
<b>CHARLES, Gwen</b>	Selkirk	LIBERAL
<b>CHEEMA, Gulzar</b>	Kildonan	LIBERAL
<b>CHORNOPYSKI, William</b>	Burrows	LIBERAL
<b>CONNERY, Edward Hon.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.</b>	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
<b>DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>DOER, Gary</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James Hon.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Herold, L.</b>	Niakwa	LIBERAL
<b>DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>EDWARDS, Paul</b>	St. James	LIBERAL
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>ERNST, Jim, Hon.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>EVANS, Laurie</b>	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
<b>EVANS, Leonard</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary, Hon.</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FINDLAY, Glen Hon.</b>	Virden	PC
<b>GAUDRY, Neil</b>	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
<b>GILLESHAMMER, Harold</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>GRAY, Avis</b>	Ellice	LIBERAL
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HELWER, Edward R.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>HEMPHILL, Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>KOZAK, Richard, J.</b>	Transcona	LIBERAL
<b>LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.</b>	Inkster	LIBERAL
<b>MALOWAY, Jim</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>MANDRAKE, Ed</b>	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
<b>MANNES, Clayton, Hon.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McCRAE, James Hon.</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>MINENKO, Mark</b>	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
<b>MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.</b>	River East	PC
<b>NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.</b>	Rossmere	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte Hon.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald Hon.</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PANKRATZ, Helmut</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>PATTERSON, Allan</b>	Radisson	LIBERAL
<b>PENNER, Jack, Hon.</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>PLOHMAN, John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>PRAZNIK, Darren</b>	Lac du Bonnet	PC
<b>ROCAN, Denis, Hon.</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>ROCH, Gilles</b>	Springfield	PC
<b>ROSE, Bob</b>	St. Vital	LIBERAL
<b>STORIE, Jerry</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>TAYLOR, Harold</b>	Wolseley	LIBERAL
<b>URUSKI, Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>YEO, Iva</b>	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, July 28, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have reviewed the petition and it conforms with the privileges and practices of the House and complies with the Rules. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read? (Agreed)

**Mr. Clerk, William Remnant:** To the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba: Unnecessary delays at the Land Titles Office are costing Manitoba homebuyers money. The system currently in place governing real estate transactions is both complicated and costly. Ninety-eight percent of all real estate transactions are conducted through lawyers, resulting in higher legal fees. We, the undersigned, call on the Government to make legal counsel available at the Land Titles Office to assist the public in preparing and concluding real estate transactions.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** I have a Ministerial Statement.

It is my pleasure today to inform the House of an amendment to the regulation governing the remittance of education tax collected by municipalities on behalf of education authorities. This amendment will ensure that education taxes are turned over to education authorities on a more timely basis.

Under the present system, school divisions must borrow to cover operating costs while some municipalities earn interest on significant sums of education levies for several months after they are collected. Other municipalities, with later tax due dates, have had to borrow money to pay the education installments.

For the past 15 years, the Provincial Auditor has been pointing out that the present practice provides an implicit subsidy to municipalities at the expense of education. In changing the remittance dates, Mr. Speaker, we are complying with the Auditor's recommendation that municipalities be required to remit the taxes as they are collected.

\* (1335)

Throughout the election campaign, Mr. Speaker, this Government promised Manitobans that our approach to solving problems or facing challenges would include extensive consultation with those parties affected by a proposed change. I am very pleased to announce that over the last two months my department, along

with the cooperative efforts of the Departments of Municipal Affairs, Urban Affairs and Finance, has consulted with the Manitoba Association of Trustees, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, and the City of Winnipeg in order that an acceptable solution to the problem of tax remittance could be achieved.

As a result of this consultation process, I am confident that the changes being announced today will be well received by all parties involved.

As of July 1, Mr. Speaker, all education levies collected by the due date will be remitted by the end of the following month. All levies collected each month after the due date will be remitted by the end of the following month. All remaining education levies due to school divisions and the Public Schools Finance Board on December 31 will be remitted by January 31 of the following year. This is expected to result in considerable savings to school divisions. The loss of interest revenues to municipalities has indeed been considered in the consultation process and further details of support to municipal bodies by the province will be announced in the Budget Address of August 8. In addition, an agreement has been reached to consult, in the near future, with municipal authorities on costs and benefits associated with the role of tax collection for education authorities.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very significant achievement and is a clear indication of this Government's will to resolve issues through cooperation and consultation for the betterment of all Manitobans. Thank you very much.

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** I can just say that we on this side of the House are very pleased indeed with the announcement that the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) has made. We look forward to receipt of the Budget on August 8 to be sure that things are as indeed the Honourable Minister has declared.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** I would like to thank the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) for his statement. It is surprising what a difference a few months can make in approach.

**Some Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, only a few months ago, the statement from the Minister that he gave today would not have been acceptable and we heard all kinds of rather rash statements about the compromise that was proposed by the previous Government. However, I would say a compromise is better than no compromise. There is no doubt that the announcement today costs school divisions money. There is no doubt about it. I would also say that the Provincial Auditor is likely to have continuing concerns that this does not comply fully with the intent of the Act.

The school divisions over the course of the next few months will know what this costs them compared to what they were originally entitled, and there can be no doubt that while the municipalities will be looking forward to some compensation, they were promised the same by the previous Government as well.

A final note, while the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) is busy applauding himself on this achievement, the fact is that his agreement to continue to consult on the nature of compensation to municipalities is not such an achievement, I do not think, in the eyes of most people.

\* (1340)

However, we will wait to find out whether the loss of revenue that will happen because of this announcement to school divisions is compensated in some other way, because I can assure the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) the school divisions and parents are still looking for increased support to education.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 6, The Fires Prevention Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la prévention des incendies.

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General)** introduced, by leave, Bill No. 4, the Re-enacted Statutes of Manitoba, 1988, Act; Loi sur les Lois réadoptées du Manitoba de 1988; Bill No. 5, The Statute Re-enactment Act, 1988; Loi de 1988 sur la réadoption de lois.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### Port of Churchill - Grain Shipments

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** It was with regret that we did not hear from the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) today in a Ministerial Statement regarding his meeting yesterday with the Prime Minister of the country. We all, of course, remember his comments in the televised debate when he said: "When I talk, my Leader listens." The people of Manitoba would like to know how much listening happened yesterday, how much action resulted from that listening.

Can the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) inform the House today if indeed grain transportation was discussed, and when can the Port of Churchill expect its first grain shipment and when can it expect its first ship?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Federal-Provincial Relations):** I am pleased to report to the Leader of the Opposition that we had an excellent meeting, that the Prime Minister was delighted at the new directions that are being taken in Manitoba, the new emphasis that is being placed on job creation, economic growth and opportunities for the future of our people.

The Prime Minister indicated very much that he is encouraged by the signs that he sees in Manitoba, that he knows that there is a better future ahead with a Conservative Government in Manitoba.

I might indicate in response to the latter part of the question that I laid before the Prime Minister our concern about the continued use and emphasis on the Port of Churchill. I told him that we, as a Government, and indeed most Manitobans were very very supportive of the Port of Churchill. I told him that there was a concern about the shipment of grain, that there were other concerns to ensure that Churchill remains a viable entity, and that as a port it remains in a very important function in Canada's ports. Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister made a commitment that he would look into the matter personally.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Filmon:** Obviously the Members opposite do not want the Prime Minister to look into it. They do not want the federal Government to take action. The reality is that the federal Government must take action. I am encouraged at the fact that they will take action to ensure that Churchill continues to operate and will continue to have grain shipped through the Port of Churchill.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** We are glad the Prime Minister listened, but is he going to act? Will grain be shipped within the next two weeks to the Port of Churchill?

\* (1345)

**Mr. Filmon:** The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is obviously not aware that those decisions are made by other entities, Crown corporations. They involve the railway; they involve the Canadian Wheat Board.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, that in fact one of her close friends and advisors, the former Minister responsible for the Wheat Board, Mr. Lang, has in the past suggested that Churchill is no longer a viable entity and that Churchill should no longer be used. We do not take that position. The Prime Minister does not take that position, I might say. The federal Conservative Government does not take that position. So I am encouraged by the fact that the Prime Minister has indicated that he will get after the matter immediately, and we expect that there will be some positive announcement forthcoming in the near future.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** A supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

Yesterday, the Minister, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Cummings), and also the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) indicated that the Premier was taking this very necessary issue to indeed the highest possible level. We, therefore, were led to believe in this House that we would have a decision from that highest possible level.

Will the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) tell us if the people of Churchill will soon be employed actively in the Town of Churchill in the shipping and handling of grain?

**Mr. Filmon:** The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) will know that as soon as an announcement is made from Ottawa.

## Federal Day Care Policy

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** On a new question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), but in a related matter.

In his discussions yesterday with the First Minister of this country, did the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) inform the First Minister of Canada of the discriminatory actions of the federal Minister of Health with regard to his day care policy, and did he get an assurance from the First Minister that the new day care policy and legislation will not discriminate against Manitoba because of the high level of day care we already have in this province?

**Mr. Gary Filmon (Federal-Provincial Relations):** As the Leader of the Opposition has been informed previously in this House on matters with respect to our use of the day care program, the federal day care program, our ability to tap those new funds that have been put in, substantial new funds, and the billions of dollars that have been put into day care nationally by the federal Government is a matter that is under active process by our administration, by my Minister responsible for Community Services (Mrs. Oleson).

\* (1350)

We are committed to ensure that we have the highest standards of day care possible in this province. We are committed to ensure that we have flexibility, to ensure that we have accessibility for those single parents, all of those parents who require day care, because we believe that day care is a fundamental right of women, of individuals towards economic equality.

Women, to have economic equality, must have access to quality day care, and we are committed to ensure that those women do have that quality day care, affordable day care, and that it is provided by policies that are going to be developed by our administration, in concert with the federal Government, to ensure that we can access all of the funding they have made available, to ensure that all of the new programs that they have established are ones that can be of benefit to Manitobans. We will have a high quality, accessible, affordable day care system in Manitoba, because we will work cooperatively with Ottawa to ensure that we take advantage of this entire program.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

The day care policy announced will provide more funding to those provinces that do not have our standard of day care. Did the Prime Minister commit himself to removing that discriminatory provision with regard to Manitoba?

**Mr. Filmon:** With respect to the overall issue of day care, my Minister has indicated previously that her administration is working actively to ensure that we take maximum advantage of the federal day care program, that we will be establishing our priorities in concert with them, that we will ensure that all aspects of that program are utilized to the benefit of those

people in Manitoba who need day care because, under the previous administration, we had a critical shortage in spaces in day care. We are going to be working to take advantage of the new day care program and all of the dollars that are there to ensure that we improve and enhance day care and that we expand it to meet the needs that are there.

## Western Diversification Fund

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a final question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) on his meeting with the Prime Minister, what commitments did the Premier get from the Prime Minister that Manitoba will finally get its share of the Western Diversification Fund, and when can we expect those cheques to arrive?

**Mr. Gary Filmon (Federal-Provincial Relations):** The Leader of the Opposition (Sharon Carstairs) may believe that it is just a matter of writing a cheque and spending money. The other day, her Agriculture critic indicated that our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) should allow those who have not participated in the crop insurance plan to retroactively go into the plan which would cost \$100 million for them to go into that plan afterwards. During the course of the last few days, she suggested that we ought to, as a province, build a railway to Churchill, that we ought to invest provincial dollars, by the tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, in building a railway to Churchill. She believes that people should just simply write cheques without any consultation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** This is the second time that the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has deliberately misquoted me in the House, and I would ask the Speaker to make reference to Hansard with regard to my exact comments on funding with regard to Churchill, and then I would ask from the First Minister an apology.

**Mr. Speaker:** A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

## Hazardous Wastes - Flin Flon

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery).

\* (1355)

Yesterday, certainly after he scurried back to his department for some briefing, which I appreciate he had to do, he indicated to the public of Manitoba that he indeed would be issuing a stop work order on the material that is now in Flin Flon, the material that we are quite concerned about being shipped from the United States to Manitoba and being disposed of in our province and in our country. The Minister indicated that there would indeed be a stop work order to err on the side of caution. I have received a letter from

the Minister when we asked for a copy of that order this morning, and he indicates that there will be no work order issued to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting in Flin Flon.

I would ask the Minister — he is certainly giving the public the impression that he had issued an order. I would ask why the Minister said one thing to the public in comments and says something else in this letter. Secondly, I would ask the Minister to confirm the statements of the safety office in Flin Flon that indeed arsenic is contained in the sludge material that is being shipped from the United States to Canada.

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health):** First of all, I would like to withdraw whatever comment the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) was upset about with yesterday. I think the antics of the Opposition Party speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, we saw a whole mass of misinformation. I think this House, the Government, the people of Manitoba were misled and were misinformed as to what actually took place at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting.

Mr. Speaker, one load — and I will tell you why I did not have the information at my hand, because it is a non-issue. When we looked into it, there was no reason for our competent staff to have informed me on it. Our staff had reacted to it, had been out there, had already taken samples. We have, and I will table in this Legislature, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting analysis of what has happened which showed that it is safe.

The reason that the people were concerned, and rightfully so, at Flin Flon, the union people were not informed by the company what was in that sludge. They had the right not to do anything with it. Now they have been informed and there is a meeting being held tomorrow to work it out. I did not have to issue a stop work order because we had already found out, through our staff, that Hudson Bay Mining had agreed not to process it until the analysis was done and it was proven that it was safe to do so. That is why a stop work order did not have to be issued.

Mr. Speaker, this one load of 35 tonnes came from California. This is in the Silicon Valley where they make chips and so forth, and there is some gold and silver in the sludge. The sludge is burnt to over 700 degrees Celsius before it is shipped. So what it is is bottom ash; it is not sludge. The material is absolutely safe and they will be processing it.

We are also doing within our own lab — and I think the people should know that we are doing the follow-up analysis to make sure it corresponds with the analysis of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. So I am satisfied that our staff worked appropriately, they worked quickly.

I am disappointed that, if there was such a concern, why the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and the Opposition Leaders (Mrs. Carstairs, Mr. Doer) did not inform our office immediately as they knew to make sure there was no injury to workers in Flin Flon.

**Mr. Speaker:** First of all, I would like to thank the Honourable Member for withdrawing his statement from yesterday's remarks. As far as the Chair is concerned, the Chair is sufficed. Answers to questions should be brief, I would like to remind all Honourable Members.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, the Minister indicated yesterday to the public and in all the publications that were carried in all the media that he indeed was going to err on the side of caution.

\* (1400)

**Mr. Connery:** Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) sat there and said he lied. I withdrew a statement not nearly as bad as that. I would ask him to withdraw that statement at this moment.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that parliamentary tradition requires that I withdraw that word. However, I am a bit concerned that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) can say publicly, for public consumption, something that has not clearly happened, that perhaps he had no intention of doing. I ask your guidance perhaps, Mr. Speaker, for some indication of how I am to interpret that kind of a discrepancy. If it is unparliamentary, I will withdraw it. The contradiction remains.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the slightest dispute, there has clearly been left the impression in the public of Manitoba, some of which are very concerned about this issue, that indeed a cease order was going to be issued by the Minister, and I quote: "I would rather err on the side of caution."

I would ask the Minister whether he, in his discussions with the company, has had any other issues raised to his attention that would require other cease work or stop work orders in this province, in Flin Flon.

**Mr. Connery:** It continues on now that he is saying that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting is not an honourable company, that we have to send a written stop work order for me to ensure.

**An Honourable Member:** You said you did.

**Mr. Connery:** I did not say we had sent a written, I said that we will ensure, and we did. We reacted that very afternoon, and I am very satisfied that we did. But make sure, Mr. Speaker, that they may complain, but the laws that allow material to move were laws that were brought in by their Government.

We are prepared. I have had discussions with our staff to take a look to ensure that chemicals or compounds that we do not know what is in them, we check it out before it gets in. Our staff has been instructed to ensure that we put something in place that this does not happen, that a substance that we

do not know the analysis of does not come in before we have that. Our staff is looking at it. When we have it in place, we will bring it forward to this House.

**Mr. Doer:** My question to the Minister is: In light of his briefing on this issue and his great deal of attention, are there any other goods in Flin Flon which are being transported from the United States that Manitobans should be concerned about?

**Mr. Connery:** I thank the Member for that question because, yes, there are. There is a chemical there that is being brought in by Dow.

Under this previous Government, it was allowed to come in, and they did not get an analysis to see if it was safe. We have ordered our department or, I should say, asked — ordered is something that we should not do. I have asked our department, and they will get a sample of that and have it analyzed to ensure that it is safe. This Government is criticizing the very things that they did and allowed to happen. I can assure you that, environmentally, we are concerned. Our department will be reacting to these things. If anyone else has any concern of chemicals, please make sure that our department is aware of it and we will react to it. I would solicit your support.

**Mr. Doer:** What we are concerned about is no action on behalf of the Manitoba referee, who is the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery), in dealing with these issues. The material that is coming in from Dow Chemicals, again from the United States based on our information, contains mercury, cadmium and indeed again arsenic that is being transported by Dow Chemicals from the United States up to Flin Flon.

We believe the Minister should issue a cease work order because the other day they were going to unload those chemicals again in Flin Flon, and they could not do so because the wind was blowing the other way. If that is the kind of assurances the Minister is getting from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, we believe the Minister should issue a cease work order on the Dow Chemicals and issue that order immediately. I would like him to answer why he has not, in this House today.

**Mr. Connery:** This Opposition really concerns me. They have very little concern for the jobs up in Flin Flon. We are going to ensure and we are ensuring that it is safe to do. What they said yesterday and tried to leave in the minds of the public of Manitoba and in this Legislature was that this was sludge coming up from the United States for disposal, for incineration here. It was coming in for extraction of gold and silver that is the remainder in the sludge or in the bottom dust that is there, so it is not a dump. It is in here for recycling, and it creates jobs in the Town of Flin Flon. Does he not want to have jobs in the Town of Flin Flon?

### Rivers - Jurisdictional Authority

**Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital):** My question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme).

Two weeks ago, a near fatality on the Red River was followed by a boating tragedy last weekend and again

what could have been another disaster last evening. Twice in the last few days, the City of Winnipeg police admitted that they are very limited in what they can do on our rivers. They are not certain about how to proceed with the charges after an incident. After questions to the Premier (Mr. Filmon) on Monday from our Leader (Mrs. Carstairs), I am appalled by the continued inaction.

Will the Minister tell this House what he intends to do to rectify this dangerous laissez-faire situation on Winnipeg's rivers in both the short and long term?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):** I appreciate the question with regard to the concern of that particular tragedy. We are all concerned whenever there is a death on a river or a death anywhere in the Province of Manitoba, and especially myself in this particular case, which is the same river as a child and as a student that I swam in, in the backyard of my home.

However, the question is what concerns or what has been done since this particular announcement has been made. First of all, several steps have been taken before this particular strategy. On approximately June 17, I met with Leo Duguay, the M.P. in the area, in regard to all the concerns on the river. We met in regard to all the jurisdictions that are occurring.

From this discussion, I followed the June 17 meeting up with a second meeting with the Member for St. Boniface, which takes in this particular area and considerations we are making to addressing the problem of streamlining all the concerns and regulatory authority over Winnipeg's waterways. During this meeting, we agreed that this particular concern would be expressed and, after that meeting, a letter was drafted to the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg at the same time as the letter that went out to the Member for St. Boniface. In that letter, I expressed to the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg the same contents that I sent to Mr. Leo Duguay. I would like to put on the record the letter, although the letter was after the tragic incident on June 27 and . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose).

**Mr. Rose:** I'll just make a note here, and the note of June 22 after the horse is out of the barn. I want to tell you that recreational users of the rivers are phoning us and telling us that they are frightened to venture out on the river. This is the sort of inaction that we continue to have even after the question has been asked.

Now I ask this Minister again, I hope that he will stop passing the buck and press the federal Government through his colleague or whatever to delegate the necessary authority in the Province of Manitoba so that we can manage our rivers effectively.

I want to know: Is the Honourable Minister prepared to stop waffling and committing funds immediately so the city can increase their equipment and staff power on the rivers so that we can be safe for at least the remainder of this season?

**Mr. Ducharme:** I must apologize for carrying on with the extension and the long-windedness. I just wanted to get on the record the type of work that has been going on since we got in office and this had been reviewed. However, the Member has requested what action.

The Member should know that right now the City of Winnipeg, for which he was a councillor for probably a couple of years, the onus is on the City of Winnipeg to request the province to apply to the Government of Canada to adopt an Order-in-Council to enact the boating restriction regulations in Winnipeg. This approach allows the city to tailor the regulations to its specific needs. The province should be able to act once a request has been made.

**Mr. Rose:** To the same Minister, I am not surprised at an answer like that from this Minister who has been so callous to seniors. He really does not care about the people on the river. I would like to see the contents of the letter and why it came so late. He was a city councillor too, and he did not do anything at that time.

My question is in regard to a meeting — I do not know why there is a letter, there are already letters on file. But my question, on October 15, 1986, the Winnipeg City Council unanimously passed a 12-point motion outlining a basis for negotiations with the province on all river concerns. I am sure you are aware of that. The previous Government — we can blame them for it, but what about you now? — they never responded. When will your Government open negotiations with the city?

**Mr. Ducharme:** My letter showed that I want to negotiate with the city. However, where was that councillor when the report of October '87 was put forward to council expressing their concerns and giving their regulations? Where was he to bring it forward to this provincial Government?

\* (1410)

### Free Trade - Water Resources Protection

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** My question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

Last Friday, in response to my questions concerning the protection of Manitoba's waters under the Free Trade Agreement, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) stated that, quote — this is from Hansard — "There is no requirement under the Free Trade Agreement, so why would we pass legislation where no concern exists? There is indeed no concern that our water could be sold to the Americans or we could be obliged to sell our water to the Americans under the terms of the Free Trade Agreement."

My question is: In light of the federal Minister's proposed action to protect our water under the Free Trade Agreement, will the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) admit that there may indeed be a loophole in the Free Trade Agreement that leaves Manitobans' sovereignty rights to protect their water in question, and will this

Government support our proposed legislation to protect Manitoba's water for the future?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Executive Council):** The federal Minister of Trade has indicated very strongly that they have no legal opinions. They have no opinions from any trade authorities that we in Canada are obliged in any way by the Free Trade Agreement to sell our water to the United States. He has answered that over and over and over again. He has now gotten to the point where he is so tired of answering that question, because of the fearmongering tactics of Liberals and New Democrats, that he is prepared to even put it into the legislation to give them the comfort and to stop them from raising these issues that are non-issues.

The reality is, Mr. Speaker, he is going to give them the comfort that they have asked for even though he believes, as a lawyer, and on the advice of all of the legal advisors that the federal Government has, that there is no fear and no necessity to protect Canadians against that possibility. He is still going to put it in to give them the comfort, the New Democrats and the Liberals, who will not listen to reason on the matter.

### Free Trade - Sovereign Rights Natural Resources

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** I am pleased that the federal Minister has seen fit to read the Free Trade Agreement and I am pleased that he, at least, has seen fit to give us the degree of comfort the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) refused to give us or was unsure he could give us earlier in the debate.

But my question now carries beyond to the Minister responsible for Hydro (Mr. Neufeld). In light of the possible loophole in relation to natural resources and in light of the requirements for a degree of comfort concerning and regarding the Free Trade Agreement as it pertains to hydro, particularly Sections 904(a) and 904(b), what action will his Government take to assure Manitobans the sovereign right of their natural resources such as hydro?

**Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister of Energy and Mines):** Mr. Speaker, it is a considered opinion of my department and the opinion of Hydro and all the advice we have received that we are not in danger of losing our natural resources, namely the water.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus), with a final supplementary.

**Mr. Angus:** It is indeed my final supplementary. It is along the same lines to the same Minister.

Will his department bring in legislation to ensure that Manitobans can choose to sell their hydro energy to whomever they please, whenever they please, at whatever price they please, and ensure Manitobans sovereignty rights over this valuable natural resource?

**Mr. Neufeld:** I am sure the Member is aware that, before we generate any power, before we go to the expense of building a generating station, we enter into



agreements with possible users. Once we have entered into an agreement with a user, the terms of that agreement shall stand. That is the advice given and that is advice I am sure he has received. After we have entered into an agreement, we can sell that power to the user at whatever price the terms of their agreement dictate, after which we can sell to our own domestic consumers at whatever price we please.

### Western Trade Ministers' Meeting

**Mr. Ed Helwer (Gimli):** I would like to direct this question to the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst).

Can the Minister tell us what was accomplished at the Western Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vancouver on Tuesday, July 26?

**Hon. James Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** I am pleased to answer that question.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a very long time, the four western provinces are now going to be able to speak with a united voice when we go before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades. For the first time there will be a united front on behalf of agriculture, on behalf of natural resources in Manitoba and a grid across western Canada.

The meeting that took place on Tuesday last, I think, sets a milestone for western Canada and the kind of thing that we are going to have for across western Canada. We will now have a united voice in speaking on items of major interest to all four provinces.

We will be preparing working papers for approval and submission to the Western Premiers' Conference later this year so that we have a united front when we go to the mid-term meetings on GATT in Montreal, to be able to say on behalf of western Canada that we want some action and we want to see our resources and our industries protected.

### Hazardous Wastes - Flin Flon

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** My question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery).

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) would have us believe that his concern is for jobs and the environment. The Minister of the Environment knows full well that the use of this sludge, this material, the incineration of toxic material at Flin Flon creates no additional jobs.

I would ask the Minister whether he can inform this House of the harmful characteristics of substances which are known to be included in some of the material which has found its way from the United States to Canada and to Flin Flon. Can he tell this House what the characteristics are of cadmium, mercury and arsenic?

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health):** Obviously the Member

must have dozed off for a while in the House because he did not understand or listen when I said that I was tabling a full report, a full analysis of that sludge. It has been tabled with the Clerk. I do not know what the Opposition is doing but, if you are going to be here, at least pay attention. It has been filed; it is there for your perusal. I have other copies in my office. If you want a dozen, you can have them.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, this particular Minister is in trouble because of his flippant responses yesterday when he pretended he knew something and he did not know anything about it. He has done the same today. This Minister indicated . . .

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, with a question.

**Mr. Storie:** I appreciate the opportunity. I would like to table the reports on hazardous substances from the New Jersey Department of Health, which is a world-recognized institution with expertise in dangerous substances, and table for this House information on the —

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**Mr. Storie:** — the effects of mercury, cadmium and arsenic. Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is: Has this Minister's own department conducted an analysis or had he had an independent analysis of the materials, not only which were referred to yesterday, the sludge, but the materials which have arrived from Dow Chemical? If he has such, do they contain any arsenic, cadmium or mercury?

**Mr. Connery:** Mr. Speaker, obviously again the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is not listening. I told him that we had an analysis provided to us from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and, if he will read Hansard tomorrow, he will also read where I said our department at the Ward Lab on Logan — he should be familiar with it — is doing our own independent analysis to ensure that what is in there -(Interjection)- It is in the process, and it could be done within 24 hours. They were working all last night to try to achieve that analysis as quickly as possible.

So then we can say to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, yes, the material is safe or, no, we do not think it is safe. The employees will be informed, the union will be informed and they will have the option as to whether they should process that or not. All of these things are being done, if you would look at the analysis.

### Land Titles Office - Delay

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, my question is . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), on a point of order.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** I believe I am entitled to a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I continue with my final supplementary?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James.

**Mr. Edwards:** My question is for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), and again it concerns the Winnipeg Land Titles office. Just before I go on, let me remind the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) that in fact it was the previous administration that brought in the Land Transfer tax which is causing the delay of his petitioners and the great expense thereby.

\* (1420)

The Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) yesterday in this House indicated that I had given the House the wrong impression. He stated that I was wrong in saying that, on Tuesday of this week, the posted delay was 43 days. Let me suggest that the Honourable Attorney-General speak yet again to his officials where, I have no doubt, he will learn that the posted date on Tuesday of this week was indeed 43 days, as I stated and as I and the people of this city were advised on July 26.

Winnipeggers know that I have not misled them. The posted date is the date Winnipeggers rely on to arrange interim financing and it is the date by which this department will be judged.

Will the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) please inform this House what the posted date was last Tuesday, and does the Attorney-General say that he disagrees with the date his department was putting forward? Are the public being misled by this department? Am I being misled?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** Mr. Speaker, it is good that I am given the opportunity once again to discuss this matter with the Honourable Member.

As I was about to say yesterday, the staff at the Land Titles Office has worked diligently and voluntarily over many hours of overtime, including weekends and holidays during the summertime, in order to address the concerns of the public. Their efforts should be recognized as having a significant impact.

The sign that the Honourable Member uses as his total research effort in this regard indeed said on Tuesday, "43 days." In that respect, the Honourable Member is correct. The way the question was raised had the effect, and I suggest you look at the news coverage of the following day, it had the effect of misleading the public as to the real circumstances at the Land Titles Office.

I suppose there should be three signs there: "Worst Case, 43 days; Average, 36 days," two days better than our end of July target; and the third sign, "Best case," which if we are talking about our new express line which

we announced on June 17, would post a much lower number than that. I am pleased to tell the Honourable Member that we are ahead of our target.

The people who were concerned about the delays are pleased with what we are trying to do. They were pleased with our target and we are ahead of that. The Honourable Member — I know it was unintentional — but he misled the people of this province and of this city who are concerned on this particular issue.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, again for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), I would suggest again that the Honourable Attorney-General speak to his officials and realize that posted date is not the worst case. It is when the majority have been done. The worst case is longer than that.

My question is: Will the Attorney-General commit himself today to spend every penny of the anticipated profit from the Winnipeg Land Titles Office, which profit has been greatly increased as a result of the land transfer tax, first and foremost towards rectifying the state of service at the Winnipeg Land Titles Office and improving the delays therein.

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the honourable critic for Agriculture in this House suggested that those who do not pay insurance premiums should receive insurance benefits. Today we are told that every penny of profit at the Land Titles Office should be used for another purpose. How many dollars are Honourable Members opposite going to commit themselves to spending if and when they should ever form a Government in this province? How many? Billions?

In direct response to the Honourable Member, who suggests I speak to my officials, I was so concerned about the allegation being made by the Honourable Member that I wasted no time at all speaking to officials to find out if indeed we are off the track here somehow. Absolutely not. We are bang on. In fact, we are ahead of our target, and I invite the Honourable Member to speak to the officials at Land Titles instead of just looking at a sign.

### Surveys Branch - Moratorium

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James, with a final supplementary.

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** To the Honourable Attorney-General, in fact, I have spoken to those officials and I invite the Honourable Attorney-General to ask them the questions I have suggested.

By way of second supplementary, again for the Honourable Attorney-General and again on this theme, will the Honourable Attorney-General please tell this House how long the present moratorium at the Surveys Branch on checking and processing the new plans by surveyors will last, and what extra delay it is anticipated this will cause those who have need to put their plans first to the Surveys Branch?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** Mr. Speaker, rather than place the people of Winnipeg into a state

of shock as a result of this question, I will take it as notice and get the answer for the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

### Hazardous Wastes - Flin Flon

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, my further question is to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery).

The Minister earlier chastised me for not having access immediately to documents tabled in this House. I have since received those documents and I will ask the Minister of Environment: (a) to confirm that the waste being sent to Flin Flon contains arsenic, cadmium, as well as mercury, and that those substances are hazardous, dangerous substances; and the Minister has yet to confirm whether an independent analysis will be tabled in this House with respect to those wastes.

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health):** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member should know that these hazardous compounds are in the industry on an ongoing basis. He should know that arsenic is used in the mining industry. This is one of the chemicals that is used and it is not used on an ongoing basis, so all of these chemicals, if handled properly, are safe. If they are handled improperly, they are not safe. At Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, they have some of the finest equipment. They have a good monitoring system to ensure that the employees are safe when they are handling a commodity, but these are in the industry on an ongoing basis.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for Oral Questions has expired.

### NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to make a non-political statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have leave? (Agreed)

\* (1430)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** This evening, the annual Folklorama parade will wind its way through the streets of downtown Winnipeg. Over the past 18 years, Folklorama has earned the reputation of being one of Manitoba's great summer festivals. Featuring 41 pavilions this year, Folklorama has come to be recognized as the largest multicultural event of its kind in North America.

This year Folklorama has been extended from the traditional one week to two weeks to provide twice the time to savour the food and drink and see the shows.

Annually, Folklorama attracts thousands of visitors, and I have no doubt that 1988 will see a festival which is even bigger and better than ever. I would therefore like to encourage all Members of the House to celebrate our multicultural heritage by taking part in Folklorama in 1988. I think I can speak for all Members of the House when I commend the many dedicated volunteers

who look after every detail and program plan in each and every pavilion.

Best wishes to the festival organizers for a successful two weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** We on this side of the House would like to join with the Members of the Government to pay tribute and thank all of the people involved in Folklorama. It is indeed a mirror of what Manitoba is really all about.

In Manitoba, as we all know, our minorities are now the majority. This is a showcase for all of them to not only display their song, their food, their dance and their cultural activities, but really it is an opportunity for us to share and to learn about each other. When we realize that tolerance, understanding and respect for everybody from every ethnocultural community is one of the greatest challenges of our time in terms of promoting peace, then we know that this is not just a cultural event. It is an event that goes a long way to helping people appreciate and respect all ethnocultural people.

It also is an economic tool, and I would like to suggest that this is very important. It attracts a great number of tourists. The tourist industry is presently our third industry in our province. I think, with the expansion of Folklorama and using this as a major showcase, that it can be one of the activities that will increase our tourist industry to becoming perhaps the No. 1 industry in our province.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), who has six minutes remaining.

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday in this House, we witnessed the spectacle of the Conservative Government and the Liberal Opposition voting against the debate on Churchill. Following that and at the same time, we had the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) in Ottawa meeting with the Prime Minister, and he has come back empty-handed on the issue of Churchill. He has come back with empty promises, with only a commitment by the Prime Minister that he will look into Churchill's problems. I want to say that I think that is regrettable. What we need now at this time is definitive action and commitment.

\* (1430)

I note very clearly, and I think all the Members of this House noted, that the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), when reporting and then in response to questions that were asked, did not give any indication that the Prime Minister directed anyone to do anything with regard to Churchill. All he said is that he would look into it.

I asked where has he been for the last four years. His Deputy Prime Minister was a former Minister of

Transport, Mr. Mazankowski. The former Minister of Transport knows full well the plight of Churchill and the difficulties that we have faced as a province in bringing to the attention of the powers that be in this country that Churchill should be playing a more major role in the transport of grain for export in this country. Yet that Deputy Prime Minister has obviously not raised this issue with the Prime Minister of this country because now, at this late date, when the season should be starting, he is now going to start to look into this problem.

I think that indicates even more why we needed an all-Party debate yesterday and why we need an all-Party committee, a delegation to meet with officials in Ottawa to let them know that we have a united voice on this issue, that we will stand up and we will not put up with the kind of unfair treatment that the federal Government under Brian Mulroney has been giving Manitoba when it comes to Churchill.

I noticed the Prime Minister standing there pompously while in a picture-taking session with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and then saying pompously and surely that the Meech Lake Accord was going to be passed in this country. When he says that arrogantly, he is taking a lot of people for granted. He is taking a lot of Members on this side of the House for granted, and I resent my vote on that issue being taken for granted by that Prime Minister as he ignores the needs of this province. I am not going to put up with that and he better get that message.

I want to close with a couple of comments about fairness by this Government, because we see the same lack of understanding by this Government for northern and remote communities in this Province as we see by Ottawa bureaucrats and Conservative politicians in Ottawa for Manitoba's needs. We see the same kind of treatment, the same kind of attitude. Now let us just look at this.

The northern communities have been told that they have to raise 50 percent of the dollars needed for any community projects under the Northern Community Assets Program. I say that indicates, insofar as this Government is concerned, a complete lack of understanding or a completely uncaring attitude towards these communities. Many of these communities do not have employment. They have no wealth in those communities; they have no opportunity for jobs; and yet they are now faced with the tremendous challenge of having to raise 50 percent for community projects that clearly shows the priorities of this Government. They want to see all of that money going into southern Manitoba and other areas where they have the wealth, and they want to keep those people who do not have jobs and economic activity down where they are at the present time, to doom them to no development. I say that demonstrates clearly that this Government, these MLAs who sit there and grin and snicker about this very serious issue, it shows how much they care about northern communities. I think that is sad and that is regrettable.

In the days and months ahead, we are going to point out again and again where this Government is unfair, where its priorities lie with big business and removal

of the payroll tax to satisfy their friends in the banks, in the oil companies, in the insurance companies and not those people who need it most. Those average Manitobans who need the assistance and help most, that is not going to be their priority. We are going to point that out to the people of Manitoba over and over again, and we are going to ask this Liberal Opposition to join with us on every possible occasion to point out the unfairnesses of this Conservative Government and their lack of priorities for average Manitobans. Then down the chute they go, as the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski) said. This is what we pledge ourselves to doing to ensure fairness for all Manitobans.

**Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism):** Let me join with those who have spoken before me in offering my congratulations to you, Sir, on your election to the office of Speaker. I have had the privilege of knowing you since 1986 when we first came into this House together, and it has been - (Interjection)- yes, it does seem like centuries. But I must say, Sir, that I have had the privilege of knowing you and working with you in that time and I know, based on that experience, that you will do an excellent job. You will provide fair and impartial treatment in the House and you will carry out your duties in a very exemplary manner.

I also wish to make note for the Members of the House that it was a Progressive Conservative Government in Manitoba that first elected a bilingual Speaker in this House. I think that is something of which we should be very proud. You, Sir, are the first bilingual Speaker to have presided over this Chamber. It is something perhaps that has been long overdue, and again my congratulations on your appointment.

**An Honourable Member:** Now talk to him in French.

**Mr. Ernst:** I wish that I could carry out those same words in the other official language of this country, and I regret that I am not able to do that. Perhaps some day I will have the facility to carry out that, and I will look forward to that day.

I also want to offer my congratulations to the new Deputy Speaker of the House, the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). I am sure under your guidance that he will be able to carry out those duties of Deputy Speaker in a fair and exemplary manner as well.

I want to join those who have spoken before me as well in offering my congratulations both to those new Members who are elected to the House for the first time, on both sides, and also to those who have been re-elected and chosen again by their constituents to represent them in this Chamber. It is a thankless job for those of us who have been involved in politics for a long time, and those who are newly elected will soon come to know that very often it is a very thankless job and one that requires some considerable perseverance in order to carry out those duties and desires expected by their constituents.

I also want to congratulate my colleagues of the Executive Council for their appointments. We are trying as a Cabinet to carry out the wishes of the people of

Manitoba, to live up to those expectations, those promises that were made during the election campaign by my Leader and by our Party, and we will carry out those as quickly and as efficiently as we possibly can.

\* (1440)

I would be remiss if I did not offer also my congratulations to the new Leader of the New Democratic Party. Just after the fall of the Pawley Government, there was a leadership campaign that took place during the election writ period. Mr Doer was elected to that post, and I offer my congratulations to him and wish him well, but not too much success in the days and weeks to come.

I would also be remiss if I did not congratulate my colleagues, the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) and the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) who moved and seconded the Throne Speech debate. I think, in their maiden speeches in this House, that they well represented the position of the Government, their own positions, and an outline of their constituencies, an indication of the kind of quality backbenchers that we have on this side of the House and the new blood that has come in that will carry on the Progressive Conservative Party for many years to come.

I also want to thank the people of Charleswood for having returned me once again as their representative. The great constituency of Charleswood and the people of that community well know that the needs of that community and the Province of Manitoba would be well served with a Progressive Conservative Government. I thank them for that confidence once again, and look forward to serving them for many years to come.

The Throne Speech that we heard the other day is now a plan of this Government as to what it intends to do in the coming weeks and months. It is a delivery of our election promises, those things that we said to the people of Manitoba, those things that we put forward to them and said, this is what we will do if we become a Government in this province. These are the kinds of programs that we will carry out. These are the things that will happen if we become the Government of Manitoba.

Although it is a minority Government, the fact still remains that we are the Government of Manitoba and that we will carry out those things we said we would carry out. We will bring those things that are necessary for legislation forward to this Chamber, and it will be up to all Members to decide whether those programs are good or bad. If those programs that are brought forward in this Chamber are not accepted by a majority of the Members of this House, then those who choose not to support those measures will face the wrath of the people of Manitoba.

The previous Government in this province left the province in a shambles. First of all, their Government was defeated on March 8, 1988. Their Leader resigned the next day after he called an election, and the financial shambles in this province also is something to behold. It was for those reasons that the people of Manitoba rejected the New Democratic Party Government and said to them, we do not want you to govern this province

any longer. We want a change, we want some financial responsibility, we want Crown corporations brought under some kind of control. That is exactly what this Government is intending to do.

The New Democratic Party Government left us with a huge financial debt in this province, a debt that is a burden upon all taxpayers in this province and a burden on those yet to be born in this province. They, as they enter this world, are going to be responsible for a debt of some \$10,000.00. For every new baby who comes into this world, \$10,000 is what that baby owes upon its arrival here in Manitoba.

We have had uncontrolled spending by the previous Government. We have had massive tax increases. You will remember, in 1987, the Budget of 1987 that brought in horrendous tax increases all across every spectrum of the Province of Manitoba, tax increases that the people of Manitoba rejected on April 26, 1988. It is the intention of this Government to remove some of those taxes in an orderly manner and in an attempt over the longer term — and it is going to be the longer term, unfortunately, because of the kind of financial problems that we are facing in this province. It is going to be the longer term that it is going to take in order to remove those burdensome taxes.

We have seen the Crown corporations in the kind of disarray that has been well documented. We saw the kind of Autopac increases that really were the straw that broke the camel's back, regardless of the kind of manipulations that had tried to have been brought in prior to the implementation of Autopac rates in January of 1988. That legacy threatens our very existence. It threatens the existence of this province, of the taxpayers of this province, because of the very burdensome financial burden that they have to bear.

There was a need, and it has been demonstrated and confirmed by the electorate in this province, a need for a change, a need for some financial control, a need for a sensible, reasonable approach to the Government of Manitoba, a need for a voice of reason and a need for a little common sense in dealing with programs that service the people of this province and the revenues by which they are paid.

The program outlined in the Throne Speech is that breath of fresh air. It is that signal to the people of Manitoba that, in fact, this Government is going to attempt to do just that. We are not perfect and we may not be able to achieve all of the goals that we have set for ourselves, but it is wrong for us not to try. It is wrong not to attempt to deliver on those promises, to deliver on the kinds of suggestions and promises that we made to the people of Manitoba. We are going to try and we are going to try our darnedest to ensure that we can deliver those programs and deliver on the kinds of things that we told the people of Manitoba we would put into place.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba should know that the ship of state is under control, that the ship of state now has a rudder, one that it has been without for the past five or six years. We are back on course, and we are attempting to provide good Government, reasonable Government, common-sense Government to the people of Manitoba.

During the previous Session and during the campaign, we called upon the Government and told the people of Manitoba, if we became the Government, we would bring in a reduction in the size and cost of Government. Those promises were echoed by the Leader of the Opposition, and she said that it was reduce the bureaucracy not programs to people, to cut down on the size of the Civil Service, to reduce the heavy cost of the bureaucracy, yet still maintain those programs that people want and need and should have in the Province of Manitoba.

I am proud to say and I am proud to stand here in this Chamber and tell the Members of this House that was one of the first priorities when I became a Member of the Executive Council. When I was appointed by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) to be the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology and the Minister of Business Development and Tourism, I became patently aware very quickly that those two departments ought not necessarily to operate independently and separately with a whole separate bureaucracy for each.

Mr. Speaker, when I became the Minister, it became obvious and I put officials to work immediately on the process of attempting to amalgamate and integrate those two departments so that we can get rid of some of that bureaucracy, so that we can streamline Government, so that we can cut down on the heavy load and free up more money that would be available for the programs that are so necessary for us to carry out the function in that department.

So we did that and, as was announced in the Throne Speech, the departments have now been amalgamated into the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, not to say at all that any of the programs have been diminished because they have not. What has been diminished is the cost of the bureaucracy. We have removed, first of all, one set of senior management costs that will disappear with the amalgamation of the department. That is not to say at all that the person who had occupied the job of Deputy Minister did not do a good job, for he had, and he had been very helpful to me during that time that the two departments operated independently. As a matter of fact, the staff throughout the department had been very helpful, had given me very good explanations of how the department functioned and responded to my inquiries and questions, had indicated and had carried out their programs, I am sure, to the best of their abilities. For that, I thank them.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate because, in the process of amalgamation of this department, some jobs are going to be lost. But quite frankly, you cannot reduce the size of the bureaucracy without having some job loss. So there will be 34 jobs lost in the amalgamation of those two departments. Sixteen jobs of those 34 were term positions, positions where the employees had expected to have, at some point, their job discontinued. They were there for a specific term. I extended those terms until the end of August so that they would have at least a reasonable time to plan what they could for their future beyond the date of termination. Mr. Speaker, 18 of those people are long-term Government employees and are covered under

the Manitoba Government Employees' Association agreement. There will be no layoffs for those people, but they will be reassigned somewhere else in the Civil Service.

\* (1450)

I might point out also that the personnel officer for that department, Miss Sophie Zyllich, has done yeoman service in attempting to make sure that those people are placed in jobs quickly so that their productivity is not damaged and that their self-worth is not damaged in the process, that they are able to carry on as good functioning civil servants in this province and provide good work for the tax dollars that go to pay them.

So I think it has to be pointed out that the kind of hardship that comes from an amalgamation has to be borne sometimes if we are going to carry out those concerns. At the same time, it should not be said that we will go willy-nilly cutting staff here and there and everywhere. That is not the way of a Progressive Conservative Government. We are attempting to find positions for those term employees as a matter of fact but, as a responsible Government, and the fact that we are attempting to find positions for those term employees, people who have been with the Government but who will be unemployed as of the end of August, we do feel for these people and we are concerned. We do want to carry out as much job search and job assistance work as we possibly can to ensure that they do carry on with their lives.

The elimination in the department, as I said, was in the bureaucratic, not the program end. We reduced cost of the senior management, as I indicated. We reduced duplications in the area of strategic planning. We reduced staff in the Department of Communications. There are two programs of communication in the provincial Government: No. 1, a very legitimate communications program to transmit information to develop the literature and other matters relating to programs that are offered to the public. That is a legitimate communications function and that is one that should be and is being continued. We had the political hacks and flacks of the NDP there previously, those communicators who ran around trying to prop up their Premier (Mr. Pawley), their Cabinet Ministers and indeed the other Members of their Party. Those legitimate communications functions within the department are being carried on. They are being carried on by very competent staff and we look forward to receiving their work in due course. There was also some duplication in financial administration and that also has been eliminated.

Also on the program side, the integration of department functions will see an increased program delivery because they will have, first of all, more money available to them to carry out the program functions. With the realignment of the departments, we will see that those program functions will be delivered to the people of Manitoba on a much better basis than was carried on in the past, particularly where the two departments had conflicts in terms of their delivery roles within the economic development portion of the portfolio.

We are going to restructure that program delivery so that all programs are available to all businesses in Manitoba, so that we are able to provide those businesses with assistance for all Manitobans and not segregate them, one on a large business basis and one on a small business basis. Those programs will be integrated under new financial programs, a division of the new department, so that they will be able to deliver those programs, as I said, to all Manitobans.

With the new thrust in tourism, we will be appointing an assistant Deputy Minister to operate on a full-time basis in the department to run the tourism aspects of the department. This is a \$700 million industry. There are 18,000 jobs associated with tourism in this province. The previous Government paid little but lip service to that particular portfolio in the past, and it is our Government that has said we will provide a new emphasis on tourism. We will provide a new direction in tourism. We will provide additional resources to tourism that will be announced later in the Budget, and we will have a new focus in an attempt to revitalize and maintain this very valuable industry in the Province of Manitoba.

We have also seen some additional work in the area of departmental amalgamations. Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Cooperative Development have been amalgamated into a new department. Labour and Environment, Workplace Safety and Health have been amalgamated into a new department. Those departments will now be leaner, meaner and tougher and be able to deliver programs to the people of Manitoba instead of delivering programs and money to themselves.

A reduced bureaucracy will make them work a little harder perhaps, but I know and I have faith in the people who work for this Government that they will carry out those programs. They will carry on their jobs and they will deliver the programs to the people of Manitoba in a way that I think will make all of us proud and make us all very happy. Of course, the happiest will be the taxpayer because he will not have to continue to pay those additional costs of the bureaucracy in Government in the days to come.

Our Government is committed to openness and accountability. We indicated during the election campaign that we would be open, we would be available to people, that we would meet with them, consult with them. We want to hear what they want to see happen in their Government.

Let me tell you that in my case, in the last 90 days, I have met with 84 groups of people or individuals on specific different issues. That does not count our staff meetings, staff briefings, meeting with my fellow Executive Council Members in Treasury Board or Cabinet, does not count any of those meetings. That is 84 separate meetings with people from across this province, trying to find out what their concerns are, what their needs are. That is the kind of open Government that this Government provides in the Province of Manitoba.

As well, for the first time, the only time in three years, we are going to see The Freedom of Information Act

published, proclaimed in the Province of Manitoba. The previous Government sat on it for two-and-a-half years. When the Act was passed, they came before the House and said how great it was and they were going to provide open Government. They were going to have all of this great Freedom of Information Act brought forward, and they sat on it for two-and-a-half years. Two-and-a-half years they neglected it; two-and-a-half years they did not proclaim that Act. Within 120 days of our being in office, that Act will be in force. I want to tell the people of Manitoba and the Members of this House, that is the kind of thing you can expect from our Government.

The question of the timing of this Session in the hottest months of the year is another indication of the kind of openness and concern that this Government has for the people of Manitoba. We have been operating for the last 90 or so days on Special Warrants, something that we severely criticized when we were in Opposition, something that we thought was not correct, that the people of Manitoba and the Legislature of Manitoba should have an opportunity to deal with the Estimates of Expenditures and the Estimates of Revenue before this House. We called this Session because we wanted the Legislature to come and sit, because we wanted all Members to have the opportunity of reviewing the Estimates of this Government.

\* (1500)

It is not fair to anyone, to the taxpayer or to the other Members of this House to carry on governing by Special Warrant until September or October when, quite frankly, I might have been a little more comfortable, having had just that much more time to spend in becoming familiar with my portfolio. But I must say that my colleagues and I decided that we must come into the House as quickly as we can to provide that opportunity for all Members to deal with the Budget, so that the Province of Manitoba will have an official financial plan, one that we all collectively will be able to adopt, and one which the people of the Province of Manitoba hopefully will see a new direction in.

My colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) will, in a week or so, be able to present that document to the House, and I can assure you that he has worked very long and hard in the preparation of that document, and one I think which will ultimately be well accepted by the people of Manitoba.

The first principal concern of this Government has to be the economy of the province. Under the NDP, we had job creation by debt. The NDP, under their previous Government, were very proud and told everyone who would listen what a great rate of unemployment we had in this province, and they were right. They were right to say that they did have one of the best unemployment rates in the country. But we have to look at how they arrived at that. We have to look at how they got that low unemployment rate. What did they do? They borrowed money in order to create short-term jobs, in order to create interim, short-term types of jobs, and they created a massive debt, one that we are all going to have to bear for years to come. The problem is, the jobs are gone. The jobs are gone and we still have the debt, and we still have to pay it back.

Each one of us is going to have to reach into their pockets, and every single person in the province is going to have to reach into their pocket to pay back that debt — some \$10,000 for every man, woman and child in the province.

But our outlook is a little different. We think, quite frankly, that the private sector creates long-term jobs. We think that is the area we should go in. We do not think we should go out and borrow money to create those short-term interim jobs. We think we should encourage the private sector to create those jobs, because traditionally those small businesses in Manitoba for many, many years have created most, if not all, of the jobs in the Province of Manitoba, outside of Government.

We need to encourage them. We need to say to the business community in this province, we want you to be here. We do not think profit is a bad word. We want your jobs, and we want you to think that we do care, and we are interested, and we are prepared to do something about it. We are prepared to put our money where our mouth is. We are going to do that.

We are going to start to phase out the most retrogressive tax that has ever been implemented in this province, and that is the payroll tax. We are going to phase that out just as quickly as we can to say as a signal to business in Manitoba, to those people who create the long-term jobs, who create the tax revenues from the personal income taxes of the employees and from the corporate taxes of the company, the money that is necessary to pay for those very much needed social, educational, and health care programs that we have come to enjoy in this province, and that we want to see continue and grow and be enhanced.

By phasing out that payroll tax, it is a signal to those private businesses that we are interested in having them here and we are interested in having them create those jobs which are necessary in the long term for the people of this province. It is a signal to entrepreneurs right across the province that we are no longer going to consider them as milk cows. That has been the attitude of the previous Government for a very long time, that business was only there to be milked, that somehow by some magical formula they rake in all kinds of millions of dollars, and that none of it ever filtered back to the public. Somehow they hid it or squirrelled it away or shipped it out of the country or whatever they did with it.

We know. Any thinking, reasonable person knows. They pay their taxes, they create those jobs. Their employees pay their taxes, and that is where the money comes from to run the province. It does not come from borrowing it in Sweden, or in Geneva, or in Tokyo, or in Germany. The money comes from the people of Manitoba. It is about time that we learned, and it is about time we started to operate ourselves on the basis that living within our means is the goal for the people of Manitoba and for the Government, certainly, of Manitoba.

We are also prepared to enter into a new phase of job assistance in rural Manitoba. Presently, there exists a number of rural development corporations throughout

the province. Those rural development corporations have in the past provided service to a variety of rural areas in an attempt to gain industry for those areas.

Mr. Speaker, we have a new look. We have created a Rural Development Committee of Cabinet. That Rural Development Committee of Cabinet will deal with questions of rural development or provide a new focus. We will, under the amalgamation of our departments, provide a staff individual to liaise directly with those rural development corporations. We will be providing additional funding for those rural development corporations so that we see businesses locate not just in Winnipeg but to stop the drain from rural Manitoba, to stop those people who are leaving rural communities to have to come to Winnipeg or other urban centres to try and find a job.

We think they deserve the right to live in those communities in which they were born and raised. We think they ought to have that opportunity. We think that, with some expanded work within the rural development corporations, with some additional funding and some additional focus and a direct hands-on approach by Cabinet, we will be able to foster some additional businesses in those rural communities and provide those long-term jobs for the people who live there.

As we said in our campaign address, we are also going to open an office in Ottawa, a procurement office, one where our employees in that office will be able to lobby the federal Government on a daily basis, on an individual basis, for our share of the Government procurement contracts that emanate from the Department of Supply and Services and the Department of National Defence. We want to see additional funds coming to Manitoba businesses, and we will be there in Ottawa on a full-time basis to provide that additional service in our Trade Branch for the people of Manitoba and the businesses of Manitoba.

As well we know that, in Ottawa, lobby groups, ours included, of every kind and description locate in Ottawa. Very often, those organizations have annual conventions and we think our office there can also promote Winnipeg as a tourism location, as a convention location. We have a very fine Convention Centre in this city, one that can handle almost any major convention that is held in the country, and we know that they travel about the country having those conventions. We think our employees in Ottawa will have an opportunity to go and lobby those people directly to ensure we get our fair share of that business as well.

We are also committed to reducing interprovincial trade barriers in this country. If we are going to have a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, surely to goodness, we can get along with ourselves internally in Canada. Surely to goodness, the businesses in Manitoba ought to be able to compete with businesses in Ontario and businesses in B.C. We ought to collectively be able to interchange our borders and not have protective policies in place that will prevent that from occurring.

This Government is committed to that end. I attended, in the middle of June, a meeting of Internal Trade



Ministers in Ottawa. I, quite frankly, was disappointed at the attitude of some of my colleagues from across the country. It does not really matter what political stripe they have — it does not really matter — but that is a very, very unfortunate situation.

This Government, I can assure you, is committed to the reduction of those trade barriers. We will be meeting with Trade Ministers again this fall in an attempt once more to meet at least some measure of movement with respect to internal trade, agriculture and Government procurement being just two areas where we need to have to ensure that we have no interprovincial trade barriers.

I am very proud of the way the City of Winnipeg acted just recently in dealing with the question of purchase of transit buses. It is very easy to have said, sure, we will buy the buses from the people in Winnipeg because they are the people who are paying taxes here and they are the people who are creating jobs here. It is very easy to say we should stay at home and buy those buses even if they cost a little more. But to their credit, the City Council of the City of Winnipeg chose not the easy avenue. They chose the tough one, but the one that is right for this country and for this province.

Manitoba is a net exporter of a great many things. Talent, we have professionals here. We have a professional base in Manitoba the envy of many provinces across the country. We have it here not because there is enough business in Manitoba just for them but because they are able to export their expertise throughout the rest of the country and across the world. We can be very proud of that very responsible and very professional group of people. We need to have that internal trade barrier broken down and, quite frankly, yes, we need to have Flyer Industries bidding on buses in Quebec. I had the discussion with my counterpart in Quebec, the Honourable Daniel Johnson, and it did not fall upon deaf ears. I am hopeful in time that we will be able to negotiate some of those kinds of things so that those barriers will be reduced and that our businesses in Manitoba will be able to compete in the rest of the country as they will be able to compete in Manitoba.

\* (1510)

Several years ago, the New Democratic Party Government introduced a resolution into this House saying that Manitoba would become a nuclear weapons free zone. It was their Government who stood up and pounded their chests to say that, as a nuclear weapons free zone, Manitoba was going to be the envy of the country, that they would have nothing to do with the forces of death and destruction in this country. Within months of that resolution having passed, the Premier of the Day (Mr. Pawley) stood up and condemned the federal Government for having sent the repair work on the CF-18, that weapon of death and destruction, to Montreal instead of bringing it to Winnipeg. That Premier stood up and pounded his chest loudly and took delegations to Ottawa and was on television day after day after day telling the people of Manitoba how terrible it was that the CF-18 repair work had gone to Montreal. I agree with my honourable friend to say that

the actions of the federal Government there on that specific issue, choosing between Manitoba and Quebec, that decision was in error. But what is wrong, and the kind of thing that abhors me, that that Premier of the New Democratic Party was a hypocrite in the sense that when he said that this weapon of death and destruction, this nuclear weapons free zone does — in my view his actions were hypocritical, and I would like to read to you a couple of memos that I have uncovered since becoming the Minister of my department.

A memo from the Honourable Eugene Kostyra, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, to the Deputy Minister, dated August 23, 1985. Let me point out that the decision on the CF-18 was made in November of 1986. This is now August 23, 1985, and let me quote: "Our department will exercise caution in order to avoid facilitating or providing any financial or promotional support to any initiative that may have any direct military implications."

Now I ask Members of this House how that Premier (Mr. Pawley) could have stood up in public and condemned the federal Government for not having the CF-18 being repaired here when his Minister was providing that kind of information to his Deputy and to his department.

Then I would like to quote from a further document, a letter by the self-same Premier of the Day, the Honourable Howard Pawley, and let me quote this: "The Government does not now, and will not, provide financial support for projects with direct military implications. In applying this policy, we realize it is somewhat difficult to draw sharp distinctions between non-military and direct military applications. Many products as diverse as canvas tents and Jet Warcraft Engines have both civilian and military uses, and the ultimate use is sometimes difficult to determine. Because of these grey areas, our Minister of Industry and Trade is briefed in all instances where the Government might become involved in a project with a military link. The Minister is responsible for making a judgment in any unclear case and has the option of taking the decision to Cabinet."

But Let me say this, you heard what the Minister said to his deputy some two years before the Premier wrote this letter. I may say also that the defense product sector covers a wide range of military and non-military products purchased by Canada, purchased by the USA and purchased by our NATO allies. In Manitoba, this sector comprises 70 firms with a total annual sales in excess of \$300 million. This sector of the business, that previous Government refused to accept, ignored it and, as a matter of fact, pulled out any kind of assistance for those people.

Interestingly enough, almost 90 percent of this business is shared amongst four suppliers. Guess who? Bristol Aerospace, the very company that Premier (Mr. Pawley) had stood up and complained about the CF-18 about is now saying, and his Minister is saying in these memos, as I have quoted, they wanted nothing to do with them. They did not care about them at all; they would not help them get those kinds of contracts. That is the kind of hypocritical action that I saw in that

Premier. Ninety percent of this business is shared amongst four suppliers: Bristol Aerospace, Standard Aero, Boeing and Unisys, and encompasses overhaul, maintenance and parts as well as on-board computers for those aircraft that are maintained.

The volume of business available by a Canadian and U.S. defence agency spending in all categories, including non-military items, is immense as you can appreciate. A realistic estimate by my department for business in Manitoba for those kinds of industries, the ones that previous Government ignored, is \$1 billion, a reasonable estimate of the kind of business available to Manitobans that were shut out because of the philosophical kind of positions that were taken by that previous Government.

It was on the third day in my job as Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology that I discovered this policy, that the officials in the Trade Branch and the Industry Branch of the department came to me and said, this is the policy of the Government. Are we able to do something different under your administration? And I said, you bet. I said, from today on, Manitoba is open for business. Manitobans are able to compete in the marketplace for defense contracts and, heaven's name, if they want to build nuclear submarines in Manitoba then, great, let us build them here. But those are the kind of things we went to see. Those are the kinds of business opportunities we think people in Manitoba should have.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to prolong the debate except to say this, that the Free Trade Agreement will be the subject of further debate in this House at another time, and I will reserve my comments at that time. Thank you.

**Mr. Mark Minenko (Seven Oaks):** Merci, M. le présidente, je tiens à vous féliciter de votre nomination au poste de président. C'est un honneur pour moi d'avoir été choisi, et il me fera plaisir de travailler avec dignité avec vous, M. le président.

**(Translation)**

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Speaker. It is an honour for me to have been chosen to work with you, and I look forward to doing so with dignity.

I would further like to thank the Members of this House for electing me as their Deputy Speaker. It is indeed a special honour to have been elected to this position, as I understand that it is indeed a rare occurrence that an Opposition Member of any legislative body is asked to serve the House in this capacity. I am prepared to advise this House, but I shall look to the guidance, rulings, and advice of our Speaker as a guide to the administration of my own duties.

Thank you all for your congratulations and well wishes, and I look forward to working with all the Members of this 34th Legislature.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate my 56 colleagues, who were also elected by their constituents to serve the people of Manitoba.

Some of you I know from before. Others I have met since April 26, and I look forward to meeting the remainder over the course of the weeks and months to come.

The words and thoughts of the Mover (Mr. Praznik) and Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) of the motion which we are debating should once again be acknowledged. I would especially like to thank the Member from Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) for his kind words of greetings and congratulations, for we indeed were classmates and colleagues before this Session of the Legislature. Many of our discussions and debates held at the Manitoba Law School common room, library, and classrooms come to mind. We may not have always agreed with one another, but we were always prepared to listen and consider the viewpoint of the other.

\* (1520)

I would like to pay tribute to my leader, the Member for River Heights and the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). Her vitality, enthusiasm and, most importantly, her hard work were certainly an inspiration to myself as well as many in this House. Over the last several years, she has indeed carried the torch for the Liberal Party, both in this Legislative Assembly as well as beyond its perimeter. Her warmth, her hard work and, even more importantly, her vision of Manitoba and Canada inspired many of us to knock on those extra few doors to speak to yet one more person, even in Winnipeg's North End where the greeting at the door prior to this year was sooner to be the blast of a closed door than a warm greeting.

This spring, Manitobans were prepared to listen because our Leader was listening to them. Manitobans not only listened but voted in numbers which were heard from coast to coast.

I wish to further pay tribute to my Liberal colleagues in this House who, since April 26, 1988, have worked hard at preparing themselves to serve their constituents, to serve all Manitobans.

In preparing for my inaugural address to this House, I felt it was important to review the reasons for my setting aside the full-time practice of law and entering the more than full-time practice of politics. Sir Wilfred Laurier once remarked: "Let your aim and purpose, in good repute or ill, in victory or defeat, be so to live, so to strive, so to serve as to do your part to raise ever higher the standard of life and of living." This remark remains as current today as when it was first made in 1919.

Living in Winnipeg's North End and having taught in many of this area's schools, I have been confronted by both the best and the worst of our society. I live in an area where people are hard-working, are self-reliant, are proud of their achievements and of those of their children. Yet, I am also confronted by infant children wandering the streets late at night, by teenagers staying after school at my volleyball practices when I was coaching that sport, because there was no alternative for them.

I am the first to acknowledge that the road which I have mapped for myself, that of trying to raise ever

higher the standard of life and of living, is indeed a difficult one. However, I believe that each and every one of us has as our objective the same objective and, with the cooperation of all Members of this House, I feel that when the day is done we will be able to pause and say that we once again have taken a further step towards that objective.

I would further like to thank those speakers who preceded me and those who follow me for presenting this House with a thumbnail sketch of their own constituencies. The tradition of describing one's own constituency is indeed an important one, for it reminds us all that, although we may have been elected by our own constituents, we were also elected to serve all Manitobans. As a former geography major, I have developed an interest in both the physical and human geography of Manitoba, of Canada.

As a part-time cantor in the Ukrainian Orthodox faith, I have had many opportunities to travel throughout Manitoba with my father, assisting him in his duties as a priest in the Ukrainian Orthodox church. I have visited parishes in the constituencies of Interlake and Gimli. I have had the opportunity of enjoying the hospitality of the constituents of the Members for Portage La Prairie (Mr. Connery) and Dauphin (Mr. Plozman). I have also spent many a night and day in the sands of Camp Shilo in the constituency of Gladstone in the fulfillment of my duties as a deputy commanding officer of the medical army reserve unit.

Even though I represent a Winnipeg constituency, I fully recognize the impact of our geography upon the welfare of Manitoba and Manitobans. We are all experiencing the impact of the present-day drought in Manitoba, but sometimes we also have too much water, as was evidenced in the 1979 flood.

There remains with me no stronger an illustration of nature's impact upon our fortunes than today's drainage ditches filled to the rim with topsoil, or the image of a church which was built on slightly higher ground standing surrounded on all sides by a pool of water extending hundreds of metres in every direction. In instances like this, a Government must be prepared to assist, be prepared to show leadership.

I would now like to continue this House's travel through Manitoba and provide a thumbnail sketch of the constituency of Seven Oaks.

Firstly, I would like to thank the constituents of Seven Oaks for electing me as their representative to this House. Many skeptical people were met at the door during this past election and it is my desire that, through my participation in the activities of this House and my work in my constituency, I will be able to once again instill faith in the effectiveness of our political process.

The constituency of Seven Oaks extends in a general north-south band through the middle of Winnipeg's North End. At some time in the past, someone coined the phrase that there are two kinds of people in the world — those who are North Enders and those who wish they were. Even the First Minister, the Member for Tuxedo (Mr. Filmon), from time to time likes to classify himself as a North Ender.

Seven Oaks, a constituency of over 12,000 voters, includes within its borders parts of the old City of Winnipeg and the City of West Kildonan. Within its borders, street names reflect the history of the early settlement of Manitoba. Rupertsland Avenue, the street on which I live, comes from the original name of the territory at the time of the arrival of the first settlers. St. Anthony honours the Roman Catholic parish. Kilbride is a Scottish village, but there was a Michael Kilbride prominent in Kildonan over a century ago; St. John's for the parish of St. John's; Inkster, possibly named after Colin Inkster, High Sheriff of Manitoba for 51 years and a Member of the original Upper House of the Manitoba Legislature whose vote abolished the two-House system in Manitoba.

The name "Seven Oaks" remembers the massacre of 1816, the anniversary of which passed on June 19. This event of so long ago is worthy of note, as not only the result of the rivalry between the Hudson Bay Company and the Nor'Wester fur traders, but also the conflict of interest between the fur traders and settlers.

I would just like to read some short excerpts of a history of West Kildonan by Vince Leah, entitled *West of the River — The Story of West Kildonan*, in which he describes the events of that fateful day in June 1816, and I quote: "Much has been written about the short but brisk encounter in which Governor Robert Semple of the Red River colony and 20 of his officers and men were killed. While the colony was made up of a preponderance of settlers from the parish of Kildonan in Scotland, there were Irish, English and Danish members in the group who left Fort Douglas to intercept the encircling Nor'Westers. Thirty-two men went out from the fort and 11 struggled back. They apparently lost all of their arms."

The constituents of Seven Oaks stress the importance of education. Within the boundaries of Seven Oaks are two high schools serving the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 and Seven Oaks School Division. It was indeed an honour for me to attend St. John's High School which celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1985. It was a pleasure for me to serve on the Reunion Planning Committee and to attend an event at which thousands of graduates from around the world shared their memories. There was excitement and electricity in the air, especially during the evening of the gala dinner and concert at which internationally acclaimed performers played before their friends, their classmates.

This year, the Centennial School is also celebrating its 75th anniversary. I am sure the excitement which I experienced at the St. Johns reunion will be evident in the halls and classrooms of Centennial School. Over the next several years, many of the other schools throughout Seven Oaks will also be celebrating their reunions and anniversaries. I can assure this House that I will advise you of these events as well.

The constituents of Seven Oaks are not ordinary Manitobans. They possess the skills of tradesmen and professionals. They are men and women who are self-reliant and hard-working. It is indeed a community of communities.

The age and style of the homes in Seven Oaks reflect their era in the development of the City of Winnipeg.

The homes on the streets surrounding my own Rupertsland Avenue were built shortly after World War II. Many of my neighbours are still the original owners who take pride in their home, in their neighbourhood. Yet this community, like many others, is changing. Young families are moving into Seven Oaks and are maintaining its vitality.

The principles forming the foundations of multiculturalism, of human rights, of intercultural cooperation need not be spelled out for the constituents of Seven Oaks. We in Seven Oaks, as indeed in many similar communities, include these principles in our everyday life. The cultural diversity of the residents of the constituency of Seven Oaks not only reflects the cultural diversity of Manitoba but also reflects the different ways of immigration to this province. There are constituents of Seven Oaks who have arrived in Canada in every decade of this 20th Century and many whose ancestors were here before. Seven Oaks is indeed a vibrant community.

It was with great concern that I reviewed the Throne Speech comments with respect to our cultural heritage which this Government presented to Manitobans for their consideration — three short paragraphs.

For a Government which advised Manitobans during this past election that it was prepared to govern, it shows either a lack of leadership in this important area of the life of Manitobans or a total disregard for the contribution of our cultural and artistic communities to the life of Manitoba. It would appear that this Government treats the activities of these two communities as novel tourist attractions.

Yes, the activities of these groups do contribute to the financial well-being of this province through their attraction to tourists, and we certainly need to raise this province's profile. Yet, what of the need for multiculturalism and education in the workplace? What of the support to heritage language programs? What of the provision of assistance to communities to develop their organizational infrastructure? What of the enhancement of language training and employment counselling for recent arrivals to Manitoba who are prepared to work hard for the betterment of all Manitobans?

\* (1530)

Is this Government prepared to accept the fact that the ethnicity of Manitoba is not just a tourist attraction but an integral part of Manitoba? Is this Government prepared to acknowledge the fact that events like Folklorama are more than food and drink? Folklorama contributes to a better understanding of one another.

This Government is also silent on its direction for the arts community in Manitoba. The cultural policy in Manitoba is too much Winnipeg-based. Government policy has also lead the arts to look to lottery revenues for their operating grants.

We in the Liberal Party feel that this Government should address this issue so that a long-term solution to this problem is set before the people of Manitoba. Yet, with this potential crisis situation on the horizon, this Government remains silent.

Panne Presyidneky, Ya be takozh xhotyiv vzyate tsoy nahody previtate vsixh posleev z Ykrayeenskoho poxodzhenya yaki takozh boole vebranie tsexh menoolexh veboraxh. Mu prodovzhevemo tradetsiyo yaka pochalasya v 1920 roky kole pershie Ykraintsi vzyale svoye meestse v Manitobski Legaslyatoori. To takozh byv pershie raz shcho zhinka boola vebrana yak poslom to tsoyi Legaslyatoori.

I would now like to translate from the Ukrainian which I have just spoken.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the many Members of Ukrainian heritage who were also elected to this House. We are continuing the tradition of service which Ukrainians have made to this province since the election of the first Ukrainian Member in 1920. Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I am advised that this was also the year in which the first woman Member was elected to this House.

In conclusion, it is indeed an honour and a pleasure to enter into the service of Manitoba in this special way, and I look forward to participating in the work of this 34th Legislature to the best of my abilities.

**Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson):** I am pleased once again to be able to participate in debate on the Throne Speech. I have had the opportunity of participating in the debate during every Throne Speech since I have been a Member of the Legislature since 1981. I do not know if that is a record of any sort, but it indicates, I guess, from my side that I consider this to be an important debate. In fact, I consider it probably to be the most important debate in the Session of the Legislature because it gives all Members of the Legislature an opportunity to address the broad issues that face us here in Manitoba — issues of every kind. Whether they be regional issues or provincial issues or national issues, we have the opportunity during this debate to address them as Members of the Legislature.

It also gives us the opportunity to follow some formalities perhaps, some important formalities and some important traditions during the Throne Speech. One, of course, is in our congratulatory remarks.

I would like to begin by expressing my own congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your election as the Speaker of this Legislature. I know, from having talked to former Speakers, that your job is not easy. In fact, it is probably one of the most difficult jobs in the Chamber. I would like to indicate how pleased I was at your own election as Speaker and indicate my own confidence in your ability to preside over this Chamber in an impartial manner.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to all the new Members of the Legislature. I really look forward to the contributions that the new Members will be making in this Chamber. I find it strange actually to be talking, I suppose, as a relative veteran. I was advised the other night by the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) that the average tenure in this House is six years. I guess I have surpassed that. This is my third term as a Member of the Legislature. It seems to be strange in my position to be congratulating the new Members, but I certainly look forward to the kind of fresh approach they will be bringing to this House.

I am particularly pleased to see the contribution that is being made by some of the younger Members. I was first elected in 1981 at the age of 25. I was the youngest Member. I have been the youngest Member of the Legislature until this Session. I am interested to note the election of a number of individuals who are younger than myself now, so I look forward to the contribution that they will be bringing from the younger generation, something that I have always tried to do, the kind of particular perspective that I know that we are going to be seeing from them in this Legislature.

We are in the position in this Legislature where I think the most important thing, certainly in my own particular case, has to be to represent our constituencies.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko, in the Chair.)

I want to say today on the public record to the constituents of Thompson just how thankful I am for the support I have received from them the last three elections.

I still remember when I was first elected in 1981, first nominated actually to represent the New Democratic Party and first elected, as I said, at the age of 25 by the people of Thompson by the margin of 72 votes. I said at that time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that it was like a dream come true to be able to represent Thompson, my home town, in the Legislature.

When I said that I meant it was a dream in a personal sense, but it was also a dream in terms of what I felt I could accomplish as a Member of the Legislature.

As I look back over the past seven years, there is only one word I can use to describe how I felt, in terms of being able to represent Thompson, and what I have seen in our community, and that is one of pride. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish and I say "we" because what I have been able to accomplish as an MLA has really only been in conjunction with my colleagues in this Chamber and with the people of Thompson. When I look at what has happened to Thompson and I look at where it stood in 1981 and where it stands today in 1988, I cannot help but be amazed sometimes at the improvements that have taken place.

When I was elected in 1981, Thompson had been on a continuous economic slide. Our population had plummeted to the point where it was barely more than 13,000. At that time we were going through an international recession in the mining industry; times were pretty tough. But because we had a Government that was willing to make a commitment to the North, there were immediate signs of improvement.

In fact there was steady growth in Thompson because of some of the initiatives, not because the price of nickel went up because it did not go up on 1982.- (Interjection)- For the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), who should know better, the price of nickel went up over the last 12 months but the improvements in Thompson started in 1981. They started because of some of the economic initiatives that this Government took, initiatives such as Limestone which has had a dramatic impact on my constituency in terms of employment and in terms of training opportunities.

It improved economically because the New Democratic Party was willing to make a commitment to the North. In terms of education, we put in numerous programs. The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), for example, was recently in attendance at a graduation ceremony of one of those programs that was put in because of the initiative and because of the vision of the New Democratic Party.

I just want to run through some of the improvements that have taken place in my constituency. My constituents are aware of that. In fact, I think that my presence here today is a testimony to that record of how much we have been able to accomplish.

But I want to talk about the R.D. Parker Collegiate addition, the technical-vocational addition. I went to school at R.D. Parker Collegiate and when I was in school they were talking then of the need for such a facility. There was talk indeed, but it took the New Democratic Party to bring it to reality.

\* (1540)

I want to talk about the education centre that is in place offering post-secondary programs to Northerners right in the North, that was put in place because of the initiative of the New Democratic Party. I want to talk about Limestone training, I think one of the most innovative training initiatives that has been taken anywhere in Canada that has provided training at the certificate level and the community college level to people in Thompson and in the various communities in northern Manitoba.

I want to talk about the post-secondary programs, the Social Work Program, the Northern Nursing Program, the Civil Technology Program and the Teacher Program, all of which were put in place because of a commitment to northern Manitoba. I want to talk about health care because significant improvements took place in health care. The air ambulance, for example.

The Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), when he was in Opposition, fought hard to have an air ambulance, a proper dedicated air ambulance service for northern Manitoba. It took the New Democratic Party to put it in place. I know from experience, from talking to constituents, I know from experience, my own brother being a doctor, how important the air ambulance has been. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that that air ambulance has saved lives. Really what more can one ask for in terms of results from an initiative than for it to save lives, as has the Northern Nursing Program.

I could talk about the community facilities that have been improved in Thompson, once again because of the partnership of community organizations and the partnership with the previous New Democratic Party Government. I could talk about the YWCA and their improved community facility, the ski hill, the wildlife association, the St. Lawrence hall, the seniors' facility that has received funding and will soon be under construction.

And yes, I could talk, and I will talk in a few minutes about two organizations, the Thompson Museum and the Juniper Centre which were caught in the transition

period in terms of community facilities and found out first-hand that they were among the first in the province to find out what the version of fairness is from the Conservative Government when they had their funding cut. I am going to get to that in just a minute.

As I said, I can point to the many improvements that have taken place in Thompson. Of course, over these last six, seven years I have worked as a Member of Government for Thompson. When I was looking at the new situation that I was in as a Member of the Opposition, I was wondering what my role as a constituency representative was and if it was going to change. The forms in which I expressed the concerns may change, but I have no doubt that the bottom line will still be the same, that I as a Member of the Legislature for Thompson will be continuing, as I said in 1981 when I was first elected, to put Thompson first. I am going to be speaking at every opportunity on issues of concern to my constituents. I am going to be continuing to go door to door at election time, in between election time, to talk to my constituents. I will be raising their concerns in this House at every opportunity.

My dream for the constituency, for the City of Thompson continues. I think there is much more that can be accomplished. During this Session, I will be outlining many of my own personal views, the views of the New Democratic Party about what could continue to be accomplished in Thompson and northern Manitoba.

I just mentioned before about the many improvements that have taken place in terms of education. I believe we can move further with the introduction of a polytechnic in northern Manitoba that would bring together those programs and expand on that base. I believe we can offer first- and second-year university education, for example, right in northern Manitoba. I think actually that rural Members should be interested in the possibilities of polytechnic. I think that with the new technology we have in terms of business education that what has been happening in the North can be extended to the rural areas of Manitoba so that they too can also have the same type of educational opportunities that the people of the City of Winnipeg have. So I will be speaking in terms of what we can do in terms of education.

I will be speaking out also in terms of what we can continue to do in terms of the economy. I think that we have to move beyond Limestone and work towards Conawapa. I want to indicate my own disappointment about the fact that the Conservatives in this Legislature have indicated quite clearly they are taking a go-slow approach to Conawapa, and my amazement that the Liberals have been talking about bringing Conawapa in the next 10, 20 or 30 years. I hope that there are individual Members of the Legislature over there who will look at the possibilities of bringing in Conawapa, look at some of the advantages that I see that will be there in terms of export sales.

I hope that there will be some readjustment of some of the positions that have been taken. I am not just talking in terms of my own perspective for northern Manitoba because certainly, if Conawapa is put on hold

by this Government, it will be the North that will suffer. I would hope that Ministers such as the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) would try at the least to lobby his colleagues in the Cabinet on behalf of the North. I hope that he will, in terms of getting Conawapa developed. I think there is so much more than can be done in terms of economic development of which Conawapa is only the one.

I want to talk about it, and I will during the Session, about the advantages we have in the North in terms of tourism. I have raised this a number of times in the past in the Legislature. I would point to the fact that in Thompson at the present time that the Mystery Country International Organization has become very aggressive in terms of pushing for tourism. I know a number of Ministers who have received letters from them in terms of the potential there. I hope they will listen to the concerns that are being expressed because I think there is a lot that can be done.

I will be raising many other issues during this time period, fighting to see things such as the seniors' facility, which is in progress, be completed because it is an important community facility. I will be speaking up in terms of other constituency concerns that I have in the past ranging to everything from individual concerns, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about particular cases.

I remember in the last Session when I raised the concern of parents who were subject to paying the full cost of air ambulance costs for their son to have a heart transplant in Ontario. I would note that in part of the Budget that was defeated, one of the things that was done was that the policy was changed so that they would not have to pay air ambulance costs out-of-province. I have every expectation that the new Government will continue that new policy to ensure that parents are not subject to those types of costs.

I will be speaking up on other issues, whether it be the Burntwood Trailer Court — and I have been in correspondence with a number of Ministers on that which is of particular concern to several hundred residents in Thompson — I will be speaking up at every opportunity in terms of Thompson's concerns.

I mentioned a few minutes ago about new roles. We are all in new roles in this Legislature both individually and as parties. As I look to the next Session, there is one thing I think that all three Parties will have to follow in terms of their approach. I think they will all have to have a certain degree of humility. I will explain that by beginning with the Government and I will also talk about the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party because I think each Party in its own way has to follow a bit of humility.

\* (1550)

Let us talk about the present Government. For the new Members of the House that were elected in this election, one thing they may want to do is read some of the transcripts from Hansard for the last six or seven years. There may be one phrase that may come up quite frequently. I know the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) has heard it time and time again. It came from the Conservative Party when it was in Opposition.

Now what was that phrase they used to describe the New Democratic Party Government? They called the New Democratic Party Government as far back as 1982, I believe — Sterling Lyon — they called it a temporary Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, look before you on the Government side of the Legislature. I ask you, are they in any position now to talk about temporary Governments. I think not. I think humility is the word of the day because the length of time in which this Party will be in Government is rather uncertain at the present time. I think the arrogance that was implied by that previous statement, the sort of view that the Conservatives have had for many years that they somehow have the divine right to govern even though they have lost four out of the last six elections, given the results of the last election — and I am sure the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party in this Chamber will remind them of that — they have no reason to be gloating or no reason to continue with those kinds of statements in the future. We will see about temporary Governments.

I want to talk too about some of the other things that we have seen from this Party. We saw it when they were in Opposition. This was a Party that had all the answers. Believe you me, they had no doubt in their mind that, if they could just become the Government, they could just put everything the way they wanted it. They had all the answers.

I was amazed a couple of months ago at the convention of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities when the Deputy Premier (Mr. Cummings), the Minister responsible for Autopac as well, spoke and said, "You will have to forgive this new Government because we do not have all the answers." I nearly had a heart attack when I heard that statement.

**An Honourable Member:** He was honest.

**Mr. Ashton:** If he was honest, as the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) says, two months ago, what was he saying only six months before that? Where was the honesty when the Conservative Party said that it had all the answers when it was in Opposition, when now it says it does not have all the answers? Its basic policy initiatives are establishing round tables and consultation here and consultation there on all the issues that they had all the answers in and now they have discovered they do not have the answers.

As I said, a little bit of humility from the Opposition in terms of having the answers will be quite welcome. I think it has been shown to a certain extent. It is not being shown by the Members who are babbling right now, but at least the Deputy Premier had the humility to recognize he does not have all the answers. It seems some of the other members of the Conservative Party still think they have all the answers. I guess they are being muzzled by their leadership in terms of expressing it.

Let us talk about other things — fairness. Let us talk about Conservative fairness.

**Hon. A. Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Right.

**Mr. Ashton:** I am glad the Minister of Highways is listening attentively to my remarks.

I appreciated the comments made by the Mover (Mr. Praznik) and Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) for the Throne Speech and I recognize, as new Members, that those remarks were said without any cynicism whatsoever. I think those remarks were made totally honestly from the heart when they talked about the need not just to have rural or urban or northern, but to have Government, to have a Legislature, that reflects all the areas of the province. I think that is a fine motive, but I would like to ask why this Government is not following through with it.

I would like to point to a specific example of just how unfair this Government is. I want to point to one specific area, and that is northern Manitoba. In fact, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) who seems to make a rather large number of comments from his seat, I will be asking him afterwards where he was when these decisions were made.

I want to talk about what happened with Community Places. I want to read into the record exactly what this new Government, what its vision of fairness is for Manitoba. I want to talk, to begin with, about what happened when I first heard about the decision of this Government in terms of Community Places funding.

I was contacted by the head of the Thompson Museum, who is a neighbour of mine. She brought me a letter that she had received from the Minister responsible for the program. The Thompson Museum is about as apolitical as you can get. We do not have a museum in Thompson. It is an important thing for our community right now. It is important in terms of tourism; it is important in terms of our heritage as a community. People have been working very hard, whether it be the Thompson Museum and Historical Society or whether it be the service clubs that have given their support to this valuable project.

What did she receive from the new Government? The previous Government had given initial approval for \$75,000.00. What happened to the Thompson Museum? It was cut back in funding.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Ashton:** We will see the figures. I will show just what their version of fairness is once their interruptions allow me to continue.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs):** A point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Will the Member table that document, the letter that he is referring to, so that we all have the benefit of it, please?

**Mr. Driedger:** If you are reading from it, table it. You know better than that.

**Mr. Ashton:** I was not reading verbatim from any document. I have notes in front of me. If the Minister of Northern Affairs is not aware of how much money the Thompson Museum received and how much it was cut back, I would suggest he contact the Minister responsible for the program. She has all the records.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. Is it the position of the Honourable Member for Thompson that he was not reading from that document that he was referring to?

**Mr. Ashton:** I think the Minister of Northern Affairs is confused. I mentioned a few minutes ago about a letter. I am not reading from that letter. I was shown a letter some time ago. I am reading from notes which I am not required to table, and I think it is rather ridiculous for the Minister, who can easily track down the information on the Community Places Program, to waste my time in the Legislature.

If I may continue, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . .

**Mr. Downey:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make it very clear the Member referred to a letter which I asked him if he would table. That is the question. If he is not prepared to, fine.

**Mr. Ashton:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Member is not listening. I just said that I am not reading from the letter I referred to a couple of minutes ago. If he would perhaps put on his earpiece and listen to my comments we could continue, I think, without this completely unnecessary waste of time. He is playing games.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I think the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs has requested the Member table that letter. If he is not prepared to, then that is fine with the Minister.

**Mr. Ashton:** There is some confusion. I am not reading from any letter whatsoever, I am not quoting from any letter. I referred to a letter that was shown to me six weeks ago.- (Interjection)- I do not have the letter on me.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Member for Thompson is not prepared to table that letter . . .

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the point of order.

The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) has been in these Chambers long enough to realize that a Member is not required to table a document unless that Member is reading from that document. And of course it is up to, in the case of a private Member, the discretion of that Member whether or not they wish to table a document even if they have read from it. But, in this particular instance -(Interjection)- I can understand the sensitivities of the Members opposite when it comes to being justifiably chastised for their unfair ill-mannered treatment of northern Manitobans, but I do not think that it is any cause for them to attempt to distort the Rules of this House or to distort what actually transpired in this House.

\* (1600)

The fact is that the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) referred to a letter. He did not read from the letter. Had the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) been listening more diligently, he would have understood that

to be the case. The Member is not refusing to table a letter on any other grounds than apply to all Members of this House in that it is not required, nor should it be asked, that he be required to table a document from which he has not read. So let them not attempt to distort the circumstances as to what has transpired in this Chamber just to try to distract attention away from their miserable handling of the affairs of northern Manitoba.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I would like to thank all the Honourable Members for their advice. The Member, I understand, is not required to file any document and I would ask the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) to continue.

**Mr. Ashton:** I trust, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that time will not be deducted from my 40 minutes, as is customary. It is customary that such time is not deducted.

I suspect the reason the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is asking for this letter, like it is over six weeks ago, is that he has only just realized there is a problem. Maybe he is going to look into this now. I wonder where he was when the Cabinet made the decision to cut back funding to northern Manitoba from \$627,757, which had been approved by the previous New Democratic Party Government, to \$324,020 under the Conservatives. That is a cut of \$303,737.00. That is shameful. That is cuts from the Thompson Museum; it is cuts from the Juniper Centre. Talk to the people in Garden Hill about the cuts and the way it is going affect programs in their communities. I checked the records in terms of what happened in northern Manitoba, and every single community organization, whether it be in the remote communities or the urban communities, was cut back by these Conservatives who talk now about fairness in this province among the regions.

I can tell you what the response was in Thompson. I will tell you what the response was when people saw this. I hate to say this in a way, but perhaps they should have been more shocked and indignant. You know what they said? "There they go again," and why did they say that? Because people remember. They remember the years between 1977 and 1981, the Lyon years. In fact you go to the north and you mention the phrase, "the Lyon years," and you will see why the Conservatives did not elect a single Member to the Legislature from the North in 1981 or 1986 or 1988, because people remember that the Conservatives do not understand the North, that when they become Government, they cut back in the North.

What makes this particularly reprehensible is the fact — and you can check with the people in Garden Hill — that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province said to the people in that community that their funding would not be cut back. And in fact, in Thompson, the Conservative candidate was asked at a public forum, and Mr. Collins was asked specifically with regard to this program. He was asked, would commitments be followed by the new Government, the commitments



made by the New Democratic Party Government, and he answered, yes. In fact, he answered not only yes, personally, he said that he had been assured by the Premier of this Province, the then Leader of the Opposition, that such program funding would be honoured.

We saw very rapidly how much the word of the current Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province means when it comes to fairness in northern Manitoba. Within less than a few weeks when they were cozily settled into power, when they were not running an election, those commitments were denied to northern Manitobans.

**Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to ask the Member for Thompson whether he would allow me to ask him a question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Will the Member for Thompson permit a question?

**Mr. Ashton:** If there is time at the end of my remarks, I would be more than glad to permit a question.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Time at the end of your remarks.

**Mr. Pankratz:** On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am wondering whether the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) is referring to these approvals that were made just five days before the election, when he is referring to all these grants that had been approved by their previous Government.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I would like to advise the House, it is not a point of order. It is a question, and if the Member would like to keep that for later.

**Mr. Ashton:** I will tell that Member right now, the approvals that were given were part of the regular intake of the program at the end of March. They had nothing at all to do with the election. I can tell that Member that I did not make any announcements in my constituency about any approvals that had been given. I made no announcement whatsoever, because I specifically wanted to make sure that it was clear that funding for the Thompson Museum and the Juniper Centre, my constituency, is not politically motivated whatsoever.

I wish that Member, if he is so concerned about political propriety, would talk to his Minister and to his Cabinet and talk about the fairness of cutting back the approvals that have already been given for every single project in the North by \$303,000.00.

Let us talk about fairness. I heard some Members say, well, they were cut back in my area too. How much was it cut back in the north central area? \$19,000.00. How much was it cut back in the Parklands? \$26,000.00. How much in south-central Manitoba, \$21,000; in the south-east, \$80,000; in the south-west, \$39,000; in Winnipeg, \$189,000; in the Interlake, \$115,000.00.

The largest single cut that took place was in northern Manitoba and the biggest victims of those cuts were the people and communities such as Garden Hill who do not have the ability to raise funds of the raise that

was cut back. They were cut back by \$75,000.00. I do not know if the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) has ever been to Garden Hill. Have you been there? If you have been in Garden Hill, can you explain to me how they are going to make up for the \$75,000 cut, that you were sitting by idly, while the decision was made? Will you explain to them, how come it was cut back when your Leader, the current Premier (Mr. Filmon), guaranteed to them — and the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) will vouch for that, it is in writing — the Premier in writing said that they would receive \$75,000 in funding. But, wait a second. That was before the election. We have all come to see in Manitoba these last few years, the Conservatives say one thing before an election but, when they are in Government, watch out.

I notice from the Liberal Benches that they are also quite aware of the tactics used by the Conservatives. I would hope that they would speak out on this issue loud and clear. Because I can tell you, the people in my constituency, as I said, they have come almost to be accustomed to this, but their reaction was that this Government has no right whatsoever to talk about fairness when it cuts back community organizations, every single community organization in northern Manitoba. If the so-called Minister for Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is going to do anything in his role as a Minister — I believe he is the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs — why is he not speaking out on behalf of Northerners? Where has he been? Why has he not been calling the organizations to see what they feel about being cut back? Why is he not speaking up on behalf of the people of Garden Hill? Why is he sitting there warming his seat on the front bench and doing nothing for northern Manitobans? Let us talk about fairness with some humility and let us follow that up with some fairness in terms of the actual decisions that are made.

I think it is something that also needs to be followed by the other Parties in the Legislature including the Liberal Party. I think for the Leader of the Party (Mrs. Carstairs) to have said shortly after the election that Meech Lake is dead, I think was highly presumptuous. It remains to be seen. It may be accurate; it may not be accurate. I think that the Liberal Party has to recognize, notwithstanding the faults of the Conservative Party, the many faults, that it received fewer votes and fewer seats than the Members opposite. No amount of rationalization will change that.

I talked to a number of Liberals in Thompson. The one thing they have told me quite clearly — there are some Liberals in Thompson, a good number and good people — the consensus among the Liberals who I had talked to was that the best thing that happened to the Liberal Party was not being elected Government because, without any sort of experience, they felt they would be in a very tenuous situation. I am not just talking about New Democrats or Conservatives, and that is the position of Liberals who are saying that. I think that is a fairly accurate assessment of the situation. I am sure Members opposite would rather get some experience before even thinking of the idea of forming a Government. I hope that, if they were to look at the situation, if they were to make any real contribution in

the Session that they will temper some of the statements that have been coming from their Leader which almost suggests that she really should be the Premier. It is only by accident of numbers that she is not.

\* (1610)

I think that the decision, while mixed, was still clear, and that is that the Conservative Party did receive the majority of votes and majority of seats. I say that having gone through a period in the last few years when the Conservatives never recognized the New Democratic Party and its mandate. I remember in 1981 they described this as temporary. In 1986, it was much the same. Even though the New Democratic Party then, who had received more seats and more votes, the Conservatives could not quite believe it and could not quite take and accept the fact that the people had made their decision at that point in time. I think it is important for Opposition Parties to recognize their role, not to presume to something they are not, in this case a Government, but to truly represent people in the traditional role of an Opposition.

I also want to talk about the New Democratic Party in terms of the humility as well. I think that it is probably the easiest for the New Democratic Party to be analyzing itself in its position now. Traditionally, Parties, when they lose Government, go through a period of looking at the successes and the failures of what led to the defeat. They look at what could be done to correct what they perceive were the problems that took place. That is happening in the New Democratic Party right now. I see a process of examination, rebuilding and renewal. I can tell you I think that is extremely positive. There is another process I think that happens, and this could be said of all Governments, and that is that over a period of time people tend to think more of the accomplishments, the positive things that our Government has done and think less of the negative things.

I want to mention a couple of examples of that. I would note recently the Democratic convention in the United States, what is being said now about Jimmy Carter in the United States. Eight years later, even with his own Party where he was not accepted in 1984, now he has been accepted. People are talking about the positive things that were done and not looking at what people had seen as the negative things at the time. I think that has happened federally to a large extent with the Liberal Party. I think that Pierre Trudeau is a lot more popular today than when he was Prime Minister. It is a normal process.

One of the dangers of following that process is that sometimes people will gloss over what problems did exist and, after five or ten years, people will not perceive those problems to have been there even at that point in time, and so they will repeat those problems. I think that is what has happened with the Conservatives. I do not think they truly looked at why they lost Government in 1981. I would throw the evidence in, in terms of the Community Places Program, as one example. I would see others in terms of what has been happening with the Civil Service because, after a certain period of time, it did not really matter what Sterling

Lyon did. In the 1988 election, let us face it, the Conservatives basically could run in terms of an anti-government platform, which they did, and could receive votes strictly in terms of that. It is not what they were going to do in a positive sense, but what people saw as being done negatively by the New Democratic Party.

I want to say to my own Party that I do not want to see that happen. Even though in five or ten years, maybe even shorter than that, people generally in the province and within the New Democratic Party will look more favourably in terms of the previous Government's record than they obviously did during the election. I think it will be wrong to wait that length of time and to lose the perspective on what happened. When I look at what went the best for the New Democratic Party over the last seven years, I think it was when they took initiatives, when it was not afraid to be a leader in the country. I think the New Democratic Party did best when it was populist. I think that it is important to be addressing issues that are of concern to people, not just the 57 of us in this Legislature. I think the New Democratic Party was best when it stuck to its basic principles.

If you look at what happened, as the Minister of Highways (Mr Driedger) said, it was not because of all the social democratic initiatives that were seen as unpopular. It was not because the New Democratic Party was seen as too socialist; it was because of very populist concerns about issues such as Autopac. Those were the kinds of concerns that were expressed — or taxes. People voted inasmuch in a way of protest rather than for any specific alternative they saw, any alternative. I talked to many people. They said I am protesting this. They were not saying I am voting for this Party or the other Party. They were saying I am voting against the New Democratic Party. That is important.

The Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) mentioned something that I will agree is probably the key thing a Government can do. When it forgets that, that is when a Government runs into difficulty, when you lose touch. It can happen to each of us as a Member of the Legislature. It can also happen to Governments. I think that is one thing I do not want to ever see happen to the New Democratic Party again. I think it is important for the New Democratic Party, and I will be saying that within my own Party and I will say that as a Member of the Legislature, to be out there, to be talking to people. I do it on a regular basis. I can tell you sometimes the concerns will surprise people.

I will say to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), for example, that I have not once had one person when I have gone and talked to them at their door, visited with them in their house, has ever mentioned the Meech Lake Accord. I am not saying that it is not an important national issue; it is not an important provincial issue; I think it is. But I think we should recognize — I can show you my notes — at times I have gone door to door. I went just a few weeks ago. People talk about basic issues like jobs; they talk about education and health.

**An Honourable Member:** Taxes.

**Mr. Ashton:** Yes, and they talk about taxes, which Party they feel has the greatest in terms of that. They talk

about the basic issues. I think that is one thing that it is important to keep in mind when we talk about populism, because I think Parties that forget what the real agenda is of people out there, who are not willing to put those issues in the priority they deserve, are Parties which will eventually lose touch.

I think that happened to a certain extent with the New Democratic Party, and I will be the first one to admit it. There were issues that were being talked about that were not the real issues that people were concerned about. In fact, in many cases you may have issues that are of concern in one election and, by the time the next election comes around, they will be of minor consideration. I just look at the 1981, the 1986, the 1988 elections, very different elections and very different issues.

So, as I said, I hope that the New Democratic Party will learn from those experiences. That is one aspect, humility, learning from what has happened, I think putting things in perspective.

The second thing I think though that each Party has to define in this Legislature and into the future is its own particular vision for Manitoba. When I look at the Tory vision that has been expressed for 1981 to 1988, I am struck, first of all, by the complete lack of a comprehensive vision because there really was not any kind of vision that I can remember. I cannot remember the Conservative Opposition bringing in more than one or two Bills in any particular Session. They were usually on more localized issues. I do not remember them saying here is what we will do, laying it out to the people of Manitoba. I do not remember them expressing a vision of what they stood for as a Party. But their actions on issues, their participation in debates spoke for itself.

When I think of 1981 to 1988, there will be three things that I will remember in terms of debates: One is the French language issue; one is the human rights debate; and the third was Autopac. I want to show how I think faulty the image of the Conservative Party was, how shortsighted it was, by just referring to The Human Rights Act. It was not that long ago that this Chamber was involved in a very emotional heated debate about The Human Rights Act. I heard statements almost saying that, if this Act was passed, it was going to lead to the collapse our society, of western civilization. Why? Because people were going to be guaranteed equal rights under the law, people of all backgrounds. Extra rights — what extra rights? People who have special rights, these were the phrases that were talked about. Now where are these people who have the special rights today? They are living their lives day in and day out. They are working without the fear of discrimination they had. They are able to obtain accommodation without the fear of discrimination.

Such a short period of time later, how hollow do those words of the Members of the Conservative Party ring? It shows you the true vision. They will not be able to implement what they would like to implement in this Legislature. They will not be able to roll back The Human Rights Act because they know that they cannot get the support in this Legislature, because I know the New Democratic Party would not support changes to that

Act and I am sure that the Liberal Party would not support changes either.

\* (1620)

But that is the type of thing we have seen from the Conservative Party in terms of vision — negative hyperbole, irresponsible statements, statements that were made so short a time ago which now ring so hollow. I think that is what we should judge them on is what their true agenda would be, because we are going to see some confusing times in the Legislature. They are going to try and mask their real agenda, their right-wing agenda, as much as possible. They will say phrases that sound almost moderate, but in actual fact, it is the same Party, it is the same basic, twisted vision of Manitoba, and people should not be fooled. They are not going to be fooled because even the Government cannot suppress its anti-labour agenda, for example, and its complete lack of concern about the environment, and we have seen it expressed from the Minister who talks about the Department of the Environment . . .

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Honourable Member's time has expired.

**Mr. Parker Burrell (Swan River):** First of all, I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his election and you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your election to this House.

As this is my first opportunity to address this Assembly, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to also congratulate all Members on their election to this Legislature.

I will begin by telling you briefly about the Swan River constituency which I am proud to represent. To give you an idea of the riding's economic diversity, we have a limestone quarry and commercial fishing at Mafeking and Dawson Bay in the North; timber cutting, pulpwood and some farming and cattle in the northwest near Westgate, Barrows and National Mills.

In the southeast corner of the constituency, beginning just south of Pine River, we have ranching, farming, log house building, as well as timber and pulpwood.

To the east are the villages of Camperville and Duck Bay where there is some commercial fishing, trapping and related activity. There is also a very progressive Indian Reserve, the Pine Creek Indian Reserve, situated in-between these two communities.

At Duck Bay and Camperville, there is some cattle and there is much need for needed economic development.

In the southwest is the Thunder Hill ski slope, agriculture, timber; and in the Town of Benito, the hub of the southwest corner, Ag Shield Manufacturing builds sprayers.

The valley begins south of Minitonas, the first recognized settlement in the area known in earlier times as Tent Town. Minitonas marked its 90th anniversary on the July 1 weekend with a home-coming celebration, and I was pleased to be included in those celebrations.

Also included in my constituency are the rural municipalities of Bowsman, Swan River, along with the Local Government District of Mountain and some communities under the jurisdiction of Northern Affairs. The Swan River Valley, our main agricultural base, contains some of the richest soil in Manitoba if not Canada.

Farming is by far our main industry, but valley people are resourceful in other areas. Minitonas has a seed plant, Siewert Concrete Products, a game farm, meat packing plant and a livestock auction exchange.

Birch River, on the northern edge of the valley, boasts two fence-post treatment plants, agriculture, timber and cattle.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will now focus on Swan River, the largest service centre of the constituency situated almost in the centre of the riding. A modern progressive community of 4,000 people, Swan River is the home of the Northwest Roundup taking place this weekend. If you are looking for fun and entertainment with a western flavour, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend this outstanding event.

It is interesting to note that Swan River has the only municipal airport with two scheduled daily flights to Winnipeg in the province.

Other noteworthy industries are two major highway trucking firms, two redi-mix concrete plants, an Autopac centre, a good hospital, a personal care home and a lodge, plus four elderly persons units that serve the whole area. The constituency has an efficient well-run veterinary clinic and an active friendship centre.

To assist in diversifying the economy, Swan River is trying to establish a wafer board plant in the valley. In addition, the community is being served at the present time by two well-established sawmills. The town has modern shopping centres and a host of smaller family-run businesses to meet the shopping needs of all the people.

Speaking of people, they are our prime resource. Swan River people are friendly, hard working and enterprising. Men like George Renoff, Bert Corbett, Jim Bilton and Doug Gourlay, my predecessors in this House, made us all proud to be members of the Swan River constituency.

These Members of the Legislature were as one with the people, each in his own time. Now that my turn has come, I hope I can keep up the tradition they established of trust and good will. Much of what I bring to this office stems from the character and determination of my parents. My father, Glen Burrell, fished on an island immediately in front of Dawson Bay where I presently live, in 1910. That is 78 years ago this winter. He was 16 years old at this time, and shortly afterwards he joined the Canadian Army and served in the First War where he saw action at Vimy Ridge and the Somme.

On his return home, he married his childhood sweetheart, Myrtle Parker, in Winnipegosis. The young couple spent the winter of 1920 at Grand Island and then a year later they moved the winter operation to Dawson Bay.

For some years, my parents spent the winter seasons at Dawson Bay and summers in Winnipegosis. Later, father started a cattle operation at North Shore where I presently keep my herd. North Shore became permanent for both cattle and fishing operations in 1928 when my uncle, Joe Parker, married and moved there to look after them. The railway came to Mafeking around the turn of the century. The first highway was opened to The Pas in 1937, the year I was born at Winnipegosis. I moved north that summer, the youngest of 11 children, in the Model A, and ever since have made my home in the area. Dawson Bay has been a permanent village since 1937.

My early education was at Dawson Bay, but I later attended school at Cranberry Portage, Birch River and The Pas, where I finished high school. After graduation, I worked for Midwest Diamond Drilling in Flin Flon and Snow Lake and then, in 1968, I worked in Thompson for four-and-a-half months in-between fishing seasons for Ospowakun (phonetic) Construction.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

Apart from experience gained at Northern Affairs where I worked for two years in our own area, I have largely been involved in running the family business.

I own and operate a quarter-section of land north of Mafeking and I have a 100-head cow/cattle operation.

My mother was born in Salsbury, New Brunswick where Grandfather Parker worked as a millwright. During the Riel Rebellion, Peter McArthur was given timber rights on Lake Winnipegosis for services to the Crown. He moved my grandfather to Winnipegosis to work at his mill and the family followed. Born in Collingwood, Ontario, my father was the son of a fisherman who moved to Winnipegosis to fish about the same time.

My mother inherited the sawmill from grandfather and they were operating at Overflowing River just north of Dawson Bay in the late Forties, early Fifties.

\* (1630)

Her experience at cooking for the mill crew, combined with an exceptional hook fishing season in Overflow enabled her to transform the last mill camp into Burrell's Lodge. It was here that they served the public for many years and the lodge became well-known for good food and hospitality.

The politician of the family, mother left me an autographed picture of John Diefenbaker which I still treasure today. It presently hangs in my living room.

I remember, after the 1963 election, when the Conservatives went in with a minority Government and mother was not in a very good humour, everyone we knew seemed to drop in to talk about the election. Things were going pretty well her way until a good friend arrived with a younger person with him that no one knew.

He let mother strongly voice her opinions for a while and then he said, "Mrs. Burrell, please be careful what you say; this young man is Lester B. Pearson's nephew."

Well, mother straightened herself up and looked him right in the eye and said, "I will tell you just one thing little man. If I was Lester Pearson's nephew, I sure would not want anyone to know about it."

Three days after the recent election, the constituency did not need a flood. However, we had one and I cannot tell you how proud I am of the response I got from this Government. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) immediately flew up to look at the damage first-hand and a week later three Cabinet Ministers, Jack Penner, Glen Findlay and Glen Cummings, toured the flooded areas. Meetings were held with the Reeves of the municipalities and the LGD, plus Councils. I want to express my thanks to my colleagues again for their help and support during the emergency.

I would like to thank our Premier for appointing me, and the Honourable James Erwin Downey for accepting me as the Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Northern and Native Affairs.

It was indeed an honour for me to accompany Mr. Downey on a four-day tour of northern Manitoba communities. On the first leg of the tour, the Minister opened two permanent RCMP detachments at God's Lake Narrows and Shamattawa. From there we flew to Thompson to meet with the city's Mayor and Council. A highlight of the visit for me, personally, was the opening of a new wing of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. This facility has the potential for being an outstanding research, educational, training and tourist centre. The tour concluded at a graduation in Thompson of the Northern Nurses and Integrated Business Skills Programs.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Honourable James McCrae, Attorney-General, for taking me to Thompson for the Annual Urban Affairs meeting.

On June 29, the Honourable Jim Ernst, the Honourable Jack Penner, and the Honourable James McCrae were back in Swan River to attend an information exchange on the proposed wafer board plant.

I want to thank the Premier again for sending me, as the official representative from the province, to Thompson's Nickel Days. I had an opportunity of seeing the King Miner contestants in action and witnessed some of the simulated underground mining activities. It also gave me an opportunity to participate in the opening of this major northern summer festival.

It is good to know that you are working with people who care and I am sure that all Manitobans will know this for themselves in the weeks and months to come.

In reference to the Throne Speech, I was pleased with its direction. Economic development such as a wafer board plant proposed for Swan River would enable many young farmers to get work and ride out the storm that has hung over our agriculture sector for these last few years.

Mr. Speaker, the Government's commitment to improve highways is much appreciated. Highway No. 10 North is in urgent need of rebuilding, as are a number

of our provincial roads in the valley. In addition, a bridge at Lenswood is needed and its construction is long overdue. It is my hope that it will soon be built to help stimulate growth in the area.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a well-known politician from the Minitonas area who often added these words when he spoke at official functions: "Stand up straight so the people can see you, speak out clearly so the people can hear you, and shut up so the people will like you."

Thank you.

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with other MLAs in congratulating you on your election to the highest office in this Assembly. I have confidence in your ability to be fair, judge contents of discussion in an impartial manner and direct this Assembly in its important tasks of the day.

I would like to extend best wishes to my friend, the Deputy Speaker of this Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and wish all my fellow MLAs the best of luck in their endeavours in this House, and I encourage them to fulfill their mandate in honour and courage and in the best interest of all Manitobans.

I wish the Leaders of the three Parties in this House the best in their daily responsibilities in their role in leading Manitoba into a future which will offer all my fellow Manitobans opportunity, direction and leadership to meet all the challenges head on. These are the opportunities to address inequities of the past, to value all people, no matter their age, sex, ethnic origin or their colour. This time presents opportunity for growth and prosperity for all Manitobans, to see their dreams and aspirations for individuals and families can be met. It is an opportunity for all Manitobans to value their role in the development of Manitoba.

This time represents an opportunity for advancing Manitoba's role in the national Canadian context now and to secure its role in the future.

It is with great pleasure that I am here, elected by my constituents in Kildonan to represent them in the daily deliberations of this Assembly. I believe that it is crucial to this House to understand my feelings about my role and my responsibilities, for I am a recent newcomer who has spent the last nine years of my life working hard and enjoying the fruits of freedom, of democracy in action, of openness of thought, and of acceptance by all participants in this country.

Many of us have made sacrifices in accepting office. I have given up a flourishing medical practice, and precious time with my young family. I believe that all ethnic groups must be encouraged to become part of the mainstream of society. Every experience must be equally available to all. This does not involve the loss of identity or valuable cultural heritage. Instead, it requires acceptance of our diversity and respect for our fellow man. Such plurality will enrich all of us.

This is a moment of indescribable pride and humility for me. As a member of a visible minority, I am

overwhelmed by the confidence shown in me by a truly mosaic and cosmopolitan community.

My view of the constituency which I represent is one of multiculturalism in action. Kildonan is a wonderful constituency in that it mixes people from all over the world and entitles me to view and identify values, beliefs, and attitudes which look at this country, and Manitoba, not from a bias of indecision, apathy, non-commitment, but from a view of needing to participate in all activities of the community in equal participation and equal responsibility for actions taken. I pledge to do my best on behalf of all my constituents and to work very hard to understand their concerns and speak and demand changes so as to better the approach to Government in this province.

\* (1640)

I would like to show you a letter I wrote to my constituents during my election campaign. I quote from my letter. "When I chose Canada as the ideal place to raise my family and establish my medical career, I did so because this country is unique in the world in that all people can live and prosper in harmony while still being free to maintain their culture and customs."

And I said, "I will not accept nor do I believe that Canadians choose their representatives based on sex, skin colour or ethnic background. I believe that the deciding factors are experience, integrity and ability."

On April 26, the people of Kildonan justified my . . . . They have given me the responsibility and I will do everything to justify their confidence in the future.

It is important for this House to know that as a practising physician I am a committed health professional, with a variety of experiences which will allow me to provide input into my Party's and my Leader's concerns regarding health services. This perspective also will allow me to provide this Assembly with constructive criticism of the Government policies and its directions. My years of training and practising give me a picture of how the system functions.

I am also aware of the perspectives of the various health professionals, as well as the perspectives of health consumers with a variety of needs, be they rural or urban.

I welcome the Government's stated commitment to maintain and enhance quality health care, and I will keep a watchful eye to ensure that this promise is fulfilled, for what aspect of human life is more precious than physical and mental well-being. What is more important than care for those who do not enjoy good health?

The overriding concerns of Manitobans and Canadians regarding health care are the quality of care, accessibility and availability, and the cost effectiveness of delivery of services.

The Throne Speech says that, "we are moving towards a future of increasing demands and escalating costs in our health care system."

What a keen observation and prediction. That future has been with us for the last 20 years, that future is

now. I believe that we as an Assembly must address the issues facing us now, issues identifying over and over again. The time for action is now.

I believe that we must come to grips with the overall planning of a comprehensive health care system which addresses centralization versus decentralization, institutional care balanced with the community care, the role of professionals and of health professionals, family-based care as well as individually focussed care, northern services equivalent to southern services; and rural services equal to urban services.

A comprehensive plan for the health system must be developed as quickly as possible with input from all the sectors of the community, representing broad interests and concerns of the common citizens of Manitoba. The decisions regarding our health care cannot be based on only one parameter. It would be irresponsible and unfair to the citizens of Manitoba if decisions were made solely on economics. A reasoned, common-sense approach to the planning and implementation is essential.

I believe that much research and study has already been conducted. While I support ongoing evaluation of plans and implementation strategies, let us not be further delayed by yet more study. This Assembly must ensure that plans are put in place immediately to cope with bed shortages, loss of staff, both paramedical and professionals, training and upgrading options must be developed.

This Government must take the responsibility to initiate and not merely react. It must gain control over the system. What will be accomplished by blaming others for the work which must be taken on to guarantee the quality of care in Manitoba? We must shorten the stay of all patients in hospitals. A variety of options for good community care to augment institutional care must be established. Community clinics offering a wide range of health services to all Manitobans can assume a significant role in health care delivery.

The basic level of care and services available to our senior citizens must be improved. The needs of the rural population must be addressed. The need for more personal care home beds and an appropriate level of funding to maintain this system is essential. Placement procedures must be improved. The level of transportation services available to and from health care programs is problematic. Expanded day hospital programs and satellites within community neighbourhoods may address health care needs economically.

A Pharmacare system which does not cause economic hardship to the participants is crucial. At the very least, the "turn-around-time" for claims must be reduced. The need for a more comprehensive psychogeriatric program throughout Manitoba is clear. These are some of the issues which a coordinated and comprehensive health care plan must address.

There are a number of more specific concerns I wish to draw to the attention of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we must address the critical shortage of physicians as well as other health care professionals

in rural communities. We must pursue this matter in cooperation with the appropriate registering bodies, such as universities, other training institutions and professional associations. We cannot permit blind principles and self-interest to stand in the way of a real and long-term solution.

Communicable diseases are a fact of our everyday existence and health care services must meet the needs generated by these diseases. For example, it is not trite to say that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a dilemma which faces Manitoba, this country and all the world. We must increase our vigilance over this very real threat.

We must seek to educate all Manitobans about this disease in a meaningful way. We must drop the morality perspective in connection with AIDS for this is a disease which ends in death. There must be a detailed plan of action. Adequate monies must be allocated to provide for education and prevention of this disease. This is not an issue of special interest groups; it is an issue of our health care system meeting this crisis head on. I will be vigilant to ensure that this Assembly acts and does not get bogged down by inaction and moral debate.

Related to the shortage of health care professionals is the quality of the type of education in Manitoba.

Substandard training facilities and resources are a false economy. Students, particularly those in the health care professions, should be trained in the most up-to-date techniques and using advanced equipment.

I suspect that we are all in basic agreement as to the need for increased emphasis on health care prevention and promotion. This presumes adequate programs and facilities.

Health care prevention and promotion also requires major commitments to and investment in public education programs designed to inform the public about health care issues. These programs must not only educate, but must provide the means by which people may adapt or alter their lifestyles to reduce the risk of disease and to promote quality of life.

The commitment to prevention and promotion of health means that one must address environmental issues. The very survival of the human species is dependent upon restoring and maintaining a healthy environment. All levels of Government and every citizen of Manitoba must cooperate to ensure that no one is exposed unnecessarily or involuntarily to avoidable hazards, such as environmental pollutants, including effluent in our water and toxins in the air we breathe, such as industrial emissions and cigarette smoke in public places.

Perhaps the greatest single shortage of health care resources exists in the mental health field.

Historically, the field of mental health has been given a low priority in comparison to other fields of health care. There is a stigma associated with this area of health care, one which has resulted in what may be described as a serious neglect of a health care need which does not recognize boundaries. Mental health

disorders affect the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated. We cannot afford to ignore this aspect of health care any longer.

The personal, social and economic costs of delays in recognition and treatment of mental illness, and rehabilitation of those who are mentally ill are staggering. We must bear collective blame and shame for our manifest indifference to this highly vulnerable population.

Research has shown that most people, if given a choice, would prefer almost any other disability over mental illness.

\* (1650)

Mr. Speaker, it is relevant to address briefly the issue of research within the health care field. This is crucial to the development and operation of a comprehensive plan. It is the lifeblood of health care services now and in the future. Government must take the responsibility to ensure that vital centres of research are supported and that critical research is encouraged. We must provide an environment in which researchers can function, for their continued contribution is essential.

Our Canadian health care system is precious. Indeed, it is one of the best in the world. The Canada Health Act recently reaffirmed the fundamental principles of this system — universality, portability, public administration and accessibility. However, today in Manitoba this latter tenet is threatened.

Of what benefit is the best standard of care if it is not readily and universally available? Treatment and care must be equally accessible to people regardless of economic, social or geographical considerations.

It is my belief that primary health care is a fundamental right, and must be available as near as possible to all populated areas of Manitoba.

This does not mean that we should build or maintain major general hospitals in every community, which would be uneconomical, impractical and counter-productive, nor do I suggest that all services must be provided in each and every health care facility. Within Manitoba, and in cooperation with other provinces, we must develop a centre of excellence where patient care is not compromised.

Again I want to emphasize what I see as the cornerstones of our health care system. That is the health care professionals, the Government and the Manitoba public. We must together aim for quality of care, cost effectiveness and access and availability of care.

As a committed MLA, a committed health professional and a committed advocate of my constituents in Kildonan, I will monitor the Government's action and inaction in the health care field. I will expect comprehensive planning, proacting rather than reacting to crisis after crisis. I will expect the Members opposite will not shirk their responsibilities to the citizens of Manitoba. We must have a comprehensive plan for the citizens of Manitoba. We must have a comprehensive plan for health services which meets the needs of all

members of our community. Missing one individual in the system or ignoring the needs of one person is neither a caring nor a concerned treatment program.

I will be vigilant. I will monitor and defend the rights of those in need by continuing to advocate for a rational and humane system of health care no matter where one lives in Manitoba. I will serve all of my constituents with openness, fairness and diligence, thereby justifying their confidence they have shown in me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the constituents of Kildonan for the opportunity to represent them.

I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the valued leadership and inspiration provided by my Leader. Her achievements have had and will continue to have a profound impact on the political future of Manitoba and in this country and probably the whole world. I share the public's admiration of her honesty and pragmatic approach to the contemporary issues facing Manitoba.

I would like to take this opportunity as well to thank my family for their support and energy in encouraging me to take on this important task. Thank you.

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** Mr. Speaker, I am at a bit of a loss for words because I am actually anticipating my position speaking at this moment in time actually having been accelerated into this position by a unique, fortuitous occurrence and for which I am going to have to pay a heavy penalty later on tonight because I had arranged for my mother to be here to listen and she will now not be here. I will probably just be ending as she walks into the Chamber, into the gallery. I know I can speak for 40 minutes, but what I will do is I will take a copy of Hansard as the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) suggests.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, I believe at this moment I should do the normal thing that first addressees to this Chamber normally do, and that is offer congratulations because at this moment, as I have heard people say before, they are nervous. I think what I will do is use this period of time to get control of myself.

First off, I think I am going to offer congratulations to the Deputy Speaker, the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), who, as he indicated earlier in his address, has an unusual nomination to this position being a Member of the Opposition Party.

I would also like to congratulate the new MLAs here in this Chamber on their election.

**An Honourable Member:** I am with the old ones.

**Mr. H. Driedger:** Just wait! Had you not anticipated this remark, I would be able to get to this because right next on my list here I have thanks to the welcome remarks and the encouraging words we have received by the MLAs who had some history of experience in this Chamber.

**Mr. Reg. Alcock (Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we might have leave to let the Honourable Member await the arrival of his mother and

the Honourable House Leader may wish to speak in the interim.

**Mr. Speaker:** Leave has been granted. When this resumes in the name of the Honourable Member for Niakwa (Mr. Driedger), I understand the Honourable Member will have 40 minutes remaining.

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** In the spirit of cooperation that seems to prevail in this House this afternoon, perhaps I can ask the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Alcock) to give me the sign when he thinks it is about time I should finish today. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, I will only receive that sign from the Opposition House Leader and no one else.

Indeed, the opening days of this Legislature do seem to signal something that I am going to talk about a little later in my remarks, and that has to do with a more civilized Legislature and a more civilized way of doing business, the business of the people of Manitoba in this place. I can speak with a fair amount of pleasure, which I will do in a few minutes, about that subject.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba for attending upon this House and reading so graciously the Speech from the Throne, and to offer him the cooperation of the Government of the Province of Manitoba in the years to come as we carry on with our responsibilities as the Government of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I have known you for about three years. I have always known you to be a fair-minded person, a person who is able to find some kind of compromise in a difficult situation, a person who is able to work with people from all backgrounds and interests. Therefore, I congratulate you on your appointment to your very high office. I, as other Honourable Members have said, feel confident that you will manage the affairs of this House and the discussions in this Chamber with dignity and with fairness. I already know that I speak for all Members of the House when I say that.

\* (1700)

It is a pleasure for me also to offer congratulations and support to the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko), who has accepted the position, by election, of Deputy Speaker of this House. I was pleased to offer my support for his election to that very high position as well and I wish him well. Like the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, I have much to learn yet about the way this House operates, as I am sure even the most seasoned veteran in this place has something to learn.

I also would like to extend congratulations to my colleague, the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), on his appointment to the position of Deputy Chairman of Committees of the whole House. Coming from the same part of the province that I do, there are a number of things that the Honourable Member and I will have in common and I think that we can work very well together. I believe the temperament of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa lends itself well to the smooth operation of this House, and I congratulate him on his appointment.



While we are congratulating, I would like to offer congratulations to the new Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. MacGillvray) in our Chamber and also to all the new staff that we have and also to the staff who are remaining with us.

This place cannot function very well without the cooperation and the hard work that we see from staff people every day that this House sits. I probably do not say it often enough but, as a person who formerly was a staffperson in a legislative body, I know some of the things that they go through. I know that there are some unpredictable things that happen in these places, sometimes the hours get a little bit strange and sometimes there are surprises. I do appreciate the kind of attitude that they bring to their jobs.

Now, a word to all of the candidates in the Manitoba Election of April 26, all of the candidates who were successful as well as those candidates who were not successful. I remember about two-and-a-half years ago in the Throne Speech Debate at the Session opening in 1986 making my first speech in this place and making a comment about elections would not be very much fun and they certainly would not be very democratic in this country if we did not have winners and losers.

We must acknowledge the fact that, without the participation of all the people who did participate in the election, the issues would not have been aired as well as they were. I believe that everyone who took part in the election should be thanked and should be encouraged that they took part in the democratic process and encouraged indeed to be involved again if that should be part of their plan.

My congratulations to the Members of the Liberal Party and to its Leader. They have made significant gains in terms of electoral success in Manitoba. They are to be commended for that. They have come from a caucus of one to a caucus of 20, forming a strong Opposition Party presence in this place. All Members of this House need to recognize that.

A little while ago the Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) spoke about humility and how he felt that in some Members there was a lack of humility. I must suggest to the Honourable Member for Thompson that he is absolutely wrong. Can you imagine a backbench Member like myself being asked to fulfill all the duties that I have been asked to fulfill? How could that do anything but humble a person?

The Honourable Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) can consider that when he looks at the responsibilities carried by every Member of this Executive Council. Those responsibilities are tremendous, I can tell you. I can easily correct the Honourable Member about the matter of humility. We understand very, very well the responsibility that we have to the people of this province, because we know how hard we had to work to get to the place we are today. We know that further work needs to be done. We know that we have an ambitious plan, a plan that is workable. Some say that the plan is too ambitious. I suggest it is not. I already know my Leader well enough to know that he does not promise things that he cannot practically deliver in a real way. I reject that criticism of what we find in the Throne Speech.

Getting back to my good wishes for all Honourable Members, those good wishes are genuine. I believe I can say that in my dealings as the House Leader for the Government, my relationship with the other House Leaders has been productive and for the most part amiable. For that, I thank the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) who is the Opposition House Leader and the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) for the work that we have been able to complete already.

I would like to offer congratulations and thanks to the Honourable Member for Tuxedo, the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), of the Province of Manitoba. It gives me a great deal of pride to refer to him as the First Minister of the Province of Manitoba. He, as well as the rest of us, has worked very hard to bring us to the place we are today. It took a genuine effort and it took real leadership to get us to where we are. It will take continuing real leadership to keep us here and to fulfill the commitments we have made and will be making to the people of Manitoba.

I would like to say a word about the family of the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), without whom I am sure he would tell us he would not be where he is today, as indeed I could make that same claim.

I am fortunate enough to have a very supportive family, both the immediate family and beyond. I am happy to say that during the election campaign, while some Parties were bringing in high paid help from other areas of the country, I was lucky enough to have two brothers and two nephews come all the way down from Edmonton to Brandon in the last days of the election to give me a hand, and I am telling you, in a hard-fought election campaign, it was a breath of fresh air to have the help of some family members. That is not to say anything about the supporters I have in Brandon West. The good people of Brandon West who worked on my campaign, I am forever grateful to them, not only for 1985 when I sought the nomination for my Party, but also in 1986, and their support was consistent and stronger than ever in 1988. I am sure that is what made it possible for me to return to this House with the same kind of plurality that I enjoyed in 1986, making Brandon West a bastion of Progressive Conservatism, one that will be impossible to impregnate, I can assure you.

As I said, I am very humbled by the duties that I have been asked to perform, but I am also somewhat confident. I should remind Honourable Members that, as I said again, back in 1986 — and I am looking at the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) when I say this — because I know some of the comments that he made shortly after my appointment, about workload, I remind him that I am a Member who comes from outside the City of Winnipeg, and when I do come to Winnipeg, I spend my whole time here doing my job, so you can believe it when I tell you that I am glad to get home to see my family on weekends. But I do work very hard, and that may be the way I will be able to keep my head above water. I am pleased to be in charge, to be the first Manitoban in history of non-legal background to be named Attorney-General of the province. Can you imagine, the honour that would

be for a person like myself, who was once an employee of the Department?

I remember the days when our present Prime Minister and our present national Leader of the Opposition competed with each other to show who had the poorest roots. In my case, I suppose I could join in that competition. My roots are pretty ordinary I must suggest, and coming as my family does from a homestead background in Alberta north of Edmonton, I do feel honoured to be standing in this place today.

I am sure Honourable Members, all the new Members of this House, all feel it quite an honour to be asked by their constituents to represent them in this place. I feel no different than they do, and this is my second time around, and then of course I feel an extra responsibility and honour to have been chosen to be the Attorney-General of Manitoba, the Minister responsible for Corrections and Constitutional Law, and the Liquor Control Commission, and the new Cooperative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department, not to mention the duties that devolve upon me as House Leader.

I must say that I follow in some pretty distinguished footsteps when I take the place in this House previously occupied by the former Member for St. Norbert, the Honourable Gerry Mercier. I do not think there is anybody in this House who would disagree that this Legislature lost a great presence when we lost Gerry Mercier. I would just like to pay tribute to him again for all he has done for his province and for his Party, and all the while remembering the important responsibilities he has to his family as well. I always appreciate someone who can put out so much for his community but also always be mindful of his responsibilities to his family.

\* (1710)

What have we learned from the election? I recall during the election campaign some of the things that were said about the issues, but a theme - certainly a theme on the part of two of the Parties running in the election - was better management of the resources of this province, the human, the financial and other resources of this province. We are here to deliver on the promise of better management.

There was a lot of talk about less political manipulation in Crown corporations, especially as it has to do with the fixing of rates for services that Manitobans received from Crown corporations. I think you are going to find that the new Government of this province will be very attentive to those kinds of commitments and will do its best to see that the affairs run by the Crown corporations of this province are run in a more businesslike way with less politicking in between.

There was also a theme of more sensitive and consultative Government. There is a tendency with governments when they are in office for quite a while to carry on, on their own agenda without always adequately consulting those people they are affecting by the programs they are bringing forward and by the actions they take. That message has not been lost on

the new Government of Manitoba. In fact, I am quite satisfied it has not been lost because I know the significance and the tremendous amount of consultation that has been going on just with respect to my own departments. My honourable colleagues on the Benches on this side would probably tell you the same story.

There was another very important theme in that election and I think that theme was, let us stop all the fighting. Let us do a little bit better job working with each other. The people are going to decide which Party and which Members should come to this place. Let us stop all the fighting. There was a polarization in this province. Sometimes it is unfortunate when you have a regional polarization, and we see some of that perhaps in the vote as well, but there was a political polarization. Some would refer to it as left and right, not always the correct characterization of that polarization, but there was also a city and non-city polarization which I think everyone finds disturbing.

If you happen to be lucky enough to have garnered 19 or 20 seats from the City of Winnipeg, you can be fortunate about that but you can still recognize, as I do, that there remains a significant problem in our province regarding polarization between the City of Winnipeg and those areas which lie outside the City of Winnipeg. The new Government has to be very responsive and all Members in this House have to be very responsive to that issue because it is very prominent in the minds of Manitobans, especially I suggest, Manitobans who do live outside the City of Winnipeg. As a Member representing part of the City of Brandon, I know it. I hear about it every weekend when I go home. I am here to try to bridge whatever gaps need bridging. I think we can identify some ways to bridge that gap. Certainly decentralization should play a very key role in bridging that gap which is causing some of us the worry that we feel.

If I may, I would like to be parochial again in my comments this afternoon because Brandon is my town; Brandon is my city. While it is true that I have spent a number of years of my life living in the City of Winnipeg and spend more and more of my time here now, and while it is true that I have lived in other centres in Canada and the United States, Brandon is still home to me. That is where I grew up, so I want to address the Throne Speech as it relates to my community.

Some say, what does the Throne Speech mean for Brandon? A suggestion was made the word "Brandon" was left out of the Throne Speech. Well, heavenly days, so was Dauphin. I think Portage la Prairie was left out; I believe it was. I think Melita was not mentioned either, and Mafeking. The Honourable Member for Swan River (Mr. Burrell) must be furious to know that Mafeking might not be mentioned. Let us look at the reality of that kind of criticism. Let us look at what is in the Throne Speech for Brandon.

We have a new Economic Development Department in this new Government. That department is committed to development not only of the important centre of the City of Winnipeg but of all areas of the Province of Manitoba. I am happy that my colleague, the Minister of Industry (Mr. Ernst), is co-operating with all the Members of his caucus, and specifically me, in agreeing

to meeting with business and industrial leaders and political people, municipal people in the City of Brandon. He has already done that and has agreed to do it more in an effort to try to find ways to develop the industrial base of the City of Brandon. I think that is significant and I believe the changes in his department will facilitate the process. So Brandon should be very interested in that. The same with my Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Co-operative Development, soon to be called the Department of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs. That will make that department more efficient while reducing nothing in the area of program, while continuing the emphasis on the building of the co-operative movement in this province, and at the bottom line saving taxpayers' dollars in terms of the administration.

Many times Members on this side of the House have complained that the bureaucracy in this province has grown out of all proportion to those parts of the public service which actually deliver the services to the people. That is a theme that we have talked about a lot during the election campaign and we are now in Government. So it seems to me it would be somewhat counter to all the things that we said if we sat on these opportunities for bringing about savings and saving taxpayers dollars and spending them more wisely.

We are responsible enough as a Government to talk openly about multi-year budgeting and, of course, deficit control. The interesting thing about this is that these things were a central theme to both of the major Parties in this House. The third Party, at that time the Government, had to defend a record. I do not envy them the job that they had. They were not able to argue those things and I think those were important things to argue. The time has come for us to face some of those issues squarely and actually to do something about them.

Brandon issues are bread-and-butter issues, the kinds of issues that you will hear about more when the Budget is brought down by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) on August 8, but I have a hunch we are going to hear something about the payroll tax because there was a preview of that in the Throne Speech. And do you think, Mr. Speaker, that to the City of Brandon and to all the people who not only provide jobs in Brandon but also who benefit from having jobs — and that means their children and their aunts and uncles and anyone else who happens to be involved in the community of Brandon. Do you think that they are not interested in seeing the phase out of the payroll tax?

But we have been hearing little else when we are talking out economic issues. We have been hearing little else but talk of the payroll tax ever since the day the New Democratic Party Government of this province brought it in. So we are now committed to doing something about that. We think it is very important. The people of Manitoba agreed because the people of Manitoba elected all but 12 Members of this House who were campaigning on the issue of the payroll tax.

Do you think the people of Brandon are not concerned about the mess that we found at the Workers Compensation Board, and the mess that has been created there? That has to be attacked and dealt with

by the Government. That was referred to in the Throne Speech and I am telling you the people of Brandon are very interested in seeing that matter dealt with.

Labour legislation, the people of Manitoba have long been concerned about our labour legislation in this province, ever since the days of the T. Eaton matter, when the T. Eaton Company had to respond to action taken in the labour area by threatening or by actually moving to close down a large portion of that store. The people of Brandon are very aware of how the balance has changed in Manitoba over the last number of years. All the people of Brandon want to see is a levelling of the playing field. I have been saying that all along. I say that directly to the Leader (Mr. Doer) of the Third Party in this House. He still smiles; he still thinks that I am on the wrong track. But listen to what the people had to say on April 26. That is important. We have to respond to what the people said or we will not be here very long.

The Throne Speech talks about Manitoba achieving a fair share of the federal contracts, a fair share of the pie in this country. We think that with the renewed relations which will have been achieved, or were achieved, by the change in Government on May 9, we will see better opportunities and we will see better ways to cooperate with the federal Government for the benefit of all the people of this province.

The matter of health care. I ask you, do you think the people of Brandon were not pretty concerned when a couple of years ago the previous Government was responsible for the closing of 30 beds at Brandon General Hospital? Brandon General is not that big of a hospital, and to take 30 beds out of circulation is a pretty serious matter.

\* (1720)

Well, we are very interested in Brandon about the health care advisory network and we are also very interested in the idea that lottery revenues might be used to assist in our health care in this province. I wonder if the CT scanner installed at the Brandon General Hospital recently might not have been installed sooner if such a policy had not been adopted earlier.

I am going to move quickly now because I see that the time is passing. I would like to get down to some of the issues in my own area of responsibility and deal very briefly with them and then I will sit down.

I think the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is certainly on the right track when he suggests a Ministry of Justice which encompasses the Department of Attorney-General and Corrections in the same department. It just makes plain good sense and I believe the people of Manitoba agree.

I can report that work is already under way toward addressing the problem of the backlog of criminal cases. I believe this was a matter raised by the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) in his first questions in this Session and I wonder how it is that he has the gall to raise that question when the problem is of his Government's making and we are already to work trying to solve that problem.

The small claims limit. I believe you will find that the small claims limit that we are proposing this Session will be accepted with open arms by people in Manitoba who come into conflict with others in financial matters, and I think raising that limit to \$5,000 is a very good idea. I also think it is a good idea to see to the other parts of that program which will see that once a claim is filed in the small claims court it remains in the small claims court, and also that the provision of default judgment will be there. I think the people of Manitoba will accept that with open arms.

I cannot talk much longer, I am going to talk about some of these things later in the Budget Debate, as well, but I cannot wait and talk in more detail about the changes we have in mind for the Law Reform Commission. I mean, it is a pretty important mistake that the previous Government made with regard to the Law Reform Commission. I see Honourable Members opposite in the Liberal Party nodding their heads and I look forward to their support and I look forward to the debate on that.

Access assistance is something announced yesterday, something that I will give credit to the previous Government for. They negotiated that agreement. We find that it is a good idea and I hope it works and I hope that the pilot project can soon become a full-blown project, not just in the City of Winnipeg, not just province-wide as I want it to be, but country-wide. So there is something I can give my support to.

The Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) and I will continue the saga of the Land Titles debate, I know, and I look forward to that. I am proud that my Government has accepted the idea and accepted, in fact, the Native Enquiry headed by Associate Chief Justice Hamilton and Associate Chief Judge Sinclair. We think that we are going to get some new directions on that, we are going to get some very good advice and we expect to act on the advice that we get that is good.

There are other issues. I can assure you there are other issues, but it is strange once you get on your feet how easy it is just to talk and talk and talk. I know that all Honourable Members share with me in supporting what is in that Throne Speech. I have not seen any amendments, and so I suggest that all Honourable Members -(Interjection)- and I urge them to join with us in supporting the thrust that is in there, and helping us to get as much of that program through for the benefit of all Manitobans, because I believe by the kinds of speeches I am hearing in this place that there is a will among Honourable Members to work together and achieve those things that are good.

Yes, there will be disagreement now and again. There will be disagreement about how we should get there as the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has said, but I believe she sees that most of us on most issues are heading very much in the same direction.

I look forward to a productive and a cooperative Session, Mr. Speaker. Our constituents demand that and we owe them nothing less.

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** I wish to extend thanks to the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) for

stepping in as he did, to facilitate my ability to be able to speak at this time and I thank him for that.

I will carry on with where I left off last, and that was to thank the Members in this House who have had some history of experience in this Chamber, to thank them for their welcoming remarks that they have made to make us feel welcome, to make us feel comfortable. I relish the debates that are to come and I think some of the exchanges across the Chamber floor may become quite enlightening, indeed, for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be able to add my congratulations to those of my colleagues on your election to the office of Speaker of this Assembly.

I recognize that it will not be an easy task to discharge the duties of this office due to the peculiar make-up of this Chamber, this Legislature. However, I have every confidence that you will be able to rise to this challenge. I know that in allowing for the minority representation in this Chamber you will have to be firm, fair and even-handed.

But even so there will be times when one Party or another may feel that a different ruling would have favoured its position or argument. Your decisions, however, must be supported by all of us, as we have already twice in this short Session supported them — at least on this side, to the right of the Party to my left. That is because your office serves the whole Assembly, not just a part of it; just as each of us serves our whole constituency and not just a part of it; just as we serve the whole of the province and not just a part of it.

I also congratulate the Mover (Mr. Praznik), and the Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) of the Speech from the Throne on the high standard that they set for those of us who follow them.

**Some Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. H. Driedger:** I also want to acknowledge that the subsequent speakers on this side of the Chamber and on the other have, for the most part, been able to rise to this high standard.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the constituents of Niakwa for the trust and confidence that they have displayed in my ability to address the concerns they have regarding their constituency and their province.

I also wish to thank the former Member for Niakwa, Mr. Abe Kovnats, for the many years of service he gave to this constituency.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency are looking to me. The people of this province are looking to us here in this Chamber, to provide the necessary stability and security of their person so they can go about enhancing their quality of life. The people of Niakwa are not anxious for government to be intrusive on their lives. They want only that the laws and rules by which our society functions be made so that they are fair to all without taking away from each of them the right to individualize their concept of what it means to be a Manitoban or to express their individual concept of what it means to be a Canadian.

The constituents of Niakwa are a vignette of Canada. Among them are new Canadians and old, first people and second, Francophones and Anglophones, visible minorities and the disadvantaged. We are a multicultural constituency living and working together. To try and list them all would risk omitting some.

Vu que je comprends le français mieux que je ne le parle, je vais lire mon discours.

Les électeurs de la circonscription de Niakwa sont fort représentatifs de la population canadienne. Parmi ceux-ci, nous trouvons des Canadiens de vieille et de nouvelle souches, de première et de deuxième génération, des francophones et des anglophones, des minorités visibles et des gens défavorisés. Il s'agit d'une circonscription multiculturelle formée de gens qui vivent et travaillent ensemble. Je ne tenterai pas d'énumérer les éléments qui le compose car je risquerais d'en oublier.

\* (1730)

Je suis un Canadien de la première génération. Ma langue maternelle n'est pas le français, mais le Canada est officiellement bilingue. Il est temps de cesser de s'en faire à propos de la langue à employer et d'essayer d'en apprendre le plus possible. Car une personne qui possède la maîtrise de plus d'une langue peut mieux comprendre les autres cultures. La langue dirige les pensées de façon subtile. Dans notre société multiculturelle, si nous pouvons converser dans plus d'une langue, nous pouvons comprendre davantage les multiples facettes de la culture canadienne que nous sommes en train de créer. Ce que nous faisons ici pourrait servir de modèle dans le monde entier.

Je suis fier d'apporter ma contribution au développement de cette société et de participer à cette expérience. Monsieur le président, je compte m'opposer de toutes mes forces à toute entrave à ce développement.

**(Translation)**

As I understand French better than I speak it, I will read my speech.

The constituents of Niakwa are a vignette of Canada. Among them are new Canadians and old, first people and second, Francophones and Anglophones, visible minorities and the disadvantaged. We are a multicultural constituency living and working together. To try and list them all would risk omitting some.

I am a first generation Canadian. My cradle tongue is not French, but Canada is officially bilingual. It is time we stopped worrying about which language to use and concentrated more on learning as many as we can. When a person can use more than one language, it is actually possible to understand other cultures better. Language directs thoughts in subtle ways. Since we are a multicultural society, the greater our ability as a people to converse in more than one language the greater will be our ability to understand the differences inherent in the multi-faceted Canadian culture we are developing. What we do here can become a model for the world.

I am proud to be able to contribute to this development and participate in this great experiment. Mr. Speaker, I will resist with every fibre of my being anything that will hinder this development.

Niakwa is a constituency like all the others. There are local issues which, when examined carefully, have applicability to the province as a whole. Sometimes though, there are concerns which are more narrowly focussed. For this address, I will focus on two of the former and only one of the latter.

We are a society in which systemic secrecy finds easy route. This is true of the school system, as well as any other. Parents have a right to know how their children are succeeding or performing in school, yet it seems the only indicator of this performance is a term report card. Parents have a right to access the records, access the recommendations and the test scores which form the basis for their youngster being placed in special programs or not. Foreknowledge and early intervention can often ameliorate the need for later special programs. I am encouraged that the Freedom of Information Act will be proclaimed September 30 of this year. It will come none too soon for the Parents Educational Rights Coalition.

Another issue concerning residents of Niakwa deals with services to seniors. This too has applicability to the province as a whole. Our seniors put a great deal of their life into the system which we now enjoy. However, it often appears that they, who helped develop it, derive less than their fair share from it. It is incumbent upon us to make certain that the budget restraints we feel may be necessary today are not made at the expense of those who built this country. We must be careful that we do not punish their prudence and their good management. We must also be careful that our social policies do not remove them from effective participation in our society. What we must bear in mind is that we, too, will one day be where they are and unless our priorities will have changed for the better, we will feel as they do.

Flowing out of this is one of their major concerns, that of health care. Seniors realize that they will make more immediate demands on the health care system than we who are presently in this Chamber. It is encouraging that the Speech from the Throne made reference to the suggestion that the health care system should benefit from lottery revenues.

Our seniors favour choice in lotteries. They do not state that we should divide the lottery pie differently so that those organizations that are presently getting their revenues from lottery funds — what they are saying is "have choice." They are not saying "divide the pie"; they are saying "create a new lottery," perhaps something like the St. Boniface Hospital Lottery. If we must have a voluntary tax like lotteries are, at least let us decide where we want this tax revenue to go.

I will be watching to see what kind of amendments to The Manitoba Lotteries Foundation Act will flow out of the Needs Assessment Study mentioned in the Throne Speech.

One of the issues in Niakwa that is more narrowly focussed than the two just mentioned deals with the

encroachment of the city on the surrounding farm land. Rural land farmed within the City of Winnipeg boundaries is taxed at a higher rate than rural land outside of these boundaries. Land taxed on the basis of development potential cannot be farmed economically. Farming is far too an expensive occupation today. Farmers should be encouraged to use our best farm land for agriculture and not be driven to subdividing it for yet another residential development. Special classification on the four-acre rule on land used for agricultural purposes at the urban fringe mitigates against any sensible agricultural policy in an area that used to serve the city well with dairy farms and market gardens.

I will be very interested again in seeing whether the assessment reform referred to in the Speech from the Throne will include implementation of the conclusions of the Weir Commission report, and judging by the references made to this report by the Member for Ste. Rose, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Cummings), when he spoke on Monday the 25th, it appears that it will be. I have constituents most anxious that this is done quickly.

I have made reference to three specific clauses in the Speech from the Throne because these three have direct impact upon my constituency, but some general observations are called for as well.

A Throne Speech is not expected to be a detailed blueprint of legislative action — rather it is a sketch, an artist's rendition of a Government's legislative agenda — but what this document has sketched gives me grave pause for concern. We hear that the deficit in taxes will be reduced; yet, by the same token, commitments are made to increasing expenditures. Just listen: Significant additions to be made to the Estimates to intensify efforts of tourism marketing; improvements in provincial highways — one hopes that this means real construction and repair rather than the visual improvement caused by mowings of rights-of-way — revitalization of the Manitoba Research Council, facilities and staff; addition to educational resources for Aids and drug and alcohol education; increased funding for independent schools; also additional resources for the child protection centre; more day care spaces; and even funding to reduce the backlog of court cases; and I have not exhausted the list. Perhaps I should note that I am a novice MLA, but I am aware of the different euphemisms for the term "more money."

In this Throne Speech we have it all, the wish list of a young child at Christmas time, secure in the knowledge that Santa brings gifts for free because the child does not associate price tags with them. We, however, know that this is not so. Everything must be paid for. I am not so sure I can accept the concept that all of these costs can be borne out of the savings implicitly implied in the term "better management." I am reminded by the experience of our northern citizens, the aboriginal people, whether they be status or non-status who legitimately point out that there is not enough viable economic development in their communities to generate the employment opportunities which provide the jobs that pay the taxes which should pay for the social services in their communities. Things seem to

be the wrong way around. The social service delivery systems are the major employers in these communities.

So what happens when these programs cease to operate or cease to be funded? An economy driven by service industry development rests on the fragile assumption that program funds will continue to be allocated. I see this Government's intention as indicated in the Throne Speech following a very similar philosophy. It is the social delivery systems, health, education, special needs groups, noble programs all which lead off the economic hit parade. All of these programs are important in our society. However, they must be paid for like anything in our economy.

References made to making use of our energy resource by attracting energy intensive industries to Manitoba, however, northerners need the reassurance of Government that the location of these industries will benefit them directly in spinoff investment. We hope that the long-term strategies which are to be developed cooperatively, and that was a term used in the Throne Speech, to address the North's unique problems and challenges will bear more fruit than the previous development strategies made by other administrations at other times.

Implementation of a strategy is the bottom line, not another study. Manitoba's wealth is in the north. Our population and business infrastructure is in the south. We have to make a commitment towards balancing this inequality.

\* (1740)

Canada's western most Atlantic seaport is in Manitoba at Churchill. A fully implemented northern development strategy must include greater use of this national but frequently overlooked resource. Our north must be developed with a view to retaining the multiplier effect of development in the north. We must commit ourselves to using the North's natural advantages in being resource and energy rich to overcome the major disadvantage of being so far away from any market of consequence.

The mega projects which have been brought forward to develop the North's hydro potential provide but short-term employment and short-term investment. Once completed the benefits of the project accrue to the south. As Members of urban ridings, we on this side of the House here tend to be criticized for not having enough regional diversification. But anyone can see that any energy intensive industries that will be attracted to Manitoba because of our bountiful energy supplies will because of the high cost of the high voltage transmission lines already in place mean that these industries will be located in the south. How does this fact square with northern economic diversification? While I am on this topic of energy, why not instead encourage greater domestic use of our own electric energy so we become less dependent upon the decreasing amounts of fossil fuels which can only become more expensive as time goes by and we will find ourselves in another energy crisis. Let us use our own.

It is time we rise to the challenge presented to us in the north and commit ourselves to meaningful

northern development despite economic pressures to do otherwise. We have the assurances of the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) that the officials from the wheat board and the Government of Canada with whom he met just a short while ago assured him that the Port of Churchill will ship grain this year. However, considering past practice, that the type of grain shipped through Churchill normally comes from outside of the Churchill railway advantage area, one tends to question the meaning behind some of these assurances. Simple economics to my mind dictate that every possible advantage that Churchill might offer in the form of reduced freight costs would be capitalized on. Instead what I see seems to be decisions made to put Churchill's natural advantages in the worst possible light.

I would think that the Wheat Board, which signs its contracts well in advance of even the seaway's shipping season, could ship grain over the Hudson Bay line in late winter and spring, and store this same grain in the terminal elevators at Churchill in order to be able to take advantage of the first ship docking there, to pick up its first load, instead of deciding to ship the grain when the first ship arrives. I understand from the Members to my left here who talked yesterday that there is a three-week shipping delay.

Circumstances even mitigate against using Churchill as our northern re-supply base. Fuel for the isolated northern communities comes north by ship. This is because fuels can be delivered to Montreal by pipeline from Alberta at a fraction of the cost of delivering fuel from the nearest pipeline supplied refinery at Regina, and then transported to Churchill by train. But since we are already loading boats at Montreal with fuel, why not throw in the groceries as well? Consequently, Churchill loses out on a tremendous amount of re-supply custom.

Taxpayers right now subsidize our use of Churchill. How much taxpayer support went into the construction of the pipeline? How much of what should be our traffic right now is benefitting another region? What is more, the St. Lawrence Seaway, which competes directly with Churchill, also built with massive public support, is going to become a money sink again. It is an aging system that needs to be reconstructed soon. Last year's problems on the Welland Canal are just a harbinger of worse things to come.

The Churchill route also needs to be refurbished, but we are always told it will cost too much money. There will be too little benefit, and when the costs are paraded out, it seems to me that the arguments always are — what is the word? — cumulative. They add on the cost of refurbishing the line. They add to that the cost of the articulated cars. They add on the cost of everything else, when rather simply saying, one or the other, or the other option should be used, and then we only talk about a third of the potential cost. When I hear this argument, I always ask myself, to whom will the benefits actually accrue?

By now it is also expected that most of the Liberals will speak about Meech Lake, and I am not going to disappoint you. Others will address this much more eloquently than I can, so I will restrict my —(Interjection)—

well, I humbly perhaps will accept that, but I must — I have also heard our critic for that particular document speak, and I think that it is a moot point.

I will restrict my comments to my critic area of responsibilities. I will begin my preface in my remarks by stating that had the 11 First Ministers been less interested in striking a deal and more interested in developing a constitution for our country all the inequities now evident would have been addressed in open forum.

When I had a chance to meet our Member for Parliament in St. Boniface in the hallway here the other day, I gave him my reservations about the Meech Lake Accord. He said, oh, you have fallen in line, or you have accepted the chips' argument. This is the one that says that gave away our bargaining chips in the deal. That may be, but that chips' argument is very important for the subsequent comments I am about to make. The way it stands right now, Quebec has achieved its distinct society and has veto power over anything it sees as weakening its position within Confederation, so opening up Meech Lake now will weaken this strong hand. I can understand the reluctance of the Prime Minister of that province in doing this. However, my perspective is that of a Manitoban. We are a small province with very little ability to affect the agendas of the more powerful, more populous, provinces.

In this, we are very like the aboriginal people who signed their treaties in good faith. For a piece of land, some trinkets and a bit of cash, they extinguished their title to vast lands which they had called their own. Today we see what effect this has had on their culture and economic development.

Our entitlements in Meech Lake are very similar. Replace the words with Meech Lake terminology and land becomes judges, trinkets become senators, and cash becomes the veto that all the provinces will have.

Our aboriginal people are calling for self-government, self-determination for themselves. They simply want the same rights and privileges that all the rest of us have had for so long. But such democratic rights cannot be obtained without strong economic guarantees. Without meaningful economic development at the primary and secondary industrial levels, it will be impossible to stop the cycle of pouring more social service money into a region in order to create temporary jobs. You need a solid economic resource base to supplant the traditional economy of fishing and hunting in order to create the multiplier effect of true job creation.

So what has this got to do with Meech Lake? Meech Lake has the effect of freezing the economic status quo. I have absolutely no quarrel with the cultural aspirations of the people in the Province of Quebec, but when we acknowledge that Government is made up of people and power, I fear for my children's future. When one has power, one tends to exercise power.

Manitoba will not have any power to negotiate, to argue, to sway, but it will have power to deny, to withhold the cultural or developmental aspirations of any other

province or territory in this country. That is not what constitutional reform should be all about. Constitutions should be framed in constructive terminology, not destructive terminology; in enabling terminology, not withholding terminology.

Make the economic opportunities more equitable in order to have us all on side. Future constitutional change will be meaningless because it will be unable to address the issue of sharing economic power. I do not know about you, but I think that the economic potential of Manitoba is such that we should not have to go to Ottawa or provinces to the east of us, cap in hand.

I see the writing on the wall. Churchill as a seaport is constantly derided. Economic decisions are made so that this port cannot compete economically. Other interests have far too much at stake to develop competition elsewhere. We have no say in this except to call upon the taxpayer for subsidies for our economic and social development.

\* (1750)

This is economic disincentive. It has nothing to do with the "distinct society" clause of Meech Lake, although I recognize the inherent problem in the use of this term, but it has everything to do with the economic implication of the denial of meaningful Senate reform. It has everything to do with the denial of the aboriginal peoples' aspirations for self-government which has the economic implications for the provinces and the federal Government because the term self-government implies control over land and its subsequent development.

Let us not forget that the same 11 Ministers who said yes to Meech Lake, said no to the aboriginal peoples' desire for self-government. The term they wanted to use was simply too broad. For us, Meech Lake is, accept it with all its flaws; we will fix it later. For them it was fix it first, you cannot have flaws in a constitutional document. For me personally, opposition to Meech Lake is not about Quebec, but rather it has to do with the economic institution of power sharing in Canada. The only institution that I can see coming out of this, which is going to give us the opportunity to have these economic institutions for power sharing, is an elected, effective and equal Senate with powers to offset the problem of two very populous provinces with representation that mirrors this population and that favors their development.

It would also, I might add, permit us to accommodate the aboriginal people's concerns that some of their issues can only be addressed by representation at the national federal level and a national federal forum. We have here in Manitoba the opportunity to significantly contribute to the cause of an improved, renewed Canadian federalism, a significant contribution as that made by the father of Manitoba, Louis Riel.

I look forward to the public hearings promised in the Throne Speech. I look forward to hearing Manitobans describe their vision of Canada just as they did in 1870. And there, Sir, I rest my prepared comments. However, I will take advantage of the fact that you did say 40 minutes, and I will beg the indulgence of this House for a few moments more to address some more, as my honourable colleague from Radisson (Mr. Patterson) stated yesterday, trifling matters.

The first matter that he raised was the fact that driving up Memorial Boulevard and looking at this imposing structure it looked like you had a used car lot in front, and I trust that the people who are in charge of these things can do something about that.

Whereas the Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson) referred to the front of the building, I am going to refer to something on the Assiniboine side. I referred to in my address that Louis Riel was an important historical figure in Canada and in Manitoba. I want to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the statue and the containment wall around it has been very badly defaced and I think this is not a very good comment upon how we value and honour people who are important to us and our development in this province.

I would like to encourage — no, I would actually like to push if I could — whatever necessary buttons need to be pushed in order for some funds to be set aside to rectify that situation post haste.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to address you. I think I have overcome my first speech jitters.

**Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan):** Six o'clock?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? This matter will stand in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan. The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).