

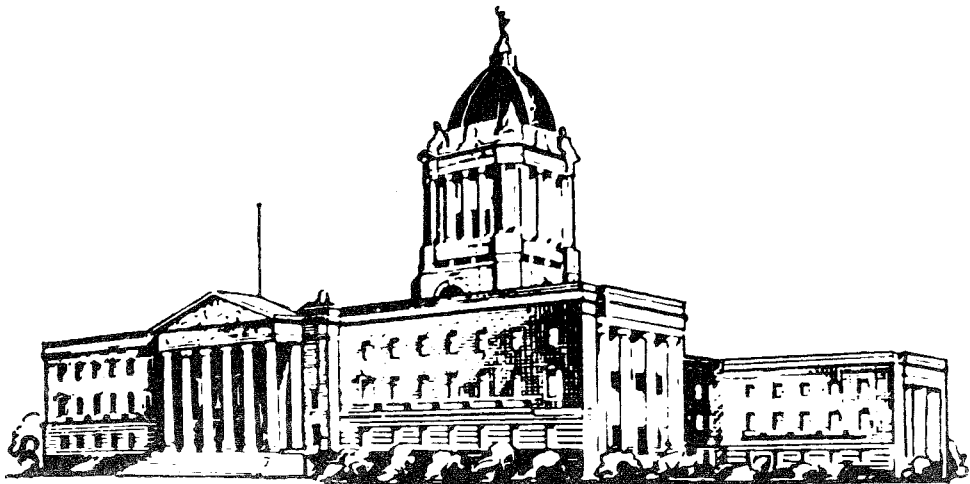


**First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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

37 Elizabeth II

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

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

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

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, July 26, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS MESSAGES

**Mr. Speaker:** Before proceeding to Oral Questions, I would like to draw to the attention of Honourable Members that last Monday, July 18 was the 77th Anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

To mark this occasion, I would like to share with the House a message from the Honourable Lavu Mulimba, a Minister of State in the Government of Zambia and chairman of the association's executive committee.

It reads as follows:

"I extend to all of you fellow Parliamentarians throughout the Commonwealth, warm parliamentary greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 77th Birthday of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

"This is a day to renew our faith in the noble ideals and objectives which attracted us to the CPA and for which the CPA has come to be known and respected throughout the free world. It is also a day to rededicate all our energies to consolidating and extending belief in and practice of Parliamentary Democracy to new heights and frontiers. For Commonwealth countries with existing Parliaments the task is to raise the practice of Parliamentary Democracy to new and higher heights. There is a temptation to take for granted and to assume that Parliamentary Democracy will sustain itself and not keep guard against creeping attempts to fetter the practice and growth of Parliamentary Democracy.

"I want to take the occasion of the celebration of our 77th Birthday to appeal to every Member and Branch of the CPA to make a special effort to contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for the extension of Parliamentary Democracy to new and wider boundaries. I am sure that we all want to see a bigger CPA membership next year when we celebrate our 78th Birthday.

"In the meanwhile, the continued existence and tolerance of apartheid in South Africa, a former Commonwealth country, is and must be taken as a challenge to every CPA Member and Branch alike. A challenge because apartheid is a pain in our democratic flesh. It constitutes a constraint to the further practice and growth of the CPA, not only in the African Region of the CPA, but also in other CPA Regions as its continued existence lurks as a potential threat to the life and health of Parliamentary Democracy and other democratic institutions. There can therefore be no compromise over apartheid. We are all, as soldiers for Parliamentary Democracy, called upon to fight the good

fight with all our might until the flag of the CPA is once more raised high in South Africa, Namibia and indeed elsewhere in other Regions of the CPA where the CPA banner lies trodden on the ground.

"I wish everyone of you, and indeed every Branch, sterling success in your Parliamentary careers and work.

"The Honourable Lavu Mulimba, MP, Chairman."

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### Churchill Health Centre

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, Manitobans are very proud indeed of Churchill's role as an important community in the Canadian North. It has been said by many politicians that we are a country from sea to sea to sea, and it is indeed that third sea which is located here in our province. But we have an issue affecting that very important and significant port, because we have been informed that the Northwest Territories is considering reducing its commitment, if not eliminating its commitment entirely, to the health centre at Churchill, which now presently serves in great numbers the citizens of the eastern Arctic.

I ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon): What measures does his Government plan to take to maintain the health centre as a viable facility in light of the fact that the message that this House, through his Government, is giving to the Territories is that they are not wanted as provinces in this Confederation?

\* (1335)

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I begin by rejecting categorically and totally the assertion that is made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that we are telling the Northwest Territories or the Yukon that we do not want them as part of Canada. I met with the head of the Government in the Yukon just a month ago, and we had a very pleasant exchange. I told him at that time that I was very interested in continuing to work cooperatively with him and with his Government.

With respect to the potential withdrawal of the use of the health care centre in Churchill from the Northwest Territories, my Minister responsible for Health (Mr. Orchard) will be in contact with him. We will have the discussions, make them know our concerns, make them aware of the fact that we would like to work cooperatively with them, and have them continue to use that health care centre so that it can continue to remain viable for the people of Churchill and surrounding areas.

**Churchill Development Board -  
funding**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

We know that shipping and transportation is of grave importance to the Port of Churchill, but the Saskatchewan Government and the Alberta Government has seen fit to not contribute their share to the funding of the Churchill Development Board, which is the agency which has spread the value of this port worldwide. In what way is this Government going to make up for the shortfall in funding for this vitally important organization to continue its work of promoting and developing Manitoba's only seaport?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, my Government will continue to deal cooperatively with the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta. I might say that we have established better relations, even in the first three months, than our predecessor Government had in its six-and-a-half years with the Governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

We had an excellent meeting as First Ministers in British Columbia earlier this year in May. At that time, we issued a record of communiqué in which we had agreement on significant issues that were of importance to all the western provinces and, as a result of that kind of relationship, my Ministers will be having further discussions with the Governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan to impress upon them the importance of the Port of Churchill, not only to Manitobans, but indeed to all of western Canada. As a result of those discussions, we will continue to demonstrate in the future the support that we have demonstrated in the past for the Port of Churchill.

I might let the Leader know — and she was not around I suppose during those years when, under the Lyon administration, we convened a meeting in Dauphin of all the people who were potentially interested in the Port of Churchill, a major meeting of agriculture producers, of people who used transportation. This was in 1979 or 1980 when my colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) was then the Minister of Agriculture. We demonstrated, by bringing together people who were interested in the Port of Churchill, who had a stake in the Port of Churchill, that we were going to do everything possible to expand the use of the Port of Churchill. We made a commitment to the Port of Churchill which we have not changed. Over all these years we have been supportive of the Port of Churchill. We will continue to be supportive of the Port of Churchill and will do everything possible to keep it operating on a viable basis for the benefit of all Manitobans.

\* (1340)

**Port of Churchill -  
Funding**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** I should inform the Premier that I certainly was here during the Lyon days and that is what made me become the Leader of the Liberal Party.

I would like to ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), Mr. Speaker: What is his Government doing specifically with regard to obtaining additional funding for rail line development so that the Port of Churchill can become a meaningful port in this province? Discussions are fine, but discussions do not equal financing.

**Hon. Gary Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear that the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) was not satisfied with the work that was being done by Mr. Axworthy and the other Liberals who were around, and took it upon herself to change all of those things. I am also interested to hear that she is now advocating that the Province of Manitoba should take the responsibility to build rail lines, to build the railroads in Manitoba. I find it absolutely absurd.

Last week on Friday, we had her Agriculture critic (Mr. Evans) suggesting that all farmers who did not take out crop insurance should now be allowed retroactively to take out crop insurance after they have had a crop failure. Mr. Speaker, she is all over the map. She is giving suggestions that make absolutely no sense and, if she is advocating that we ought to build the railways in Manitoba, then I suggest to her that we do not have enough money for all the promises, all the commitments and all the suggestions that she has been making even in the first few days that this Legislature has been open.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** So much for the commitment of this Government to the Port of Churchill.

**Kopstein Report release**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (Mr. Cummings).

We on this side of the House were heartened by the Throne Speech statement: "Open Government means keeping Manitobans fully informed and rendering public servants and politicians fully accountable." To this end, the Government stated that it would require MPIC rates to be approved by the Public Utilities Board. In this spirit of openness, will the Minister responsible tell this House when Judge Kopstein's report will be ready?

**Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister responsible for MPIC):** Mr. Speaker, as has been previously reported to the media, the judge expects to have his report completed by about the 15th of August.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** A supplementary question to the same Minister, can this House look forward to it being tabled in this House on or about the 16th of August?

**Mr. Cummings:** The 14th. Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to table the report as soon as I have had an opportunity

to examine it so that I may respond to the media and to the Members opposite in an intelligent manner.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Can we have a commitment from the Minister today as to how long he will require to have the report in his hands so he can read it before it will be shared with other Members of this House?

**Mr. Cummings:** Perhaps it has something to do with how fast I read, but I already responded to that question.

\* (1345)

### Child Care Task Force

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** The Government in their Speech from the Throne made a number of announcements on studies and task forces.

I have in front of me the number of studies, just in the library of this Legislature, studying the issue of child care in Canada, indeed in Manitoba, task force after task force, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson): What does she hope to gain by yet another task force on child care in this province?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** I am aware that there have been many studies done. This child care system in Manitoba has been in place for some time now. I think it behooves a new Government to take a look at how we have progressed, where we need to go, what subjects need to be addressed. For that reason, I have initiated the task force.

**Mr. Doer:** The former Leader of the Opposition and the Conservative Party (Mr. Filmon) campaigned continuously on the basis that they had a plan and they were able to take over the province. They did not tell the people of Manitoba that their plan was to have a task force on every difficult issue facing Canadians and Manitobans. Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister, what is the criteria of the task force, who are their participants, when is it expected to answer, and could the Minister table that in the House today?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, I cannot table that in the House today. The task force and its mandate and its participants will be announced in due course.

Two of the things that we want to look at is something that has not been really addressed in this province, rural day care and Native day care. Those are two of the very important things we will want to look at with that task force, as well as many other things.

**Mr. Doer:** Given the fact that this province is one of two in Canada with no plan and no position to submit to the federal Government, all political parties certainly support the expansion of child care in rural Manitoba to build on the best child care system in Canada. Let us stop studying it, let us stop task forcing it, let us start acting as a responsible Government on behalf of Manitobans on this very important issue. I would ask the Minister when she will have her criteria, her

participants and the terms of reference ready for the people of Manitoba in this province.

**Mrs. Oleson:** The task force that is going to be undertaken has not impinged at all upon the initiatives taken by the federal Government in planning day care for the future of this province. We have a plan, we have a policy that the legislation was tabled in the House of Commons yesterday. So my officials will be working immediately to put into operation in Manitoba that plan. The task force will not harm that or slow it down in any way.

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

**Mr. Doer:** If the Minister has a plan, no one in Manitoba understands what it is.

We would ask, on behalf of Manitobans, to table the plan in this House, to table the strategy, to table the criteria, to table the terms of reference, to table the participants so Manitoba will not be the last one out of the chute as it presently is with this Minister, that Manitoba will return to a leadership position in this province as we have in the past.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I find it rather difficult to be patient with the Member. The legislation was tabled in the House of Commons yesterday. The plans are ready to be implemented, but we had to have that legislation. We have to know the parameters; we have to negotiate. Every single province in this country is in the same position. They are all negotiating. No one has signed an agreement.

\* (1350)

### City of Winnipeg Council - reductions

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** My question, Mr. Speaker, strikes right at the heart of this Government's election promises to have open and honest government. It is directed to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Durcharme).

Would the Minister please tell this Assembly if, at the official delegation meeting on the 27th of June, he discussed with or advised the official delegation of his intentions to reduce the size of council and, if so, what was their reaction?

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Urban Affairs):** I would be glad to put that on record, as I tried to put that on record yesterday. At the official delegation, it was questioned whether there will be a reduction in council. We told them that it was in the process and the decision will be coming forward.

**Mr. Angus:** Did the Minister advise the official delegation, as he did this Member in a briefing in the Minister's office on the 22nd of June 1988, that only items that were necessary would be addressed in this Session and that the size of city council would not be pursued?

**Mr. Ducharme:** To the same Member, what was discussed was — he is correct that the important items be brought forward to the Legislature. We felt, because of the Boundaries Commission that has to deal with these in the fall, that was what we considered an important item and would be brought forward.

**Mr. Angus:** I apologize. I have 12 years of governments not talking to the City of Winnipeg so, if my frustrations are coming forward, it is because I feel very strongly about this point, and I apologize to you.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), if he did discuss this with the official delegation and if he did tell them that it would not be on the agenda, would he please apologize to my Leader for offending her integrity in this House yesterday?

**Mr. Ducharme:** First of all, I will not apologize for the simple reason that it was discussed on the agenda. I gave the answer on the previous question and again I speak to him. Also his same Leader yesterday, in her Throne speech, mentioned that I did not appear before the Cherniack Report. That was another case of her not divulging the correct fact. I, as part of the board of commissioners at the time, did appear before the Cherniack Report.

### Dept. Amalgamation

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** My question is for the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) in the absence of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We do not refer to Members either being present or absent.

**Mr. Taylor:** To the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), the Government's action of the past week shows us that the Tories are right wing wolves in moderate fleeces. This Government has stated its intention to establish a set of restrainable developments which will be a good move in the unlikely event that they get it right, but this same Government has folded the Environment Department into Labour, where it will hobble along as an orphan neglected and underfunded.

Mr. Speaker, will the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) honour this House with some rationalizations for his Government's hypocrisy on the one hand of championing environmentally sound development and then wrecking the means to actually accomplish it?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, given that it is his first opportunity in front of the cameras, I am sure that the Member would not mind repeating that question. There was a great deal of heckling going back and forth and I did not hear the lengthy preamble, so I wonder if you would mind going over that once again.

**Mr. Taylor:** It would appear that there are audio problems over on the far side of the House as well as far-out solutions. Will the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) honour this House with some rationalizations for his

Government's hypocrisy of championing on the one hand environmentally sound development and then wrecking the means for actually accomplishing it? Thank you.

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, among many things, there is an opportunity for us in many departments in areas of government service to rationalize and to make more efficient and more effective the senior management. What we are talking about involves the elimination of a limited number of people, does not involve the elimination in any way of program money. Funds will still be spent on all the areas of responsibility of the Department of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health. What we have done is consolidated senior management, just as the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) advocated on behalf of the Liberal Party when they were running for election just a few months ago. I am sure that the Member for Wolseley does not recall it, perhaps was not involved in many of those statements. The fact of the matter was they said, eliminate bureaucracy, not services to people. That is precisely what we are doing.

\* (1355)

**Mr. Taylor:** A supplemental question, Mr. Speaker.

How will the new Environment Branch maintain a distinct identity and mandate and avoid being overshadowed by the department's labour focus?

**Mr. Filmon:** I do not accept that it will be overshadowed in any way. The fact of the matter is that it is a department that has several responsibilities. I can recall when I was Minister of Environment, it was at that time Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Environment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is being her usual negative self, but that is okay. The public understands that she has nothing positive to say about things. She is even negative when she goes to Nova Scotia, her old home province, and insults the political leaders there. It is part of her daily demeanor and we will accept that. The reality is that we are in no way downgrading the responsibilities of the Department of the Environment. The Environment will have very significant effect in our province. We have suggested that, through the sustainable development initiatives we are taking, we have a better approach to Environment, having it worked hand-in-hand with all development in Manitoba so that in future our development will be that type of development that is environmentally sound. We will eliminate much of the conflict that occurred in the past between industrial development and other types of development and the environment. They are going to work hand-in-glove, so that in future the development we have in this province will be of positive benefit to the people of Manitoba.

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

**Mr. Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A final supplemental to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

If this Government is so intent on consolidating departments, why was not Environment, for example,

combined with Natural Resources to form a new Department of Environment and Natural Resources with potential, significant positive impact instead?

**Mr. Filmon:** All of these proposed possibilities are always there. Other Governments have attempted that in the past. In fact, Environment used to be with Natural Resources. It was seen to be separate and apart from Natural Resources in that it had effects on industrial development, for instance. It had significant effects on the way in which we plan various areas of development, highways, municipal affairs and so on. It has a great deal to do with Workplace, Safety and Health which is interrelated with Labour.

So all of these things have an effect and we had to evaluate these. It was our judgment, Mr. Speaker, that the combination of Workplace, Safety and Health and Environment fit very nicely with Labour and that is why it was done.

### Port of Churchill - future

**Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin):** I have a question for the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger).

Four years ago our former Government signed a \$93 million agreement with the federal Government to upgrade and secure the future of the Port of Churchill. As part of that agreement the two levels of Government and C.N. committed themselves to a target of 750,000 tonnes of grain per year to be shipped through that port. Now in the fifth year of that agreement and in, I might add, the first year of a Tory Government in this province, we see the Port of Churchill threatened with closure.

My question is to the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger). What action has this Minister taken to secure the Port of Churchill and ensure that the federal Government lives up to its commitment to the people of Manitoba that was undertaken in that agreement that was signed four years ago?

\* (1400)

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** I want to thank the Member for Dauphin for raising the question, he himself having been the Minister of that department for many years. I do not think it ever reached the 750,000 tonnes that he indicated was committed.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate — the Member asked what we have done or what I have done in terms of keeping grain moving through the Port of Churchill — that I was up at the Port of Churchill a little over two weeks ago. I met with the federal Minister of Transport, Benoit Bouchard. I met with the federal Minister responsible for the Wheat Board, Charlie Mayer. I had a joint meeting with him last Wednesday just prior to the opening of this House to express my concerns about keeping grain flowing through the Port of Churchill.

Despite the rumours that have been circulating that there will be no grain flowing through the Port of Churchill this year because of the lack of crop conditions, I have the assurance from the federal Minister of Transport that they will consider moving as much grain as possible through the Port of Churchill.

**Mr. Plohman:** Empty promises are not enough and they should not be enough for this Minister. It is nearly the end of July. The first ship should have arrived by now. It takes three weeks from the time that action is initiated for the grain to get to Churchill. That means that we are into the middle of August already.

I ask the Minister specifically: what assurances did he get from the federal Minister as to when that grain will be loaded? When it will arrive in Churchill, when the port will open, and how much grain will be shipped through that port this year?

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the Member for Dauphin gets so roused when he raises his question. He full well knows the difficulties within the system of getting grain moving through the Port of Churchill. When he indicated before that he signed an agreement for 750,000 tonnes a year to be moved through the Port of Churchill, he never accomplished that at one stage of the game. The Port of Churchill has tremendous potential. We have never reached that potential or anywhere close to it. We will be working hard, as my Leader indicated. We will be working hard to enhance the production and shipping through the Port of Churchill for all the people of Manitoba.

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

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Speaker, Manitobans are tired of begging for action on the Port of Churchill. We have a Conservative Government in this province. The Minister has just admitted that he is powerless, that he has received no assurances from the federal Minister for shipments through the Port of Churchill or that he does not care about shipments through the port.

I am asking this Minister what action does he intend to take to assure Manitobans and this House that the federal Government will live up to its commitments under that agreement and ensure that sufficient shipments are put through that port in this shipment year. What action will he take?

**Mr. Driedger:** Once again, I find it amazing how the Member for Dauphin, who was responsible for many years for the Port of Churchill, never indicated to this House that Saskatchewan withdrew their funding for the Port of Churchill Development Board two years ago, that Alberta withdrew it one year ago, and today he is raising concerns about the Port of Churchill and asking what we will do in terms of a commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I will indicate to you our commitment is to take and keep the Port of Churchill viable and we will do every effort as I have indicated. I have already talked with both the federal Ministers involved, and we will continue to have that kind of discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) on a point of order.

**Mr. Plohman:** Mr. Speaker, this Minister is not giving the facts to this House. I clearly told this House and raised the issue of the Conservative Government's lack of commitment in Saskatchewan and Alberta for the Port of Churchill when they pulled out of the Development Board's sponsorship. That is a clear fact, it is in Hansard. This Minister is backed into a corner and now he is using untruthful statements in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Government House Leader Mr. McCrae on the same point of order.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Honourable Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) has been around this place long enough to know the use to be made of a point of order, and I think he also knows that what he is doing is debating a matter in Question Period under the guise of a point of order. I suspect that you are about to inform the Honourable Member of that yourself, but I put forward that position.

**Mr. Speaker:** A dispute over the facts is not a point of order. The Honourable Member for Churchill on the same point of order.

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** No, Mr. Speaker, on a question.

### Highway 75 - twinning

**Mrs. Gerrie Hammond (Kirkfield Park):** My question is to the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger), and I wonder if the Minister of Highways could give the House and the people of Manitoba an update on the long-awaited Highway 75.

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question.

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

**An Honourable Member:** Wait until you hear the supplementary.

**Mr. Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, the Members opposite might make light of the question but I think Manitobans have a major concern about what has happened in the highways program over the last eight years. I think the people of Winnipeg are very interested in terms of what is happening to Highway 75.

I would like to indicate that my Leader, the Premier (Mr. Filmon), we had indicated that the twinning of Highway 75 would be a priority with our Government, and I am very pleased to indicate that we will be having an escalated program coming forward on Highway 75 for the twinning of it.

I would like to also indicate at this time that, up to the point where we have construction now, there were

no further plans as to the twinning of Highway 75. There was not even a survey or design or functional program or nothing done. We have taken the initiative. We will be working forward on the twinning of Highway 75 from both ends.

### Land Titles Office - Delay

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) of this province.

Yesterday, I was truly intrigued that the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) responded to my question about psychiatric care in this province by citing his dealing with the Winnipeg Land Titles Office delay problem as an indication of how he is going to handle his department.

I want to inform the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) and this House that in fact today the Winnipeg Land Titles Office delay stands at 43 days. It has increased since June 17, 1988, when the Honourable Attorney-General promised the people of this city immediate rectification of the problem. This is intolerable, this is unjust. The people of this city are losing thousands of dollars every day. They want some action now.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: How much money has the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) spent in the last five weeks making the situation worse for the people of this city? Is this the type of swift justice and swift rectification of delays in the justice system that the people of this province can expect from this government as they promised in their Speech from the Throne?

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** Mr. Speaker, I must say I appreciate the theatrics of the honourable gentleman today and the forceful nature of his question. I suggest that he is bringing to this House information which may not reflect or probably does not reflect the situation at the Land Titles Office. He may have found one application there that has fallen by the wayside or fallen through the cracks, as opposed to what is actually the fact.

The fact is that the government of this province moved very quickly indeed regarding delays at the Land Titles Office which we agree are absolutely unacceptable. We moved very quickly to provide eight positions to the Winnipeg Land Titles Office to work on the backlog. That had amounted to \$90,000.00.

Let us remember the nature of the problem. The Honourable Member and I have had discussions about that as well as other members of his caucus. I took the trouble to attend a meeting held by angry residents who are faced with increased costs as a result of delays at the Land Titles Office. Let us remember also how these things get started and when they got started and how the problems got started. We moved quickly to address that problem. I can assure the Honourable Member I will look immediately into the situation that he raises today.



**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, again for the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), and I certainly have no qualms that he knows the problem. That is clear. I would remind the Honourable Attorney-General that in fact the delay, the signing date for titles is posted daily in the Land Titles Office and, as of today, it reflects 43 days of delay.

I want to ask, by way of supplementary question, again my first question and I would like it answered. How much has the Honourable Attorney-General spent in five weeks to make this situation worse? I would like an answer to that question. And I would further like to know if in fact this same response will be brought in next year and the year after and the year after that. How long do Winnipeggers have to put up with this?

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose I could respond with a point of order dealing with the fact that Honourable Members of the Opposition side cannot force members to answer questions, which I did answer. If he checks Hansard, he will see that there is an answer there. The other rule that the Honourable Member should remember is that questions should not be repetitive.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, again for the Honourable Attorney-General. Would the Honourable Attorney-General please confirm or in fact tell this House what he is doing about the decision of the prior administration to implement the computer system in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office over five years? Is he reviewing it? Is that five-year plan acceptable to him? What is he going to do about that?

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, I have been assured by the Winnipeg Land Titles Office that the computerized automated system is — work is being done on that. The fact is that the long-term solution to potential problems at the Land Titles Office unfortunately presents a short-term problem, that short-term problem being that staff are being used to put the automated system in place and to get all the paper documents converted to the computer. That takes time and it also takes staff.

Knowing that is the reason that we put more staff to the task, not only of dealing with the ongoing business but also to get the job of getting automated done. When that is up and running, the situation will be much improved from what it is today. I am not going to stand here and tell the Honourable Member that the situation today is satisfactory. It is not satisfactory. We could have sat on this for another couple of years, as the previous Government might have done, given the fact the way that it handles the economy there is never any money available, then there is no flexibility. My colleagues in the Cabinet responded quickly to my demands and my requests for assistance to address the problems at the Land Titles. I have told the Honourable Member that I will make inquiries immediately at Land Titles to find out just what the problem is today.

\* (1410)

## Churchill Health Centre

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** My question is to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and I have to indicate to the Minister of Health that I happen to agree with a couple of comments he made or is quoted as making in the newspaper, although I find myself in serious disagreement and quite concerned about one of the other comments.

Firstly, I agree with him that the Churchill Health Centre is a world-class facility, and thank him for taking note of the work that has gone on by many Governments to make that a reality.

Secondly, I agree with the Minister that it makes sense that the Northwest Territories continue to utilize the Churchill Health Centre. But where I disagree very strongly with the Minister of Health is that he is quoted as saying that, if the Northwest Territories does not utilize the centre to the extent necessary, the Conservative Government would have no option but to consider closing the Churchill Health Centre, and that is a serious matter. I hope that it is a misquote or a misinterpretation of his comments.

My question to the Minister is: Can he indicate what action he is taking now, not what action he is going to be taking as was referenced by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), but what action is he taking now to resolve the outstanding concerns between the Northwest Territories and the Churchill Health Centre and the Province of Manitoba?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I thank the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) for recognizing some future potential difficulties that may happen if the Northwest Territories undertakes some future proposals to locate potential services of health care elsewhere in the Northwest Territories. The Member for Churchill ought to carefully read his research document, the article in the Free Press, wherein it said no such thing where I am directly quoted as saying we would have no option but to close the Churchill Health Centre. That was not indicated by myself. I think, if he follows to the top paragraph in the second column of the article, he will find my comments accurately quoted in which withdrawal of services, if that were to happen, would seriously impact on the level of service at the Churchill Health Centre.

Now to answer the Member's questions, Mr. Speaker, I have contacted and been in a phone conversation with the administrator of the Churchill Hospital. She is meeting with my director of Rural Health Care Facilities, I believe, today. The staff at the Manitoba Health Services Commission are pursuing with their counterparts in the Northwest Territories exactly what the territorial plans are in terms of provision of health care services in the Territories, whether in fact they have any plans afoot to utilize the hospital at Yellowknife for patients emanating from the eastern part of the Northwest Territories or whether they would continue to use Churchill. Every indication we have to date is that they will continue to use the Churchill Health Centre, the Churchill Hospital, and the services that we provide in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine for northern

Manitoba out of Churchill. Nothing is changing in Churchill. It will be our undertaking to negotiate and discuss with the Territories to assure that we are able to offer and continue to offer to those citizens the very fine medical services that are available out of Churchill without the necessity of duplicating the services elsewhere in the Territories.

**Mr. Cowan:** It is gratifying to learn that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has been misquoted, but I would ask him specifically if he is — (Interjection) — now he says he is not misquoted, and the paper very clearly — (Interjection) — We have heard this Minister of Health so many times try to get out of what he has said by saying that he did not really say that in the first instance and he was misquoted, he was misinterpreted. That is one of the reasons why I ask my question, to give him an opportunity to clarify the impression that was left in the paper that Government would consider closing the Churchill Health Centre.

I would ask the Minister, further to his comments: Has he met personally, because this is a matter that should demand his personal attention, with representatives of the Northwest Territories? If he has not, will he undertake in this House today to arrange a meeting at the earliest convenience with political elected officials from the Northwest Territories to ensure that we know full well what their concerns are and are able to work with them at the highest level in a consultative and cooperative manner to ensure that the Churchill Health Centre, a world-class facility, continues to be able to operate in the fine tradition that it has over the past decade and then some? So will he undertake that action now and not suggest that it can be done in the future? The time for this Government to act is right now, at present, and it is incumbent upon him to take strong action to protect the Churchill Health Centre.

**Mr. Orchard:** I might indicate to my honourable friend from Churchill — not that I want to be a teacher and lecture him — but quotations have those two little marks on the end of them and those are what people say. Without those marks, they are a paraphrasing of good remarks. A quotation is one thing; a report, a paraphrasing is something else.

I simply want to point out to my honourable friend from Churchill that this circumstance of devolution of health care services to the Northwest Territories was accomplished some time ago. I am not aware of any meetings that the previous administration had to avoid the potential circumstance, the hypothetical situation. As I have indicated to my honourable friend from Churchill, I have had discussion with the administrator of the Churchill Health Centre. She is meeting today with the director of Rural Health Facilities of the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and Health Services Commission staff are undertaking discussions with their counterparts in the Northwest Territories to determine what the agenda is of the Northwest Territories in terms of provision of health care services to their people in the eastern side of the Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the services are acknowledged to be excellent there by the users in the Northwest Territories. It is our considered position, and the position we will

take to discussions with the Northwest Territories Department of Health and officials and the Minister, that those services can be provided in the long term to the quality provision of good health care to those residents. That is the situation we support. That is the situation that has been supported in the past, and we have no indication that will change.

**Mr. Speaker:** Time for Oral Questions has expired.

**Some Honourable Members:** Leave!

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there leave? Has leave been granted? (Agreed)

The Honourable Member for Churchill, with a final supplementary question.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all that the Minister has said his staff is going to do. One knows that one has to rely on staff but also the Minister should know, because he did lecture long enough when he was in Opposition, that certain issues take a political resolution.

Is the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) prepared immediately to undertake to meet with elected officials and those officials responsible for health in the Northwest Territories to ensure that there are open lines of communication at the highest level possible to resolve any outstanding differences that may, in what he says in a hypothetical sense, result in, and I am using a quote from him, “. . . serious effects on the Churchill House Centre in the future.” In an attempt to avoid those serious effects, is he committed now, will he commit, will he undertake to meet with elected officials from the Northwest Territories immediately?

**Mr. Orchard:** Mr. Speaker, let me lay a basic bit of groundwork for my honourable friend, the Member for Churchill. To date the devolution of health care services has been granted to the Northwest Territories. That is an event that happened whilst the previous administration was in office. Therefore, the hypothetical threat to Churchill as a northern health care facility existed during my previous colleague's time in office and, quite frankly, I think the Member for Churchill represents that area.

\* (1420)

Now we are told that a number of initiatives are under way, first of all, an attempt to enhance the membership on the Churchill Centre Board with membership from the Northwest Territories, from Rankin Inlet and other communities.

Secondly, I repeat for my honourable friend that discussions are going on at this moment regarding the future of the Churchill Health Centre. Mr. Speaker, the issue is not the loss of services to Churchill today because the Northwest Territories has formulated no plan to remove services from Churchill. Senior executive members of the Manitoba Health Services Commission are discussing with their counterparts in the Northwest Territories to find out what policy direction the Territories Government is wishing to take now that they have more

full and complete control over delivery of health care services.

Mr. Speaker, we can offer to the citizens of the Northwest Territories the fine facilities of Churchill. We intend to do that and we are doing that right now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May I remind the Honourable Minister of Beauséjour, Citation 358(2): "Answers to questions should be as brief as possible . . ."

## ORDERS OF THE DAY THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer).

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to have the opportunity to reply and respond to the Speech from the Throne presented here last Thursday at this First Session of the 34th Legislature of Manitoba.

I would offer my best wishes to you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulate you on your election to this high office as our Speaker, and I wish you well in a very important role and a very interesting role with the situation of a minority Government and with the three-Party system basically in this province now that will present unique challenges to all of us, I am sure, and unique challenges to you as our Speaker.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker on his election to that position in this House. I would wish, as is traditional, all Members the best personal health and happiness in this House although, as we all recognize in politics, to be quite honest, we all start every election at 000, and we will all act accordingly in terms of representing our constituencies and our vision of moving to the Province of Manitoba - (Interjection)-

Mr. Speaker, I knew the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) would take the first cheap shot from his seat. I am not disappointed in that. We took great joy in pointing out winning four of the last six elections and I am not surprised that he has taken his first chance, in my first opening paragraph, with his comments. That is why we respect democracy so much.

I rise in my place to thank the constituents of Concordia for returning me to this House. It is an honour that I will never take for granted, as all of us I know do in our own constituencies, and I rise in my place today with a great deal of pride in our province. The beauty of our province is always manifested in all of our beautiful four seasons but sometimes perhaps a little bit better in the beautiful time of the year that we are enjoying, with the tragedy of course of the drought that is affecting some of our fellow citizens in a very, very serious way.

I am also reminded at this time of the strength of Manitoba people. I think the greatest commodity we

have, when we look at sector by sector and industry by industry and area by area, is the strength of Manitobans, the diversity of Manitobans, the strength of the people, the cooperative environment that Manitobans work in and have enjoyed over the last number of years, the leadership position they have taken, the combining of social, health and economic opportunities and challenges in a very, very balanced way. That is the tradition that has built this province.

It has not all the advantages of other provinces in terms of its raw advantages. It has not all the advantages bestowed upon central Canada by years of historical advantage from our federal Governments, but we have the strength of people and the strength of the province which binds us together, notwithstanding our partisan politics in our province.

In dealing with the Speech from the Throne, I would like to make some general comments and then move through the speech very specifically. I was listening to the speech very carefully last Thursday and was very interested in the content of the Speech from the Throne. Quite frankly, it is somewhat traditional to make comments on Speeches from the Throne in our usual 10-second clips, and sometimes those are often fairly predictable. I was very disappointed that a Government that had told the people of Manitoba that they had a plan, they knew where they were going, they were going to face the challenges of the province in a bold and confrontative way, came in with a lot of rhetoric, a lot of task forces, a lot of studies, a lot of round tables, a lot of tripartite groups, a lot of this, a lot of that. I thought we would see some new themes emerging, or some evidence of a substantive new direction for Manitoba. We could comment on that.

But what we have seen in this Speech from the Throne is a patchwork of specific initiatives with no coherent plan or purpose. We have seen a willingness to engage in study after study after study. We have got some tired Tory rhetoric, which I suggest looks very similar to the original Mulroney Speech from the Throne, which I was very disappointed in seeing. That was back in 1984-1985. I suspect some of the same authors were involved in writing the Speech from the Throne, its first draft, who were involved in the Mulroney Speech from the Throne. You can certainly see the kind of Darwinian language that is interspersed in terms of the real issues of Manitoba. Where boldness is needed, we find timidity. Where sensitivity is needed, we find callousness. Where caution is needed, we find reckless blundering.

What is very clear from the outline of the Government's intentions is this: This Government does not yet understand what sort of mandate it received on April 26 from the people, which is now manifesting itself in this House three months later. They are seized with indecision. They are seized with dealing with just very simple targets and leaving the tough issues facing Manitobans, as I say, to study groups, to tripartite bodies, to task forces, to consultations and all those buzz words and umbrellas for inaction, no plan, and no plan to implement on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

Certainly one would find that with this Speech from the Throne. If you were to ask the people in the coffee

shops of Manitoba the day after the Speech was presented in this House, there would be very little substance for the people of Manitoba in dealing with the challenges they face and dealing with the real issues that face Manitobans and their families and real issues in the coffee shops in terms of dealing with moving with this province into the future. They would remember maybe the 15-gun salute, they would remember a little pomp and circumstance, and this Speech from the Throne will be remembered generally for a task force Speech from the Throne, rather than action.

We have statements of concern in the Speech from the Throne. For example, about economic growth and jobs, but yet this Government proposes to abolish the Jobs Fund. It proposes to combine the departments that deal with small business in with big business, and we have plans that are being announced to diminish the role and importance of cooperatives in our province. We have fine statements and fine words and fine concerns about the quality of child care in this province, this from a Government that proposes to pump public dollars into a private day care system, a kind of proposal that even the top Tory Senator, if I could use that term, the top Tory Senator for Manitoba, Mr. Spivak, has said would be outrageous in terms of its priority for people of Manitoba. Maybe we could have at least a red Tory proposal, rather than the blue Tory proposals that are coming from Members opposite.

We hear concern about the future of rural and northern areas of this province, and then we see a situation where Community Places programs in northern Manitoba have been slashed at a totally disproportionate rate of those of southern Manitoba. Yet, this is a Government that has not gone to bat for the aboriginal trappers. Again, fine words do not mean anything to those people in terms of specific action on their behalf.

We hear soothing words on cooperation with labour, yet this is a Government again which contradicts itself again today in the paper. Maybe that is why — I cannot comment if the person is away or not, so I will not — but that we have a serious problem with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) and the Premier, the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), contradicting each other on what they are looking at, what they are going to do.

I guess the same Minister pre-empted the Premier with the announcement to roll Environment into the Department of Labour. That same Minister said that Environment just runs itself. We will see whether the Minister feels, after a short period of Question Periods over a period of time of Environment, the department runs itself and whether greater leadership is not required on this very, very important issue for Manitobans, our environment, our greatest heritage we pass on to our children.

\* (1430)

We hear soothing words about a balanced management-labour relations environment. Manitoba has the most balanced environment in Canada and yet, with any innovation, the Tories want to repeal, repeal, and we look forward to that debate and the

presentation by citizens on that issue with the Tories in this Government.

So we are, quite frankly, disappointed with the task forces that are presented to us in dealing with substantive issues in this province, and we are concerned about the Mulroneyisms that appear in the Speech from the Throne, which I feel may have been helpful, certainly not to us in the August election for that individual, but I do not think that the Mulroneyisms fit with the tradition and the heritage of this cooperative province that we now enjoy in Manitoba.

I would like to say — and certainly the Minister from his seat again takes another little cheap shot — when we meet with Mr. Broadbent, we do so publicly and we are proud to meet with him, unlike the Members opposite who have Lowell Murray, Doctor No (Norman Spectre) hide in the hallways and sneak through the hallways of this House to meet with the Tory Caucus, and thank God for the vigilance of the press to catch them in those secret meetings dealing with Meech Lake.

I would like to say that there are some positive things in the Speech from the Throne, and I would like to say that at the outset. I applaud the initiative to bring in conflict-of-interest legislation for former Ministers of Government, for former senior civil servants. Certainly Manitoba has been cited as the most positive example of conflict-of-interest guidelines for existing Ministers of Government, and it was cited in the McDonald Commission, or the Parker Commission quite regularly in dealing with the handlings and the goings-on of Sinclair Stevens in terms of his handlings of his portfolio and his wheeling and dealing with his personal finances. The Parker Commission I think adequately addressed the inadequacies of the federal conflict-of-interest legislation and the inadequacies of the performance of a Minister, which I would suggest is required reading for all Members of this House, the Parker Commission, and required reading for Members in the Cabinet and Front Benches of the Government.

We think the guidelines are deficient in the area of former Cabinet Ministers. It is certainly an issue we began to discuss internally ourselves when we were formerly in Government, and we will try to play a positive part in that area.

I can remember the situation that developed in the House of Commons previously with the Gillespie Affair and Marc LaLonde saying it was not a breach of the conflict-of-interest guidelines with the heavy oil project in Nova Scotia, and the stoic Prime Minister at the time saying: "Because it is not a breach, there is no problem." That may have made great Jesuitical logic, but we know that was inadequate for the standards and ethics of the people of Canada, and we intend on playing a positive part in developing those guidelines for former Ministers. We would hope that the guidelines and legislation is developed consistent with allowing people to have a livelihood after they are out of their jobs so they can use their skills but not use their insider information. That would be inappropriate as former Ministers and former senior civil servants.

We applaud the Government for going the last lap on the Freedom of Information Act. It is a lot of work.

There have been some political shots across the bow over the last period of time. I respect that as part of the political process. Documenting and cataloguing 100 years of documents is a very lengthy process. It took us three years. We had about 95 percent of it ready at the change in Government and we are pleased with the Government departments that they are proceeding. I know, having worked in some of my own departments, that it does require constant pressure because you do not want to hire new staff. You do not want to take public health nurses from Community Services and put them into record cataloguing. You do not want to take an agricultural rep who is working with the drought situation and have him catalogue records.

I think the application of this Act should be from within as well. We should not get overly zealous to create hundreds of new bureaucrats to continually catalogue, and we will be positive in that regard in dealing with the Freedom of Information. As I say, we would not have completed 95 percent of the work in our own departments if we were not committed to its implementation.

I would say that with the cataloguing of 100 years of documents will come some interesting changes in the public service. This is fundamentally an American innovation of freedom of information. It is somewhat contrary, we should be aware, to the traditions of the British parliamentary system with ministerial responsibility where conflicting opinions that are in the public service are not communicated in a confrontative way to the public but rather the Minister in Cabinet is responsible for decisions and is responsible and accountable for those decisions in this House or indeed in any parliamentary system. So it is somewhat different and we should recognize that it is an American innovation to the Canadian system.

We should recognize that it also will potentially change the behaviour by which people document their opinions in the public service. We do not want to get into the situation which eventually developed in the United States where the only place you could get information is the presidential tape recording machines because nobody would write anything down in an American system with freedom of information. I think we have to maintain the British parliamentary standards of accountability with Cabinet Ministers and at the same time allow the public true access to documents and research material. Even sometimes when they have conflicting options for Ministers, we should not be afraid of presenting that to the public, and I think we should take a non-partisan position on that rather than cheap political shots.

I also think it is positive that River House is going to receive enhanced funding. I can say with all degree of honesty that I personally had problems in the former Government where some of the decisions were made by a Crown corporation that made that decision on behalf of the governorship and accountability of that Crown corporation. I can think of three decisions that were made by that Crown corporation that required some kind of Cabinet override and overrule which I think is inappropriate.

There was a problem with the Main Street project in its lack of resources in funding for some very vital

programs. We had to again override that agency when it was trying to cut back. There were some problems in terms of regional resources being cut back in Dauphin and Brandon and at the same time the resources were rather questionable — I would say this with all the advice to Honourable Members opposite — in the bureaucracy of that organization. We had to fight struggle after struggle with programs such as Native alcohol programs that were being cut when other programs should have been more potentially on the priority list.

\* (1440)

So I would say that I would have overturned that decision as well and I think the agency has to be more sensitive to its full mandate — it has got a lot of challenges — but I applaud the Speech from the Throne in that change and say that we had some difficulty ourselves, and that is sometimes when you need “political interference in Crown corporations.” It is absolutely naive to say that Ministers accountable in this House cannot be responsible for decisions made. You would like the agencies to make those decisions or the Crowns to make those decisions but, from time to time, ministerial accountability requires changes on behalf of the public as opposed to arm's length decisions that were contrary to the public interest.

I am also pleased with the Osborne House recommendation. We were proceeding with a structural review. Services to women and families that were in violent situations require vigilance on behalf of all Parties in this House. We had put in 50 percent increases to that Budget, in this last year, that was defeated by the Liberals and Conservatives. We will be watching very carefully because there is a lot of work and there is no question — we had a long way to go. We were not providing the services across this province that are needed. We were not providing the funding that is going to be required to meet that demand. I want to say that honestly in this House. We will work again cooperatively with all Parties on this very vital issue of people who are at risk in their homes with their families and have no shelters or resources for them.

We also have another positive note on the comment of the Government that admitted that Manitobans had shared in the prosperity of the 1980s. I think it is very appropriate the Government mentions the fact that Manitoba did indeed have prosperity over the 1980s. They know and the Government knows now that we were on the leading edge right throughout the 1980s in terms of the major economic indicators in this country. Even though we do not have all the advantages, we had the lowest or the second-lowest unemployment rate right throughout the Eighties. We had the lowest unemployment rate, when we left office, for youth anywhere in this country. It was still too high, no question about it.

We had the most money spent per capita on health care. We had the most money spent per capita on child care. We had some of the best teacher-pupil ratios anywhere in the country. Our roads were right there in the middle because other services such as health care and other programs were very, very important to us with the recession that took place.

We had the finest environmental laws in the country. We had just proclaimed that Act. There is considerable work ahead of us in terms of this province dealing with our environment and we intend to do that as a Party in this province.

We had the most balanced labour-management laws in the country. We had the best days lost per strike of any province in the mainland of Canada. Of course, we had the best situation in terms of that situation in this country and we would ask the Members opposite to be very careful when they try to proceed with their repeal mentality as indicated in the Speech from the Throne.

Those are some of the areas that I think we would say were positive and we will work in a cooperative way with the Members opposite on those areas of the Speech. I would also like to go through some of the other specific areas of the Speech from the Throne which I think are totally devoid of any action, any plan or any specific on behalf of Manitobans. I would like to go through the Speech page by page, as we sometimes do in Bills, in terms of the presentation.

The Government talked about the spirit of openness and accountability. There is not a political Party or a politician who does not talk about being open, about being accountable, about being nice, about consulting, about doing what is in the best interests of the people. There is not a politician in the world who does not say it and most people mean it.

I would like to say though that, if the last three days are any tangible indication of the real sincere efforts of this Government to be open and accountable, I would say with the greatest of respect that we have certainly got off on many, many wrong foots, feet or whatever else you want to use.- (Interjection)- Oh, I am glad the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) has returned.

Let me go through just a few things from the last three days. The Government will not table their legal opinion on free trade. The Government will not table their report on free trade and its effect on hydro. The Government will not table the hydro pricing report they say they have. The Government will not report the analysis they have on water. The Government will not report and table the criteria they have for this task force they have set up as an umbrella for the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) to deflect any accountability in this House. The Government will not table an implementation plan to achieve the promises that they made on improving the criminal justice system, particularly for violent criminals and drunk drivers in this province. They will not table it.

Mr. Speaker, it is very sad that, in the first three days of their accountability and openness, they are already practising the first-envelope theory of Government. Blame the former Government even for promises they make. You can get away with that for a period of time, but Manitobans do not believe the first-envelope theory. Manitobans believe that they elected a Government on April 26, albeit with a minority, to stand up in this House, not point fingers and say this is what I am doing or this is what I am not doing. We have a terrible start, an atrocious start to the open, accountable Government on every specific issue.

Then we go into Crown corporations in the Speech from the Throne. I can assure the Members in this House that the Members in Government are talking about repealing a couple of major areas, I believe, of accountability in The Crown Accountability Act that we passed last year, The Crown Accountability Act that was voted against by the Conservatives and the Member for River Heights.

We believe strongly that all the major Crown corporations of this province should have public accountability sessions, where the senior officers of the Crown corporation and the senior members of the board of directors appear before the public across the regions of Manitoba. I can assure the Speaker, when I was Minister of the Telephone System, we had meetings set up, scheduled for September in 12 different locations to deal with the concerns of Manitobans because, for many of those Crown corporations, they are monopolies. They are monopolies that do not allow citizens to walk across the street or allow citizens to go to a shareholders' meeting to deal with the very legitimate concerns they have in a monopoly Crown corporation.

The other innovation that we believe was important in The Crown Accountability Act, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that five or six Crown corporations in this province, major Crown corporations, in fact the Crown corporation with the largest revenue in the province and indeed the Crown corporation that has the most profit of private or public-sector Crowns anywhere in this province, does not appear before the Manitoba Legislature in committee. It is absolutely atrocious to us that the Liquor Commission, the Venture Tours, Data Services and others, do not appear before this Session of the Legislature. We believe that should take place. Mr. Spivak and his task force — I did not agree with many of the Culver Riley recommendations, but the one area that I sincerely believe was appropriate, that all major Crowns should appear before this Legislature. I think it is the mandate of the new Government to decide how they are going to arrange the financial affairs of their Crown corporations. But I do believe that the right of the public is to have major accountability sessions across this province. I do believe that it is the right of this Legislature to examine the major Crowns.

I am not sure which positions the other political parties will take because they voted against this bill last year. But I pledge that we will do everything in our power as a political party to stop the disenfranchisement of the public, the public hearings in those Crown corporations, and to stop the prohibition or the requirement of the major Crown corporations that used to be exempt from legislative scrutiny from being again exempted as they were prior to this legislation passing last year.

\* (1450)

I applaud the Government in proceeding to the Public Utilities Board with the other Crowns that remain outside of the Public Utilities Board. I always was very comfortable, as a neophyte and short-lived Minister of the Telephone System, on the PUB process. I thought it was an excellent avenue to have debates take place

between those who believe that city rates should not go up and those who believe that rural services should be improved and those who believe that other services should take place and the whole issue of people who are on welfare. Should they be covered by the Telephone System? Should they be covered by the welfare rates? Should they be covered by somewhere else? I think that it is a good consumer method to deal with the legitimate concerns of the public.

It does not by any way mean that there will not be major policy issues still ahead of this Legislature and the Ministers in dealing with those Crown corporations, and I will give a couple of examples.

The whole policy of deregulation in the telephone industry is a major political policy decision. The whole area of the deregulated environment and the proposed federal-provincial regulations in that area are major public policy issues. The whole area of developing rural telephone services is a political issue, Mr. Speaker. It is a policy issue and that is why the former Minister and I went out with public hearings, because when we had this arm's length relationship, the Telephone System board blamed the Government, the Government blamed the board and everybody blamed the PUB, and the people of Manitoba never got adequate rural telephone services.

So it is a public policy decision that should be made by the Government, and the Government should be accountable to state their position clearly before the Public Utilities Board in terms of the policy of Government which is entirely appropriate before you get into the rate setting, which is certainly a matter in the PUB jurisdiction.

I do not want to get into the situation such as Saskatchewan where the PUB was so rigid that there was no provision to allow urban subscribers to pay a little bit more to improve rural telephone services. The Grant Devine Government, because they did not have a decent policy on the PUB, fired the PUB because it could not provide rural telephone services. They started it, they did not establish a policy on it, and they then fired it when it would not proceed in a way that was consistent with Government policy.

So I believe there has to be some thought made in the Public Insurance Corporation and the Manitoba Hydro proceeding to the PUB. It is just not as simple as saying everything should go there. For example, is the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation going to proceed to the Public Utilities Board on a strict actuarial basis? Is it going to take a strict actuarial position on every issue? Does that mean a Government should not say that during a farm crisis that agriculture vehicles which are now in essence subsidized, as the Members knows, should be jacked up 40 percent to make it actuarially sound in the middle of a drought, in the middle of agricultural crisis?

So putting something to the PUB is a good consumer issue, but it needs thought, it needs a mandate, it needs a policy. It needs to be thought out and, with many of these Crown corporations — for example, the Public Insurance Corporation — rates should perhaps be almost filed and the policy filed almost today because

it takes five months. If you look at five months from August 1, it is almost at a period of time when the renewals are going out.

I also think that Crown corporations should in their plans be very extensive. I do not believe, and I have told the Minister this privately, that the Telephone System should file a bureaucratic increase with the City of Winnipeg for a 4.5 percent rate increase and not deal with the rural telephone systems as a total package, because they both have major impact on the consumers all across this Province and I believe this should be a total package.

That is where I disagree with my successor in that portfolio. I think it is unfair to have one hearing on the bureaucratic guidelines of rate increases and have another hearing on the priority that all Members of this House share to improve the rural telephone system, but who is going to pay for it? We all know that to have one toll-free calling area in this province will raise every consumer rate in Winnipeg \$25 a month. I do not think anybody is suggesting that. I think the balance in-between what we have and where we should be going in a phased-in way should be dealt with in a comprehensive way, not on a piecemeal basis.

We certainly are waiting for the Kopstein Commission. I am sure that the Kopstein Commission will bring us a great deal of findings that showed some of the inadequacies of the corporation in terms of its management. I would be honest in this House. There was some concern certainly on our part, and that is why we created the Kopstein Commission. I would say to this House though that we await the findings of the Kopstein Commission. We expect they will be somewhat critical of some of the management practices of the corporation. We will work in a cooperative way for motorists in this province, and we would hope the Government brings in good consumer measures that we should have brought in in terms of enhancing the Good-Driver Program and enhancing the payment schedule for our consumers.

Certainly though, we would philosophically and totally disagree with the Government if they introduce any competition into the auto insurance industry in this province. Even though the former Premier Lyon only in his last two days before the last election — he would never admit it before that — but in the last two days, when he knew the sands of his mandate were going out, admitted that it was a socialist omelette that could not be unscrambled.

I do not believe it is a socialist omelette. I think it is a good consumer omelette. If you unscramble the Public Insurance Corporation in Manitoba, if you open it up to competition, you will have creaming in terms of the good policies. You will have discriminatory practices against our youth, you will have discriminatory practices against farmers, you will have discriminatory practices against others in Manitoba who enjoy the advantages of the economy scale of the corporation. The \$300 million worth of investments that are in the health care system in this province, in the school system in this province and in many of our public enterprises would be put at jeopardy. Many of those corporations would take that investment income if they are allowed

to compete and, in the medium term, maybe not the first year, would take that money and move it to New York or Zurich or London. We still do not know the effects of black Monday on the auto consumers across this country who do not enjoy public insurance in other jurisdiction.

In terms of hydro development, we believe strongly in the two-price system, the encouragement of the domestic system, and I would say we believe that hydro is the Manitoba ace in the hole. It should be used to develop jobs, to develop our economic infrastructure. It should be used to develop training in the North, it should be used on behalf of all Manitobans, and we will fight the mothballing of our Manitoba Hydro program right down the line in this Session and the next Session of the Legislature.

We noticed in the area of McKenzie Seeds - (Interjection)- that is right, she did. The words speak for themselves. McKenzie Seeds is a very interesting item. The Tories, I notice, are pretty silent. I notice the Honourable Minister was quite safe. Let us say he was atypically safe about McKenzie Seeds in the latest journalisms and statements on the McKenzie Seeds. I would say, in the interest of all Manitobans, that the Liberal Party of Manitoba has an obligation to clarify their position to the people of Brandon. You cannot make a speech at the Chamber of Commerce at eight-thirty in the morning about closing down McKenzie Seeds and that evening have your own candidate and your whole Liberal apparatus in the community of Brandon say, oh, we are not really going to do that; we are not really going to close down McKenzie Seeds. I think it is very important that an area - (Interjection)- It reminded me of Abe Kovnats in terms of having things both ways.

Now I think having things both ways may be humorous in this House, it may be humorous in our Debates, but it is not humorous when 300 jobs are on the line and the people and their families do not know the position of the Liberal Party in this area.

I would ask and encourage the Liberals to change their minds on this position. It is one of the most important value-added programs in this province in Brandon. It is one of the most important world programs outside of Winnipeg in terms of industry. It is a good program. It is not flush. It is not going to bring in millions and millions of dollars. We did not pass the Heritage Fund on that particular Crown corporation but it makes a lot of sense for this province.

Manfor is another Crown corporation that I would like to speak on. All parties have agreed that Manfor potentially should be sold to the private sector. I would say, Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, that if you say you are definitely going to sell Manfor and it is going to be yes, no matter what, you give away some of your bargaining position. If you say you are going to look at selling it and you are going to talk to corporations about selling it and obviously acknowledge that it is the best time of the cycle to sell Manfor — and we acknowledge that it is by far the best time in the cycle of that program - (Interjection)- Mr. Speaker, the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) mentioned that he is carrying on with our negotiations.

\* (1500)

I can assure the First Minister that we did not negotiate by saying absolutely yes, no matter what, we are going to sell it. That is what the Province of Saskatchewan did and that is why they gave away the Prince Albert Pulp and Paper Co. to Weyerhaeuser and that is why they gave away the corporation for the same amount of money as what the corporation made the next year in one year of operation. Mr. Speaker, never ever give away your bargaining position when you are dealing with very, very capable corporations that the Members opposite are dealing with.

I would suggest that, after they have given away their bargaining position, they are not going to have the ability to get as good a deal as we potentially could have gotten in Manitoba. We will scrutinize the deal when they bring it forward, given the fact they have given away half their bargaining position. We will scrutinize the deal to ensure that there is fair return on Manitoba investment, notwithstanding the fact that the CFI when they started it was a total disaster. We will scrutinize the fact of the return in terms of the equity. We will scrutinize the sawmill operation in terms of its employment opportunities. We will scrutinize the road growth concessions that this Government may or may not look at. We will scrutinize the reforestation possibilities. We will scrutinize the agreement to ensure that there is not a massive amount of woodland given away to a corporation as they did in the Province of Saskatchewan. We will scrutinize that deal when it comes forward to this Legislature, believe me.

In terms of financial management, which is again mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, I again think this Government has gotten off to a terrible, terrible start. It has talked about financial management and an open, accountable new regime. The first major financial decision they had to make, first of all, it took them two-and-one-half months to make it; and secondly, they gave the audit to an untendered company in this province, an untendered contract in terms of auditing the books with strange coincidences and ties to the Government in power.

I think it is very important that the Department of Finance numbers that were tabled by the former First Minister (Mr. Pawley) in terms of the operating surplus in this province in the last fiscal year, we will be very interested to see what happens with this outside, untendered firm in terms of the financial figures it brings back to this House.

We have also heard that we will have streamlining of our Government departments. We question why you are getting rid of the Government department dealing with small business. We question why you are getting rid of the Cooperative Development Affairs Department of Government and streamlining that position in terms of employment. We think it is absolutely intolerable that the open, accountable Members opposite do not have anything in the Speech from the Throne about combining the two incompatible Departments of Labour and Environment, and then proceed the next morning to fire people and announce their decision.

Of course, it was the Minister who announced it and not the First Minister in this House. We were left



scrambling to wonder who is making the decisions, the Minister or the Premier, in this very important issue. I understand that they have reshuffled a former Deputy Attorney-General who has no experience in Environment, has no experience in terms of labour law, just reshuffling people into the department.

That shows the priority of this Government in terms of labour-management relations and the environment. I am sure all Members opposite will be hammering in on Environment in this upcoming Session of this Legislature.

We again hear the litany of promises on the phased-out payroll tax with nothing specific in the Speech from the Throne. No timetable has been tabled in the Speech from the Throne. I would point out that 36,000 jobs were created after we brought in the payroll tax or the health and post-secondary tax. If they are giving away money and have not got the unemployment rate in a year from now to show for it, the people of Manitoba will hold this Government accountable. We certainly will be pointing that out.

In terms of labour legislation, we are quite worried that almost 20 strikes have been prevented with the use of final offer selection in the first eight months of its operation. We do not know why the Tories and Liberals are going to decide to repeal this legislation. Innovation is very important. It is not insurmountable to have some innovative legislation with a sunset clause of five years. If it has prevented close to 20 strikes, if it has left us with greater harmony in this province, if there are people who have been using it — both employers and management have filed for this provision in a responsible way — why would Members opposite not want to innovate, and why would the Liberal Party?

I would ask them to be open about this idea. It is working. The only people who get rich with strikes are a few labour lawyers in the city, some of the same labour lawyers who have made the most noise. Some of the same lawyers who had made a considerable amount of money were the only ones. It was not businesspeople presenting briefs at the committee. Look back at Hansard, it was labour lawyers working for management side.

I would just suggest that all Members in this House read Justice Ferg's decision on first contract, where he points out the absolute ridiculous position of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce in his presentation to the court as guidance of where we are going in this province and who we are listening to in terms of the balance in this province. Read. Do not listen to us. Listen to Justice Ferg and read that report.

In dealing with the economic situation of this province, we have heard that the Government has come in with another specific innovation and that is to establish an Ottawa office. What a great idea that is, to establish an Ottawa office. You have the federal Minister Jake Epp three rows above the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), the federal Minister responsible for Manitoba, and this Government wants to blow hundreds of thousands of dollars away of taxpayers' money on some office in Ottawa, because they cannot speak to Jake above them or they cannot pick up the telephone, as they promised us, with Brian Mulroney.

I do not want my tax dollars going to set up a Tory office in Ottawa. I hope that if they do go ahead with this ridiculous idea, which is an insult to the federal Minister, they get a credible public employee such as the ADM of Federal-Provincial Affairs like Mr. Eldridge, and I hope they do not hire a Tory hack to go down to Ottawa. We will certainly be waiting to see.

I would like to again mention the trade agreement and liberalization of trade which is in the Speech from the Throne. We definitely support a much freer trade system in Canada. We have proposed that at First Ministers Conferences before. We have proposed that time and time again at First Ministers Conferences in terms of getting a fairer trade system in Canada and notwithstanding this ridiculous energy deal and resource deal with the United States.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that the worst province in Canada in dealing with fair trade, if we want to be honest in this Chamber, the one with the most sanctions in terms of trade in Canada is Quebec. I would urge the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) to tell the Province of Quebec to come on side in terms of fairer and freer trade in Canada because of their untenable position in terms of free trade with the United States and no free trade with the rest of the country.

I would also suggest that the great free trading Party, the Conservative Party of Canada, has a long way to go itself. I do not know what they were doing at the First Ministers Conference on the yacht, Mr. Speaker, and it is certainly not the fault of our First Minister (Mr. Filmon) that the honourable gentleman from British Columbia, the present Premier, had chosen to have a yacht as the site for the Western Premiers Conference, which showed little regard for the plight of other people in this province or western Canada. But I think it is absolutely atrocious that we did not get free trade with the other four western provinces.

\* (1510)

Why did we not get free trade with Saskatchewan? Can our construction companies now bid in Saskatchewan in the Telephone System? No. Can our construction companies bid on the highway system in Saskatchewan? No. Can they bid in Alberta? No. Can they bid in British Columbia? No. So why, when everybody is preaching about free trade at the Western Premiers Conference, did not these four compatible peas in a pod come back with a free trade agreement at least in western Canada for procurement and supply.

**An Honourable Member:** We need Ronald Reagan in the West.

**Mr. Doer:** We do not need Ronald Reagan in the West. We have rhetoric on trade and we have nothing on specific action for Manitoba businesses, for Manitoba companies in trade in terms of western Canada. I would suggest that conference was a failure for western Canadians in terms of achieving no results in free trade in western Canada.

We are, as you know, Mr. Speaker, totally opposed to the proposed trade deal in terms of Canada-U.S. If

you do not believe it is not a positive thing for United States, you just have to watch how many times Ronald Reagan is smiling away and the U.S. Senate is smiling away at that continental deal he has with Canada. You will notice that the United States is having a lot less trouble getting this so-called trade deal through the United States than we are in Canada. I can tell the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) why and his Government why because every briefing note to the Senate, to the Congress and to the U.S. President has told him that not only have we removed some of the tariffs in this country between the two countries but we have achieved our ultimate objective. We have achieved equal access to Canadian energy. We have achieved equal access to Canadian resources and we have achieved that as part — a little agreement that does not even require us to give an exemption in the U.S. Congress Trade Bill that is presently before the Congress of the United States and the bill that will have to be interpreted by a tribunal of United States.

It is absolutely ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. It is not free because there is no exemption. You would not buy a house like this. Not one Member opposite would buy a house under these conditions. There is no exemption from the Congress, its omnibus bill. Secondly, there is no trade bill in the free world, only in the Eastern bloc countries, that has energy components and energy access and no protection potentially on water basins outside of this province on water. It is not a trade bill; it is not free; it is not a trade bill.

We have no problem with removing some of the tariffs between the countries, but I think it is absolutely the biggest travesty of justice ever, ever in this country to allow energy, our ace in the hole, to be going down to the south, to go to California in the same way Alberta oil can go to Manitoba. I totally reject it, and Manitoba is a 70 percent net importer of gas and oil. It is a non-renewable resource. We do not have unlimited supply. It is not there forever. Thank God we have great supplies now. Why would we want to give it away? To get a few tariffs removed from 80 percent to 100 percent, and then we do not even get an exemption on those tariffs. I really cannot understand. The rhetoric I can understand, the philosophy of trade I could argue, but the deal — I do not know how anybody can argue, and this is a bad deal for Manitoba. There is no question about it.

In terms of health care, we have a very articulate Minister in health care. He is very very articulate, a very articulate Minister of health care, but he is so articulate sometimes, he gets himself all wound up and he looks like he is in a little pretzel going every different way. I thought it was absolutely tragic that such a serious issue of our staffing the medical facilities outside of Winnipeg, a very legitimate issue for all of us, was treated in such an indiscriminate way in terms of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). I know he wrapped himself in a little cute pretzel trying to say: "I did not say this, I did not say that." But when one looked back over the Free Press tape recorder that was quoted verbatim, the Minister doth protesteth too much, I think.

I guess the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) had to take the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to the woodshed,

just like he probably had to take the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) to the woodshed, a man who I think all Members of this House respect. But I could just imagine the expression on the First Minister when he heard the CJOB Action Line play for three days in a row about toll roads on highways — a tax on Tories. I imagine the First Minister was apoplectic and, oh, the Minister of Highways was in the woodshed. I hope he went easy on you. I can imagine it.

I think Highway 75 is going to be great, but to watch the Minister twist and turn getting the money, we were doing it on a gradual basis. We have roads and we have bridges, but I would love to have been a fly on the wall when the Minister of Highways joined the Minister of Health in the woodshed with the First Minister. It would have been quite hilarious.

The aging population and the cost of our health care system are very very major issues for us. We know we have a twisting and turning and cute Minister of Health. We do not want task forces, we do not want or need studies, we do not want advisory councils, we do not want studies, we do not want consultation, we want action in terms of dealing with our full range of medical resources. We want action on acute care beds, we want action on extended care beds, we want action on nursing home beds, we want action on the home care worker system that this Government promised when they were in Opposition. We believe that lifestyle and health care prevention is still the cornerstone for all of us in political life, and we doubled the health care prevention budget in our last go-round, a budget that was defeated by both political Parties opposite. We want to see the beef when the health care budget comes down before this House in terms of prevention.

In terms of mental health, we will work cooperatively with the Members opposite in mental health. There is no question, all over North America, the greatest mental health resources are with the people who have mental health problems but are not the most acutely mentally ill. The system is set up backwards. The hospitals with the most acute care medical health problems and mental health problems have the fewest resources and fewest psychiatrists. Whether we like it or not, a person in private practice as a psychiatrist can do a lot better and have a lot more autonomy in private practice than they can in Government practice.

We will not take cheap political shots if the Government improves the resources for doctors in our mental health system. I will urge them to do that. I believe our finest and most major resources should be with the people who are the most mentally ill and, by definition, that is in our health care facilities and institutions. We remain committed to working with the Government to have a fair program of having people return to their communities and having adequate resources in our mental health system, and I would be the first to admit that there is a lot of work ahead of us jointly in that area.

We have already commented on the day care program and the child care program, Mr. Speaker, in Question Period. There is report after report after report after task force after task force after task force we do not need. All Governments, all political stripes, all Parties

have done their studies. It is time to act on child care. The New Democrats have led the way. It is time for this Minister and this Government to get off the proverbial study route to take away the umbrella of a task force and get on with a program for Manitobans in child care. We do not want to be the last car in the barn in terms of this important issue as we are right now.

I really want to see specific action in the justice system, action that is devoid and lacking in the Speech.

I want to work with the Government, and our Party wants to work with the Government in dealing with the present drought situation, to deal with a cooperative approach on the drought situation that has hit Manitobans, particularly in southwest Manitoba, in a very severe way.

We will work with this Government on the pressure on education tax on farm land but we do not agree with the methodology, quite frankly, of the Members opposite in allowing the education tax to be removed on farm land, for land held by banks, for land held by foreign interests, etc. We want to work with you on the real challenges, but we sometimes have different ways of going about it.

We would like to work with you on the intolerable grain subsidies that are hurting our farmers. We would like to work in an all-Party way to deal with the long-term potential impact of the greenhouse effect. Whether it is in hydro, whether it is in our natural resources, in our lakes, whether it is in the agricultural sector, whether it is working with you in terms of diversification of crops, we would like to work with you. I admit that I have only spent about four summers on a farm across from the Member for Ste. Rose du Lac (Mr. Cummings) in Neepawa and I have got some good stories from this last summer dealing with the Member for Neepawa's youth, but I would not want my stories repeated as well.

\* (1520)

We are going to work with our experts in agriculture in a very cooperative way with this Government in dealing with our joint challenge in terms of the drought and the situation. I am very frankly worried, and I keep repeating the whole issue of the environment. The environment is a major priority. It cannot be shuffled off in a bureaucratic reorganization. It cannot be shuffled off because you do not want a Deputy Attorney-General. We cannot give second-string appointments in terms of their expertise to a first-string priority of this province, and that is the environment.

I do not respect the present position of the Government of Manitoba in terms of the Rafferty-Alameda Dam. I do not believe that we can trust the Devine Government. You can talk about all the cooperation and nice meetings you want, but the Rafferty-Alameda project will affect the Souris River system. The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) knows it, and we want a national environmental impact study. We do not want Brian Mulroney . . .

**An Honourable Member:** I thought you did not want studies.

**Mr. Doer:** You know this is a different issue and it is too serious. We do not want the Minister to waive the impact study on Manitoba because the Prime Minister and Grant Devine just picked up the phone and made a little deal. We think that is atrocious.

**An Honourable Member:** You sat on it for three years.

**Mr. Doer:** The environmental impact study was our position, Mr. Speaker, and I do not blame the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) for being sensitive because, when the Souris River dries up, he will be accountable to the people of Manitoba and his constituency when that happens. We need . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Take a look at it today and see how much water is in it.

**Mr. Mr. Doer:** Yes, take it by half and take it down again. That is a very intelligent approach.

Mr. Speaker, we support the Government on a joint water strategy for this Province. We do not support just non-specific words and the treatment of the Environment Department in a second-class way, as we have seen in the first three days in this House by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

The urban challenges have been noted in the Speech from the Throne. I cannot, for the life of me, understand why the City of Brandon was not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. In terms of urban challenges, I think Brandon is definitely an urban centre, and I think we all agree in this House on that.

I also cannot understand, after we spent the time last year and all three Parties spent the time with City Council to establish the 29 councillors and the Independent Boundary Commission, the Members opposite, when they were in Opposition, did not raise one concern in committee. The Members opposite did not raise one concern on the size of City Council in the House in terms of the Bill that was before the House. The Members opposite did not raise any particular concerns or objections. They did not vote against any part of it. City Council had agreed to it, because we all know that one councillor per 22,000 is more appropriate in a democratic accountable system than one councillor for 32,000 or 33,000 people.

You can play a political game on decreasing the size of City Council — we all know that — but I believe the rights of the citizens of Winnipeg are very important in terms of their representation because city councillors get more constituency work on their plate on a day-to-day basis than we do even as MLAs. I think we should be intellectually honest in the way we vote in this House. We should be intellectually honest in the positions we take in this House. We should be intellectually honest in the positions we vote in committee. We should be intellectually honest when we try to change our mind less than 12 months after the Bill was passed by all sides of this Legislature.

It is all part of the same problem, Mr. Speaker. The tough decisions such as the responsibilities of the Mayor, the accountability of City Council, the

relationship of City Council to its citizens has been left aside by this Government, and the easy thing of tampering with the size of City Council is going to be picked up as a major challenge by this decisive group across. It is not a good decision, but I understand the popularity in the short term of tinkering with that only one measure.

In terms of Culture and Heritage, we are totally upset with the fact that the North has been disenfranchised in terms of the criteria, that Garden Hill has been denied their grant to establish apprenticeship programs to build their Community Assets Program and, at the same time, the Charleswood Golf Course proceeds. We think they both had some legitimacy in terms of job creation and community assets, and I would think that the people of Garden Hill are very concerned in terms of what they believe they heard Mr. First Minister (Mr. Filmon) in the election promise campaign — (Interjection) — Yes, they do certainly, Mr. Speaker, and I spoke to them.

We are pleased that the projects we initiated such as the French Festival and the Folk Festival and Folklorama are proceeding, and I notice the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) took some good shots at us when we supported the Folk Festival. I am glad to see he has got his sandals on. I am glad to see he has proceeded to enjoy some folk music. Most Manitobans have been very proud of the Folk Festival. There are some advantages of a minority Government, particularly with that bunch. They could not hack and slash the Folk Festival because they knew it would not be supported in this House by the elected MLAs.

In terms of the Constitutional Accord, Meech Lake, we are pleased that it is proceeding to the public debate. We have stated before our strong recognition of the positive parts of the Meech Lake Accord in terms of our Canadian constitutional process. I know there are weaknesses in that accord. I have articulated those from the day I was first asked.

We believe that the way in which we should deal in our public hearings is consistent with our Manitoba responsibilities and our Canadian responsibilities. I, quite frankly, think that Meech Lake is getting much better attention paid to it than the '82 accord which was developed — where was it, Mama Theresa Restaurant? I am not sure what kitchen it was. But the accord in '82, I think, has even more weaknesses, quite frankly, than the existing accord with the opting-out clause and some of the other provisions. I know that the former Members know where the recommendation came from, the opting-out clause. It was a Member formerly of this House, now a Member who may have to interpret parts of it on the Bench at a later date. I think that was the worst — the checkerboard constitution I have always been opposed to. I think I would have much preferred this kind of process in this section.

It is very interesting in this Session. Two out of three Parties must pass every Bill; two out of three Parties could defeat every Bill. It is a very interesting dynamic. We have recognized the fact of our findings on April 26. We were quite aware of what was going to happen, obviously before that date. We have a silver lining in this cloud of course, because we know that these two

out of three Parties can pass things, defeat things or whatever. It makes it quite interesting.

**An Honourable Member:** Sharon said that she was in control. Do not tell us that you are in control.

**Mr. Doer:** No, I am not. I am not in control.

Two out of three Parties to pass Bills, two out of three Parties to defeat Bills, and that is why we are not just proceeding in this Session of the Legislature to be critical and negative. We are also proceeding with some positive initiatives in terms of proposing legislation. We are going to propose that we prohibit Hydro from not being allowed to have a two-pricing system. You agree that it is already consistent with policy. We agree. I am sure we will have unanimous consent on the Bill we are going to pass in terms of the Canada-U.S. trade deal on the ability of pricing hydro.

We are going to propose parents-in-the-workplace legislation to deal with the stresses in the workplace. We are going to deal with some of the problems in terms of notice time and other provisions for communities for plant closure. We are going to provide some recommendations on smoking in public places in terms of the health of Manitoba. We are going to provide some landlord-tenant protection act. We have already introduced some positive provisions to deal with the small business, The Brick's Furniture. Our colleague from Elmwood has brought in tremendous legislation in terms of the policy of Manitoba.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Manitobans did elect a minority Government on April 26. We are committed to working in a positive way on behalf of Manitobans. We strongly urge this Government to consider, at every decision, fairness to Manitobans and their families — who benefits, who is harmed by all of their measures. We believe the members who have elected us to protect their interests in terms of fairness and working people and their families in this province. We believe we can be productive in this Session if the Parties are flexible, constructive and cooperative. We will not be moving any motion on the Speech from the Throne, and we intend to work in a very positive way on behalf of our constituents and all Manitobans.

#### HANSARD CORRECTION

**Hon. James Downey (Minister for Northern Affairs):** I rise to make a correction in Hansard, the first opportunity that I have had. I am sure that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) would want to make sure that this was not a reference made to his colleague. I refer you to page 50 of Hansard which just is tabled and the references made — and I am sure that it is not any form of a racial slur of any kind. I hope it would not be and I am sure it is not, that he referred to the Minister of Northern Affairs, and I quote, "Mr. Speaker, there is an obligation, and this falls upon the shoulders of the Minister responsible for Northern Affairs," and it refers to Mr. Harper, "and if there is such an animal, the Minister responsible for Native Affairs, the obligation to implement the . . ."

I just say that there should be a correction as to Mr. Harper, but also I would think that the Member should take advisedly that kind of terminology when it refers to any person or group of people in our society.

\* (1530)

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services):** First of all, I want to say that I enjoyed the comments of the Leader of the Second Opposition Party, and I think he is a tremendous Leader for the Second Opposition Party. I think he did a good job. I could probably spend 40 minutes of my comments debating some of the issues that he brought forward. I think possibly that, if he had spoken that way during the campaign, he might be the first official party, instead of the second official party.

It is a great pleasure to be able to participate once again in a Throne Speech Debate. I think, since '77, this is probably my most exciting one, because this time I have the opportunity of being involved in the Throne Speech as a Minister of the province. For myself, it is a proud moment, and I am very excited about it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your responsibility. Knowing you from the past, I know you will adjudicate fairly. I think all Members of the House are going to be working together with you in conjunction to make the House work properly, especially under the circumstances where we have a very unique situation in terms of a minority Government.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all the new Members. It has been a dramatic change that has taken place all around the Chamber. In fact, I would think it is probably one of the biggest changes that has ever taken place in terms of actually changing of numbers, and most certainly in terms of the circumstances that we have right now. Everybody has either a new responsibility or a changed responsibility.

Every time we have an election, we end up with a new scenario, and it is always a very exciting thing until we get to know each other to know how everybody operates. Most of us really enjoy each other. Some have not that kind of personality, maybe do not enjoy each other that much. I have always been one who has enjoyed them all. Unique things happen from time to time. In the past, under the previous administration, we had two brothers involved who were both Ministers in Cabinet. In this present Session, we have two Driedgers involved; they happen to be cousins. One is sitting on your side of the House and one is sitting over here. I wish him well on that side for a long time.

It is interesting enough . . . I think it is a very exciting time. I can recall back to when I first won my election in '77, getting into this big Chamber in here, a boy from the country. I was awed by what was happening. I recall my first speech, when I got up and I always thought I could speak to some degree. I was told I was a little mouthy. Then I got in there and had a mike in front of me, and knowing everything was recorded, the trepidations that go through you, and it sort of makes it very awkward. The first speech that I had occasion

to make in this House, I read most of it and did that poorly. I am not saying that the speaking has improved that much on my part, but I enjoy it much more and I feel much more relaxed. So I can appreciate when new Members make their first speeches in the House. When they have some trepidations, some concerns, that will all change after a while.

For some, Mr. Speaker, it comes very easy. They get up — and I must say that some of the speeches that have taken place to date already with some of the new Members have been good speeches, good quality speeches. I was very impressed. Our Mover (Mr. Praznik) and Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer), both being newcomers in the House, spoke well, articulated their concerns. Members opposite, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), I thought spoke well the other day. Of course, the Second Opposition Leader (Mr. Doer) spoke well today too, but he has been here for a while.

I just want to indicate to the Members, "Enjoy it while you are here," for all of us. The average lifespan of a politician in this Legislature is slightly less than six years. That gives you something to think about. When you consider that we have some senior Members like the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) who has been here over 20 years, the Member for Brandon East (Mr. L.S. Evans) who is leaving now, I think, is on the verge of 19 years.

When you consider that you have some senior Members here who have contributed for many years for a long time, some of you will not be around after the next election. That is a shocking thought, but almost one-third change almost every time. So as I indicated, "Enjoy while we are here."

I also firmly believe, as I think the Leader for the N.D. Party (Mr. Doer) indicated, that most people are sincere about doing their best in this House. We might have different philosophies, but I think the majority of people who are elected to serve the public do it in a very sincere and dedicated manner. The public does not always agree and changes them because of those views. But the stigma that very often is attributed to politicians — we are not necessarily the most popular people in society — people treat politicians with a bit of a downward cast from time to time, figuring that because we are spending public money that everybody could be corrupt. So we are not that popular. When we talk of self-interest, I think that the monies that MLAs get, by and large, if anybody is in here for money, he better rethink his position because the pay is not that good and certainly life expectancy is not that long.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to pay a tribute to those Members who are not with us here today who were here in the past. That would include — I can recall right from '77 on — some of the people who made major contributions in this House: good debaters, good politicians, sincere individuals. I could use names like Sid Green, who was in an opposite Party from myself, who I always found a great orator. He could take almost any issue and speak at length about it, and do it well. He would hold the attention of the whole House. He spoke well on whatever issue he picked. I never agreed with any of the issues that he had, but he spoke well on these things.

There are other Members who I would like to take this opportunity in terms of paying tribute to some of my colleagues. Not everybody in this House gets defeated. The majority do but there are some who step down of their own free will. The Member for Rhineland (Mr. Brown), the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Blake), are Members who chose not to run again, and were senior Members in here, had served well.

I would like to pay a little tribute to one of my colleagues who I worked very closely with all the time, the former Member for Niakwa, Abe Kovnats. It just so happened that Abe and me are patching things up now because my cousin happened to be the fellow who beat him out of there. But Abe does not hold that against me.

Incidentally, the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), I made reference to him already. I believe he is the senior Member that we have in the Legislature, has served very capably for many, many years.

I would like to take this opportunity as well to congratulate the Liberal Party as such, as a group. To come from one Member to 20 Members, I think is a great feat.

I would like to just look at it in the sense the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in his seconding of the Throne Speech indicated the sort of segregation that has taken place with our Party maybe holding predominantly the rural seats. The city seats are basically Liberal in the city and the north represented by the NDP. I feel very confident that all Members in the various three Parties are going to work to try and meld that type of thing.

We certainly will have that opportunity working as a minority Government, which is a very unique experience certainly for myself, and I think for most us. I feel the people of Manitoba — it might not be the way that I would have wanted it to happen. I would have liked to have a strong majority, and you feel a little bit more comfortable doing that. But I think the people of Manitoba, by and large, feel relatively comfortable with a minority Government. They feel that they are going to get good Government, that we will have to work together and I feel that, under the leadership of our Premier, we will be coming forward with policies in a direction that is going to be acceptable. I hope that nobody has in mind that they can call an election very shortly. I have had the occasion of having four of them, and I would like to have a little break in-between time somewhere if possible.

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

I think, given the opportunity, that the people of Manitoba will be able to assess the performance of all of us in this House in such a way that we can have their confidence, that they feel that we are moving in the right direction.

\* (1540)

I made reference to the Leader of the ND Party (Mr. Doer) and his comments. He spoke well today. He covered the whole waterfront, but I was encouraged, not by all his comments, but certainly by the comments

where he indicated that he felt we should be working together as a group, and I think that is a reasonable and fair approach.

I have to be a little critical of the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), who sort of got a little overly excited with the responsibility of all of a sudden being the Official Opposition and having 19 Members with her, where she seems to give the impression that she was going to decide how the activities in the House would run. I think from time to time, we have all come here, even the previous administration thought they could run things as they wanted to. Invariably that is what happens. The Members of the Second Opposition, who were the previous Government, and now it is fruitless to maybe be critical of all the things that they have done, but I think we have to learn from what has happened, and everybody should learn as to how the public will treat you. One day, you are Government; the next day, you are Second Opposition Party. I think you have to dwell on it a little bit.

It was not one single issue alone that basically brought down the NDP Government, the previous administration. It was an accumulation of things. The Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) mentioned the bridge. Some of the other Members mentioned Autopac. It is a series of things that gradually developed, where the general public all of a sudden becomes disenfranchised because of lack of understanding, maybe it is a matter of — I always felt that Government was starting to get inaccessible. The Ministers were being surrounded by a bunch of staff where they did not really come in contact and understand the true issues and the true feelings out there. There are those Members who are here, but there are a lot of them who are gone. That basically, I think, is what happened. All of a sudden, the general public becomes disenchanted with the Government and then you could do what you want. You are gone. As the Leader of the ND Party well knows, when he finally got into the slot, it was pretty well over. We, of course, had anticipated to do a little better in the numbers ourselves so that is a lessen for us again. You have to listen to the public.

I think the general public was prepared to give the Conservatives a chance to govern. At the same time, I think they in some areas maybe were not quite trusting of us, and we intend to develop that kind of a trust with the people of Manitoba. I feel confident we can develop that kind of a trust that we will pay attention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I learned most of my lessons from other politicians. When I got elected in '77, I thought nobody could ever beat me. In '81, we lost the Government and I nearly lost my seat. I looked at why this happened, and it happened because I was not paying attention. I was not paying attention — and I say this to all Members — and I learned my lesson and I went out and I worked hard and paid attention to the people. In the city, it is maybe not quite as easy to do that. If you do not start working on your next election in the rural area after you get elected, during the course of a campaign, it is too late. By that time, it is too late. You had better work with your people all the time and show that you are concerned and relay them right. I am not telling any tales out of school, but

I have learned from my own mistakes and watching what others have done.

**An Honourable Member:** Your toll gates will be . . .

**Mr. Driedger:** We will get to the toll gates.

But this is basically sort of my assessment of how these things develop, and I think the NDP in retrospect look and say, why, why did we do these things? And each in their own mind say, well if we had not done this — I refer again to the bridge. I just want to indicate to the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), we will get the right figures on the record somewhere along the line and we will make very sure they are positive and right.

One other thing that I felt was important that I looked at why the NDP got defeated is to have a strong base of support. I could not believe some of the people who went down to defeat, capable Ministers. Once you have that kind of — (Interjection) — some of them, yes. They are not here anymore, they are gone. But they were being influenced by special interest groups. This is my assessment of it. They forgot Manitobans as a whole and we all, all of us here, have to remember Manitobans as a whole, whether it is the country during a drought period that is suffering, whether it is an issue in the city that is important, whether it is an issue up North that is important.

I think, in spite of the little issue that the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) and myself had on the Port of Churchill, we are both on the same track. We feel it is motherhood and apple pie to have the Port of Churchill operating. I think everybody in Manitoba would like to see it basically stay in existence and operate and enhance the operation up there. Seemingly, it has been an effort in futility to get it escalated.

So there are many things that, in spite of the fact that we from time to time may give each other a little dig here and there, but basically we have the same concerns on many many issues, maybe it is just a different way of dealing with it.

As I indicated, we could at this stage of the game — I think it is an effort in futility to keep going back to the previous administration and saying, well they did this wrong, did that wrong, did that wrong, did that wrong. I think we have to start looking at the positive aspect of it. What do we do from here on in as a group.

The Leader of the ND Party spoke along the same lines. In fact, I thought he was getting a little aggressive already and critical in the short period of time, which is less than three months, since we have been sworn in as Cabinet — the expectations. And rightfully so, Oppositions should make sure that we perform as best we can, but we feel quite proud of the effort that we have put in.

I remember yesterday the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Evans) saying, well everybody works hard when they are in Cabinet. I think all the Members, all MLAs work hard to try and get themselves up to speed, to get themselves oriented.

I want to commend people on the Government side, especially the Treasury Bench, that put in extremely

long hours to try and make sure that we could get into the House. We have very unusual circumstances, the fact that the Budget was defeated on March 9. We had a prolonged election period and we are trying to get in to try and get the Estimates approved. It will be a learning experience for us as Ministers in many cases and certainly for Members of the Opposition in terms of the approach that will be used. We will develop sort of a scheme over a period of time in how we do that.

One thing I want to indicate is that Question Period is usually the area where it is the actor's stage to some degree. By and large, when you get into the Estimates, that is a learning experience in many cases for both the Minister as well as the critics or any Member who wants to be involved. During the time that I was in Opposition and I was the critic of the Department of Natural Resources, I had six different Ministers in one cycle. So actually in many cases, as the critic, I was the one who was trying to help educate the Minister of Natural Resources, and I say that not facetiously. I say that because, in many cases, as a critic for six years I had as much knowledge maybe to some degree — not the intimate knowledge but the general knowledge — of the concerns that had to be addressed in the Department of Natural Resources. We will all be going through this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of working out and developing sort of a rationale with each other, and I think that is the way it should be.

\* (1550)

The Leader of the N.D. Party was relatively critical about our relationship and was indicating that, because the Conservative Party is in power at the federal level and we are a Conservative Party at the provincial level, we should have good liaison. I would like to indicate that I think we do, but that does not necessarily mean that the federal Government is going to turn open the tap every time that we, as Manitobans, come forward and ask for something.

I want to indicate to you the positive things that have already happened. I had the occasion to attend the Ministers meeting in Quebec City. It was my first Ministers meeting with other Ministers — this was about three weeks ago — and it had to deal with Government services and procurement. It has been a vital concern for people in western Canada in terms of getting our share of national purchases.

When you consider that the western provinces have 30 percent of the population and, the year before last, our share in the western provinces was 15 percent of the national purchases, we are talking big, big money. We were only getting 15 percent and, last year, it dropped to 12 percent. At the time they were talking, lots of statements were made, a lot of conversation took place about giving the West a fair shake but it did not happen that way.

Subsequently, we had that meeting in Quebec City and it was a good meeting. The federal Minister of Procurement, Otto Jelinek, together with the Minister of Industry and Commerce, jointly worked out and announced last week, and I am sure you Members must have heard it as well, the positive program that

was announced in procurement for the western provinces. I think that is a positive thing. I feel that is important that we have that kind of a relationship but, like I say, it does not always happen that way.

I want to correct a little bit some of the notions that were brought forward today in terms of the Port of Churchill. Rumours have abounded about the fact that, because of the poor crop year this year, maybe they will not be shipping grain to the Port of Churchill. I was very concerned about that. I know that the previous Minister has been concerned about that a long time.

When you look at the components of what has happened in a short period of time, I find out all the road blocks that are involved in terms of making the Port of Churchill viable. You have a railway that is not too receptive serving the Port of Churchill. You have a Wheat Board that is selling wheat wherever they can and do not necessarily favour the Port of Churchill. It has to be political desire and wishes to make it function, and that sometimes is not happening.

When you consider that the grain terminal out there is a Government terminal — there is no private terminal — so you have the private grain companies that are all fighting against it as well. Then you have the Lakehead lobby group which is basically very concerned about — and this is what makes me a little frustrated when you consider that the total export in an average year out of the Port of Churchill is less than 3 percent of the total shipment, that takes less than 3 percent. Actually, one good weekend of shipping through the Lakehead is equivalent to what we need to keep the Port of Churchill viable. We need about 550,000 to 600,000 tonnes to make the port viable, such a small fraction. How do you get everybody into the system to agree that we should be shipping through the Port of Churchill?

With all the rumours abounding at that stage of the game, I made it a point, on the instructions of my Premier, and arranged a meeting with the federal Minister of Transport, Benoit Bouchard, and the federal Minister Charlie Mayer. As I indicated before, we had good discussions. I was able to bring forward my concerns to them, and one thing I asked, I said treat us fairly. Treat us fairly and treat the Port of Churchill fairly. If you are going to cut back the grain because of the drought situation, if we have less exports, let us use it on a percentage basis.

I wish I could have been definitive in terms of saying I came back and I have twisted his arm, my counterparts out there, and that we have a commitment for so and so much. I do not have that at this stage of the game, but I have a commitment that they will give fair consideration. I can only accept that at this stage of the game. I can only accept that.

While I was out there speaking with the federal Minister of Transport, I also raised another issue. I want to clarify the position in terms of highways, which is my responsibility at this stage of the game. When I looked at what happened in terms of the highways program in the Province of Manitoba over the last six years, eight years, I would like to explain exactly what has happened.

We hit our high point in highway construction in the year 1982, which was sort of the lap-over year from when we got defeated in 1981 and the new administration took place. We had at that time approximately \$100 million in capital construction. Since that year, every year it was cut down more and more and more to the point where last year — the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) is going to feel a little uncomfortable with some of the scenarios that I am going to bring forward — but last year, it was \$83 million that was spent. If we had just used the normal rate of inflation — rate of inflation — a slip of the tongue! — from 1982 on until now, our capital construction program in Highways would be approximately \$120 million, \$125 million.

What really bothers me is that we have gone backwards. We have lost virtually six or seven years. Our highway system has suffered. It has gone backwards. How do you ever catch up? I am happy to say that with my Government we had a commitment made during the election that we would repriorize Highways, and I want to indicate that we have done that. When the Budget comes down, we will be able to indicate the positive moves we made for that.

However, not to suffice, when I met with the federal Minister, I raised the issue with him about cost-sharing on some of our major highways. We have national programs that have been established. We have the National Safety Code. The previous administration had a role to play in that. We have national transportation routes that we have established across all of Canada and we in Winnipeg are the major transportation city or location in western Canada. I think we have a major, major role to play, and we end up having the lousiest roads in the country.

With all due respect, maybe not that much respect, but the previous Ministers of Highways could not convince their own caucuses and colleagues that more money should be spent on it. That is exactly where it was at. I am not saying that the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) did not want to spend more money, but he did not have enough clout. I was careful how I said that, John. He did not have enough clout with his colleagues with different priorities.

I think we have to address these things. If we want to continue to play that kind of a role in Canada, with our location as a lead transportation centre, we have to build up our roads. When you consider the amount of monies that have to be spent, when we consider under the national weights and dimensions area where we are talking of establishing these routes with heavier weights, that some of our major structures — our cloverleaf, for example, in the west end of Portage Avenue — is something that we have to look at, whether we have to put some restrictions on that because of the extra weights. When you start looking at it in stages, the amount of money that has been spent, if you look at No. 9, if you look at No. 7, if you look at No. 75, Trans-Canada, it is mind-boggling. (Interjection) Did I miss No. 8? Really, when we look at the aspect of it, the amount of money that has to be spent to try and deliver a good service, how do you get the money?

We have to deliver the social programs and we will be delivering social programs and not cutting them,



but I am concerned that I need this kind money just to be able to start to catch up. I would hope that, when I lay this scenario before the federal Minister, somewhere along the line he can find it in his programs to give us some consideration here.

We have to look at a scenario that has happened, where they have actually been involved in funding. There is some funding right now on the Yellowhead Route which is cost-shared, but it is of a very minor nature. When you consider that Canada is the only developed country where they do not have a national participation in terms of road funding, -(Interjection)- Canada is the only one. All the other developed countries basically have a national road system where money goes into that. We are hoping that somewhere along the line, in our dialogues and our requests, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we can develop a cost-shared type of system to be able to develop the road structure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity, for the benefit of the new Members, to indicate a little bit about my constituency. I represent, as you all know, the Emerson constituency, which is the southeast portion of the province here. I think, so that we can understand each other a little better in the debate, where we all come from, my background basically is farming and I have a small real estate company.

\* (1600)

I represent an area where my biggest community is a population of 1,500 people. There are approximately 33 small hamlets that are involved, and my ethnic breakdown is about four ways. In fact, the Emerson constituency has the second-highest French speaking population in Manitoba, and I challenge anybody to check that out. So we have a split between the French speaking, the Ukrainian, Anglo-Saxon and the German Mennonite. It is about a four-way trade off. With all these small hamlets, if you think that is not challenging and exciting to be an MLA in that area, think again. One of the -(Interjection)- Let me tell you something. I have some comments I would like to make about that, if I do have time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, can you indicate the time? I get carried away with my rambling sometimes and I forget how much time I have.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko:** You still have about 10 minutes.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Thank you, that gives me more opportunity -(Interjection)- The Leader of the N.D. Party wants to know how that is going to affect me. First of all, I have gone through this once before. I went through the scenario in '81 or '80 when I had a whole bunch added to my constituency. What I want to indicate though is that it is tough to represent a rural constituency, and the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) has the same challenge from the rural Members and when we talk of — and I will be careful and indicate this is a personal view. By law, we have to have the boundary changes take place every 10 years and rep-by-pop, how can you argue that? That is motherhood

and apple pie, but I am talking about the provincial level now. I will let the city councillors fight about their views about the city seat numbers.

But I will tell you something. In my view, to be an MLA in the city is a catwalk and a piece of cake compared to . . .

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

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Speaker, I indicated right at the start that this was my personal view, because I have worked along with colleagues in the city and I have worked with colleagues whom they represent in the rural areas. I will tell you something, I do not know what Members opposite maybe at this stage do, but on weekends after we get through here, I have my commitments and it is a joy to go to every fair, every community organization, every dance. There are always functions, because as an MLA in a rural area, if you are going to be a good Member, you have to be part of the total community, all the communities, and your timetable is not your own.

For those of you who are in for the first time, who have young families, I feel sympathetic for that. I have seen that happen with my colleagues as well. Families suffer to be in this kind of business, families do suffer. I am very fortunate now that my youngest daughter is getting married next month. So basically, it is my wife and myself and we have chosen the political route at this stage of the game, and we welcome all comers in terms of a challenge. I am not saying that being egotistical, but we are into it to the point where we enjoy it, we can really enjoy it now. But I say to those who have young families, I feel sorry for you. It is difficult, because families do make a sacrifice. After having been here almost 11 years and 5 years in municipal politics, I can vouch for that. To those of you who are dedicated to your work, congratulations and all the best, but do not forget your family life somewhere on the line.

The Leader of the NDP is a little concerned about the new boundaries. I do not know whether his seat is disappearing or not. When the time comes and the new boundaries take effect January 1, 1990, I thought we would never be able to sort things out prior to 1990 — and you know what? — it all sorted out. It all does. So I would suggest to the Leader of the NDP, do not get too excited. It will all sort out somewhere on the line. Invariably it does.

I want to make a comment about the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) and if I maybe missed some of the names in the beginning, it is just like my colleague here sort of misaddressing the Speaker from time to time. But these are habits that you develop and it is hard to break sometimes. As we are learning to know each other, if we sometimes make mistakes about where everybody is representing a certain seat, it is not done in an offensive way. But I believe it was the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans), who is the critic of Agriculture — correct? I thought he expressed his concerns as best he knew how about the farm area. With all due respect, but invariably I find it an interesting thing that in this House everybody either has roots with farm, farm roots, or would like to, except maybe the Member

for Churchill. He is not sure. I asked him before. He said he did not know whether he wanted any roots.

But by and large, I think what has happened in the past little while in Manitoba with the farm community, especially in southern Manitoba, is very dramatic. If you care at all about your fellow man, when you get out there and you see what has happened to the farm community in southern Manitoba, it is sad. It is a sad case. I think everybody in this House feels that compassion, and hopes that there would be some way that we could financially help keep the people on the farm, that we could make it a little easier. Farming life is a very challenging life at this stage of the game. It has changed a lot since the time when the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) indicated how he picked stones, and I have done my share. I have made hay and stuff like that. We are a long way from that. We are talking of big business.

But we are still talking of financial implications, big investments, the trauma that happens within a family when you see your crop go down or not coming. These are things that are traumatic in people's lives, and I think if nothing else we have to show compassion and understanding.

In our drought committee that was meeting all the time, we were trying to cope with coming forward with something that would help alleviate — not solve it, you cannot solve it with enough money — but to help alleviate, show that we care as a Government, all of us. The program that was developed for the livestock program was basically just to try and help them feel encouraged to keep their breeding herds because, once we lose that, we have major problems with that.

As governments work — and nobody was critical of the programs that have been coming forward. Maybe the criticism could be that we have not spent enough money, but how much do you spend? I think the feeling has to be of compassion and caring and doing as much as we can to try and help people through rough times.

In this particular instance, it is basically the farm community that is suffering. In the next instance, it is maybe people affected by forest fires. It could be anything, any natural traumas that we go through, for example, the Swan River area with the flooding. It is important that we take and show compassion, that we show the people in Manitoba that we care. They expect that kind of thing from us, people here, and I think rightly so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to indicate that I am looking forward to exciting times in this House here. We will have some interesting debates and we will have some interesting challenges from time to time. If you wonder just exactly if you think something very exciting has happened, probably something more exciting has happened already. The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) could indicate to you unbelievable things that have happened in this House — really they have. I have never experienced anybody going up and fighting with somebody, but we have had close cases of that as well. Emotions run pretty high here at times and we have to learn to back off.

I think we are all entitled to speak our minds. We should do that. We should speak our minds, but we

should also respect the other person's view and weigh it, because there is no way that 57 people sitting together like this are going to agree. I get trouble with getting agreement in my caucus from time to time. I am sure, and want to say this to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), that from time to time I am sure she has got trouble having consensus within her caucus.

\* (1610)

Anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have enjoyed once again participating in the debate here. I look forward to working with all of you. I hope we have enjoyment out of this. It is difficult to sit this time of year when everybody else is on holidays and it is over 30 above outside. We are sitting here. It is quite a challenge, so I would expect that possibly by common agreement, since we all have the best for the people of Manitoba in mind, we could maybe get out of here by about the end of August.

**Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to add my sincerest congratulations to the Speaker (Mr. Rocan) who is absent from there right now, on being chosen for his most prestigious position. It is, indeed, a most popular choice and he can count on my support to maintain the decorum and productivity of this House. Congratulations also to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your appointment, and I know from personal experience you will do a fine job. You can count on my assistance.

It gives me comfort that the Honourable Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) alluded to the fact that he read his first speech and that he did that poorly. I think that, if that were true and I hardly believe it was, he certainly improved, as I certainly enjoyed his personal approach, catwalk, cake and what have you, included.

My riding of St. Vital was honoured previously to have Mr. Jim Walding as the Speaker of the House from 1982 to 1986. Regardless of Members' opposite comments, he was always, in my estimation and the estimation of most of his constituents, true to himself. He always conducted himself in a manner in which he thought a true Speaker should. Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you and the Speaker do likewise, your accomplishments will be substantial. I have no doubt that will be the case.

I am pleased also to congratulate the Mover (Mr. Praznik), and Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) of the Throne Speech. They were tough acts to follow, and I look forward to presentations from these two Honourable Members in the future.

I noted, as other speakers have previously, that the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) observed the House was divided and said, and I quote: "I believe that all MLAs should work towards an understanding of the unique problems faced by citizens north, inside the Perimeter Highway and in the type of area I represent."

I want to assure the Honourable Member and other Honourable Members opposite of our cooperation in achieving his goal, and that we will also assure him

that we will gladly rectify this problem of division when next we go to the polls.

I would like, as well, to congratulate sincerely the six Pages who were reappointed. I wish you all well and I am proud that Mr. Phillip Fenez, who attended Glenlawn Collegiate in St. Vital, is one of the Pages chosen.

As my parents were settled in St. Vital over 70 years ago and I, having been born in a house on St. Mary's Road in St. Vital, I hope I can be excused for my deep bias towards St. Vital. I am certainly very proud to represent the fine people of St. Vital and I humbly thank the residents in St. Vital for placing their confidence in me, my Party, and our Leader, Sharon Carstairs.

St. Vital lies between the Seine and Red Rivers and is divided by the Trans-Canada Highway between Highfield Street in Norwood and the southeast of the Seine River, a distance of two miles.

Entering the west side of St. Vital, you are greeted by perhaps the most pleasant threshold of any urban riding. Heading south across the Red River, you drive to the Winnipeg Canoe Club golf course, and to the west are the banks of the Red River. This golf course is part of the second-oldest private club in all of Canada. The Winnipeg Canoe Club was formed in 1894 by some of Winnipeg's most outstanding and distinguished citizens, including Hugh John MacDonald. As a matter of fact, St. Vital is no stranger to golf courses. There are three golf courses within St. Vital and two more bound it.

St. Vital is a settled and quiet area in spite of the reports you heard of our only hotel, infamous hotel now. St. Vital is devoid of any industrial development and there is very little commercial enterprise. It is mostly residential, and about 25 percent of St. Vital is open space and hence has cleaner air than usual.

I feel that the areas of Egerton Road, Kingston Crescent and Norwood are amongst the most desirable residential locations in Winnipeg and hence property values reflect this.

From the beginning, the predominantly Anglo-Saxon and French people have lived in exemplary harmony. Des Meurons Street links old St. Boniface to St. Vital. The people have always been highly cooperative in their endeavours.

St. Vital has always had one of the most progressive and innovative school systems and was, and still is, a Canadian leader in the introduction of French immersion studies. It is interesting to note that, just recently, the first school in Canada built specifically for French immersion, St. Germaine School, was opened in south St. Vital.

St. Vital has just introduced a highly successful program starting with 900 students, a summer school that has attracted students from as far away as Churchill, Lynn Lake, and Melita. Already halfway through the course, they are planning for a much bigger program next year, and I commend the St. Vital School Division for their ingenuity.

History shows us that the area now known as St. Vital was settled in around 1820, just after St. Boniface was formed by white buffalo hunters.

As a community, St. Vital has a history going back to 1860 when Bishop Alexander Tache was too modest to have this new mission called St. Alexander. Instead, like the modesty of all the people from St. Vital, he named it St. Vital in honour of his assistant Bishop Vital Grandin. It has also taken the name of the street running through the east-west section. Oddly enough, the St. Vital Parish Church is now on Pembina Highway in the constituency of my honourable colleague from Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) across the river.

There are two landmarks that were started early at the turn of the century in 1909 that still remain in St. Vital. We have the 3rd Boy Scout Troop that still flourishes today and is the oldest scout troop in Manitoba. We also have the St. Vital Agricultural Society, because St. Vital in the very early days was and somewhat still is an urban rural society. It will hold its 79th Annual Fair in August of this year. Market gardeners of St. Vital were always the leaders in their field, and I am sure that the Honourable Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) will attest to that as that is where his family settled. The oldest school in St. Vital that celebrated its 75th anniversary two years ago is Glenwood School in the north end of St. Vital.

People of St. Vital have always been ardent curlers and started the St. Vital Curling Club in 1933 and, last year, was the hub for celebrations. We are pleased to have them, the Centennial Manitoba Curling Association, the premier curling association in all of the world. A native of St. Vital, Donnie Duguid, was on three Manitoba championship rinks. He became the first person to win back-to-back world championships both times as the skip.

\* (1620)

Athletics has been another love of people in St. Vital. Our high school, Glenlawn, has always been amongst the top at provincial meets.

The St. Vital Mustangs Football Club is the pride of St. Vital, begun in 1948 by two friends of mine, Art and Wally McOuat, the 1987 edition won the Eastern Canadian Junior Football title. I wish them well in their quest for a Canadian championship in 1988.

Many people choose to stay in St. Vital for their entire lives and that is why we have a high percentage of seniors in that area, the people who built this province. Some have been in the same home for almost 70 years. I saw them as I knocked on doors during the election. I feel it is incumbent upon us that we keep assuring these seniors, not only by our words but by our actions, that the health and social programs of this province will not deteriorate further, and we can ensure this by keeping free enterprise healthy and expanding.

I am pleased to say that since April 26 (Interjection)-you should know how. The Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) should know. Since April 26, I am pleased to say, there is a feeling of hope permeating St. Vital. As well, in my travels around Manitoba, it is permeating the whole of this province, and the message that I get is that the vast majority — the vast majority, very few exceptions as a matter of fact — are very pleased to see Sharon Carstairs so close to the Premier's chair.

I hope and trust that you will all work with me in making St. Vital, indeed all of Manitoba, an even better place to live.

I would like to now go over some of my notes from the Throne Speech. I hope that my comments are taken in a constructive way in the hope for the needed attention to these matters of the Government.

Firstly, as an ex-city councillor, I would like to press for a thorough reorganization of the city and certainly not the piecemeal approach we have seen so far. We need to follow up on the White Paper to completely examine the structure including community committees, need for five or indeed any commissioners, jurisdiction between the city and the province, powers of the Mayor, and certainly boundaries. I feel that only then can we determine the correct political structure and the numbers. I, for one, would like to see more power given to elected representatives, particularly on the local matters such as community committees.

Once and for all, I would welcome some provincial leadership in the matter of jurisdiction of our waterways: pollution, banks and safety. The previous administration promised much, delivered nothing, and now such action is far far overdue, at least two or three years overdue.

The tragic accident over the weekend in my riding only strengthens my resolve to push forward on a Bill to make the rivers more accessible and safer for recreation. For one thing, we want to ensure that potential users of the new facilities at the Forks can enter the river safely for recreational purposes. This is certainly far from the case right now, and anybody who uses the rivers, whether they be the river-boat operators, canoers, or even people who live on the riverbanks. They are right now, and were for some time that I know of, a year-and-a-half that I have been involved in it, very frightened to go out on that, what I call, a jungle.

I note mention of assessment reform. I welcome this and hope it will be implemented post haste, not only in Winnipeg but on farms as well where it is probably even more needed.

The Throne Speech mentions the Government's belief, and I quote, ". . . that the seniors of this province deserve recognition for their lifetime contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of our province." I could not agree more with this but, again, actions will speak louder than words.

On this subject, I hope the seniors' Minister (Mr. Neufeld) will sit down with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and discover why. Why is a major funder of the program, the Province of Manitoba, why he is going along with Winnipeg's plan to dismantle Seniors' Transport Service, an established, efficient, personal service, dismantle this in favour of a plan that will never give these well-deserving seniors anywhere near the transportation they need and deserve in this city.

And while he is at it, Mr. Speaker, ask the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) why he is not honouring the Tory election promise to fund the STS for another year? And as well, maybe the Honourable Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) could sit down with the same

Minister and tell him that people from St. Vital just do not act like that.

I would like to read — and if anybody needs any copies, if you have not seen it on the opposite side I have some additional copies here — a paper that was handed out to people using STS during the past election campaign. I read in part: "We pledge to keep the Seniors' Transport Service operating for one more year . . . "and one more year was from July 1 to June 30 of 1989 in anybody's language, ". . . to ensure that service to you is not reduced." That is a pretty nice election promise. It follows up on the work of the Liberal Government who were the ones who instigated this program, this very effective program, one of the best in Canada. Now this Minister is content to sit back and see it dismantled. That is compassion.

I conclude, ". . . that we need your support on April 26, 1988 to ensure that we form Government so that we can honour this pledge. Our new Government will work cooperatively with the City to ensure an adequate level of service is provided to you."

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

This was signed by five — unfortunately we cannot deal directly with any of them today because they all fell a little short at the polls — it was signed by Charles Birt, Rosemary Vodrey, Robert Haier, Gerry Mercier, the previous Attorney-General, and Bob Vandewater. If that is not an official promise and a pledge, I do not know what is. This was later released to the media, and I am sure with the okay of the Progressive Conservative Party by the so-called Gerry Mercier, the same person.

Certainly, there should be some credence in their election promise here. I noted this morning reading a paper here which is called, "The Word of Mouth." They feel and agree with me that this was the most abominable and niggardly, and this is my quote by the way, hoax that this Government has perpetrated on people in their abuse of seniors using STS. I quote from the August issue: "But this particular deed is particularly dastardly and insidious, even for Tories." It goes on to say, and I will not complete the quote because I might be called to order even though it is written in the paper. It says, "It only serves to remind the word 'tory' comes from the Irish Gaelic word 'toraidhe' meaning a highwayman." In their promise, they said that they would monitor to make sure that the service was adequate across Greater Winnipeg.

\* (1630)

Lastly, on this subject of seniors' transportation, ask what has the Minister done lately to ensure adequate service, I would be interested in the answer in the future on that one.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this Government certainly put an end to wasteful urban sprawl, and I note particularly the residential development put forward recently in St. James, west and north of our airport. South St. Vital is certainly a glaring example of what not to do. We are just years behind in all facilities for all those people and have handicapped all the areas

to the north there and penalized them for taxes and what have you. We cannot have this sort of thing happen again.

While on that subject, I do not know whether the St. James School Board has consulted with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) on this development near our airport, but I will be asking at a later date if the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) feels it is proper to spend scarce education dollars for the development of projects such as this which are fully in the jurisdiction of the Winnipeg City Council.

Much good work has been done under the Core Area Initiative before it became a political tool, but I feel now that too much of its funds are now spent outside the real core area where the real need is. This must be very frustrating, as I know it is to the people in the north end of Winnipeg, as well as the people who administer the plan. I hope the province shows some leadership here to see that more of the Core Area Initiative dollars are spent to clean up what they were originally intended for and that was the core area of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see this Government bring Manitoba ambulance service at least up close to the Canadian average, as they espoused when they were in Opposition, and I would be interested to know what they have already done in the three months since the election. I guess it would be virtually nothing.

Also the Throne Speech mentioned increased funding for independent schools. Let me personally tell the Government that 50 percent is a very good start, but only that, and I will be looking for increased funding in the future.

Tourism, the Throne Speech said, "This major component of their renewed thrust for economic development," and those are their words, "would be expanded." We have seen some signs of that, thankfully.

I would like to point out that this Government's efforts to clean up the storm damage at Grand Beach is absolutely abysmal. Somebody asked earlier, who is in charge. I do not think anybody is in charge here. This is a major tourist attraction and yet the campgrounds need expansion to twice their present size under normal circumstances, and yet we have seen one-third of these sites closed for the last few weeks, for a need of a few paltry dollars. I am sure some action should be forthcoming from the Member from that area.

This is clearly not good enough. Reports I get are — and I do not even want to embarrass the other side opposite where I do get these reports from, but they are pretty dear to their hearts — that hundreds of tourists are being turned away after three or four hours of waiting. It can be expected that some are fraught with disappointment, and I have heard of some from Alberta who will never return again, and perhaps never even to Manitoba for the lack of a few paltry dollars.

Mr. Speaker, on the subject of Grand Beach, it is reported that upwards of 75,000 persons visit the resort on some Sundays. It might be interesting to note that, as I observe it, they are sort of the blue collar people, a lot of ethnic people, ethnic Canadians who visit there

and that is their day out. They do not have cabins. Some of them have trailers, but they certainly do not belong to that part of society that has summer cottages, mainly the visitors.

They do this because, year after year, many more Manitobans, indeed visitors from afar are recognizing the delights of this beach which compares favourably, and I am sure those who have visited, to any others on this continent. A marina and more lodging, among other things, are needed for this resort to make it a destination resort. I certainly hope that this Government will renew the efforts begun some years ago to enhance this area that has such fresh air, clean water, tall trees and rolling sand dunes.

Mr. Speaker, as a downhill skier, I know the two provincial ski hills have been left in limbo and no one seems to know whether they will be opened from one year-end to another. It would certainly be helpful if the Government could announce as soon as possible the long-term plans for Springhill ski hill and Falcon Lake ski hill so that deterioration of these resorts will cease and expansion and improvements be implemented to encourage skiers to stay in their home Province of Manitoba.

One of the interesting things that was a surprise to me that I noted in the Throne Speech was a lobby office in Ottawa. We have had some previous comments that were enjoyable on that. I am very pleased to see this, and I hope that this ensures that there will be no more fiascos such as the CF-18 as far as Manitoba is concerned.

I would be most pleased to see this new Government keep agriculture in the forefront of the people, especially the people of Winnipeg, where they take their daily food for granted and fail to realize the great importance in having a healthy farm community to ensure a healthy Winnipeg economy.

On the subject of agriculture, myself and some of my colleagues visited a rural area just over the weekend and found it very enjoyable. In that regard, I would like to pay my tributes to the 4-H Clubs of Manitoba, this year celebrating their 75th anniversary. It is gratifying for us to sit there and see the rewards that they were given and the recognition and the achievements — we were able to see some of their exhibits — because these are the young people, and we must not forget this, who will fill our food baskets in the future. I certainly want to commend them, along with my colleagues, for their fine work.

I also have a desire to see the handicapped receive better treatment in the matter of access to public buildings than we have seen in the past. This is a priority. One example is the new entrance ramp to the Legislature. This is just not adequate, as I have previously pointed out to the Minister. There are too many flaws to it. If this is an example of what we can expect, we better make an improvement.

I would be interested in the plans of this Government to replace the training centre in Gimli that was destroyed in the recent storm. Jobs have been lost. I have seen no mention of that. Maybe there has been and so I

apologize for not reading the papers that carefully. Certainly the province is now feeling the loss of this excellent training facility.

I hope this Government improves our licence plates. People outside of Manitoba think we are a drab, colourless lot, judging by our plates. Certainly, we are not. I would certainly like to see us improve that and have plates which portray our vibrancy and joie de vivre.

I am disappointed that more was not detailed about a replacement for the Jobs Fund or retraining and employment. We will be looking for these in the Estimates.

Also I would like to see the Government increase the use of our abundant electrical power in public buildings and transportation, instead of exporting it to other provinces and to the United States.

On the positive side, I am pleased that the Throne Speech alluded to a study to use some of the Lottery funds for health care, but I certainly would not want to see the present funding reduced for sports or the arts. Also encouraging is the additional funding for the Folk Arts Council — Folklorama. Not enough can be done to expand the unique, multicultural heritage aspect of Manitoba and, as you know, it is fast becoming our principal tourist attraction.

\* (1640)

I applaud also this Government's initiative to provide more jobs in rural Manitoba for those men and women forced from the farms in these hard times.

My wish list for action by this Government includes tougher action on crime and drugs, fulfillment of Manitoba's commitment to Francophone rights, tougher penalties to polluters, increased efforts to eradicate Dutch Elm disease which is laying bare our cities and surrounding territories. I would like to see the expansion of the aboriginal rights as soon as possible, that they may have self-determination. I would like to see this Government stop stalling on day care and prioritize expansion of day care so that the most needy receive it first.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the unsung heroes of Manitoba, people I have a lot of respect for, and those are the thousands of tireless volunteers, whether they be with the community clubs, sports, arts, health care, church, education, service clubs, farm organizations, seniors, and many, many others, and I hope I have not missed any important ones, like the PC. Party.

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

**Mr. Rose:** We will talk about that later, Harry. By the way, I got a few stories you will get a kick out of. I say to those groups, thank you and keep up the good work.

Congratulations again, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to all 55 Members from both sides who have been elected to represent all their constituents, and I hope we have a fruitful Session. Bonne chance!

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** It is indeed a pleasure for me to rise, Mr. Speaker, and speak to the Speech from the Throne. I would like to first congratulate you in the high office you have attained in this House. I know that you are going to have some difficult days ahead. You have received congratulations from all Members who have risen in this House so far, and I hope that the cooperation we have seen so far in terms of operating with you in this House continues from all people.

I would also like to congratulate the Mover (Mr. Praznik) and the Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) for the Speech from the Throne, two rookies who showed that they are capable of delivering a speech in this House, and I am sure we will hear many eloquent speeches from them in the future. I would like to congratulate my Leader (Mr. Filmon) on being Premier of the Province of Manitoba. I would like to congratulate all the new Members to this House. I believe I have done my arithmetic right. It is approximately 25 new Members, 19 over there in Official Opposition. There is a tremendous challenge in front of you. You are here to represent a large number of constituents, a million people in the Province of Manitoba, 57 of us in here. Responsibility weighs heavy on our shoulders at different times.

I would like to also congratulate the Leaders of the two Parties opposite. They have some challenging times ahead of them. I notice that neither of them moved a motion of non-confidence, which would indicate maybe that there is a strong desire in terms of making this House work, in terms of governing for the Province of Manitoba. I can assure you from my office and from this side of the House, we will do everything possible to be the very best Government this province has seen for some period of time.

I would like to congratulate my critic opposite from Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) who yesterday gave a very good speech, touched on agriculture.

I would just like to, in a humorous way, talk about the R and R. He mentioned that he has done some roots and rocks. I am sure in the city R and R means rest and relaxation. It is one of the going jokes at our place and, when the weekend arrives and when you get R and R, that means more roots and rocks not rest and relaxation. We have done it for many generations and I can assure you that my son is fifth generation and our farm is still going on and it has not gotten any easier as the years have gone by.

Certainly, in my constituency, we represent a rural riding with many towns — places like Hamiota, Shoal Lake, Birtle, Elkhorn, Miniota, Virden, Kenton — small towns with a lot of small businesses who depend very heavily on agriculture. When the agricultural economy is hurting, the small towns that I represent hurt too. They hurt not only in terms of the economy; they hurt in terms of enough people in the schools, enough people to keep the doctors in town, enough people to keep the hospitals open. I can assure the Opposition that these are not problems that emerged recently. They have been there for some time. I am going to talk more about the economic problems in agriculture later on, but the economic problems in agriculture mean a

depopulation in the rural, a depopulation in our towns. That is a very major problem in my riding, as it is in many other rural ridings.

I mentioned briefly about the 25 new Members. I would just like to also remind people there are 15 of us in the House who have been here just two years. So out of the 57 in here, there are only 17 Members who have been here more than two years. So there are a lot of rookies, in a sense, in this House. Two years has been a good experience for me, but I know I have lots more to learn in terms of what lies ahead. But I will assure you, as I am sure everybody is here to do, that we are here to represent our constituents who elected us as much as anything else.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker, the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). It certainly is a bit of a unique situation to have the Deputy Speaker from the opposite side of the House, but I am sure he will act in as impartial a way as the Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rocan) will act as he sits in that capacity.

It was rather interesting today to hear the Member for Emerson (Mr. Driedger) give a rather fatherly message. The Member for Emerson, from the Opposition's side, spoke a lot more forcefully and a lot stronger, but today he was just that fatherly image which would indicate that he is accepting the responsibility of being in Government very seriously and is working hard at trying to be a Minister from this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, and I almost said Madam Speaker — I am trying to get that straight — we presented a Speech from the Throne which is a distinct plan for action, a plan for action for the Province of Manitoba to give our citizens an opportunity to meet the challenges of the future; a plan that is laid out to, in the short term, show them that we are in control of Government, that we want to prevent waste and mismanagement. We want to prevent spend, spend, spend. We want to give direction for the future in terms of initiatives, opportunities that our people can meet.

Our young people need those opportunities. They need strong Government. They need a Government that is going to demonstrate that we are not going to be wasteful of their resources, nor are we going to put an undue burden on them in the future. Certainly, the debt load that they face from previous administrations is something that is going to be very difficult for all of us to handle in terms of delivering the services that we need.

We have over 70 initiatives in the Speech from the Throne, I think a very ambitious Speech from the Throne. There are other initiatives that are not in there that we will address in the not-too-distant future. We have touched on agriculture, health care, community services, education, justice and many other areas, all of which affect all citizens of the Province of Manitoba. It is my desire in my capacity as Minister of Agriculture and in this Government to give equality to all citizens in the province in terms of the way we administer from the Government side of the House.

We hope that we can give a strong vision for the future and show the citizens of Manitoba that the

Government is in strong hands. I was pleased to hear comments from the other side of the House, in the agricultural sense, that there is a desire to cooperate and work towards resolving the problems that we face, and I can assure you that there are going to be many in the coming months.

In the Crown corporations, we have had some major problems in the past. Citizens have become disenchanted with the way Crown corporations were operated. From the perspective of being Minister responsible for The Telephone Act, I can assure you that we are laying out the principle that the job of the Manitoba Telephone System is to supply telecommunication service in the Province of Manitoba to all citizens at the least possible cost in the most efficient way. We do not want any more \$27 million losses in Saudi Arabia. It hurt the corporation in financial terms, it hurt the corporation in terms of image in the public and it comes up far too often, that problem that occurred in the past. I hope it is behind us. I think it has to be behind us in the eyes of the citizens of this province. We need to move on to addressing the increased service needs of the province. Other Members have mentioned the desire of the public to have better services in the rural. There is no question that we are committed to that.

\* (1650)

I, as the Minister responsible, will be acting in that direction and pursuing the increased services that the rural people want. The people in the City of Winnipeg can pick up the phone and, for a monthly charge, call any one of 600,000 people, no long distance calls, on a private line. I do not think everybody in the city realizes that very few people in the rural have the opportunity to a private line, and they certainly do not have access to 600,000 people.

There are 243 exchanges in the Province of Manitoba, way too many, that need to be addressed. It should have been done many years ago but the time is here and we have to do it and I intend to act in that direction. I know that there is a high level of desire out there. I hope the desire exists in the city and amongst the Members on the other side to support that initiative, because you cannot have increased services without some increased cost.

Mr. Speaker, we are very cognizant on this side of the House of the multicultural nature of this province and I am proud to say that I come, like the Member for Emerson (Mr. Driedger), from a community or constituency that is of mixed descent. In my area it is Anglo-Saxon, Ukrainian, French, Mennonite, and those people blend very well together in terms of making Manitoba a strong place to live, and I am very proud to represent them. Over the years, we have blended together in our thinking and our lifestyles and our desire to support our local communities.

One thing I would like to touch on just briefly before I get into talking about the agricultural area is that MTS, at the end of June, introduced a new service which will help the hearing-impaired and the speech-impaired people of this province. It is a

telecommunications device whereby a deaf person or a hearing-impaired person can call a specially trained operator. That operator, through the use of modern technology, can transmit the message to whoever they want to send the message to. It gives these people with this impairment an opportunity of equality and independence in the province. It is an indication of the desire of this Government to act to help everybody to have equality of opportunity in the Province of Manitoba.

The Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) mentioned the 75th anniversary of the 4-H, which is a very important movement in the Province of Manitoba. They have been with us for 75 years, and I am proud to say that in my younger days I was a member of the Calf Club and the Tractor Club. The 4-H movement, operated through my department, has many initiatives under way across the Province of Manitoba this year to recognize that 75th anniversary. It recognizes not only the members of the 4-H movement but recognizes the leaders, and our leaders are volunteer people in the communities. I am very amazed at how many certificates of 10, 15, 20 and 25 years I have signed in the last two months dealing with 4-H leaders, showing the commitment of these people to work with our youth.

Just so you know what 4-H means, and I still remember this from my youth, it means Head, Heart, Hands and Health and I think the use of head, heart, hands and health is a good principle we can incorporate within these Chambers too.

I think it is the weekend after this next one that the 4-H program is in Portage with some major events. I plan to be there, and certainly it will be a very important weekend and I am sure other Members of this House will also be there. It will be a good opportunity to recognize the members and the leaders of that important movement.

In terms of the position that we are in in agriculture, somebody said to me the other day, he says agriculture is usually a safe and comfortable portfolio. Then he went on to say, with the exception of what you are facing now. That is exactly true. The department is devoting a tremendous amount of resources at this time to dealing with the drought situation. More resources will have to be put in that direction in the coming months, there is no question.

I have driven through various parts of the province in the past two or three weeks, and it is encouraging to drive north or northwest in the province. Crops are reasonable and the people in those areas who have reasonable crops, even average or slightly below-average crops, are going to be very happy because the initial prices of grain have risen. The on-board prices of grain have risen. They will do quite well. But you get to the southern part of the province, south of No. 1, it is an entirely different picture. I was down in the Reston country on Saturday.

**An Honourable Member:** A fine area.

**Mr. Findlay:** It was a fine area, but they face a very difficult challenge in the future, as do many communities down that way and straight south of Winnipeg. You

drive through there and there is not much crop. A lot of it is three, four, five, six inches high, some headed out. Some of it will never head out.

An awful lot of it has been cut for greenfeed. The Green Feed Program is obviously working. A lot of it has been turned under. Obviously some has been adjusted by crop insurance and written off and the farmers turned it under. Certainly that is a picture that is true all across the South. It will have tremendous economic impact. I stopped on the way into Winnipeg here on Monday, and it is a field that I have been watching steadily over the course of the summer. I have stopped three or four times because, every time you drive by at 60 miles an hour, it always looks not too bad. It looks like it is a crop out there.

I stopped the other day. It has headed out and it is ripening. It is no more than six to seven, maybe eight inches at the most; it is barley. The heads are just out of the sheath with four to six kernels per head. That farmer, like many others, has got a difficult fall ahead of him.

We have dealt with a lack of rainfall, for one thing, in the Province of Manitoba both last fall, very little snow over the winter, very little rain this spring, but I think the most devastating part of the drought has been the intense heat that we have faced over the month of June.

I know in my particular area we had, believe it or not, five inches of rain in the early part of May, and most years you consider that adequate to give you a reserve to carry your crop. Even that crop that was in the ground at that time has not survived because the heat has impacted upon that crop and caused it to be short and thin, the heads to be small, and I am sure it will fail poorly.

In some of the area that I know best, some of the late crop is probably the best crop. Some of it is fairly tall, fairly thick. The potential of yield is there, but the heat of this last week or so without rain is probably going to cause poor filling and potentially low yields.

Another thing that I notice as I drive through the country is the tremendous amount of dirty crops that are out there. It would appear that people sprayed their crops and, because they are so thin, the odd shower that has come in the past two or three weeks has stimulated weed growth and the weeds are sticking through the crop. It is very distressful to see a crop of wheat that is one foot and a crop of pigweed that is two feet high sticking out the top of the wheat.

We have probably no way of totally combating the drought the farmers face. The only way we can combat drought is with good rain. The livestock producers face the initial problems this summer that caused us to bring forward a program of greenfeed to stimulate the production of forage. The Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) commented on the things that we had done but he did not touch on this one the other day. I would remind him that it is a well-received program out in the country.

As I say, as I drive through the country, I see a lot of feed rolled up. Producers are finding a way to keep



their livestock. I have asked auction mart operators whether there is a run on cows and they say no, cows are not coming to market, which is very good because that means that there is an attempt to keep the basic cow herd. I believe the Green Feed Program has got something to do with that, because it is stimulating production of forage to be taken off of crop land. I think the Green Feed Program also will keep a lid on forage prices this fall and, if it can keep our basic herd basically on the farm, I think we are much better off.

\* (1700)

The other aspect of it is grain producers who have a crop that is not worth harvesting have an opportunity to be paid to roll it up into feed and sell it wherever there is a market, and there certainly is a market. To the west of us, a lot of feed is moving into Saskatchewan at reasonably good prices. Of course, that money is being paid here in the Province of Manitoba.

To this point in time, we have over 400,000 acres signed up in the Green Feed Program. That is as of a week ago. So I am certain that we are going to be somewhere up in the 500,000- to 600,000-acre category we wanted to be. We hope it stimulates the production of about 600,000 tonnes of feed. With the carryover we had last year and with the amount of forage that is produced from the forage fields this year, we believe we will have in the area of 1.75 million tonnes of feed, which should be enough to carry the breeding herd through the winter.

What will happen this fall in terms of calf prices remains to be seen because higher price grain usually means lower calf prices. It has already meant lower finished animal prices for the farmers in the province.

Another thing we have to be concerned about in the drought is the ability of our small businesspeople in our towns to survive. There is no question that farmers' attitudes were upbeat as of New Year of 1988. There was an indication that grain prices were going to increase a little bit. People put the inputs into the ground this spring with a little bit of optimism. That optimism was turned around and the machine dealers, the fertilizer salesmen, the hardware stores, the clothing stores and the owners that I have talked to in the last two or three weeks indicate that the business level is just dropping way way back because farmers are just scared of the future. Not only the farmers but the employees of those people are scared of the future. The potential for layoff is very high.

We have already heard the grain companies talking about the low volume of grain, that they may have to cut back in the number of employees and some of them have done it already or started to do it. There will be less grain to transport. Therefore, there are less jobs in the transportation area. Certainly, the impact of the drought has gone from the farmer to the small town and I am certain it is going to come into the city. It has to come into the city because of the smaller amount of money coming into the province from the export sale of grain. The prediction on export sale is to about half of this past year which is a tremendous drop. Granted the price is going to be higher, but not high

enough to offset the fact that we are only going to export about 15 million tonnes.

Just to give you a bit of a perspective on the overall magnitude of the drought, I am going to give you some figures from the United States as to the prediction. The area that has suffered a lack of adequate precipitation this year extends from Manitoba to the Rockies all the way down to Oklahoma, Kansas across into southern Illinois and up into Ontario. When I was in Ontario two weeks ago to the Ministers of Agriculture meeting, they took us on a brief tour out into the country. They took us to the Research Station to show us the research they are doing, and they have got some very good elaborate facilities in Ontario, as you well know, Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans).

As we drove through the country, I was appalled to see the state of their crops. They certainly have a drought down there too. Their annual crops this spring are no better than ours. Their winter crops are a little bit better, but the disappointing thing was their corn crop. Their corn crop was not as well advanced as ours and they had suffered a frost on June 29, a frost in the Province of Ontario on June 29. Incredible. As you drove through the country, the corn fields, all the top leaves were yellow. This is prior to the tasseling stage so they do not believe it will seriously affect the yield but it will certainly set it back. I guess we do not want to be an alarmist, but we have had weather swings out here in western Canada and it is not uncommon to see a frost in the middle of August. If we ever get a frost in the middle of August in the Province of Manitoba, we will have serious problems because there are some reasonable crops of rapeseed coming in the northern part, and we hope that they mature.

Just to give an idea of what the American situation is, they are talking about the corn crop being down 26 percent, soya bean crop down 13 percent and the wheat crop down around 25 to 30 percent. What that has done — because last year in '87 the amount of world production of grain was less than consumption and certainly this year production is less than consumption, such that the U.S. wheat surplus will have been cut by two-thirds in just two crop years and the worlds' grain reserve will shrink by 27 percent. That is a tremendous recovery from the surplus we once had.

I think we are safe to say that the surplus conditions are over, they are past. I think what we have to look forward now to is rain this fall so that there could be some opportunity for build up of moisture reserve. The department staff tell me the measurements they have made on the amount of moisture that is in the soil is incredibly low — incredibly low! — in the crop fields, in the forage fields across the province. It will take a lot of rain to regenerate that moisture that needs to be there for an adequate crop in 1989.

Some of the initiatives that we are very interested in acting on as the Government — and we talked about it at the Ministers of Agriculture meeting last week in some depth — crop insurance, the vehicle to protect farmers from the kind of problems we have this year. It is unfortunate in the Province of Manitoba we have less than 50 percent of the acres enrolled in crop

insurance. There are a number of reasons for that. Some farmers have felt that they could be their own insurer. Other farmers felt that this guy is abusing it and that guy is abusing it and he is farming crop insurance and he is getting away with it, so I do not want to put my money in to support his malpractice. Others say, I just cannot afford it and they decide to take the risk on their own shoulders.

We believe very strongly in risk protection. We believe in trying to improve that program by consultation with producers through their organizations such that we could make some changes in the coming year and years to improve the program to the point where it is more acceptable to producers.

The Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta have 60 to 70 percent of their acres enrolled. So we have to at least get up to them to consider that we have done an adequate job. Some of the people would like to see a higher level of coverage. Once you raise the level of coverage, the potential of abuse becomes greater and, in order to prevent abuse then, there has to be some, I guess, surveillance of what producers are doing and, if the producers are going to abuse the privilege of crop insurance, maybe there has to be more consideration given to try and define ways to prevent the abuse so that we can have that higher level of coverage. Some farmers want at least a high enough level of coverage so that their cash costs could be covered. It is a legitimate request. I think it is one that is going to have to be looked at very seriously so that at least that level is covered. Many people say, if it cannot at least cover my cash cost, why should I take it. Anybody who does not have it right now probably wishes he at least had the level of coverage that is available.

Other risk protection available is certainly Western Grain Stabilization, although criticized by many in the early years, the first 10 years of the operation of that plan. It has worked quite well in the last two or three years in terms of putting money in circulation in western Canada to offset the low incomes mainly because of low world price for grain. At this point in time, we have over 87 percent of the farmers enrolled in Western Grain Stabilization, and I think the recent changes in the Act will stimulate further enrollment and obviously get it up over 90 percent.

It is interesting that last week when we were in Toronto, the eastern provinces, Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes, requested a similar plan for eastern Canada. They would like a national grain stabilization program preferably but, if they cannot get a national one they would like at least an eastern grain stabilization program very similar, in fact identical to what we have in western Canada. So it is recognized there it is also working well.

Just to go back a little bit in history. When I was on that side of the House and the former Minister of Agriculture from the Interlake (Mr. Uruski) was on this side of the House, he often chastised the federal Government for allowing eastern producers of grain to be covered under the Agricultural Stabilization Act, because he said that was unfair that they did not have to pay premium through ASA to get coverage. He said

they were getting a better deal than we were getting in western Canada. Lo and behold, the eastern producers come forward and say: Hey, we want the deal you have in western Canada because it is better. Obviously the ASA was not as good a coverage as the former Minister thought it was.

Another area of risk protection that we believe very strongly in is tripartite. We have campaigned on it. We operated on that principle in terms of criticism of the former Minister in this House. In this province at this time, we have hogs under the tripartite plan, signed about two years ago without any fanfare, voluntarily by the former Government.

\* (1710)

Then two years ago, we got into sugar beets after a very long and strenuous debate in this House. I would like to proudly say that 100 percent of sugar beet producers signed up for the tripartite stabilization plan because it is voluntary for the producers. We signed up for the bean plan just after we formed Government and bean producers are very pleased with that. It gives them an opportunity to have price stabilization. Now we are working as hard as we can in the direction of trying to get the red meat stabilization plan totally in place so that all the beef producers in Manitoba can operate on a level playing field with their counterparts in the other provinces.

I was very pleased at the Ministers' of Agriculture Conference to have all provinces come to a general understanding that we should have a 7.5 percent cap or lower on total Government money going into stabilization. That means some provinces have to pull back from programs they have now in order to be able to receive the federal contribution in tripartite. We are talking about a rough three-year, preferably three-year, but in some cases maybe up to a five-year phase-in period. We are talking about a panel being set up to handle disputes between provinces. These details are presently being worked out at the Deputy Minister level.-(Interjection)- Yes, the reason for the 7.5 percent cap, I think why other provinces felt that we had to go with a cap is because we are talking about free trade north and south. We have to look at trying to get some reasonable level of free trade in this industry east and west in this country. I think, as time goes by, we will have more free trade over on the other side.

Just by way of coincidence, when we were in the campaign, to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), although she was speaking against free trade, I can assure her that the candidate for her Party who was running against me said, I also support free trade, because he knew that the people out in that constituency were strongly in favour of free trade, so he is on side. I hope that some more Members will come on side and understand the value of that.

Mr. Speaker, how long do I have?

**Mr. Speaker:** You have 10 minutes.

**Mr. Findlay:** Certainly we have many challenges in the future ahead of us in agriculture, not only the drought

that we have to get by in terms of getting as many producers into a position to put a crop in, in '89.

That means that we are going to have a lot of producers have some difficult problems ahead in terms of rearranging their finances this coming year. The mediation board in the province and the Federal Debt Review Board are going to see a lot of work. We should never lose sight of the fact that this short-term problem will be solved in some fashion, and we have to look on further into the future.

I was glad to hear the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Doer) today say he will work with us in diversification. To me, that is a very strong principle that we have campaigned on aggressively. Diversification to me means reducing products at the farm level for which there is a market somewhere in the world, either as a food product or as an industrial product. There are many examples of products that have been produced in the last 15 or 20 years that were not produced 20 or 30 years ago. We are into corn, sunflowers, potatoes, lentils, peas, and many other special crops. We are into beans more recently. There is a market for beans around the world. There is a market for many things and I believe that as a Government, federally and provincially, we need to put these challenges in front of producers to go out and find these markets. Put challenges in front of people who are in the private sector who can find these markets. We need to have our marketing people challenged in the Government to work with them, to open markets up.

I can assure you, there are markets elsewhere in the world. I have had the good fortune of having delegations from China and Japan who have shown a tremendous interest to do business with Manitoba. They want to do business with us because of the quality product we produce, particularly in the meat product area: turkey, chicken, pork. We have a lot of opportunity there.

But diversification means more than just production. It means secondary processing in the Province of Manitoba. We need more CSP plants like we have in Altona and Harrowby, Mohawk Gasohol in Minnedosa, Alfa Mills in Minnedosa, numerous other processing plants that are in place around the province. A goose factory up in Morden, then there is one up north of Winnipeg too, Teulon I think it is. These are the opportunities that entrepreneurs can find and we as a Government must support them.

We also believe strongly in working with our producers through their organizations. These organizations can demonstrate or have in the past demonstrated strong industry development concepts. They work well in terms of bringing their issues to Government. They take their issues to the researchers. They take their issues at the international level and are able to present themselves. We have in this province a strong hog marketing board, egg marketing board, turkey marketing board, chicken marketing board, all who have done exceptionally good work in developing their industries and the hog board probably stands out. They fought in a very aggressive battle with the United States on the countervail. They kept the countervail down to 4.5 cents a pound and now it is reduced to 2.2 cents a pound. They fought the non-tariff trade barrier issue on chloramphenicol very aggressively.

Now we believe we need to go one step further. We need to have in place an organization that can represent the general farm community, and we are prepared to introduce legislation for a check off with up-front, opt-out option. I am glad to hear the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) support that principle. The producers of this province have proven, through the voluntary organization over the last two or three years, they can be a good aggressive organization, duly elected responsible people, and they know that they can do a good job. We will present that legislation and I know we will have support for it.

Another area I would like to just spend a couple of minutes on before my time runs out is the agreement of trade with the United States. There may be some shortfalls in it. Nothing is perfect, but in the agriculture area I want the Members opposite to be aware that it is a win-win situation. Our producers in the agricultural area, none of them have come forward, not one organization has come to me and said, "I don't want any part of that deal", or, "It's going to hurt my industry." The pork producers are adamant that we get into that deal. We produce 1.8 million hogs in this province each year and 1.8 million, 70 percent of them, have to be eaten outside this province and about half of that goes to the United States, half of it, already.

If we do not have an open border agreement with the United States and we allow them to carry on with their protectionist attitude and raise the countervail, what does that do to our hog industry? Just remember that we have support out there. We have producers who can benefit from that open-border attitude. In the beef industry, we have had a considerable amount of beef moving back and forth across the border.

We have exports to the United States that are sizable. Last year, in 1985 (sic), we had 20,000 tons of beef go to the United States. Feeders in western Canada believe that, with an open-border attitude, we can have feeders coming into Canada for feeding and then sell the finished product back to the United States, and preferably after processing. There are some large processing plants going, unfortunately in Alberta, but the market for those plants is south into the northeast-northwestern part of the United States.

The Canadian Wheat Board and our supply management boards are all protected under this agreement. They are in what is called "safe harbour" and in the canola area, probably the best success story we have got.

We have in this country produced a crop that over the years, through breeding and research, we have taken out the glucosidalates, we have taken out the arusic (phonetic) acid, and the research work has worked well, produced a product that the consumer wants. It is being sold in the United States by Proctor and Gamble under the Puritan label.

Correct me if I am wrong, the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans), I believe it was in 1987 it was given the award of Health Food of the Year, and the sales of canola oil in the United States are unlimited because of that. It has achieved that kind of status. About a year before that, it was given what was called grass

status, generally regarded as safe by the Food and Drug Directorate in the United States. It is accepted in the market down there.

All of our canola production in western Canada that went to the United States is only 2 percent of their vegetable oil consumption down there, but still it is a market for us. We have a product that has quality behind it. We have the grading standards to guarantee that quality, and the market is down there.

Why allow the United States to put in protectionist trade policies? Let us keep the border open. This agreement is one way of achieving that. Right now the tariff on canola oil is about 7.5 percent, or about \$45 a tonne. You take that tariff off, we have better access to that market, and it is a quality product.

The Egg Board has indicated to me some degree of concern about the Free Trade Agreement. They are concerned about being identified as a public entity, which will have some bearing on whether they can carry on with their present surplus removal program into the United States. There is a legal dispute as to whether they will be called a public entity. The American lawyers say it is, Canadian lawyers say it is not, and that dispute has not been resolved.

At the Ministers of Agriculture meeting last week I raised it, and the powers to be are giving it what they called aggressive attention. But it is a legal dispute and unfortunately public entity has not been defined. The egg people believe that they are going to win in that argument, and that is good.

The chicken people have some concern in Manitoba about whether the global quota of some 7.5 percent that cannot come into this country, which has been going on for some period of time, might all come into Manitoba. I have been assured by the Department of Agriculture federally that if and when licences are applied for, for bringing chicken into this country, they will not all come into one province or one region of the country, that it will be spread across the country, so that concern has been set aside.

\* (1720)

The milk people had some concern about certain products not being on the import control list. Those products have been added to the import control list. So there are ways and means, negotiation to work out the irritants that exist in that deal with regard to agriculture.

I assure you, as I said earlier, it is a win-win situation for agricultural producers in western Canada. Our market is obviously south of us. That is where the big population is, 250 million people. We have had problems serving the eastern Canadian market because it is so far away and transportation policies have not been in our favour.

But the north-south agreement that we are talking about here is something that I think western Canada can benefit from tremendously in the future. We all believe in an open border policy, I am sure. We all believe in more trade. We all believe in improving our economy. We all believe in allowing producers of this

country to have the lowest possible operating costs, and I believe this deal will allow that to happen.

It is indeed a pleasure to be in this House with you there in the honourable Chair, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak here. I wish everybody well in the coming Session and if we can work in a reasonably cooperative sense, I think we would be good Government for the Province of Manitoba. Thank you.

**Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface):** Monsieur le président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter vivement de votre nomination au poste de Président de l'Assemblée législative. J'appuie ardemment cette nomination et je suis confiant que vous saurez vous acquitter honorablement de vos fonctions qui, nous le savons, sont très exigeantes. Votre sens du devoir et votre aplomb sont des atouts que vous ferez jouer pour le meilleur fonctionnement de cette Législature.

En tant que représentant élu de la circonscription de Saint-Boniface, je suis d'autant plus heureux que ce soit un membre de la minorité linguistique officielle qui occupe ce poste prestigieux. Depuis la décision de la Cour Suprême le 13 décembre, 1979, qui rétablissait l'égalité des langues anglaise et française à la Législature du Manitoba et devant les tribunaux, il est primordial que nous, les membres francophones de notre Assemblée, puissions parler français. Et ce, sans préavis.

C'est pourquoi, M. le président, je tiens à vous dire que j'exercerai pleinement mon droit de privilège et que je participerai activement aux périodes des questions activement ainsi qu'aux débats en parlant français. C'est ainsi qu'avec les services d'interprétation provinciaux en permanence, nous aurons une Législature véritablement bilingue et non seulement en apparence, et que justice sera faite. Nous devons avant tout considérer les multiples et bons effets que la reconnaissance officielle du fait bilingue en hauts lieux peuvent avoir sur la population en général et sur les Francophones dans chacune de nos circonscriptions en particulier.

M. le président, tout ceci mène à parler de ma propre circonscription qui m'est chère et que je tiens à coeur, Saint-Boniface, situé au confluent de la rivière Rouge et de la rivière Assiniboine, à l'endroit même où le grand et célèbre explorateur Sieur de la Vérendrye a posé pied à terre, Saint-Boniface, première colonie française dans l'ouest et berceau de la civilisation dans ce vaste territoire occupé depuis des millénaires par les peuples autochtones. Saint-Boniface, petite colonie où les peuples français et métis cohabitaient paisiblement avec leurs amis autochtones et voyaient au défrichement progressif des terres. Saint-Boniface, avec ses villes soeurs, Saint-Norbert et le Fort-Garry, a vu la naissance et l'essor d'une grande ville qui est devenue Winnipeg aujourd'hui. Saint-Boniface, depuis sa fondation, le bastion urbain de la langue française au Manitoba, et qui a su retenir cette identité linguistique et culturelle tout au long de son histoire. Saint-Boniface, qui a su livrer à sa population les très nobles institutions cléricales et religieuses qui ont oeuvré ensemble à la survie d'un peuple peu à peu rendu minoritaire sur son propre territoire. C'est ce Saint-Boniface historique que

j'évoque aujourd'hui devant cette noble Assemblée de représentants élus venant des quatre coins de notre cher Manitoba. Saint-Boniface, colonie française qui a hébergé son ardent défenseur, Louis Riel, ce fils issu de ces peuples fondateurs, le Père du Manitoba, à qui nous devons tout le respect et dont la mémoire demeurera à tout jamais gravée dans notre âme. M. le président, ce Saint-Boniface a grandi et se trouve aujourd'hui au plein coeur de la ville cosmopolite de Winnipeg. Ce changement graduel a fini par changer le visage de ce petit centre urbain. Sa population s'est agrandie sensiblement et nous avons vu venir s'installer auprès de nous des membres de tous les groupes ethniques de la plus grande ville. Nous apprenons à cohabiter et devenons ensemble une plus grande famille avec plus de diversité. Nos institutions ont dû s'ajuster à cette nouvelle réalité, mais cela ne s'est pas fait sans pertes. Plusieurs d'entre elles ont subi des transformations fondamentales et il y eu perte de services en français dans un grand nombre de cas. J'adresserai cette question plus loin. Saint-Boniface reste néanmoins une ville dynamique. Les citoyens et citoyennes du vieux Saint-Boniface s'efforcent à sauvegarder le cachet particulier de ce petit îlot francophone et à revitaliser ses institutions. Sa paroisse toujours française continue à jouer un rôle de rassemblement de la majorité de ses citoyens et citoyennes. Les écoles élémentaires et secondaires du quartier dispensent un enseignement en français. Le Collège de Saint-Boniface évolue et multiplie d'année en année, les cours qu'il offre aux jeunes gradués de nos écoles et celles des autres villes et villages du patrimoine français. Là aussi, nous devons veiller à assurer une croissance énergique afin de permettre à plus de jeunes Franco-Manitobains de poursuivre leurs études post-secondaires en français ici-même au Manitoba. Nous avons un centre culturel qui contribue à la qualité de la vie en français. Nous avons également un bon nombre de centres d'accueil pour nos personnes âgées à qui nous devons tout pour toutes les années de services rendus à la communauté.

Enfin, n'oublions pas les commerçants du quartier qui démontrent leur confiance dans l'avenir en y investissant davantage aujourd'hui. Nous devons soutenir leurs efforts et les encourager. Il demeure notre défi de trouver un plus grand équilibre dans notre communauté afin que tous ces éléments puissent s'y intégrer et travailler en harmonie.

M. le président, je voudrais maintenant faire mes commentaires sur le Discours du Trône.

M. le président, en tant que Francophone, je fus énormément déçu qu'il n'y pas eu la moindre mention pour l'extension des services en français.

In the Throne Speech, no priorities were established, Manitoba is experiencing an aging population and there continues to be a need for senior housing. In St. Boniface at one of our senior homes, we have a waiting list of 600. Mr. Speaker, this Government should also be concerned about senior transportation. This Government should be committed to protecting and promoting the rights of our senior citizens and be more sensitive to the financial issues facing this group.

Mr. Speaker, a thank you to the Honourable Minister of Charleswood (Mr. Ernst), his Deputy Minister, for the

briefing offered me on Business Development and Tourism, and thank you to all the other Honourable Ministers for their briefings on various departments. It is regrettable that there were not more specifics for tourism spelled out in the Throne Speech. The four lines in the Throne Speech indicating the consolidation of departments was not very encouraging for the third largest industry in our province.

M. le président, je tiens à remercier tous mes concitoyens et concitoyennes de ma circonscription de m'avoir fait confiance. I pledge myself to serving all the people of my constituency with honesty and integrity. I want to listen to the people before making major decisions that impact upon their lives. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the other 56 Members who were elected to this Legislature.

M. le président, je tiens à remercier et féliciter mon prédécesseur, M. Laurent Desjardins pour le nombre d'années qu'il a si bien servi la circonscription de Saint-Boniface.

M. le président, notre honorable chef de l'opposition, Madame Carstairs, est une femme ouverte et malgré tous les honneurs qui lui échoient, elle n'a jamais perdu une once de sa belle simplicité. Nul ne peut ignorer à quel point cette femme généreuse donne de sa personne. La politique demande lucidité et courage, l'engagement, un grand esprit de service, de solidarité et de fraternité. Sa pondération et son sens aigu des réalités seront certainement un atout pour nous tous. Elle est un de ces gens solides et droits avec lesquels on sait où on va et sur lesquels on peut compter.

Permettez-moi en terminant, M. le président, de soulever une question de toute importance qui me préoccupe et pour laquelle je m'engage à travailler avec tous les membres ici assemblés afin de trouver ensemble des solutions concrètes et pratiques.

\* (1730)

M. le président, vous devinez que cette grande préoccupation concerne l'expansion des services en français dans la Ville de Winnipeg, comprenant Saint-Boniface, Saint-Norbert, Fort-Garry et les autres districts où habitent mes concitoyens et concitoyennes de langue française. Il est essentiel, M. le président, la justice l'exige, que cette langue soit rétablie dans son rôle d'une des deux langues officielles de la province. Je dis bien que deux langues officielles veut dire deux langues égales. Cela ne se fait pas du jour au lendemain bien entendu, mais il faut reconnaître que c'est un objectif à atteindre et la Législature doit se mettre en route. Ce sont après tout les événements de 1890 qui ont été la cause de notre déclin. Si 1890 n'eût été, la grande majorité des Manitobains parleraient aujourd'hui nos deux langues officielles et en seraient d'autant plus enrichis. Et puis, il est même possible de croire que si la langue française n'avait pas été brimée en 1890 les deux provinces voisines, la Saskatchewan et l'Alberta créés en 1905, auraient elles aussi été bilingues. Nous devons restaurer, ici au Manitoba, les droits fondamentaux du peuple francophone qui est demeuré patient tout au long des années et qui a vécu

depuis près d'un siècle dans l'espoir qu'un jour des hommes et des femmes éclairés sauraient lui rendre justice. M. le président, en terminant, je voudrais féliciter mon collègue, Mark Minenko, pour avoir été élu vice-président et puis féliciter les pages à la Législature. Merci beaucoup.

**(Translation)**

Mr. Speaker, allow me to heartily congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I strongly support this appointment and I am confident that you will carry out your demanding duties honourably. Your sense of duty and your composure are assets which you will use to ensure that this Legislature operates as effectively as possible. As the elected representative of the constituency of St. Boniface, I am all the happier that a member of the official linguistic minority holds this prestigious office. Since the decision of the Supreme Court on December 13, 1979 re-established the equality of English and French at the Manitoba Legislature and before the courts, it is essential that we as francophone Members of this Legislature be able to speak in French, and that we be able to do so without notice. It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to tell you that I intend to fully exercise my right and that I will actively participate in Question Period, as well as in the debates, by speaking French. Thus, with the province's interpretation services established on a permanent basis, we will have a Legislature which is truly bilingual, not only in appearance, and justice will be done. We must, above all, consider the many positive effects that the official recognition of bilingualism at high levels can have on the population in general and on Francophones in each of the constituencies in particular.

Mr. Speaker, all of this leads me to speak of my own constituency which is very dear to me and which I hold close to my heart. St. Boniface, which is located at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, is the very place at which the famous explorer, La Vérendrye, set foot. St. Boniface was the first French settlement in the West and is the cradle of civilization in this territory which has been inhabited for thousands of years by the Native peoples. St. Boniface was a small settlement where French and Metis peoples coexisted peacefully with their Native friends and worked to progressively clear the land. St. Boniface, along with its sister communities, St. Norbert and Fort Garry, witnessed the birth and growth of a large city which today we know as Winnipeg. Since its foundation, St. Boniface has been the urban bastion of the French language in Manitoba and has retained its linguistic and cultural identity throughout its history. St. Boniface developed for its population the very honourable clerical and religious institutions which worked together to ensure the survival of the people which gradually became a minority in its own territory. It is historical St. Boniface which I am evoking today, before the honourable Assembly of representatives from the four corners of our province. St. Boniface, the French settlement, was the home of its most ardent defender, Louis Riel, this son of the founding peoples, the father of Manitoba, to whom we owe the greatest respect, and whom we will always remember.

Mr. Speaker, St. Boniface has grown and now lies in the cosmopolitan city of Winnipeg. This gradual change altered the face of this small urban centre. Its population has grown considerably and we have seen members of ethnic groups come and settle among us. We are learning to live together and are becoming a larger more diversified family. Our institutions have had to adapt to this new reality. But this has not occurred without some loss. A number of them have experienced fundamental transformations, and there has been a loss of French language services in many cases. I will come back to this question later. St. Boniface, nevertheless, remains a dynamic city.

The citizens of old St. Boniface are making every effort to retain the appeal of this small francophone islet, and to revitalize its institutions. Its still French parishes continue to play a role of bringing together the majority of its citizens. The elementary and secondary schools of the area provide French language instruction and Le Collège de St-Boniface is evolving and increasing from year to year the courses that it offers to the young graduates of our schools and those of other cities and towns having a French heritage. Here also, we have to ensure energetic growth in order to allow more Franco-Manitobans to pursue their post-secondary studies in French here in Manitoba. We have a cultural centre that contributes to the quality of life in French. We also have a good number of homes for senior citizens to whom we owe so much for all the years of service they have rendered to the community. Let us not forget the businesspeople of the area who show their confidence in the future by investing further in that area today. We must maintain and assist their efforts and encourage them. It remains a challenge for us to achieve a greater equilibrium in our community, in order that all these elements may become integrated into it and work together in harmony.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to make some comments on the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, as a Francophone, I was extremely disappointed that there was not the slightest mention in regard to the extension of French language services in the Throne Speech. No priorities were established.

Manitoba is experiencing an aging population and there continues to be a need for senior housing. In St. Boniface, at one of our senior homes, we have a waiting list of 600.

Mr. Speaker, this Government should also be concerned about seniors' transportation. This Government should be committed to protecting and promoting the rights of our senior citizens and be more sensitive to the financial issues facing this group.

A thank you to the Honourable Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst), his Deputy Minister, for the briefing offered me on Business Development and Tourism. A thank you to all the other Honourable Ministers for their briefings on various departments.

It is regrettable that there were not more specifics for tourism spelled out in the Throne Speech. The four lines in the Throne Speech indicating the consolidation of departments was not very encouraging for the third-largest industry in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the citizens of my constituency for their confidence in me. I pledge myself to serving all of the people of my constituency with honesty and integrity. I want to listen to the people before making major decisions that impact upon their lives. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the other 56 Members who were elected to this Legislature.

I would like to thank and also congratulate my predecessor, Mr. Larry Desjardins, for the number of years that he served his constituency of St. Boniface so well.

Our Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Carstairs, is a very open person and, in spite of all the honours which she has received, she has never lost her fine simplicity. Nobody can be unaware of the degree to which this generous woman gives of herself. Political life requires lucidity and courage, commitment and a great spirit of service, solidarity and fraternity. These were certainly an asset for all of us. She is one of those people who are solid and upright and with whom you know where you are going and upon whom you can count.

Allow me in closing to bring up a question of great importance that concerns me and in regard to which I commit myself to working with the Members here assembled in order that we may find concrete and practical solutions together. Mr. Speaker, you undoubtedly realize that this great concern of mine involves the expansion of French language services in Winnipeg, including St. Boniface, St. Norbert, Fort Garry, and the other districts where my fellow French-speaking citizens live. It is essential, and justice requires it, that this language be re-established in its role as one of the two official languages of the province. And I am saying that two official languages means two equal languages. This of course cannot occur overnight. But we must recognize that it is an objective to achieve and the Legislature must get going on the matter. It was, after all, the events of 1890 that were the cause of our decline. If the events of 1890 had not occurred, the great majority of Manitobans would speak both of our official languages today, and would only be the richer for it. It is even possible to believe that, if the French language had not been suppressed in 1890, our two neighbouring provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta, upon their creation in 1905, would also have been bilingual. We must restore, here in Manitoba, the fundamental rights of the francophone people, who have remained patient throughout long years and who have for almost a century lived in the hope that, someday, enlightened men and women would render them justice.

Mr. Speaker, to close, I would like to congratulate my colleague, Mark Minenko, for having been elected to the position of Deputy Speaker, and I would like to congratulate the Pages at the Legislature also. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Mr. Speaker, thank you for the privilege, the honour and the opportunity of speaking in this Assembly this afternoon, and to speak in support of the Government's programs as set out in last Thursday's

Throne Speech. I have been the Member for Gladstone since 1981 and I am particularly honoured to speak for my constituents the first time from the Government side of the House, and to represent all the interests of Manitoba in the areas of my Cabinet responsibilities.

I wish to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on attaining your office and I wish you a long and successful and happy career in that office. I am sure you will discharge your duties with humility and excellence and I look forward to you being in that Chair for a long time.

I would also like to congratulate all the Members of the House, all chosen by the people of Manitoba to carry out the business and the responsibilities with regard to the business of Manitoba, and all the wishes of the people with regard to legislation for this province. All of us newcomers and veterans are sharing in the excitement and the apprehension of a new Session and the excitement for some of you being in here the first time and, of course, for some of us to be for the first time on this side of the House.

I am sure we all bring to this Assembly a sincere desire to serve the people of Manitoba and to do that faithfully and with excellence to the best of our ability. We are all sent here by constituents who placed a great deal of trust in us and we should never forget that. They trust us to enact laws that affect their daily lives, their well-being, well into the future. I do not think we should misplace that trust.

I look forward to a challenging and interesting Session and we must all, as I say, accept that trust, that job, with humility as well as pride because the future and the well-being of many people lies in our hands.

Before addressing the subject of the departments for which I am responsible, I would like to say a few words to the constituents of the constituency of Gladstone. I am proud to represent the constituency of Gladstone, which I have done since 1981, and I thank those constituents for returning me once more to this Assembly to look after their needs as their Member.

I would like to thank all the people who worked so hard for me in the election, people who encouraged me some days when, as anyone knows who is running in an election, things do not always go swimmingly and we all need encouragement from time to time, and I thank those people who provided me with that kind of encouragement and I thank them for voting for me on the 26th of April.

\* (1740)

I am truly appreciative of the efforts of those people and the trust they have placed in me, and I shall promise to represent them to the best of my ability.

The constituency of Gladstone, which maybe for some of the newcomers to the House, falls pretty well in the centre of southern Manitoba. It is bounded on the south end approximately by No. 2 Highway, crosses to No. 1 Highway and then in the north to No. 16 Highway, so I have three major highways crossing my constituency. It goes north to Langruth and Plumas, so I have a wide variety of farm areas and small villages and larger towns that fall within my constituency. I have

a wide variety of farm land from light sandy to rocky to very, very rich farm land in many parts of the area, so I have a great cross-section.

The Member for Ste. Rose (Mr. Cummings) mentioned yesterday in his address that he had such diversity in his and some cattle country, some grain country, and I have a similar constituency. I have, along the northeastern edge, a great many fishermen, commercial fishermen who make a great deal of their living, particularly in the winter time, in commercial fishing. I have a great many constituency items, shall we say, which come to my attention and which have come to my attention over the years, so there is no reason to feel bored. As the Member for Gladstone, there is always something new and exciting and interesting to take care of.

My constituency, like so many others in Manitoba and in western Canada, has not been ignored by the ravages of drought. We have been feeling this in my constituency as well as in many others.

I was talking, for instance, at Langruth at a 4-H gathering on the 2nd of July where they were celebrating the 4-H anniversary, not only their own years as a 4-H club but the 75 years of the 4-H Clubs of Manitoba.

I was talking to some people at that gathering who told me that they had not had a drop of rain since the 4th of May. Now that was, as I say, on the 2nd of July. So you can imagine the type of crop conditions that are prevailing there. I have not heard of them having any significant rain since then and, if they have, it will perhaps help their pasture land but it will not help their crops.

Even during the election in late April — in the middle of April, I guess it would be — in travelling around the constituency, there was evidence then of problems because of the lack of winter snow. There were areas around the vicinity north of Plumas where people told me in that area they had never seen land blowing the way it was. That was happening before we even had the situation that has come in the last few weeks and months with lack of rain.

All these things tend to build up after some of these areas have suffered for many years, several years, from one type of weather problem or another, and it does not do any good to the temperaments of farmers to be putting up with this sort of thing year after year. There is the odd pocket in the constituency which has had some rain and the crops are maybe not too bad, but for the most part, the only crops that have responded to late rains were late seeded crops and the rest are in pretty bad shape.

As I say, this has followed years of successive problems of one type of weather condition or another and, combined with the low grain prices, there are going to be some pretty difficult situations faced by many of the farmers in my constituency. Of course, when the farm community suffers, what follows is the business communities that are within the farm community also find it difficult because there is such a definite and close tie between the economy of a small town and the economy of its surrounding farm area.

Two or three items that I think are very, very vital to the future of a constituency such as mine, and I think probably most of the rural Members would say the same thing, two things are conservation and water supply and I guess they could be sort of tied together in so many ways. The other thing that is desperately needed in some of the farm communities, and I can probably say all of the farm communities, is some form of diversification so people can make a living and still remain in farm communities.

These are all subjects which have interested me and concerned me in the years I have been a Member, and there is more promise now of them being dealt with. The Throne Speech, I was very encouraged to hear, included those three topics which I have mentioned and there will be things done. I am delighted that these were included in the Throne Speech as one of the thrusts of this Government, and I will work to see that those things come to pass because we do need in the farm communities some programs for conservation. We cannot stop the wind from blowing but there may be some way we can stop all the farms from changing hands every spring and some of this erosion that is taking place, done by the wind.

We have water problems. Some of the small communities have told me at different times of the problems they have. One particular community has to pipe water for eight miles from a well for its small community. They live along a river, there is water there, and at times they are so flooded that they are complaining there is too much water, but at other times the river is not suitable for drinking directly from the river so they have to pipe water from a considerable distance. All these things are of concern to communities in our province and are things that we will need to take a look at in the future.

I would like to speak in support of our Government's program for this year in respect to my own ministerial responsibilities, Community Services, Employment Services and Economic Security, and the Status of Women. As a new Minister, I have met with many, many individuals and groups since taking office. It was not long after I was sworn in and I was in the office that — in fact, immediately I was sworn in and took office — the phone started to ring and the letters started to come from different groups who wanted to meet with me to discuss their problems, to tell me what their groups were all about, what they did, what purpose they had. I had been meeting with many of those groups, as many as could be scheduled of course in the short time. I know some of them have been unhappy that they could not be scheduled, but it is an impossibility to fit everyone in at once. I have really appreciated the opportunity to meet with these individuals and these groups and hear their concerns. It gives me, as a Minister, a much better view of what they do and why they are doing it when I can sit down in my office and talk to them or go to their place of business or operation and talk to them. You can read a lot of briefing notes, you can read letters but, if you talk to people and have a good exchange and find out what it is they are thinking on subjects, then it is vitally important.

This is a time of rapid social change and everyone is looking for answers. Those answers are not immediately available.



I thank all of the people who have come to my office who have been very frank with me, who have told me their problems and asked me of course to do something immediately, but have understood when I have said that I could not give them the Budget information, for instance, or I could not give them exactly the answer they wanted that minute because that is impossible.

We as a Government, all of the Members of this Government, intend to take an equally open-door policy and an open-stance listening-ear approach to people in this province to hear what they would like to tell us and how they feel the business of their province should be run. We need to provide for our people equitable social services, improved social services and we have to go about it in a very well planned and well-thought-out way so that we do not make some of the mistakes that have been made in the past.

\* (1750)

Many of the problems of course that have been brought to my office concern funding. I have not been able to tell people till after the Budget is tabled what sort of funding will be available to them. That has been a frustrating thing for many of the groups in the organizations. Because of the defeated Budget, many of them are operating in a very difficult situation and we recognize that. They have had to operate as if they were operating on the '87-88 Budget because there is not tabled a new Budget. This has made it difficult, I recognize that fact, but it has been a fact that we have all had to live with. I commend many of those agencies for having lived with this and dealt with it and done it in a very responsible way because they do understand that of course we could not put in a Budget the day after we were installed in office.

Our Government intends to deal promptly and effectively with the financial resource problems it has inherited. An election commitment by our Government was to save dollars and increase efficiency by eliminating waste and duplication. We began this process at home, if you will, by reducing the number of Cabinet Ministers and now combining appropriate departments and departmental areas. Like other Ministers, I will be conducting reviews of the department for which I am responsible. By that I mean working cooperatively with the staff to improve operating methods and financial accountability.

Effective management, open consultation and an innovative approach to new solutions are to be the watchwords in our departmental reviews. We will review and we will evaluate areas and specific programs. We are committed as a Party to achieve cost effectiveness and to ensure that programs are not redundant. There has been some criticism by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) about review, and others. I would doubt that the Leader of the Opposition, and I would hope that none of her Members, would hurl themselves headlong into a department, change things willy-nilly without finding out the best path on which to tread. I would give them more credit than they would do that.

You have to find out what the problems are before you can make changes. We can sense what the

problems are but some review and study of those problems will indicate to us where we need to go. I think some of the problems in my department could have easily been avoided if there had been a bit more review and a bit less headlong hurling into programs before there was enough planning and program analyzing to make sure that they would work.

Many of the problems which are evident in the areas of my department are a clear indication that there was no forward thinking. They thought they will do this today, it sounds great, but there was no thought to what it was going to cost, how you were going to deal with it tomorrow. I know that is one of the things that I would like to avoid in dealing with the department, not to make changes too quickly, to be leaping up and doing things just for the sake of doing something. I want to be sure that we know where we are going and how we are going to get there. As I say, that has been part of the problem with so many programs. The programs themselves may have been fine, but it was the method and the way in which they were implemented that caused the problems, and there are problems.

A majority of existing programs receive Government funding to enable them to provide essential services to Manitobans. We will work towards ending costly inefficiencies and achieving savings for Manitobans while improving and maintaining the programs and the essential services.

As taxpayers, Manitobans want to be assured that financial resources are fairly and equitably distributed to benefit all Manitobans. Achieving that equity will also be a goal for our Government. Everyone wants to be treated fairly and that is what we will attempt to do.

Some say it is impossible to maintain the quality of social services in Manitoba given our serious financial problems. As Premier Filmon indicated during the election campaign, it can be done and it will be done. I would like to reaffirm that commitment.

A number of most important social service issues which will be dealt with through my portfolio of Community Services, many of these issues are critical. There are no immediate and obvious solutions. Government is committed to resolving them through a consultative approach. The input of groups and individuals is very important to this process and I have mentioned that before. It is important that we hear the concerns of the people who are actually in the field doing the work. They know what problems they face on a daily basis. They know what some possible solutions are. They, of course, may not know the costs involved but they would be able to tell us what needs to be done and then, of course, Government has to sit down and wrestle with the very very difficult task and difficult decisions that have to be made in order to keep things going in a department such as Community Services, which deals so closely and so intimately with the lives of so many people.

We also count on the Members opposite to have some constructive criticism, some input, and some help and cooperation because there will need to be some changes made. If there was nothing but nit-picking and

just complaining for complaining's sake or opposing for opposing's sake, it does not make the task any easier. Cooperative and constructive criticism is always, and that is what the purpose of this type of Government, this form of Government we have in Canada is all about. We have a Government and we have an Opposition to bring us to task if they see us heading in the wrong way. We may not always agree that we are heading in the wrong way.

These issues all need to be raised and, I think, in the spirit of cooperation when we find ourselves in such difficult times financially and when I see across my desk so continually the difficult things that are in my department. I would certainly ask for some cooperation and some understanding, that raising and screaming about issues merely to get a headline in the paper is not really a constructive thing to do to the personal lives of people.

With regard to the services for mentally handicapped, I would like to say that I believe the Welcome Home initiative which moved many mentally handicapped people out of an institution into the community did move too quickly. I think that was one of the problems that we are faced with today. There was too much speed, too much haste. We are concerned about the safety of the individuals. We consider it a top priority to ensure that the process of deinstitutionalization, which has many benefits both to the people who are moved and to society, we want it to proceed at a pace with which safety and economic security measures can keep up. We do not plan to stop this thrust but we plan to pause for a moment and look and say: Where are we with this? What can we do to stabilize this situation to make

things safe for these people? We want to evaluate and, much as perhaps the Leader of the Opposition does not like the word, I may have to use the word "review" because . . .

**An Honourable Member:** Not review.

**Mrs. Oleson:** You could call it another name but it would still be a review.

**An Honourable Member:** A study.

**Mrs. Oleson:** You could call it a study, right, but it still will need to be reviewed.

I will continue on the rest of that theme, Mr. Speaker, when we assemble in this House again and this becomes before it.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 6 p.m., I am interrupting proceedings according to the Rules. When this motion is again before the House, the Honourable Minister will have 17 minutes remaining.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** For the benefit of Honourable Members and personnel in this building, I would like to announce that the House Leaders for all three Parties have agreed that Monday will be observed as a holiday and the House will not sit.

**Mr. Speaker:** This House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday).