

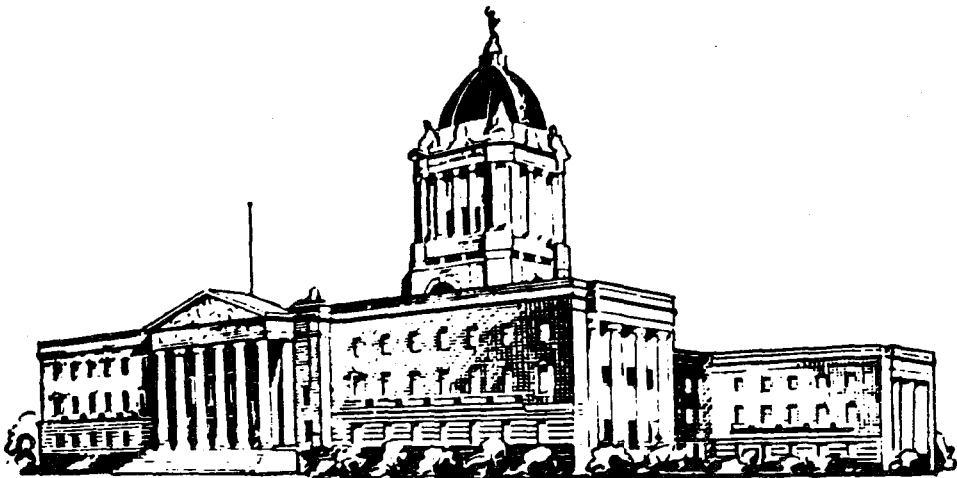


First Session — Thirty-First Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

26 Elizabeth II

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10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 1, 1977

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY of MANITOBA

Thursday, December 1, 1977

Time:10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the gallery on my left, where we have 36 students of Grade 11 and 12 standing of the Roseau Valley Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. Asher. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson. On behalf of all honourable members, I bid you welcome.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister to whom the Manitoba Development Corporation reports, I'd like to pose a question to the First Minister, as head of the government. Is the directive to discontinue any advances to commercial corporations issued by this government, is that to apply to Churchill Forest Industries which has required more advances in the last two years than — ten times as much as any of the other corporations operated by the Manitoba Development Corporation? Is that directive to apply to Churchill Forest Industries?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that specifically as notice. My impression is that it does not apply, but I would have to take it as notice.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to see that the government is flexible. Does the directive, Mr. Speaker, apply to Morden Fine Foods, in which a private company abandoned an industry in the community and which the public has maintained for several years, and which has an opportunity of operating successfully and thereby providing a very good integrated industry in middle-western Manitoba?

MR. LYON: We'll take that question as notice.

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

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I gather, and I wish to be corrected if I'm wrong, that when the First Minister says that he takes that question as notice, that it implies that there is a possibility that the directive does not apply to Morden Fine Foods.

MR. LYON: You can gather what you want. I took it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. EDWARD SCHREYER (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Health is with us, I should like to ask the question I had in mind and that is to ask the honourable minister if he can either report progress with respect to talks relating to the work stoppage at Misericordia, or alternatively, that he has made definitive plans to meet directly with the two parties to the dispute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L.R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I can't report progress in the sense that the Leader of the Opposition is seeking. I can report continuation of discussions and negotiations between the union and the negotiators for the hospital and the Manitoba Health Services Commission. I have not been asked for direct intervention. I would like to feel that the dispute can be settled through the normal collective bargaining process without intervention on my part. I would stand ready to intervene if that request is forthcoming. At the moment my understanding is that the hospital is operating on a "work to rule" basis with a patient-load approximately between 160 and 180 patients and that there are no emergency situations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem whatsoever accepting the minister's word that he has not been asked for direct intervention. But given that he has on previous occasions, in identical circumstances, both asked and urged his predecessor to intervene directly at an early stage whenever there was a work stoppage at a health care institution, can he now indicate that he is at least giving serious consideration to doing what he used to preach?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I am also giving serious consideration to allowing normal collective bargaining processes to achieve a successful result. If they fail to do so and if a crisis situation emerges, then intervention will doubtless be necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Before we proceed I would like to correct an error that has come to my attention. The school that we have in the gallery is the W.C. Miller Collegiate from Altona, and that is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rhineland. There are 32 students under the direction of a Mr. Smith. On behalf of all members, we welcome you here today.
The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General. In his remarks introducing the legislation on family law a few evenings back, he indicated that he foresaw major problems with the federal income tax changes. Could he tell us when his last contact has been with officials of the federal government to determine what their inclination or their willingness is to make those changes in the immediate future?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can itemize the last communications. There was a letter in October — I don't remember the precise date from the Federal Minister of Finance to the Honourable Saul Miller, the then Minister of Finance — indicating that these amendments to the Income Tax Act were proposed. There was a letter to me dated November 14th of this year, from Honourable Ron Basford, indicating that amendments were in the process of being considered.

I have written yesterday, Mr. Speaker, to the Honourable Ron Basford, pointing out the urgency of the required amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Meer for Fort Rouge with a supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can I take from the minister's answer then that he has had no direct personal conversation or discussion with any federal official concerning what steps they would be prepared to take to accommodate the position in Manitoba in relation to the Income Tax Act?

MR. MERCIER: No, I have not yet, Sir, but I intend to follow that through and speak personally to Mr. Basford. I might add in addition that I believe every Attorney-General in Canada is expressing interest in amendments to the Income Tax Act in order to introduce marital property legislation in their provinces.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, that raises the question, is the Attorney-General prepared to withdraw the legislation he introduced if in fact federal officials indicate they are prepared to make the necessary changes in the Income Tax Act to accommodate the enforcement of the Family Law as it was originally prescribed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is hypothetical, and we will wait to see what the results are.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I address my question to the Minister of Labour, the minister in charge of the Civil Service. In view of the answer that she gave me the other day in the question period, that all members of the Civil Service Commission have been notified of meetings and subsequent checking has found out that this is not so, can she assure the House that now that she is taking steps to ensure that all members of the Civil Service Commission are notified of meetings?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. NORMA PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, on speaking to Mr. Newton, I understand that it has been a practice of the previous government to invite people to meetings on a rotating basis.

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

MR. JENKINS: No, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. He may wish to take this question as notice. Can the First Minister tell this House in approximate cost — and since we're in a period of restraint — what the swearing-in ceremonies of the Cabinet cost to the taxpayers of the province of Manitoba, since it was one of the most elaborate in living memory in history of this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister without Portfolio who is co-chairman of a task force on government organization and economy. Would he be good enough to explain to the House what he means by the first sentence in his November 22nd press release, wherein he says, in part, "written submissions from the general public and from civil servants aimed at furthering its objectives." Whose objectives?

HON. SIDNEY SPIVAK (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, the objectives of the task force.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs — or no, I suppose it's in his capacity as Minister of Industry and Commerce. A day or two ago, he indicated to the House, he had expressed an interest and desire, that in the course of disposing assets of crown corporations, he would want to see to it that jobs for Manitobans are preserved. But, about two weeks ago, he had advised us that he had cancelled reservations for the MS Lord Selkirk for the following operational year. How does one square with the other in his mind?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health. Is the Minister of Health intent on continuing government policy that institutions within the ambit of his jurisdiction will be encouraged, that price and quality being equal, to give Morden Fine Foods products, which are excellent products produced by the people of the province of Manitoba, a fair shake in food purchases by those institutions? **MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, there's no decision on that specific question as yet, but I think that I can assure the minister that the fair shake that he has referred to will continue to be offered.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Would the minister in his capacity as being responsible, I believe, for government purchasing — do I have the correct minister? — see to it that previous provisions which did not even permit Morden to bid on contracts in institutions directly owned and controlled by the administration of the government of Manitoba will not continue and that Morden Fine Foods will be able to have an equal right to supply food in those institutions, price and quality being equal?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Chairman, I wish to take part of the question as notice. I can simply indicate to the honourable minister that, in general, the intent of the Purchasing Act of Manitoba will be carried out in its completeness, that in as many instances as possible, if not all, the full and open tender system will be adhered to. I certainly want to rescind any Cabinet directives or orders which emanated from the honourable members opposite that directed certain Manitobans as to what beans and vegetables they can or cannot eat.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I assume that the department will no longer, as in previous years and even during the many years under our administration, to my regret, that the department will not be permitted to specify Heinz or Libbys when asking people to bid on contract.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): That question is a fair question, I'll accept that as notice and review the past and the current purchasing practices of the department of public works.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to remind the member for Inkster that he has had two supplementaries already.

MR. GREEN: I believe that I just asked two questions of this honourable minister, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: That leaves one more question.

MR. GREEN: The next question, Mr. Speaker, will also be an important and significant one.

Would the honourable minister also, Mr. Speaker, see to it that in the tendering procedure, sub-trades are required in their bids to have inclusion of a Morden product as part of the bid at least as an alternate, so that sub-trades are not able to circumvent the purchasing of goods produced by the farmers of the province of Manitoba. —(Interjection)— We tried, yes.

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

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable first minister. In view of the fact that this virtuous government stated that it wants to live up to the intent of the law, has he considered the intent of the law seeing that he can't remove any commissioners from the Civil Service Commission, to name additional people and then leave the others in effect off the commission. Does he feel this is in the intent of the law or not mocking the law?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if my honourable friend intended his question to be facetious or not.

The additions made and the alterations made in the Civil Service Commission were made pursuant to amendments to that act which were brought in by the honourable members opposite when they were in government.

MR. DESJARDINS: Isn't it a fact, Mr. Speaker, that you can't in effect remove any commissioner without the two-thirds vote of this House?

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member for St. Boniface will wait until he is recognized, then I would allow him to proceed with his question. The Honourable Member for St. Boniface, if he has a question. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. Given the reference to amendments made to the act in recent years, I should like to ask if there is anything in the act that authorizes the convening of meetings of the commission without due notice to those who are still members of the commission, or any one of them.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe that interpretation of any statute may require legal opinion and those types of questions are, I understand, not supposed to be asked in this Chamber.

MR. SCHREYER: I am not asking for a legal opinion, Mr. Speaker. I am asking whether the government is satisfied that it is acceptable procedure that meetings of the Civil Service Commission should be convened without due normal notice to all members who constitute that commission.

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

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I was rather intrigued with the answer given to the House by the Minister of Public Works on the question of consumer preferences within the institutions of Manitoba. I am wondering whether the Minister of Public Works would indicate to the House whether they inquire from each patient at the Selkirk and Brandon institutions as to whether they wish to have Heinz or Aylmers or whatever it is.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. ENNS: I really thought that I had made that very clear that it is our intention not to do that kind of inquiry, but more important not to tell them what to do, which the previous minister of public works did. And that includes, I may say Mr. Speaker, whether or not they would choose to eat black beans.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, a question to the minister of public works without any preamble of a facetious nature as to black beans or red beans or whatever. I should like to ask the minister of public works if he is aware that provinces that do exercise a five percent preference, in terms of the ordering of supplies produced and manufactured within the province, are engaging in the practice of telling anyone what should be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'm very much aware that some provinces do have that preferential treatment within their jurisdiction and show that preferential treatment to suppliers of goods and

services, particularly sometimes in the construction industry. I think, to the credit of the province of Manitoba, we have stayed away from that kind of preferential treatment which brings about basic costs and dilutes the effectiveness of the tender system.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I obviously, under the rules, can't argue the point whether this is a normal or rather unusual practice in Canada but I would ask the honourable minister to check to see how many provinces are, in fact, engaging in that kind of policy. My question, Sir, is to the Minister of Public Works still having to do with the tender process. Is the Minister of Public Works in a position to confirm or deny that, indeed, in 1969 and previous years that two officials of the government of the province of Manitoba, working in the Department of Industry and Commerce I believe, were on the road taking up orders for Canadian Cannors Limited, at that time operating at Morden, and on the government payroll?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'll accept that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Attorney-General. In view of the Attorney-General's acknowledgement on CBC radio that he was unable to provide an answer insofar as his position in regard to extension of equal sharing to commercial assets and to fault being a factor in the awarding of maintenance orders, is it his intention to refer those unresolved matters to the board of review for their recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe with respect to the comment that was made with respect to whether or not I could give a personal commitment to 50-50 sharing of commercial assets, I believe that I indicated no, and that would only be in keeping with the existing legislation, which does provide for some little jurisdiction.

The question with respect to fault, I think, was a concern that I indicated had been expressed by a number of people when I introduced the bill and was a matter that would probably be reviewed by the review committee in their consideration of the Law Reform Commission Report which did indicate some support for fault and they may also consider that in connection with other legislation in other provinces.

MR. PAWLEY: A supplementary. The Honourable Attorney-General also indicated or announced on the CBC program that he favoured the submission of written briefs to the board or review rather than briefs in person. Has that preference on his part been conveyed to the board of review?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

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

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Attorney-General also announced that he would prefer that matters pertaining to personal briefs be dealt with by a legislative committee. Is he proposing that as per his announcement on CBC radio that there will be the establishment of a legislative committee, a special legislative committee, dealing with family law?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I believe what I indicated was that if, in fact, there were written submissions made to the review committee that these would be available to any legislative committee which had an opportunity at some point in time to review any proposed amendments.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce and ask him whether the course of action taken with respect to the business operations of the Lord Selkirk will serve as a precedent for the manner in which he would deal with other corporations which he may be of a mind to sell. That is, to cancel whatever purchase orders they may have for whatever goods or services that they may provide.

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

HON. ROBERT (BOB) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer that question plus the one posed previously by the Member for Burrows. First of all, let me say that when we took

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office we were forced to pass an Order in Council for \$156,000 to keep the offices of Venture Tours and the Gull Harbor Lodge open. Yesterday in Cabinet we passed another Order in Council for \$112,000 additional funds required to just meet commitments on payables from the Lord Selkirk and others. The reason that we had to move fast on the MS Lord Selkirk is, we would like to ask, and we will be putting the ads in the paper in a very short time hoping that we can get some response back from people that are interested in operating that boat before the end of the year. The reasons for the urgency of this particular matter is exactly the question that my honourable friend has referred to, and that is, we would like to see the boat go ahead and operate next year and the only way we can do that is try and get somebody to take it over now so that they can advertise properly in the proper tour books and that type of thing to make sure that there are a number of people around that will take advantage of this tourist facility.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, as a follow-up to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce's statement on the Lord Selkirk. I believe that the position is to attempt to sell this enterprise. On the assumption that a worthwhile bid may not be forthcoming . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I remind the member that questions of assumption are not permitted in our Chambers.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, then I'll ask the question. Is the Minister of Industry and Commerce prepared to guarantee the operation of the Lord Selkirk in the forthcoming tourist season of 1978? Is he prepared to guarantee the operation or is he going to sit in dry dock?

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

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, it's too soon to say. I'm an optimist, I've always been an optimist, and I think that we'll be able to find a private entrepreneur that will operate the facility.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Well, the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce sounds very optimistic but I have no confidence that he's — (Interjection) — I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce can be more explicit as to the possibilities of having that vessel operate as a tourist asset in the forthcoming year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I ask the question only because the minister is a self-proclaimed optimist. I would ask him if his optimism is such that he feels that the public announcement of cancellation of the receiving of reservations in any way enhances prospects of sale at considered value?

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

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that if the sale is done within the very near future, like we are proceeding along those lines now, that there should not be any adverse effects with regard to some of those contracts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker' again, my question is based on some premise of optimism as well. Is my honourable friend the Minister of Industry and Commerce optimistic that this same vessel can operate with a rate of return, as is indeed necessary in the private sector given the fact that its inception was under the very same circumstances of shareholder stock company operations?

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

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, again coming back to my previous statement, we are proceeding on the optimistic presumption that we're going to find some people that are interested in operating the facility.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the previous efficient private people who operated it got \$750 of yours and my money, of public money, to make them private efficient operators who then went broke, would the minister undertake to this House, that in any sale to the private sector, any

public financing will be disclosed, any public operating subsidies will be disclosed or any public assistance of whatever other nature will be disclosed to this Legislature, which it wasn't the first time we gave them the 750,000.

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

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, the arrangements, or the sale, or the leasing of that particular enterprise will be made public to the Legislature. And, let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that there was an offer made to the previous administration for over 200,000 for that particular facility, and we've lost almost a million dollars in operating since that particular offer was turned down by the previous administration. We might have been much better off to sell it at that time and have the public sector operate it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry and Commerce. Can he advise the members of the House whether the government, through the MDC, will be placing a reserve bid on this particular asset? In other words, is there a limit below which you will not sell this vessel — 200,000, or will you sell it for a dollar, or fifty cents, or is it a million, or just what is the limit to which you will go?

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, and here we come back to a problem that the previous minister in charge of the Manitoba Development Corporation had with regards to public companies and the laundering of those particular financial responsibilities within the public sector. Let me say that the province of Manitoba was not ready to lose the additional \$250,000 to \$300,000 that were projected loss operating costs for the next year, and therefore we will be looking at all the different proposals that are made, and the one that we feel is the best one will be aired to the public.

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

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether it is his intention to introduce soon the regulations with respect to the Farmlands Protection Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JIM DOWNEY (Arthur): I would like to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. USKIW: No, it's not a supplementary. It's a second question to the same minister, Mr. Speaker, and that is, what is going to be the amount of the subsidy under the Beef Income Assurance Program this year?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, there will be an official announcement coming forward in the near future, and the minister will be made aware of it as soon as it is available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development.

A MEMBER: When you make jobs in the city, it's welfare — they're bums in the city, but if they're farmers, give it to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please, Order, please.

MR. AXWORTHY: I thought I was asking a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I suggest to all members that if they want to make statements, that they do it at the proper time on the Order Paper. If they want to ask a question, let them be recognized in the normal manner, and if they want to talk to their neighbour, I suggest they do it outside the Chamber. Now, the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I was asking a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I wonder if the minister could indicate to the House whether, in fact, the government has undertaken a major cutback in the staffing and servicing to the community

mental home arrangements in the province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker, most assuredly not.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, in that respect then, could the minister explain why it is that in the particular group home at 720 Ebby, there has been a cutback to one staff person from a previous complement of two or three, and that the training programs have been severely cut back at that particular home?

MR. SHERMAN: No, I can't explain that, Mr. Speaker, but I'll get an explanation for the honourable member.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, with a final question.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, just a final supplementary. Can the minister indicate whether any discussions have been held with officials of the Canadian Mental Health Association to determine what the future prospects of the community mental health program will be in the province? Is it going to be expanded? Will it be frozen, or has there been any discussion as to where it goes from here?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the fate and the direction of the community mental health program is similar to that faced by all programs in the social development, social assistance, and community service field at the present time. I'm meeting with all external agencies that I can on the limited schedule that's been available to me to date and with my departmental officials, reviewing programs and proposed projections for the coming fiscal year. It's our intention to maintain all essential services.

MR. SPEAKER: May I point out that there's five minutes left in the question period. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health. In the event that he has already made a statement on this, I apologize for even asking. The question is, can the Minister of Health indicate to the House and to those directly concerned and interested, whether the government will proceed with the plateauing of day care service support, or whether there will be, and is already, some alteration of the level of operation and support?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Leader of the Opposition has a legitimate interest in all these subjects, and rightly so, but I would just say to him, with all respect, Mr. Speaker, that many of the questions being asked both by him and by his colleagues, probe very deeply into the area of policy. When I was on the other side of the House, we never had an answer from this side with respect to any subject touching on government policy. We are trying to co-operate in providing as much information as we can at the present time, but that's obviously a question that's being reviewed by the Executive Council right now. I'll announce it as soon as I have some policy announcement to make in that area.

MR. SCHREYER: I do not believe that my question asked for an indication of policy. I asked whether the minister can confirm or indicate whether the current — the very current, in fact operation level — is one of plateauing, or whether there is some modification already at work, in which case, that's obviously not a matter of policy yet to be implemented.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I suppose the question is semantics, Mr. Speaker. There is no modification already at work in terms of dollars and cents. There may be modification at work in wide areas in terms of assessment and review, but there is no financial modification at work.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Selkirk.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Honourable the Attorney-General. Could the Attorney-General advise the House as to whether a decision has yet been made in regard to the appointment of a new chairman of the Law Reform Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: No, Sir, there has not yet been a decision on the appointment of a new chairman. In fact, the position is to be readvertised in a relatively short time.

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

MR. PAWLEY: No, it's not a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address this question through you to the government House Leader. The government is a party of tradition, and is the government House Leader prepared to assure this House at this time, that when the family law legislation goes to the Law Amendments Committee, that the traditional useage of hearing public representation will be continued?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, that assurance has already been given.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce. Could he advise the House whether discussions and/or negotiations are under way between him and anyone in his department responsible to him with a firm known as Paddlewheel Boats, which operates the Paddlewheel Queen and the Paddlewheel Princess with respect to the acquisition of the the Lord Selkirk.

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

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, let me say that we have not placed any ads in the newspapers but we have had some real good exposure, front page exposure, and we have had a lot of enquiries on people asking about that particular facility so that very easily could be that some people on the staff, my deputy minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, is handling those calls and it could very easily be that he has not had a call from those people.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of NORTHERN Affairs.

HON. KEN MacMASTER(Thompson): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to reply to a question from the Honourable Member for Rupertsland yesterday in regard to the size of the fish mesh in Lake Winnipegosis. Were you saying from 4 to 4 ¼? Was that your question?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose for explanation. .

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Mr. Speaker, the question I asked of the minister was whether he had any plans to reduce the net size from 4 ¼ to 4.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed to the best of my ability within a few short hours the situation and it is my understanding that approximately two to three years ago I'm sure I will be corrected by the Member for Inkster — the Member for Inkster met with the fishermen and told them at that time that they had three options, I believe. One was to go to 4 ¼ immediately; one was to phase it in; one was to take notice that three years hence they would be required to use a 4 ¼. Following that, the Honourable Member for Rupertsland became involved as the minister, and rightly so, and the order was not followed through, or the suggestion was not followed through.

I understand that early last spring or early summer, a directive on the order of the minister was sent to all the fishermen in that area telling them that the size of the fish net would in fact increase to 4 ¼ as the Honourable Member for Inkster had originally indicated. Subsequent to that, within two to three weeks, the order was changed and a portion of the lake has been designated to use 4 ¼ fish net. It is sort of confusing and to say exactly what my policy will be at this point, I can't tell you, but that's where we stand now, that certain parts of that lake are required to use 4 ¼ and the rest are using 4.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I want to point out to him that the Question Period has expired. By leave, if the House so desires . . .

MR. SCHREYER: No, I don't choose to ask for leave, Sir. I have a follow-up question; it will wait until tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. On the proposed . . . The Opposition House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of procedure. I gave my honourable friend notice yesterday — this is with regard to the procedures of the House — can the Honourable House Leader advise this House, at this early and late stage in the session, how many more bills we can expect to receive.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid it is with some trepidation that I have to tell my honourable friend that there is going to be one more bill that will be introduced but if he insists, we will not introduce it. That bill has to do with the supply that is required in order to pay honourable gentlemen.

MR. GREEN: Is my honourable friend suggesting that I have a veto power over the question of members' indemnity? Is that acceptable to those fellows over there?

MR. JORGENSON: On this particular bill, yes.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Pembina, and the amendment moved by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker and honourable members, I rise with inflated power. A moment ago, I felt rather a feeble member of the House in terms of the previous powers that I had but the Honourable House Leader now says that I have the power of suggesting that all members opposite will receive no indemnity for the work that they have done in this part of the session and I therefore indicate to honourable members that they should treat me nicely from now on, at least until the end of the session.

I would like first of all, Mr. Speaker, in entering the Throne Speech debate which I have always done, without exception, to deal with the question of the Speaker, and I indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I am not going to do the traditional thing and convey the usual flattering remarks on your appointment and how nicely I expect you to do the job. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that the job is a difficult one but I, unlike others, Mr. Speaker, do not expect you to change. I do not expect that as a result of your sitting in that seat that you suddenly become a person who is neutral insofar as his political opinions are concerned. I do not expect that suddenly the basis upon which your electors decided to name you as their elected representative and the policies that you wish to pursue in seeking their support will suddenly be forgotten by you and ignored.

I do expect, Mr. Speaker, that you will attempt — and it's a difficult job — to deal with the rules of the House in an impartial manner, knowing full well, Mr. Speaker, that in any event you are not the final adjudicator, that you cannot really offend any political position of the government party, that you cannot really assist or inadvertently give a position to the opposition which will affect the ability of the government to implement their policies because, in the last analysis, it is the House who will decide as to how they should proceed. So I say, Mr. Speaker, that without any fear of difficulty as to your political position, that you will be able to deal with the rules of the House and without in any way compromising, Mr. Speaker, because I don't want you to and I don't think you should, compromise the responsibility that you have to the electors who elected you to office on a particular political platform. I expect you, Mr. Speaker, to be the Member for Birtle, to be just as strong in your opinions as to matters of policy, as you were when you sat on the opposition side of the House and as you indicated to your electors you would be when you sought office.

I expect also that you will do what other people have done and in particular I think I should single out the Member for Kildonan, the Member for Logan, the Member for St. Vital, on this side of the House, who tried to cond,

t the proceedings of the House and yet knew that they did not have positions of ultimate control. Mr. Speaker, perhaps that's the most important thing. One of the difficulties of assuming high office is that one lets it go to his head.

So rather than congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, I perhaps can give you a word of gratuitous advice. The holding of that office, with the holding of any high office in government, the most dangerous thing is that it changes the person. I think you must have been a pretty good guy to get the commendation of your electorate and I think that you should remain the type of person that you were before assuming high office. You, yourself, Mr. Speaker, had experience with persons who, having assumed high office, changed to their detriment and to their ultimate real difficulty and I hope and trust that you will not let that occur with regard to yourself.

I also, Mr. Speaker, want to congratulate all of the newly elected members, both on this side of the House, both of whom have participated or will participate in the Throne Speech debate; the mover and seconder of the Speech from the Throne whom I listed to with great interest and those other new members who have been muted to silence by the policy of the government during this session of the legislature.

I want to indicate that in all of the policy discussions that we will be engaged in, I want to take as hard a position and as clear a position as will commend the positions I am taking to the legislature, to the people of the province of Manitoba, to discredit, if I can, the policies and the opinions that they are going to bring into the House without discrediting them as human beings because I regard all of them as being very decent human beings of integrity but I intend to try to belittle, to bring into less credibility the policies that they are pursuing. I expect, Mr. Speaker, and I think that honourable members will agree that I ask no quarter from them, I expect them to try to discredit in as hard a way

as they can and in as effective way as they can, any of the positions that I am pursuing.

I would like, Mr. Speaker, lastly to congratulate the Conservative government — and this comes a little difficult. There is nothing that I respect more than political support and I have to concede that the members of the government have received 49 percent of the vote of the people of the province of Manitoba, between 48 and 49 percent, that it is probably the highest political support that has been received at least in recent years for any governing party in the province of Manitoba.

I would have hoped, Mr. Speaker, when I said that it shouldn't go to your head, I would have hoped that it would have changed some people in their traditional attitudes and in their traditional conduct in the House and particularly I would have hoped that the First Minister, having received that 49 percent, could be gracious enough and could be charitable enough to not be dealing with some of the matters which he has been dealing with in the way he has. However, the First Minister knows better what is good for him than I do. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, nothing succeeds like success and he will carry on just as he wishes.

I want to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I regard the 49 percent as a very important percentage. I regard this government as having received exceeding approval from the people of the province of Manitoba. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate that the opposition in this province is the strongest opposition that has ever been elected to a Manitoba legislature. I want to indicate to the honourable member, and that's exactly the conduct that I am talking about, that the opposition now in opposition on this side of the House, received 40 percent of the approval of the people of the province of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. There are governments in Canada who do not have as much support from the people of the province of Manitoba as this opposition has in terms of reflecting opinion in this province. The province of Quebec does not have more support than the opposition members have on this side, the government of Quebec. The government of which my honourable friend was a member in 1958, in 1962, in 1966, had approximately, Mr. Speaker, the same amount of support as has been conferred upon the opposition, to reflect opposition position in this province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I'm not talking about exactly the same. I'm saying comparable. And you know, it may come badly to the Member for Lakeside, but I say to the members of this House when they are contemplating on their majority of 48 to 49 percent, that let them know that despite the fact that they are the government and I accept it and that they are our representatives to govern this province, that they cannot expect that suddenly opposition opinion in this province is to be muted and is to be silent and is to be considered of no effect because, Mr. Speaker, opposition opinion in this province, which I urged the honourable members to consider, represents as much opinion as has been needed to elect many governments in many provinces in Canada. The province of Saskatchewan has a government with approximately the same vote. The province of Ontario has a government with less than the vote. The province of Quebec has a government with approximately the same vote. And so forth and so forth. Need I say it again? The province has been governed by governing parties who have had less support for their position than the opposition party has in this Legislature.

So if the opposition members or the government members are of the opinion that now that they have taken the seats of government, that they are to come in here and proceed as if we didn't exist, which appeared to be, Mr. Speaker, their initial intention, I want to warn them, Mr. Speaker, that we represent 40 percent of the opinions of the people in this province, that we intend to register those opinions as forcefully and as effectively as we can; that we have no intention on rolling over and playing dead; our intention, Mr. Speaker, is to turn that 40 percent into 50 percent. And if they think that we are coming in here and accommodating the government in such a way as to not see those opinions reflected, then, Mr. Speaker, I want to disabuse them of that position which they had initially, Mr. Speaker.

You know, this session was announced as if it will take a couple of days despite the fact we've got five contentious pieces of legislation on the books which we intend to debate, and I intend to speak on every one of them, and I intend to oppose every one of them, and I intend, Mr. Speaker, — (Interjection)— I told you that I would vote for that one, but I intend to vote against every other one of them, and I intend, Mr. Speaker, to make that 40 percent 51 percent and this is not the first time I'm saying it. I have told the people in our party time and time again that in order for this party to feel secure it will have to get 51 percent.

And I want to warn the honourable members every time they are discussing an issue as to just what that means; that if there are ten people in a room, Mr. Speaker, at the present time five of them could be considered to be government members, four of them support the Official Opposition, one of them supports the Liberals. In that room, Mr. Speaker, if one person changes, the government changes. And I want to warn honourable members that what they think is the honeymoon depends on that fragile degree of support. In ten people, Mr. Speaker, if one person changes, the government changes. And let them know, Mr. Speaker, that of the five opposition people, one of them in the last election voted Liberal and it is my assessment, Mr. Speaker, that in the last election the right wing of the Liberal Party collapsed and went to the Conservatives, which is absolutely right — absolutely right and proper, that's where they belong. But the left wing of the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker, held.

As a matter of fact there was a peculiar situation the Attorney-General will recall, we were at the Law School and Mr. Huband and I were classmates, Mr. Speaker, and he spoke and I spoke, and I got up and said to the students: "Students, Mr. Huband and I were classmates. We went through Law School together. When we were in Law School he was a Conservative. I was not a member of any political party, but let's acknowledge it, I was left of the CCF. What Mr. Huband is suggesting to you is

that we have criss-crossed; that he has moved largely to the left and I have moved largely to the right."

So it's the left wing, Mr. Speaker, of the Liberal Party that did not collapse. And if, Mr. Speaker, in the next election when we are talking about those ten people . . .

A MEMBER: Another ten years and you will be with us.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, there is about as good a chance, there is about as good a chance of me being over there as there is of my honourable friend being with us, about the same. Now you know how much of a chance there is. —(Interjection)— That's right.

But the fact, Mr. Speaker, is that ten people in a room, five Tories, four New Democrats, one Liberal, we have to change, Mr. Speaker, one Liberal or one Tory. And, Mr. Speaker, therefore when the honourable members are talking about their support and are riding high, let them remember how much does it take to change one Tory voter, not Tory, because we all acknowledge that the number of ideological Tories would be 10 percent; the number of ideological New Democrats would be 10 percent; that the broad base of people vote on the question of a general confidence or a general issue and one of them has to change, one in the ten.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition should think about that — yes, the Honourable First Minister should think about that, Mr. Speaker, when he makes the kind of remark which will come to haunt him and eventually he will feel bad about it, he won't smile about it, that the Conservatives cannot be said to be against women; that the Conservatives are the best breeders in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Labour didn't wince when he made that remark. I wonder whether the Minister of Labour — and by the way I have never been of the attitude that women represent women and men represent men — when there has been suggestions in our party that the women have a certain place and the men have a certain place and a certain number of guaranteed positions — I have been the strongest advocate against those types of propositions.

But, Mr. Speaker, I single out the Minister of Labour because she is a woman who of her own right came into this House as an individual and not as a woman, and I asked her, she won't change, she's a member of the Cabinet. I can tell you from personal experience, being a member of a Cabinet is a strong inducement not to change your politics. And the Minister of Labour is a member of the Cabinet. How many people is she going to have to talk to, who voted Tory, and say, "Oh, he was only joking," because all we need is one, Mr. Speaker, — (Interjection)— all we need is one. And is that the kind of a joke that's going to retain in that room of ten people, five Conservatives, one Liberal, four New Democrats.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the honourable members must appreciate that the left wing of the Liberal Party, as the crunch gets harder and harder, does not stay in one place, it becomes for the government or against the government. And just as in the last election the right wing that was against the government voted Conservative that they should contemplate — you know, Mr. Speaker, I really feel bad, I think I should get paid for the continual advice that I give my honourable friends . . .

A MEMBER: You are getting paid.

MR. GREEN: I have a choice of vetoing it, that's right, I have a choice. That they should be aware that that's the thin thread upon which their seats in government rely, depend. And that when they come into this House with the suggestion, Mr. Speaker, they came in with the announcement that we weren't going more than a couple of days; they came in with an Order Paper; they came in with a Question Period; the only thing they didn't bring in with them, Mr. Speaker, to the opening day of the Legislature is the rolls of paper for the paper fight. That's the only thing they left out. I expected them to be coming in with the carton to say that we are finished. Well, Mr. Speaker, we are not finished, we're just beginning.

A MEMBER: Yes.

MR. GREEN: And I say to the honourable members that this side, which is here to convey the kind of opposition opinion which has traditionally in the province of Manitoba been sufficient to form a government, is here to reflect that opinion, to pursue it as hard as we can and to take that one person, whether it comes from the Liberal ranks or the Conservative ranks — I would prefer two, but one will do — and make him an enemy of that government or an opponent of that government which is a much more civilized word I suppose. And that's, Mr. Speaker, to be the strategy of this party in this election.

I intend, Mr. Speaker, to speak on every bill which we are opposing. Therefore I am letting myself run free rein because I know that my time will expire, but what I leave out on the Throne Speech I'm sure I'll be able to fit in within the rules and subject to your approval, Mr. Speaker . . .

A MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, not without your approval.

MR. GREEN: I am quite certain, Mr. Speaker, that what I will do will meet with your approval and I will try to fit in the balance . . .

A MEMBER: You're forewarned. It's going to circumvent your . . .

MR. GREEN: . . . of the remarks within the provisions of the particular bill that I happen to be speaking to.

There's one feature of the opposition strategy which I extremely regret, Mr. Speaker. We are newly elected MLAs and I go back to the day that I was a newly elected MLA, full of what did they say, punch and vinegar, or something like that? —(Interjection)— What is it? Punch and vinegar is good, that's right. Just got the support of the electorate sitting in a new Chamber amongst people that I've read about and heard about and wanting to make my contribution. We got a contribution from the Member for Pembina. I want to congratulate him for it.

I want to warn him a little bit in as good natured a way as I can, that other than in a first speech you cannot get away — other than in a first speech, a maiden speech to the Legislature — you cannot get away with talking about dinosaurs in your constituency, mules in your constituency and fossils in your constituency without taking a hell of a riding. So if you're going to in the future get to the floor know that you will probably not be afforded the same courtesy.

And I heard the Member for Wellington and I enjoyed his remarks particularly . . .

A MEMBER: St. Matthews.

MR. GREEN: . . . St. Matthews, and I think that he was very decent and referring to the previous member. I can tell the Member for Pembina that his previous predecessor was a great friend of everybody in the Chamber and that he has a . . . —(Interjection)— . . . I said the people in the Chamber, yes, who are all on welfare, that's right. And they may be on welfare if I don't exercise my prerogative in a way that satisfies you. Tell the honourable member that he is a man who we would look — we say you are charged with an onerous responsibility to fill issues. But, Mr. Speaker, there are elected members of this House coming into a first session during an eightday Throne Speech debate, whom the government has chosen to say, "You shall not speak." Mr. Speaker, I charge the government and I have heard it and I have heard the Member for Lakeside get up and say that the strategy is . . .

A MEMBER: It's voluntarily now.

MR. GREEN: Well, they voluntarily did what the Board of Directors of the MDC voluntarily did. The Minister of Industry and Commerce said, "I told the Board of Directors that they won't advance money," and they agreed not to advance money. That was their volunteer.

And the Member for Radisson, the Member for Springfield, the Member for Souris-Killarney, the Member for —(Interjection)— not Virden, no. The Member for Virden will speak if he wants to. The Member for Arthur and I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, if I am not remembering all of them. If I do not identify a face with a personality and a seat, Mr. Speaker, I plead not guilty. I charge the First Minister with being guilty of making non-persons out of those MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, I charge the Conservative administration with making non-persons, of a fine group of gentlemen who have been elected by their constituencies, who have come into a first session of the Legislature and who have not even been able to get up and introduce themselves and make their maiden speech and to tell us something about themselves. That, Mr. Speaker, you know I say that the Conservative position is fragile. It rests onkeeping five out of ten people in a room, but it's not nearly so fragile as the First Minister thinks. It's not so fragile that I can't hear from the Member for St. Boniface, Mr. Kovnats, who I have heard a great deal about and I do not name him, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Radisson . . .

A MEMBER: On a point of order, Mr. . . .

MR. GREEN: St. Boniface — St. Boniface — Radisson, Radisson — the Member for Radisson, Mr. Speaker — (Interjection) — the Member for Springfield, the Member for Arthur, who are making some light of it, and I deserve it. But I plead not guilty, Mr. Speaker, if I'm having trouble with the names and the constituencies, because the government, in their strategy, have chosen to make non-persons out of a group of MLAs, newly-elected MLAs. Mr. Speaker, there would be no extension of the time. It would not delay proceedings. The House Leader knows that the Throne Speech is going to last eight days, that part of that time will be used by opposition members, part of that time will be used by government members, but it can't go beyond eight days. —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, you know, the Honourable Member for Morris, who is a friend, is being unfair. I don't believe that I'm crying and I don't believe that the members on this side of the House were crying. But, even if we take him facetiously-seriously, to hi it's more important that we take out our crying towels and cry than that newly-elected MLAs, from Conservative constituencies, are made non-persons of, and are silenced even to the extent of presenting themselves and making some opening remarks at the first session of the Legislature to which they were elected. Mr. Speaker, I'm a rough guy. I am a rough guy. No leader of the New Democratic Party — and I think my colleagues will verify it — would ever be able to keep me quiet at the first session of the Legislature. Nobody. And that's correct. There's no doubt about it, Mr. Speaker. They would not be able to keep me quiet.

A MEMBER: We all know that.

MR. GREEN: The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, has indicated that he has a kind of control, and a kind of authority, that can silence all of those people — (Interjection) — that's right. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether, going back to those ten people in a room, whether one of them could be a bit more assertive, to investigate Manitoba ten for ten, for that was a person, and, say, the wife of the "Well, I've never been a New Democrat, but really they're not nearly as bad as I thought they were, and, by the way, that guy Lyon has got to be beat." A man who would get up and say, in response to a legitimate problem with respect to women, that we are not against women, we are the best breeders in the province of Manitoba, a man who would silence the voices not of the MLAs — who has been silenced? The people of Springfield are being silenced. The people in Radisson are being silenced. The people, Mr. Speaker, in Arthur are being silenced. The people in Souris-Killarney are being silenced. ~~And if you are a member of government, Mr. Speaker, if you are a member of the government, the government leader, says that there is some way in which we would like to negotiate to make sure that some of our people will be able to speak, he will find me just as accommodating on that question as he has found me on other questions, and as he expects, Mr. Speaker — (Interjection) — of course, you wouldn't have to ask me — of course, you wouldn't — (Interjection) — of course, they wouldn't — and that's the tragedy of it. The tragedy of it is the notion of some of those people, that I never had, that an MLA is subservient at all times to a party. I can tell the honourable members that I am a strong party guy, but there's no way that I would not get up and rise and speak when I felt that I, as an individual representative sitting in a chair in the Legislature, free to vote and speak as I want to on every single issue, would be subjected to that kind of control at the first session of the Legislature. Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable members will have to satisfy themselves in that account. Again, they believe that their strength is so strong that they are virtually able to say anything and expect that that support will continue. Well, I'm willing to bet against it, and I'm willing to work against it.~~

We did hear some interesting things, Mr. Speaker, we did hear some interesting things. I don't want to take undue advantage of the statement made by the Honourable Member for Pembina, but it does, Mr. Speaker — and I have to even expand it a little bit, so it's not really attacking the member's statement — what has been the entire nature of the Throne Speech? How can we characterize this Throne Speech in a phrase? Well, we know that it had to deal with the Anti-Inflation Board legislation and we agree with that. I've indicated that there are different things that the government can do, but I do not in any way quibble with his desire to proceed this way and our obligation to facilitate and help him.

What does the rest of the Throne Speech say, Mr. Speaker? It says that we're going to eliminate succession duties. It says that we're going to create an incentive for employers to have their employees work overtime — that we're going to make it nicer for overtime to be worked. We're going to legislate — let there be no misunderstanding, the minister is not suspending legislation — the Attorney-General is legislating, writing into law, an archaic, unworkable complex law with regard to family law which we happen to have left behind us. He is bringing it back just as if, Mr. Speaker, he brought in a bill composed of a thousand pages, unreadable, unworkable, and inequitable. That's what he's doing. He's legislating — he's not suspending legislation.

Legislation, Mr. Speaker, that says that mineral holders — not farmers — anybody who's farming doesn't have to pay it — mineral holders who want to speculate on mineral resources which they happen to have a title for, and which they are not using for any other purpose, will be exempt from paying a tax on their property, such as every other citizen in the province of Manitoba.

The Member for Fort Rouge said that there is sort of a picture to this legislation. The picture is what was told to us by various members at various times. It is an indication that the future of Manitoba depends on the input of what is known as the so-called business community, the corporate and other business community. The Member for Pembina said, Mr. Speaker, when he was referring to small businessmen — and I think that small business is fine — I happen to think that a business that invests 10 million and makes 1 thousand is a smaller business than a business that invests 50,000 and makes 100,000. The members will classify the second as a small business. I classify the first as a small business. When you invest \$1 million and make \$100 thousand, you are a very small business. When you invest \$50 thousand and make \$50 thousand, you are a very big business. But what he said was, we have to make these people satisfied, and I'm paraphrasing, we depend on them. Well, Mr. Speaker, I respect them. I value them. But damned if I will say that the people of this province depend for their future social and economic well-being on such a group of people. The Throne Speech was a declaration of dependence and will go down, Mr. Speaker, as the 1977 declaration of dependence on the part of the Conservatives for the people of the province of Manitoba. I intend, Mr. Speaker, to work in this province so that we can have a Throne Speech read to the people of Manitoba which will be a declaration of independence on the part of the people of this province, because that's what we're going to be discussing during this session and that's what I'm going to be discussing on each one of these bills.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I like to listen in the House. And what I've found is that what the Conservative government has fallen into already is a willingness to blame everything that occurred, every problem that they have, on the previous administration. They started, Mr. Speaker — the words came out when they announced this deficit. What does this deficit amount to? In operations, Mr. Speaker, the deficit amounts to a maximum of \$15 million in spending, which was possible possibly controllable, over a budget of \$1.2 billion. Because the rest of it is easily explicable — \$50 million federal shortfall, \$25 million provincial shortfall, negotiated wages — it's \$12 million. But, Mr. Speaker, do we know

what the declaration by the Finance Minister was? It was an act of desperation. The Member for Morris knows what it was. It was the opening of the first envelope.

The Member for Morris told the best political story that I have ever heard told anywhere. I'm going to repeat it in this House. Two ministers, one going in, one coming out, were exchanging pleasantries. The new one said, "Do you have any advice to offer?" And the old one said, "I will give you three envelopes, sealed. When you get into trouble, open the first envelope. When that stops working, open the second envelope. But don't do it until you get into trouble, because you're going to need it. And when that stops working, open the third envelope." And the fellow went in, and for a while he was all right. Then he started to get some questions which he couldn't handle, like the Minister of Mines. He said that some eight environmental aides — he can't hire them — he has no choice. He didn't say he doesn't want to hire them. I would respect an answer, "I don't want to hire them." He said, "I can't hire them." Mr. Speaker, there are a hundred and fifty ways in which those people can be hired. But what did he say? He blamed it on the fact that we didn't put the money in the budget. There's no money in the budget for Mr. Houston. They hired him. But he took out, Mr. Speaker, the first envelope, and that first envelope has been taken out by numerous ministers already, within two months — it's a little early, because they're going to need them. The fellow got into trouble after a little while. He got a question he couldn't handle. He opened it up. The advice was, "Blame me." That's the outgoing minister. So he says, "That's terrific advice," and started to blame the outgoing minister. And it worked. And he kept this up for a long period of time until it started to wear a little bit thin, and people weren't accepting his "Blame me" anymore. They said, "You're in power." So he got another question he couldn't handle. He opened up the second envelope. "Blame the federal government." And we're going to hear, Mr. Speaker, in due course, and it comes very quick — the first envelope was opened immediately, even before they did anything. It said "Blame the federal government." So he started to use it, and it was good advice. People said, "Yes. It's not our fault, the fault is the federal government's." And he got away with it. But after a while it started to wear thin, and he got a question he couldn't handle. He picked it up, and it said, "Prepare three envelopes."

Now, Mr. Speaker, the joke comes from my honourable friend, the Leader of the House and in terms of political astuteness and political reality is probably the best political story I ever heard, and, Mr. Speaker, it's applicable in spades to what we have now heard from the Conservative administration. Blame me — he doesn't want to hire eight environmental aides, but instead of saying, "I don't want to hire eight environmental aides," I'll blame the former minister. The Minister of Finance has got a problem — but he wants to indicate — and the Member for Lakeside — that there was no money. For eight years we ran virtually a balanced budget, and if we're talking about — as the Minister of Finance says, "We're going to get the money to reduce taxes from some of the programs that we've been squirrelled into, the investments by the past government" — Mr. Speaker, there isn't one cent in that operational budget for any monies to go to the MDC. The MD? C made \$4.5 million last. There has been no money advanced to the MDC. I'll be one minute, Mr. Speaker.

But the fact is that it's now "blame the other side" — the first envelope, operation first envelope is in operation. I ask the members of this House to observe carefully operation second envelope will be opened very shortly and, Mr. Speaker, I ask the honourable members to contemplate — yes, an overwhelming support for a Conservative administration. On the other side, an overwhelming support for opposition opinion in this province. The objective, one out of the ten people in the room — I don't care if he's a Liberal or Tory — will change the government of the province of Manitoba and restore to the people of the province of Manitoba the possibility of a burning, a declaration of independence, equity to the people, equity to all groups and not dependence on one group, the business corporate community.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: "Mr. Speaker, and the Honourable Member for Inkster. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honoured to be able to extend to you my congratulations on your elevation to the Speaker of this Legislative Assembly. Having not sat in this House before, I want to assure you that I look forward to your able and learned direction when, or maybe I should say if, I should stray from the proper procedure from time to time. I can assure you, Sir, that it will be received in exactly the same manner in which it is given, one, I hope, of mutual trust and admiration for the task that both of us must perform."

I also have the additional pleasure of congratulating the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech for their informative and, yes, their entertaining presentations. I can honestly and wholeheartedly say that I empathized with many of the feelings that they must have been feeling as they spoke before this assembly for the first time. I can only hope that I can make my feelings and my opinions known as ably and as eloquently as both the Honourable Member for Pembina and the Honourable Member for St. Matthews did a few short days ago. While mentioning their sincere efforts, I also have to mention or to make note of as the Honourable Member for Inkster did, to make note of for the record that those two new members probably have accumulated more space in the Hansard between them than 90 percent of their colleagues. They have probably spoken more in this House than 90 percent of their colleagues, ministers included, and they did so, I might add, without once resorting to that banal phrase that has become the catchword of the opposition "in due course." —(Interjection)— The government, excuse me, yes, thank you. Being new to these proceedings, I wouldn't swear to it, but I would assume that it is somewhat unusual for government with so much to

do to rely solely on two newly elected backbenchers to do its talking for it. I would caution those two honourable members, I would caution them, Sir, to relish in their glory while they may for it can't be long before their colleagues, the honourable ministers and members that occupy — and I use that term advisedly — occupy the seats in front of them, it can't be long before they, as in the words of their First Minister last spring, it can't be long before they screw up their courage and get on with serving the people of this province in this House where they have been entrusted by their constituents to sit and I might add to speak.

While I have the opportunity of putting matters on the record, let the Hansard show very clearly that the only northern Conservative to be elected to the Conservative administration has yet to find his voice outside of being directly questioned during the prescribed Question Period. Let it also show that this is not merely the case of a backbencher, like myself, hesitant to speak for the first time before this assembly, but this is a minister with two portfolios no less, and I might add no voice. I, Mr. Speaker, for one, am not anxious to hear that man speak; I've heard him before. But I would imagine that some of his constituents would find his silence quizzical, would find the silence of his government quizzical, if not outright, perhaps I should say if not outright darning, darning of their abilities and their government's regard or disregard for the purpose of this House.

Mr. Speaker, I have noted that it is somewhat customary for a new member to speak briefly on his or her constituency in their maiden speech. I can assure you that during my tenure here, I will speak often and at great length about the Churchill constituency for there are many stories to tell that come out of that constituency and so if this first effort seems short, please regard it as the first in a long and continuing saga.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the new members and for the benefit of the urban members of this House, the Churchill constituency extends from the 53rd to the 60th parallel and covers the breadth of this province at its widest point, well over 600 miles in distance. In total, it covers near to 40 percent of the land mass of this province. I relate this not to you and the members of this House as a part of a travelogue or some tourist pitch but because I believe it is necessary that the honourable members of this House understand the immensity of the northern constituencies if they are to understand at all the immensity of the problems that they will find in those constituencies. By the way, as did the Honourable Member for Pembina, I too extend an invitation to all the members assembled here to visit the Churchill constituency. We too have fairs . . .

A MEMBER: Will you give us a ticket?

MR. COWAN: . . . give you a ticket . . . We too have events and we too have many scenic landscapes along, I might add, with good fishing and good hunting. All that I ask is that while they are there, while they are on that visit, that the honourable members take a few side trips, not for their own enjoyment but for the purpose of their own edification. I ask that they take time to visit a real fish camp and I say "real fish camp." Mr. Speaker, not a tourist fish camp, where the fishing is not for the sport of it all, not for the excitement or the fight but the fishing is a way of life for people who live and who have always lived in the northland. Their fight is not a brief one with a lake trout or northern pike, but it is continuous and it is a difficult fight to support themselves and their families in a dignified and productive manner, in an environment, I might add, that has never produced a Mr. Manitoba Farmer. It is a difficult environment. I would ask them to take a side trip, I would ask this especially of the members of the government, the new government, to take a side trip to a deserted mine site. There, firsthand, they can witness the regard or better said, Sir, they can witness the disregard that the multi-nationals have shown for the land and the people of this province and this country, not only the north, Sir, but of the complete and entire country. And I would hope that upon seeing the waste that is left behind in their greedy search for our — yes, our, yours and mine and the people's of this country — our mineral resources, I would fervently hope that the honourable members of the government would go to their friends and ask them, why? And they can ask themselves: Where are the profits, where are all the great benefits, where are the jobs and where are the lasting effects other than the garbage headframes and the foundations and the open pits that the multi-nationals leave behind them? Where are the lasting effects of all their involvement in our economy? I would hope that they would look to the future and ask themselves if they want more of the same. Mr. Speaker, if they cast aside the provisions that the previous government has made for taking on some of the responsibility for the orderly development, the orderly development of our natural resources and in return, justifiably so, accepting a proportionate amount of reward for their efforts, if they cast those aside, if they negate those provisions, Mr. Speaker, then they are in effect perpetuating the rip-off and the rape of our northlands.

There will be those, as the honourable members opposite, who undoubtedly resent my criticism of the multi-nationals. Some may even take them personally as an attack on their friends. Well, Mr. Speaker, I can well understand their indignation. I can well understand it; I am not saying that I can condone it at all. But it is very understandable for, just as you or I would make our own friends feel at home in our own homes, just so the members opposite wish to make their friends feel at home in this province. And just as I would take special care to prepare the guest room, Mr. Speaker, and I would dust the furniture and I would clean the windows and I would make sure that the guest bed was made up, just as I would do that, Mr. Speaker, so would the honourable members of the government make haste to make their friend's bed, But for most, for most, Mr. Speaker, that is where the accommodations would end but I'm afraid not for the members opposite. For them, that is but a beginning for it is then that they would find the atmosphere that they have created for their friends to be so enticing, so

attractive, that after welcoming their guests, after making them feel at home, Mr. Speaker, after making up the guest bed, after all that, they would then proceed to hop into bed with them, their friends. Well, to be perfectly honest, Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult to determine whether the Conservative government first jumped into bed with their corporate friends or whether it was the corporate friends, the corporate community that first jumped into bed with the government but it is really an irrelevant point for the result is exactly the same — they are both in bed revelling together.

A MEMBER: Breeding.

MR. COWAN: Breeding. As our First Minister said, yes, in bed breeding together.

MR. GREEN: Sounds like fun.

MR. COWAN: Well, to the Honourable Member for Inkster, it would be fun in certain cases, it would be fun if it was not done to the detriment of the people of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I relate this to you not as a cute story or a little ditty for our own amusement, but I give it as an analogy because it is historically correct and quite frankly, I find it upsetting, even frightening. It is frightening because it is true that a person cannot serve two masters. Irregardless of who jumped in with who in that proverbial bedtime story, there can be little doubt as to who the real masters in that house are. It is Great West Life that rules the roost; it is INCO that pulls the strings of the new government and, Mr. Speaker, their relationship with Great West Life and with INCO and with all the others implies a responsibility to those corporations. As was said before, a person or a government or a political party cannot serve two masters.

If the members opposite choose to serve their corporate friends, then they in effect are accusing themselves with is a small, exclusive, an elite segment of the society as a whole. They are the bosses. They are the owners of capital. They are the corporate elite. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that they do not have the best interests of the workers and their families at heart. The corporate community has its own interests at heart. It is not interested in workplace safety, it is not interested in workplace health, it is interested in production. It is not interested in progressive and humane labour legislation, it is interested in the workers of this province only as a commodity to be used or abused as the case may be. It is not interested in the equitable sharing of the wealth and the resources of this world, it is interested in lining its own pockets with profit, and, Sir, the interests of the corporate elite seem to be the interests of the members opposite. And in all fairness, Sir, I sat patiently in this seat waiting before standing to say what I felt to be right for some time now. I sat in my seat because I wanted to give the new government a chance to prove it wasn't so, and indeed, in a non-partisan way, I did not want it to be so. My own feelings remind me of the story of "shoeless Joe Jackson" and his plight during the 1919 — and that was a good year I might add — his plight during the 1919 World Series. It seems as if Joe had gotten himself mixed up with a gambling operation and somehow was heavily indebted to them. Well, there had to be a payoff of that debt at some time, Mr. Speaker, and to make a long story short the Syndicate got to Shoeless Joe Jackson, and our hero of the day, realizing his obligation to his benefactors, became a willing, but to his knowledge, unknown participant in their scheme to effect the outcome of that year's World Series. You see, it was simply a matter that the syndicate had invested quite a bit of their own personal capital on the outcome of that series and they merely wanted to ensure that they received a fair return on their dollar.

Well, as will happen on occasion, this private bathroom wheeling and dealing, to use a recent term, was leaked. There, of course, was a scandal and our hero was implicated and as fate would have it, one of Joe's young fans, one of the young baseball fans of the day, ran up to him and accosted him on the street, and for the whole world to hear and see said — no the kid pleaded to Joe — he said, "Joe, say it ain't so, Joe, say it ain't so." And Joe couldn't; Joe stonewalled the kid.

Mr. Speaker, as I said in a non-partisan way, I wanted it not to be so. I sincerely, and I mean that, I sincerely wish I could stand before you today and say that my initial fears were unwarranted, that they were untrue, that the members opposite could stand across from us, before this House, and in all truthfulness, the members opposite could say, "It ain't so." But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that to be the case, and it is blatantly obvious that it is not the case. For any perusal of their activities, any perusal at all to the activities in the tone of this government to date, will indicate just how deeply they have intertwined themselves with their friends and how willing they are to serve their masters. Within hours of the election, the Premier of Manitoba, the Honourable First Member, was assuring the business community of this province that there would be a co-operative spirit between his government and the corporate community. Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't think he was indicating to them that he was going to encourage them all to become co-operatives. No, Mr. Speaker, I think that he was assuring them that they had little to worry about from his government, that they, his government, would co-operate with the business community just as Shoeless Joe Jackson must have assured his syndicate benefactors that he would co-operate with them.

Then, Mr. Speaker, a few short days later on October 21st, the Honourable Member for St. James is quoted in the media as saying, "The incoming Progressive Conservative government would move quickly to spur renewed confidence in the mining industry." Now, in all fairness to the member, he made that statement on the evening of the 20th and he didn't have any obvious way of knowing that INCO Metals had just announced that they would be laying off 650 workers in the City of Thompson, and that they would be closing the Birchtree Mine in the City of Thompson in the province of

Manitoba. But whether the honourable member was aware yet of INCO's gesture — intended I am sure as a symbolic act to ensure that they did indeed have renewed confidence in this government — whether he was aware or not, his words must have rung hollowly in his ears the next morning when he woke up to the news.

But notwithstanding the discomfort of the Honourable Member for St. James, we must examine why INCO Metals would embarrass its friends so early in the game. Does my theory have a flaw? Are they seemingly not that close friends after all? I would think not, Mr. Speaker. INCO chose to announce their lay-offs at that time because they knew a Conservative government would not take any action to benefit or to protect the interests of the workers of this province over the interests of their friends, their masters, and they were right. The record shows clearly that the Conservative administration did nothing, nothing to positively alter the situation or alleviate the situation that faced the 650 workers in Thompson. All they had to say at that time, Mr. Speaker, was that their hands were tied, that there was nothing they could do. Well, I would suggest if their hands were idle it was because they chose them to be idle, and that they were not tied at all. Indeed, Sir, if their hands were doing nothing it was because they chose to put them in their pockets, to ignore the situation.

As a government friendly to the corporate community, they consciously refuse to act, because if they were to do anything of magnitude to alleviate the situation, Mr. Speaker, they would have to stand

up to INCO. They would have to tell INCO that they are not going to come into this province and take out our resources, and take out the profits and invest them in Third World countries like Guatemala, and Third World countries like Indonesia and then close down their operations here. That, Mr. Speaker, was the choice available to them, and it should not be construed as unusual or out of the ordinary that they chose the course of action, or should we say they chose the course of non-action, that they did, because it was exactly in keeping with their self-imposed relationship with their friends, friends or really their masters. So the new Conservative government chose to do nothing, and Mr. Speaker, it was the people of Thompson, it was the people of this province who suffered, and, Sir, I respectfully submit to you that they are still suffering. And that in itself would not be so bad if we could receive some assurance from the members opposite that the INCO fiasco would be the end of it all, that the suffering would then be over, but I, Mr. Speaker, for one am somewhat doubtful that that assurance will be forthcoming. Just a start, indeed, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon says, "Just a start," and he is correct, because I, Sir, believe the INCO layoffs to be but the tip of the iceberg. I am afraid, deathly afraid, Sir, that the people of Manitoba are in for some even harder times, and they are facing those times directly as a result of the attitude of the newly elected Conservative Government, because that government, Sir, has clearly shown that it is going to be the tool of the corporations, that it is going to kowtow to the corporate community at the expense of the working class in this province.

Mr. Speaker, I have before me correspondence from the Honourable Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management. It was a replz of the Member for Souris-Killarney to a request of mine to the First Minister in regard to an inquiry into the future for the mining work force in Northern Manitoba, that I sent to him immediately following the announcement of the INCO layoffs, and there is one paragraph in it, Sir, there is one paragraph that I would like to read if at all possible. I think that that paragraph, Sir, will be indictative of at least the honourable ministers if not the government's attitude in this matter. It reads: "The company, " and, Sir, that is referring to INCO Metals, "The company operates under international conditions which have been unfavourable for some considerable time. Yet, they continue to stockpils nickel to the point where their financial stability is threatened." Now that, Mr. Speaker, could be construed, I am sure, as at least mildly supportive of INCO, but let us not quibble about that. I say let us not quibble, because the letter gets better or gets worse as the case may be, and if we are going to talk today let us talk turkey.

The paragraph continues: "They," and again INCO Metals, Sir, "They continued to employ people when economic conditions did not warrant it." Now, Sir, that is a bit blatant. Here we have the Minister of Mines of this newly elected government, we have the Minister of Mines apologizing for his government's friends, when he should, in fact, be taking action on behalf of the workers of this province. But if in his opinion, and I assume that this letter represents his opinion, if in his opinion economic conditions did not warrant the employment of these people then I guess that we cannot expect him or we cannot expect his government to do much to protect jobs that they obviously believe to be redundant in the first place, and they will not protect them, Sir. But the last sentence is even more to the point to that paragraph — "They now," again INCO. "They now have been forced to take action and in my view any intervention by government would be counter-productive with respect to the long-term interest of the workers."

Well, Mr. Speaker, if I were a rash person and I assure you I am not a rash person, if I were a rash person I would suggest that the honourable member, with all due respect, was less than honest. I would find it more believable if that sentence had read, "any intervention would be counter-productive with respect to the long-term relationship that his government holds with INCO." Now I couldn't say for certain exactly what relationship the honourable minister has in regard to International Nickel, but it is obvious from the correspondence, Sir, it is obvious that he is at least sympathetic to the financial plight that they are facing — a plight I might add that there is little actual resemblance to the nearly \$200 million net earnings that they showed for the latest year of record, that year of 1976 — a plight that enabled them to increase their investment in the Indonesian and Guatemalan projects by over \$300 million in that same year. Three hundred million, Mr. Speaker, brought their total investment in those foreign operations to a total of approximately \$655 million.

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That, Sir, is \$655 million of jobs lost to Canada. It is the profits from the lustful, and it was lustful, extraction of metals from this province and this country, metals that rightfully, as I said before, Mr. Speaker, metals that rightfully belong to all of us. It is that profit that is being used to create jobs in Indonesia and Guatemala, and that, Sir, is an outright shame from a shameful government.

What does the government do when faced with the situation? Well, they sit in their seats and scream across the House, but what do they do besides that?

A MEMBER: Nothing.

MR. for INCO. Yes, COWAN: They apologize they do do something. They get up on their hind quarters, Sir, and they apologize for INCO. But to be fair to the Minister most of the members in this House, indeed most everyone, would help their friends out, would speak kindly of our buddies in their time of need. The only difference, Sir, is that most of us have better taste than to associate with a group of job-thieving International bosses like the INCO bunch.

There might be those among this House or among the public that will excuse the government's cowardice and I do say cowardice, to act on the basis that they really couldn't do anything about INCO even if they had half a mind to, that INCO is too big, that INCO is too powerful, sort of what INCO wants, INCO gets mentality.

MR. BARROW: Don't forget their contribution to their campaign.

MR. COWAN: Can we bring that up, is that under the rules? We'll bring that up later, I am sure. But recent experience in regard to what can be done to affect INCO proves otherwise and I am referring to a senior INCO official's comments shortly after the

announcement of the cutbacks, when he publicly, and it was reported in the press, Sir, he publicly stated that the Indonesian and Guatemalan governments wouldn't let them get away with cutting back operations in their countries. So now, Sir, there are INCO jobs being created in those two countries. There are INCO jobs being created there I think at the insistence of the governments of those two countries, and there are INCO jobs being lost to this province and this country. Even INCO officials, senior officials at that, admit that something can be done and they even hint at how we could have gone about it if this government had chosen to, and in the end analysis it is all relatively simply. It is just a matter of saying, "No, you're not going to do it, no." But then, Sir, would you or would I or would anybody say no to their masters. I think not.

Mr. Speaker, I have devoted much of my speech to INCO for a number of reasons, some of which I would like to put into the record so that my constituents in the Churchill constituency, which does not include Thompson I might add, will not accuse me of ignoring my own constituency and its problems. But, it is my fear, Sir, that Inco's actions are but the first of a long series of setbacks in the mining industry, for if the government lets, and I imply that the government can do something in this instance, if the government lets Inco expand its foreign operations at the expense of Canadian jobs, and there is no doubt that it is being done at the expense of Canadian jobs, then what is to stop Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited, which is in my constituency, what is to stop them from doing the same in the Philippines, where they already have operations under way. Not a darn thing, Mr. Speaker, not at all and then my constituents will suffer. And, if they do, if they do suffer for that reason then, Sir, I want them to know who to blame. I want them to realize who didn't act while it was still possible to act, for by their actions, or again I should say by the lack of the actions of the government opposite, by their actions this government has set a dangerous precedent. A precedent that the multi-nationals and all multi-nationals will be sure to take advantage of and it will mean more and more Canadian workers out of jobs.

And, to the First Minister I'd like to ask him, if and when he returns to this Chamber, what will happen when the unemployment benefits run out. There will still be no jobs and then, Sir, what will be his suggestion to the workers of this country, welfare? That is the answer, that's the only answer they seem to be able to come up with. And, I also address myself to the issue, Sir, because I think that what we have seen here, what is happening here, is bigger than the actual circumstances that precipitated it. We are not simply looking at 650 workers losing their jobs, we are watching a government blunder its way through its first crisis. This is a test of this government, Mr. Speaker, and, Mr. Speaker, they are failing it miserably, but although it is not an optimistic thought, Sir, I believe that they will suffer many more tests such as this in the next few years to come and perhaps they will learn from their mistakes, Mr. Speaker, and I can only hope that perhaps they will do better the next time around.

And, finally, I believe that what is at hand here is the primary issue we will face as long as these two political parties face each other across this House. This is the main bout. The rights of the people of the province versus the interests of the corporate elite. And, in closing I would like to relate to you, Mr. Speaker, a story that one of my constituents told me during the last campaign and it came from a man who had lived in Sherridon as a child and his father was a miner with Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited in that community, and when Sherritt-Gordon Mines Limited decided to close down the Sherridon mine, — this happens all the time in the mining industry, — when they decided to close down that mine and move an entire town across lake and permafrost, when they decided to do that he too made the move with them. And, he worked for that company most of his life, Sir, and I think that he respects the good that can be found in that country. As well, he, or any of us, should respect the good that can be found in that company because that I can honestly say they aren't all bad. I can honestly say that

there is some good to be found under the rigid economic system. At any rate I am digressing from the story and it contains an important insight, one I would like to share with the members of this House.

I should really say that I know this person respected the good and I also know, Sir, that he despised the bad and that he dedicated his life to fighting to make the system better. And, he did so from a perspective that his father had given to him when he was about to enter the work force for the first time. It was sort of an economic birds and

bees story, if you will, Sir. And, when his father finished the dialogue he ended it as so — “son, he said, don’t be fooled by the fancy words and the flowery arguments out there, just remember that there is no such thing as free enterprise, son, it’s really only private enterprise and it’s getting more private every day.” Mr. Speaker, I can only hope that I can do something about reversing that trend. I can only hope that I can aid in some small way in helping it to become more public everyday.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I recognize the Member for Flin Flon I would like to bring to the attention of the honourable members there are 36 students from the Grade 11 and 12 of the Roseau Valley Collegiate in the galleries to the left and these students are under the direction of Mr. Asher and the school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson. On behalf of all members we welcome you here today.

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. TOM BARROW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the rest of the members I’d like to congratulate you on your position. I know you’ll have no trouble with me, Mr. Speaker, cause no one respects the rules more than I do. I want to congratulate all the new members who are sitting in this House. I’d like to congratulate the new ministers and wish them well. I’d even like to congratulate the Legislative Assistants. They’ll have a lot of work to do too. I’d like to thank the Whip, the Member for Gladstone on his co-operation that he gave me in previous sessions and I would like to tell him that he can expect the same co-operation from me.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I’m a northern member and the ministers, of course, play a big part in the north. The portfolio of the Minister of Labour is possibly one of the toughest portfolios in this House and I think, personally, it’s going to be a rough row to hoe for the lady who has that portfolio, not because she’s a lady, but I would guarantee that she will get the same treatment from us, on this side of the House, that the Minister of Social Services gave to our previous Minister of Labour. The Minister of Northern Affairs, he plays a big part. Public Utilities, the Hydro and Education, they all play their role to make life a little better for people of northern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed in some of the projects that were supposed to go ahead in Flin Flon and, of course, now have been frozen. It took a long time to get these projects started. There were 76 housing units, four units for the elderly and 36 for public housing. We had new provincial building, we even turned the sod, Mr. Speaker, a big day for Flin Flon. Of course, that of course, is frozen. What makes this look extra bad, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the RCMP have threatened to leave the city unless they get better quarters which would have been in that particular building. Thirdly, the extension to the hospital, Mr. Speaker, the excavation is completed. There’s a real need for that.

The road from Flin Flon to Bakers Narrows, which we’re worked on at great expense to cut ten miles off a very dangerous crooked road, I think that will continue and I’m hoping it will. I’m grateful though, Mr. Speaker, that we did have two schools built and they’re open now and they get past the freezing. All these projects, Mr. Speaker, that provide much needed employment in the north and we have the men, we have the equipment and I hope that the Minister concerned will take a good look at it. Because, Mr. Speaker, if this is transferred to a later date it will be much more expensive, of course.

There is no doubt that northern Manitoba was very badly neglected up to 1969. I would request the present government to implement the universal accident and sickness insurance policy coverage. Mr. Speaker, the labour people, not only in Flin Flon but all the labour people in the north, have been many years to try and establish a good place to work, a safe place to work and I would like to continue and just put some of their thoughts on the record. Today there are many new chemicals introduced each year at the work place. First aid requirements badly need upgrading. We need much better trained personnel, Mr. Speaker. We need equipment of an emergency nature to be placed at the work place to include first aid stations and ambulance service. Death certificates should not just state the cause of death but should also contain the complete report of possible contribution factors and the state of general body health. A worker audit, Mr. Speaker, that should be maintained on each worker, listing not only who the employee worked for but the area of work environment and a list of chemicals that the worker is in contact with. This is very important in the north, Mr. Speaker. That companies be instructed immediately to institute a training program with worker participation. Programs that are meaningful in reducing, if not eliminating accidents and cleaning up the work environment. This program would be for new employees, present employees and employees who transfer to other jobs. All employees in the mining industry to receive a complete medical check-up yearly and a complete chest x-ray and any other tests that could possibly lead to the early detection of a disease in the worker.

Workers should be monitored both environmentally and from accidents. The lunch rooms, Mr. Speaker, a small thing, but we need better, bigger and cleaner cleaner and air conditioned lunch rooms to make the work a little more easy for the employees. Workers to be instructed in the use of safety equipment where it is not possible to remove the hazards from the worker. Government to institute royal commission to study accidents and deaths in industry in the hope that ways can be

dound to reduce accidents and improve working conditions.

Present figures show 15 percent of the work force HBM&S and Inco were off work due to accidents during the last year. This does not take into consideration the pain and suffering nor the deaths, some ten in number in just this past year. The actual amount of accidents during that period of time would be 7.2 as this is a ratio of two accidents for everyone recognized by the Workers Compensation Board. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker, has a tough job, as I said before. She'll be going to Thompson, to Flin Flon and these are demands that are going to be made on her at the seminar of course.

And, the Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Speaker, now we expect much from him and I don't think we'll get it, Mr. Speaker. At the meeting in Thompson when the layoffs occurred and I'll quote from a man who was on the mike from the floor. When he would not answer questions concerning layoffs he said "you are a paid lackey of the company

- of Inco." He said, "I don't blame you, I probably would have run and took that position myself for we have no faith in a person who is a complete company man." The story tells, Mr. Speaker, that he was paid the sum of over \$30,000 to run his campaign so we're sure and it's important to know that we of the north expect very little help from that particular minister.

Mr. Speaker, the mover and the seconder of the Throne Speech I think did very very well. I was interested in the member for Pembina, knowing everyone the ex-member, Mr. Henderson. He was well liked by in this House, Mr. Speaker. He never gave long speeches, very short, very quick. I will never forget some of the things he has said. Mr. Speaker, when he had something to say, he didn't dress it up, he came out very very down-to-earth. On the matter of welfare, he was very explicit. He said, "If they won't work, let them starve." He said too, when they had the prison riots, "Why not shoot all the prisoners?" These things made it very very interesting in this House, Mr. Speaker.

With those few words, I thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the motion of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be able to get up now and to offer a few words in respect to the Throne Speech.

First of all, as is customary, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker and of course the Speaker who is now entering the House, on your ascension to that august position. I am going to also, as is customary, thank my staff who in the past have assisted me, especially the guidance and much help I had from the fiery clerk, Mr. Prud'Homme, and of course our present clerk and the assistant clerk of this legislature. They were a very decided factor in helping me during my tenure of that office.

I should also like to say that there were other people behind the scenes, Mrs. Avery, my secretary, was a wonderful right-hand person to me in all my trials during that period that I had your Chair. Let me say to you, Sir, that I am not going to offer you advice because I think even if it was gratuitous, you would still have to learn to carry the role on your own. I don't even have three envelopes to offer you, Sir, as the Honourable Member for Inkster has said. All that I can say to you, Sir, is that with tenure, with experience, you will learn to accommodate yourself and acclimatize yourself to that position.

The other thing I will say to you, Sir, is that you, when you face the mirror in the morning when you shave, will have to live with whatever you decide in that Chair. I am certain that you will try your utmost to always be fair and impartial as I did. You will make mistakes like we all do because we are human and that's only natural but you will be forgiven if you are trying to do the right thing.

I should like to congratulate the honourable members who moved and seconded the Throne Speech and also all the other honourable members who were re-elected and the new ones and welcome them to this Chamber. We are in this Chamber in one of the unique positions and I think an honoured position of creating laws in a system or an institution which has stood the test of time for a long, long time. I mean parliamentary democracy and I think that the decorum and the discipline that we exhibit here is that which is part and parcel of our social environment and is a microcosm of what our province is like and the kind of people we are. We are a mixture of good and bad; we are a mixture of aggressive and meek; we are a mixture of people of various ethnic origins and very many cultures and I would say that some of that in microcosm is reflected in this Chamber.

Of course I realize that this session was probably not necessary because there would have been other ways of carrying on what was necessary for this province but since it has been called, I think we shall have to carry on in the normal fashion. One of the regrets I have is that the members opposite have not participated in this institution which we call the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. I do not know why this is taking place; I can guess and, of course — (Interjection) — Well, the honourable member has an opportunity the same as I have and if he would like to say something, I would invite him to. I'll give him the courtesy of sitting down and he can ask me a question. If he's going to bellow from his seat, that is a discourtesy to this House and he at least who has had enough experience should know that. That applies to all the other members. I do not intend to lecture any of the members but I do think that they should take cognizance of this august Chamber that we're in which so many of them never did in the past and probably won't in the future. I have been courteous and not shouted at them. I hope they will give me the same courtesy in return. Mr. Speaker, I digressed for a moment.

I was going to say . . . I see we have a few more bellowing people on the other side.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If the members would like to hold a caucus meeting, I would suggest there are places for it. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know whether they think they can get under my skin but it doesn't bother me. What I should like to say in respect to this session, Sir, and the Throne Speech is that if there had been some consultation I am sure that we could have agreed to have the AIB legislation done in one day. We didn't need a Throne Speech debate; we would have been accommodating and in fact I am sure that if communications had taken place, we could have agreed that there wasn't even a sessional indemnity necessary for that one particular piece of legislation. It could have been arranged by communications and by negotiations and that one piece of legislation could have been done in very short order because it was agreeable and it was assumed and agreed that there would be no delay in respect to that particular piece of legislation. The members could have received just expenses for coming into the legislature from their various constituencies and we could have had a normal regular session at the spring or even in February, late winter. But that was not the case and on top of that, what was introduced into this particular session was everything that is normal: a number of bills which are contentious, the only thing that was missing was the budget.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is there about these other areas of legislation that we have to discuss and debate? I can say that in respect to the succession duties, it affects a very very minute number of people in the province of Manitoba. There have been figures mooted around here in respect to 3, 4, 2 percent of the population. Well, if that is so great and so important, I think nevertheless that it could have waited until a normal spring session.

In respect to the amendment to the mineral acreage tax, the amount of money that is involved and the people that it will serve, again, as my colleague, the Member for Inkster said, was the people who are speculators and the amount is in the neighbourhood of about \$300,000.00. It doesn't even come to 1/10th of a percent in respect to the amount of our total provincial budget. So where is the hurry to implement that particular piece of legislation?

The overtime rate has been brought in as well in respect to amendment. Mr. Speaker, on that particular issue, I have a concern that I cannot figure out what the government has in mind when it wants to bring that in. At the one hand, it keeps continually saying that we must have restraint, we must cut back and we must stimulate the economy but on the other hand, if they go around and they cut back from the one and three-quarter times for overtime which is a disincentive to have the same people work and which, if implemented, would be to give the employer an opportunity if he has extra work to hire more people which would be of benefit to our economy since we are into a recession and we do have a certain amount of unemployment. On the other hand, they keep saying, "No, we're going to create an incentive." Well, I do not see the proposal as satisfying that particular need. Now you're going to make it easier for the employer to have overtime and work the same people. I think what we have to do is when there is unemployment, we have to create and spread and transfer the payments to other people. Creating jobs is much more important than having people work overtime and leaving others to have no employment whatsoever.

The fourth piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, is the one in respect to the Family Maintenance Act and the Marital Property Act. Now, you know, I have listened to all the debates that went on during the previous session and I had imagined that we had pretty well exhausted the pros and cons of it. There were some areas where members would never agree upon and I would suggest primarily they were in the areas of whether there was equity in a person who is a member to a marital agreement having a fair share of that particular arrangement that they have entered upon. I find that the greatest argument that has come forward so far, Mr. Speaker, is that the members opposite are not indicating why specifically the Act is wrong, except that they want to have another look at it. Well, you know, those kind of delaying tactics are not going to ever create good legislation. I think what really has to happen is the legislation has to be tried out. It has been passed by a majority of this House at one time, and it should be given a chance in operation, and then corrected or amended after it's had a trial. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, not in revising the recipe continually and continually, and never tasting it. I think that is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and, for that reason, this particular bill I also oppose as much as I do the others that I mentioned before.

Now, you know, one of the things in debate that was mentioned was the succession duties tax and the fact — I believe it was mentioned by the Honourable Minister of Public Works — that there are farm people to whom this is a very, very important item. They work in conjunction with their parents to create an estate, and they look forward to receiving that estate at the end of their time. In fact, he said something to the effect — and I'm going to paraphrase him — that they work for less than the minimum wage for ten, fifteen, twenty years, even sometimes a tenth of the minimum wage. And I thought that was kind of ridiculous and I thought that was also very very unfair of a parent who would do that to an offspring of his. First of all, Mr. Speaker, if there is no cash, you can always give him or her a share of that asset that you are trying to build up into an estate. It doesn't take much intelligence to say, "Look, son, I don't have the money now but, whatever it's worth, you're entitled to one-quarter of it now and, as we go along and I'm ready to retire, you'll get more as time goes along for the effort and energy that you are putting into this particular business concern, whether it's a farm or anything else." And in that way at least he doesn't use his children as slave labour for fifteen, twenty years, with a carrot on the end of a stick that this will eventually be your estate, and then have to cry about the fact that there are taxes when that transfer takes place, because if he had been working for someone else, he would have been earning a fair amount of money, and if he'd been frugal and so on, he could probably afford to pay the taxes on the amount of transfer that has taken place. Let me also assure

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you, Mr. Speaker, that it isn't peanuts we're talking about. We're talking about a great amount of money — a quarter of a million dollars is the first transfer that takes place, and anyone who earns that kind of windfall certainly can go out and borrow \$15 to 20 thousand to pay taxes. And that's what it would amount to. So, Mr. Speaker, I really don't see the purpose of the bill in respect to the Gift Tax Act and the Succession Duties Tax Act.

Again, in respect to the Anti-Inflation Act, as I said, I personally had no input into the particular decision when it was made by the previous government, but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that, in my opinion, with hindsight although I, in my own mind, at that particular time, voiced the opinion that the anti-inflation process would not work, first of all because I felt it would be unfair and I think hindsight has proven that.

We have looked at the situation, Mr. Speaker, and found that it was very good in controlling wages. It controlled the workers to a very great extent, but I found that it failed to control prices. I have yet to find where prices were rolled back. Oh, yes, we heard about excess profits and that they had to plough them back into the business, but I'd like to know and would like to have any consumer tell me that he received the benefit of any of those particular rollbacks. I'm not aware of it. My wife, who's the shopper in our family for the groceries, hasn't become aware of any of these refunds or curtailments in respect to the cost of living. But the wages — oh yes, they were rolled back, sometimes very unfairly. I think we had a number of instances in this province where the workers protested and went out in protest in order to indicate that this was what was happening. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, this kind of an issue, in respect to inflation, only puts off the time when the catching-up period has to happen again.

Consequently, we really do not gain anything in a free society by putting on these kind of curbs and controls on one segment and not on the total economic and social aspect of our society. We heard of people who were in the executive bracket making \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000, \$60,000, \$100,000, and the kind of ways and loopholes that they found in which to get around the AIB. There were such things as stock options and so many other ways that they could get around that, but you didn't find that any of those kind of loopholes applied to the ordinary wage and salary earner. People who were in the fee-for-service business also could get around it by indicating that their volume had increased. So, therefore, they didn't suffer. But the ordinary, everyday, average worker on a straight salary — his limit was \$2400 or else the various percentages that the AIB felt they would allow them — or the administrator. Also the fact that some of them received rollbacks which were very unfair and put them at a disadvantage in respect to other people who had been in that particular industry or in that kind of commerce. The historical relationship was distorted in very many instances. And I would say that probably the greatest impact it had was the fact that it deteriorated the collective bargaining system, that which we in a free country and a free society hold dear, where we negotiate and discuss and try to arrive at a consensus and an equitable resolution. That system was very much eroded and still is being eroded by the anti-inflation effect on the people that are involved.

Mr. Speaker, I only have a few more words to say, and that is that I again wish to welcome all the members. I would again urge them that they not follow the suggestions or the pattern that they have taken up to date in respect to involving themselves in debate. Let's hear from them. Let's see what they have to contribute in respect to the direction their government is taking. If they're just going to have a few spokesmen for their particular point of view, I do not think that it's going to be a very democratic caucus that they participate in. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the wish of the House to call it 12:30 p.m. at this time? Very well, on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Pembina . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: I think we'll call it 12:30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. The hour of adjournment having arrived, the House is accordingly adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m.