



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

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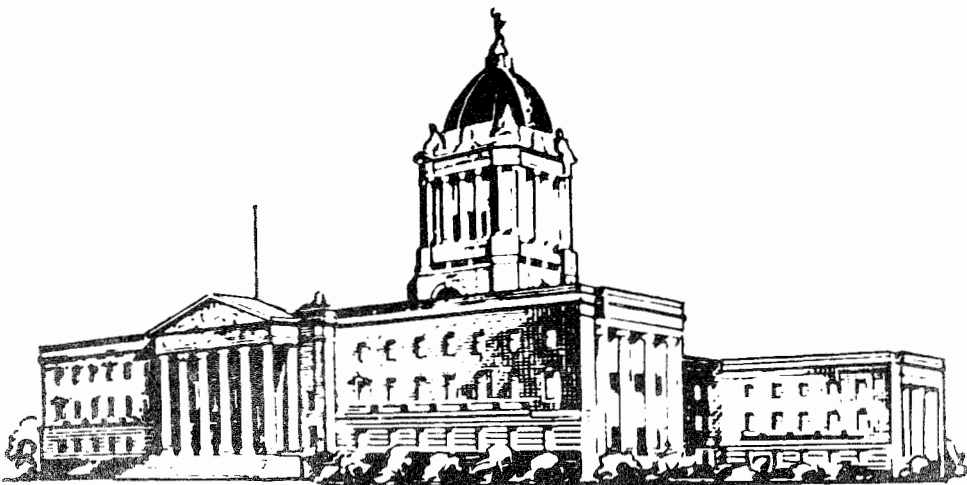
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

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Speaker*



**VOL. XXXVII No. 8A - 1:30 p.m., TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1988.**

**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>	Wolseley	LIBERAL
<b>URUSKI, Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>YEO, Iva</b>	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, August 2, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for Native Affairs):** I have a statement which I would like to make to the Assembly. I have copies here for Members of the House. I will give the Pages an opportunity to distribute the statement before I proceed.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to announce to this House a review to assess the role and mandate of the Native Affairs Secretariat.

It is crucial to this new Government and to myself, as Minister responsible for Northern and Native Affairs, that this review be conducted to provide the Native communities with a strong voice in determining what role the Native Affairs Secretariat will play with regard to Native people and Government's responsibility.

Upon taking over my new responsibilities, it became very evident from the first meetings that I had with the Native communities that, while the Native Affairs Secretariat is now three years old, we still are faced with questions that should have been answered when it was established, questions like:

What was the original mandate of the Native Affairs Secretariat? What responsibilities has it been carrying out? How best can the Native Affairs Secretariat accomplish the longer-term objectives of the Native communities within Manitoba and facilitate their relationship with the provincial Government?

Mr. Speaker, in order to find out the answers to these questions, we have contracted the Winnipeg consulting firm, Resource Initiatives Ltd., to conduct this review.

The terms of reference for this review will cover certain aspects of the relationships between Native people and the provincial Government. It is designed to assess:

- the appropriateness of centralizing policy and program coordination for Native issues;
- the degree to which departments and agencies respect and respond to the centralizing of policy and program coordination;
- the ability of the Native Affairs Secretariat to function, given its location and reporting relationship in Government; and
- the effectiveness of the Secretariat's approach in maintaining good communications with the Native communities.

\* (1335)

The Government recognizes that the Native communities in our province are experiencing tremendous social and economic problems. This Government desires that the role and mandate of the Native Affairs Secretariat be evaluated in a manner that will ensure the effective application of the Secretariat's resources in a matter consistent with this Government's policy.

Most importantly, this Government and I, as the Minister, want the Native communities to participate in the review.

Until the Native Affairs Secretariat has its own mandate clearly defined, we cannot hope to improve the design and delivery of services to these important citizens of our province. The review is essential if we, as Government, want to develop a meaningful and productive working relationship with the Native people of Manitoba.

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** Mr. Speaker, it is gratifying to us on this side to actually get this document. I think in this particular instance where we have a large constituency in our province that needs to be represented at the ministerial level in some manner, shape or form, the direction that the Minister started to proceed is well worth noting.

However, one of the things that comes immediately to mind is we have a comment that a Winnipeg consulting firm was contracted and, further on here, we have also the comment that the Native community should be participating in this review. I am wondering whether or not perhaps the tendering process which might have allowed a group, say, from the North which might be a bit more understanding of some of the particular problems involved might not have been a better choice for this particular study.

With respect to the general objectives, as opposed to the mandate of the Native Affairs Secretariat and the responsibilities in the past, I think these are good questions that should be answered, but I believe they could have been answered by a slightly different choice of contracting firms.

Thank you.

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland):** I thank the Member for Arthur, the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey), for writing a copy and making the announcement in the House today.

There is absolutely nothing in here that will benefit the Native people. It is only a study and a contract to Resources Initiatives to review what we have done. When they were in Opposition, the Members opposite right now, if they were to have asked appropriate questions as to what we were doing in the Native Secretariat, we were beginning to define Indian self-government, beginning to define the relationship of Indian people with the provincial Government and the

constitutional responsibilities that the Indian people had and still have with the provincial Government and also with the major primary responsibility of the federal Government. We were beginning to negotiate with the Bands, the gaming boundaries, the natural resources, the treaty obligations of the federal Government.

\* (1340)

We were beginning to tackle other issues, the education opportunities that as a provincial Government we have responsibilities for the Indian people in the Province of Manitoba.

Also we were beginning to discuss the Metis people with the question of self-government, and there was a tripartite discussion established, an agreement signed with the Metis people. We also provided funding for the Metis people, but it takes a long time for aboriginal people to become involved. I might say, remind the Members in this House, it was only a few years that the first time Indian people were given the right to vote and become involved.

**An Honourable Member:** By John Diefenbaker.

**Mr. Harper:** By John Diefenbaker. I thank the Member—for Diefenbaker. I always say that was the last time that they were progressive.

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

**Mr. Harper:** It is sad in this House that the aboriginal people, the first people in this country, still have to beg and extend their hand out for participation in this country. There is nothing new in this document that the Member has presented. It is just a review of what the Government should be doing.

Later on during the day, I will be giving a speech and maybe giving some recommendations to this Minister. I know he has been travelling in the North, and I hope he is listening to the Indian people and also the Northern Affairs community as to what the problems are. The fact of the matter is that they are in Government and it is his chance. He has a golden opportunity, as he always said, to do something. This is his chance. I will see whether he is doing his job or whether his goal is bringing money to his Conservative friends.

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance):** As required under Section 65(1) and 65(2) of The Legislative Assembly Act, I would like to table a report of amounts paid to Members of the Assembly, for the year ending March 31, 1988.

\* (1345)

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General)** introduced, by leave, Bills No. 10, The Court of Queen's Bench Act; Loi sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine; No. 11, The Child Custody Enforcement Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'exécution des ordonnances de garde; and No. 12, The Statute Law Amendment Act (1988); Loi de 1988 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### Man. Lotteries Foundation Board Replacements

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon).

The Government continues to make wholesale replacement of Government boards with their own appointees. Indeed, Friday around here is becoming firing day. Either we fire Deputy Ministers or we fire boards. Yet the Deputy Premier (Mr. Cummings) of this same Government told this House last Wednesday that the criteria for going on boards in this Government will be their ability.

I ask the First Minister: Of those 10 people removed from the Lotteries Foundation last Friday, was there not a single one with ability?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Executive Council):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) knows full well, coming from a Liberal Party that prided itself in putting its members, particularly its Manitoba—I think that at one time in the 1970s, every living, breathing Liberal in Manitoba was on some board or commission of the federal Government. Now we did not agree with that.

We believe in putting people with experience and people with ability on boards and commissions. As a consequence, we are examining all the boards and commissions within our purview. We are indeed putting people of ability, people with experience, and people who have the knowledge and the know-how to give those boards the opportunity to perform well under our jurisdiction.

We recognize that they must be people with ability and experience because, as those boards are operated, our Government will be responsible for the results. We take that responsibility; we take it seriously. We are examining all of the appointments and ensuring that they are people who represent all of Manitoba, all the various backgrounds and experiences, men and women of ability to be put on those boards so that they will do a good job on behalf of the people of Manitoba.

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

In that the Lotteries Foundation was undergoing a major needs assessment, can the First Minister tell the House why he would remove the total continuity of this board in order to make all of these replacements?

**Mr. Filmon:** To begin with, Mr. Speaker, there were two people who were left on the board. Indeed, if it is a question of just some continuity, that is fine, but there is a needs assessment study being done on behalf of the Lotteries Commission and the Minister responsible for Lotteries (Mrs. Mitchelson), and we will be basing our future policy judgments and directions based on that needs assessment study.

That needs assessment study is not dependent on who are the members of the board of the Lotteries

Foundation. It is dependent on Government policy and the information that is produced in that study. So we are going to be proceeding with it. It does not require the continuing presence of the 12 former NDP appointees to that board to ensure that the needs assessment study is properly dealt with by Government. We will do that, Mr. Speaker, and there is no question about it.

\* (1350)

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

In that one of the primary functions of a Board of Directors is to appoint new chief executive officers, when is this Government going to announce that they have also wholesale slaughtered all of the chief CEOs in this province?

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

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, I regret the inflammatory words and rhetoric that are being put forward by the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I know that she is hurting. She wants some attention and publicity. She is being out-done by the New Democrats in this Legislature, and she is trying to create a major issue where none exists.

We said, Mr. Speaker, that we would move in a cautious, in an orderly, in a well-considered, and a well-reasoned fashion. As a consequence . . .

**Mr. Reg Alcock (Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

I do not think the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) should be imputing the motives of my Leader.

**Mr. Filmon:** Clearly, the Leader of the Opposition's (Mrs. Carstairs) words speak for themselves. When she uses terms like "slaughter," she deserves to be accused of exactly what she is doing, or she deserves to have it pointed out to the public just what she is doing. That kind of inflammatory use of words is designed to get her the attention that she is not getting and does not deserve.

### Community Places Programs Grants

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, we will return to a more intellectual discussion, hopefully.-(Interjection)- It is a new question to the Premier (Mr. Filmon).

The Premier was very quick to condemn the Jobs Fund and the Community Places Program as slush funds for a prior NDP Government. Yet it now appears that the Premier is following exactly the same procedure in that the new Community Places grants certainly favour Conservative ridings over those held by Members on this side of the House.

I ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), if he will listen instead of debating, why he continues to follow the poor example set by his predecessors.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Executive Council):** To begin with, Mr. Speaker, if we wanted intellectual discussion in this House, then the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) should sit down and let somebody else ask the questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Oral Question Period is a time for asking the House questions and getting their answers, and I wish all Honourable Members would appreciate that.

**Mr. Filmon:** Good point, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate your calling that to my attention.

In response to the question that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) asked concerning the Community Places Program, we were very, very concerned that the Community Places Program ought not to be used as a slush fund. As a consequence, we set certain rules down for the approval of any applications under the Community Places Program. One of them was that we would follow the criteria that had been established for that program by the former NDP administration. We would not use them as purely a political means of granting funds to groups that supported the political party in power, which is what the New Democrats did when they were in Government.

We ensured that, first and foremost, every single application had to meet the criteria that were set down for the program by the former administration, and that indeed we have kept our word on. That is exactly what we have done.

Secondly, we ensured that the final decisions would be based on recommendations from staff, from non-political staff who are civil servants, who have absolutely nothing to do politically with this administration. So every single one of the applications that was approved was recommended by staff, non-political staff. We have stuck to that criteria as well. As a result, the applications came through and the applications were analyzed by staff. The recommendations were made by staff to the Minister and they were approved by our Government. We see nothing wrong with that, because we have stuck to the criteria and we have allowed the analysis to be done independently by non-political staff. We believe that is the way the program ought to be.

\* (1355)

### Boards & Senior Civil Servants Hiring/Firing Criteria

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

In that many senior staff are being removed from this Government, does it not appear logical to the First Minister that they would obviously recommend grants to ridings presently held by the Conservatives in order to keep their jobs?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Executive Council):** Mr. Speaker, to begin with, there are not that many senior staff having been removed by this administration.

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Not yet.

\* (1400)

**Mr. Filmon:** If the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) has information that I do not have, let him bring it forward. He seems to know everything about everything that goes on here. He seems to know a great deal more than his Leader.

There has not been any wholesale change of senior staff. There have been carefully considered moves and measures taken where we believe, after giving it due care and attention, an opportunity to see whether or not a good relationship could be affected by people who, I might say, many people identified publicly in the media, saying these were obvious political appointees closely tied to the former New Democratic administration.

Did we immediately move in and remove them because of their former ties? No. I spoke with every single Deputy Minister and said, on a face-to-face basis, that we will give them an opportunity to establish a good meaningful working relationship with their Minister and, only after that, would we make any analysis or judgment on their suitability to continue to serve this administration as senior officials in Government. Only after then did we make a number of moves to remove a few senior people in this administration and there have not been that many, Mr. Speaker. We are following a carefully considered plan to form good Government in Manitoba, the kind of Government that we have been lacking for six-and-a-half years.

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

In this spirit of openness and cooperation, would the Premier please table in this House the criteria under which boards and senior civil servants are both fired and hired in this province?

**Mr. Filmon:** Very simply, Mr. Speaker, they are to serve the people of Manitoba to the very best possible extent with the best of their abilities at all times when they are working for this Government.

### **Manfor Ltd.- Divestiture**

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** The Government has stated that they are going to divest Manfor. My question is to the Minister responsible for the divestiture of Manfor (Mr. Manness).

Could the Minister please outline to this House and indeed Manitobans what conditions the Government has established for the divestiture of this very important enterprise in this province?

**Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister responsible for Manfor):** In response to the question, the criteria in place at this point in time has not changed significantly from that left in place by the former Government. We are very concerned and wanting to see a major commitment of new capital to The Pas area. We want to see a maintenance of the workforce, and we want to see a maintenance of the stability of the community. After that, we want the best dollar possible for the plant in question.

**Mr. Doer:** The criteria are excellent ones that were outlined by the former Minister.

I would ask the Minister responsible for the divestiture: Is the forestry cutting area on the bargaining table with any of the firms that he is now negotiating with?

**Mr. Manness:** The cutting area, of course, is one element of the total package, as it was when the former Government was trying to negotiate. I do not know how it is that you can produce lumber or you can produce pulp without having trees and, therefore, having access to a cutting area.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, we certainly do not think we should be cute on a very major issue. We all know the experience from Saskatchewan with the absolute scandal in the giveaway in the sale of that company in the Province of Saskatchewan, the Pulp and Paper Company.

My question is very simple to the Minister responsible. Are you looking at expanding or changing the forest recutting area as part of the negotiations with the divestiture of Manfor? We all recognize that forestry area is owned by Manitobans. I am asking the Minister whether the size and the location of the forestry area is on the table from the existing Manfor cut area.

**Mr. Manness:** Mr. Speaker, the basic cutting area is what is basically being under discussion right now. The variations from it are part of negotiations. I must say that the degree to which negotiations are being directed towards additional cutting area is most secondary to the whole discussion.

**Mr. Doer:** It may be secondary to the Minister, but it is certainly not secondary to Manitobans who own the forestry areas.

I would ask the Minister whether he is going to negotiate away, as part of the sale and divestiture of Manfor, an expanded cutting area or a change in cutting area that can be particularly in conflict with other developments that are going on in the aspen area of Manitoba.

**Mr. Manness:** This Government is not negotiating anything away. As I have said, and I will reiterate, at this point in time it is under heavy negotiation. We are looking at a number of alternatives and not every firm is looking at the same cutting area. Of course, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) is obviously aware of that.

### **Man. Cttee. on Wife Abuse Funding**

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson).

Considering the lack of response by the Minister on Friday as to this Government's policy in support of wife

abuse centres, will the Minister table in this House the report of the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse and guarantee this House that support will be given and ensured to some umbrella groups such as this which will be able to set standards, provide support and lobby for wife abuse centres in this province?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would have to disagree with the premise that we are ignoring the subject of wife abuse in this Government. It is a very important subject to this Government and I am happy that the Opposition is concerned and interested. I will ask for their support when we table before this House our very interesting and valuable initiatives to do with women's issues later on after the Budget.

With regard to the report, which is at this point a draft report, I think it is important that we make sure that the final report deals very fairly with the group involved. There were concerns raised by the Committee on Wife Abuse about the draft report and, as I say, I want to make sure that the final report deals with those issues fairly.

### Rural Crisis Shelter - Funding

**Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk):** The Minister was quick to report to this House on Friday that funding was to be released immediately for the Selkirk Wife Abuse Centre. However, does this Minister realize that this funding does not cover the shelter itself, as it is classified as a non-residential shelter, even though 1,000 bed nights in its first months were given? Will the Minister commit this Government to the support of women and children in need in rural Manitoba areas such as Selkirk?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** Absolutely. We have said time and again that we will support initiatives in that regard in all parts of the province.

With regard to Selkirk, I will look at that particular facility more closely. The Member should realize though, that these are per diems that are paid on behalf of the shelter, as far as I know. But if I am in error in that, I will look at the particular one about Selkirk and return with an answer to the Member.

**Mrs. Charles:** Again to the Minister, especially considering that there is a difference in pay support for shelter support staff between rural and urban centres, will the Minister indicate her support of pay equity and fund counsellors and support staff working in wife abuse centres at an appropriate rate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We are looking at all aspects of remuneration to workers, and that will be part of the review.

### Crisis Shelter - The Pas

**Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General):** On Friday last, the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) raised a couple of questions. I told her that I would

look into those situations and get back to her just as quickly as I could.

The Honourable Member referred first to the Committee for Children and Wives in Crisis at The Pas, having been notified that no longer will the police detachment there interview women who are willing to press charges against abusive spouses in the protective environment of the shelter. I wonder if perhaps the proximation of the Honourable Member in this place to the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) is not the problem. The fact is that there has been no directive to personnel at The Pas detachment instructing members not to interview women at the women's shelter. If the Honourable Member for Selkirk has a specific case that she would like to discuss with me, I would be more than happy to talk her.

The other point raised by the Honourable Member was that the RCMP will not accompany women who have escaped dangerous family situations but must return to pick up clothes, medication, or children's needs. Here again, the practice with the RCMP that is usually followed is that, if belongings are needed, the RCMP renders whatever assistance is needed or they have another agency or a friend assist. In this case also, if the Honourable Member has a specific problem that we can get to work solving, I would like to hear about it.

### ManOil - Divestiture

**Mr. Herold Driedger (Niakwa):** My question is for the Honourable Minister of the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation (Mr. Downey).

On Wednesday of last week, the Minister tabled the annual report of that corporation. The following day, the media reported that the losses shown on this report justified its divestiture.

The reported losses of \$244,000 is a paper loss, entirely offset by increased reserves proved out during the same fiscal year. In truth, the company's positive cash flow for the very first time in its history show that operations are in fact very satisfactory.

My question is: Why is this Minister contemplating giving away a very valuable resource, a valuable provincial asset based upon his misreading of this financial report?

**Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation Act):** I am having some difficulty in following the policies and directive of the Liberal caucus, unless it is given by their Leader. I think they are picking it up from the Leader, being able to turn directions whenever it seems appropriate.

The Member should be well aware of the fact that there is an additional interest cost that is not taken into account of the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation of some several hundreds of thousands of dollars that do not show up in the report. The fact that the reports have annually shown major losses, the fact that we campaigned on the policy of getting rid of it because it is losing enormous amounts of money for the taxpayers, that is the reason why we are going to divest

of it. We are going to live up to that commitment in a responsible manner.

**Mr. Driedger:** Since the Minister is determined to go through with this sale at this time, why did he appoint a board or why was a board appointed, including oil company officials to include this divestiture, since this company is actually an extremely valuable potential asset for these very same oil companies?

**Mr. Downey:** Mr. Speaker, I am having a difficult time in understanding the question from the Member indicating why we would have oil people involved on the board of divesting an oil company.

I can assure you that I have been assured by all board members that their interests are Manitoba oil and gas, not in any way shape or form involved in the takeover or the purchase of Manitoba Oil and Gas properties. I have been given that assurance and I can say this to the Honourable Member and to this House, I will assure that is not the case. It is experienced, it is to look after the well-being of the taxpayers for a change, something that has not happened over the last six years of the Government of Manitoba.

**Mr. H. Driedger:** I thank the Minister for that answer. In view of the fact though that this particular southwestern area of Manitoba is suffering two particular devastating economic problems, one which is the drought and the other one which is a downturn in the economic activity due to oil prices being depressed across the world, has this Minister not been just perhaps a little bit hasty in calling for the divestiture of a significant employer in this southwestern corner of the province, particularly since retention of this particular employer might ease the temporary transition to better economic times in this area of the province?

\* (1410)

**Mr. Downey:** Mr. Speaker, how quick the Member is prepared to fall into the kind of rhetoric that the former administration had.

I have a very difficult time. I represent the southwest corner of the province, and I have yet to see any major economic benefit come from Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation. In fact, to put it on the record, I believe we have one employee per oil well. Now that, I say, is asking the taxpayers to subsidize employment in the oil patch.

I cannot figure the Liberal Party out. They are upset about us divesting Manitoba Oil and Gas, which had a very few employees. Yet they are advocates of selling McKenzie Seeds where some 160 people are working. Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand the Liberal policy, and I will try to do so over the next few weeks.

### **Worker Representation - Health Care Boards**

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

There are a number of boards for which the Minister has responsibility that have on those boards positions

that have been identified as being occupied by worker representatives. These positions were identified as such and held for employees because it was felt that, with their unique perspective and detailed knowledge of the workplace, they could provide valuable insights and information, advice and suggestions during board discussions.

My question to the Minister is: Will he be continuing the practice of placing worker representatives so that working people in our health care facilities can continue to provide useful advice and suggestions at the highest level of decision-making within the health care facilities in the Province of Manitoba?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, the policy of having worker representation on various health care boards is one considerably under discussion by myself and by this Government.

I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) that, if he were to view the replacements on the Manitoba Health Services Commission Board, he will find that a replacement of worker representation was made by people who are active in the nursing field and have understanding of the issues facing health care in Manitoba.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly my point. In the past, these positions have been appointed and maintained—and that is the important part—both appointed and maintained in full consultation and cooperation with representatives of the employees and, where unions existed, with the representatives of the unions themselves.

Can the Minister indicate if he has changed that policy with regard to the appointment of worker representatives on those boards for which he holds responsibility?

**Mr. Orchard:** As changes are made from time to time to boards under my purview in the health care field, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) may judge whether we have maintained worker representation on the boards, and I am sure that the Member for Churchill might well be pleasantly surprised at the advent of worker representation on the boards.

**Mr. Cowan:** I assure the Minister that I was not pleasantly surprised at all, but I was appalled when I learned that the Minister last night, late last evening, had fired two worker representatives on the Cancer Foundation and Research Treatment Board. He did so, at least in one instance for certain and perhaps in both instances, without consultation with the unions who, in the first place, recommended that those worker representatives be appointed to the board.

Given the earlier comments by the First Minister, by the Premier (Mr. Filmon), that the appointment of individuals to boards be based on those individual merits, my question to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is: Can he indicate what deficiencies he found in those two individuals, in the work of those two individuals, that would require him to fire those two individuals from the board without consultation and in a very arbitrary and unfair fashion?



**Mr. Orchard:** The Honourable Member is making the position that, to be an effective worker representative on any given board, one must be a union member. There are many people, both union and non-union, member or otherwise of a union, who can offer their views and opinions as to working conditions, direction of various boards and various organizations on which they will be asked to serve. The preoccupation with having union leadership on boards is not a preoccupation we share because not always does a union representative have to be on the board when someone working within the health care field, union or non-union, can provide the same kind of worker responsibility in a very effective and very diligent way.

### Livestock Producers - Greenfeed Program

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** Given the fact that the 1988 drought is very widespread and includes not only the Prairie provinces but also much of eastern Canada and a good portion of the Great Plains in the United States, and this had led to a very competitive situation as far as feed grains and fodder is concerned, what action is the Minister prepared to take to ensure that Manitoba livestock producers are in a competitive position with buyers from out of province?

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** Certainly reports from the department indicate that we are going to have about two-thirds to 70 percent of a crop this year so there will be adequate feed grain. There is adequate forage being obtained from the fields this year. The first cut of hay was only so-so, the second cut looks better in some places. Slough hay quantities are quite good in major parts of the province. The Greenfeed Program has approximately 6,000 people signed up, which will produce about a third of the forage for the Province of Manitoba this year.

The Member is referring to the Manitoba producers being competitive. The per-head payment will be coming out in the coming months to help producers purchase feed if that is what they have to do.

**Mr. Evans:** The question that I would ask as a supplementary to the Minister then: Is any action being taken to provide money to our producers up front rather than them having to wait until October because, as I understand it, American producers are coming in and are able to get reimbursed immediately upon their receipt.

**Mr. Findlay:** I understand that the American producers have to present a receipt, so it will take some time for them to get their money too. We had discussions with producer organizations in the process of developing this program and no producer organization requested that at that time, so I assume that they wanted the program run the way it is set up.

**Mr. Evans:** A final supplementary to the same Minister and it relates to the Greenfeed Program.

I am very pleased to hear that there are 600,000 acres enrolled or 700,000, the more the better

obviously—600,000 acres -(Interjection)- No, but I believe, in the Minister's address last week, he was contemplating something between 400,000 and 500,000 acres. Well, I will certainly rely on the Minister's figures for that.

I am concerned as to what action is being taken to ensure, first of all, that Manitoba producers are aware of the availability and the quantity of the greenfeed and, secondly, that they will be a position to be competitive in terms of the purchase of that feed when it does become available.

**Mr. Findlay:** With regard to the availability of quantity, there is a listing service through the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, through our Ag Rep offices, which has been in place for over a month now where people who want feed can go there and put their request in. Those who have it for sale, whether they are a grain producer or a cattle producer, they can list it there. United Grain Growers also has a listing service. So we are trying to do whatever we can to match up availability with requirement.

\* (1420)

### Hazardous Waste - Gov't Policy

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** My question is for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery).-(Interjection)- The Liberal Members on the backbench may believe this is a red herring. I do not think that concern over the environment or workers' health is ever a red herring. I know that the people in Flin Flon, particularly the people working at HBM&S, are anxiously awaiting the tabling of the report from the Minister of Environment with respect to the content both of the sludge that was imported from the United States and the Dow waste.

However, there are other policy questions I think that need to be addressed by this Minister. My specific question to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) is: Does HBM&S have a licence to process the waste in question?

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health):** The Member should know, because they had delivered to them on Friday, copies of the Clean Environment licence. The licences refer only to emissions. There is nothing in a licence required for input. It is emissions in the form of whether it be water, the heavy metals, or tailings, or in-air emissions. That is the content of the licence.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, that question belies the whole approach to this Government that is inactivity, inability to make appropriate decisions. We are not talking about the processing of ore here in which the initial licence to HBM&S contemplated. We are talking about processing waste. The Clean Environment Commission clearly gives the Minister the responsibility to issue the appropriate licences. It also gives the Minister the power to request public hearings.

My question is to the Minister of the Environment: Will the Minister require public hearings to be held so

that people in Flin Flon can have the appropriate information about the contents of the sludge and the contents of the Dow shipments to Flin Flon so that they may make their comment about the policy which is going to affect their lives?

**Mr. Connery:** The concern over the environment in Flin Flon is in the Legislature being raised by the N.D. Party to put scare tactics in. I have talked to the labour union people in Flin Flon and they are not concerned.

### POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We have to stand up on every occasion and put a stop to the Conservative Government on every occasion trying to deflect attention from their own inadequacies, from their own inability to deal with an issue and from their own ignorance by imputing motives. The NDP Opposition is the only Opposition that is bringing this matter forward to the Legislature, and we are doing so because it is a matter of grave concern, not only to us as legislators who have a responsibility to the public but to the public in Flin Flon, to the public in northern Manitoba, to the workers there. It should be a concern to the Government and to the general public of Manitoba if we are going to begin to process waste in this back-door way.

So the question that was asked the Minister is a question that was asked with a sincere desire for information, and I would ask that he withdraw any imputation of motives that we are doing anything less than the honourable thing in asking these questions in a sincere desire to see a better province and not a desire to scare anyone. They are the ones who are scaring people because, quite frankly, if I had to rely on them for information in protecting the environment, I would be scared as well.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Government House Leader.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to be brief. The Honourable Member for Flin Flin (Mr. Storie) was given an opportunity to ask his question and, under the guise of a point of order, the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) embellishes and uses the opportunity to make a speech on the issue. I suggest that Honourable Member, of all people in this House, knows full well that a point of order is not the time to engage in debate. That is exactly what we have here is a difference of opinion between two Honourable Members.

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

**Mr. Cowan:** On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that, in my reference to the point of order, I identified what I believed to be a violation of the rules and that was imputation of motives and asked for . . .

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

To all Honourable Members on the point of order, when a person is raising a point of order, I would sincerely hope that all Honourable Members would make strict relevance to the fact of that point of order. The Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) on imputing of motives, I did hear a comment, one remark, to that effect. We are not here to enter into debate, this is Question Period. Therefore -(Interjection)- excuse me. I will peruse Hansard. The Honourable Member for Churchill is sitting quite close to the Honourable Minister, but I will peruse Hansard and I will come back and report to the House.

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, I have a further question to the Minister for Environment (Mr. Connery). In the Minister for Environment's—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Minister, on a point of order?

**An Honourable Member:** You cannot answer on a point of order.

**Mr. Connery:** I would like to answer the first question he asked. I did not have an opportunity to answer it. I was interrupted by the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

**Mr. Storie:** My further question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery). The Minister has failed either intentionally or unintentionally to answer either of the questions. Does the Minister have a legal opinion which tells him or tells his department that the processing of waste from the United States is the same as mining ore and processing ore in Flin Flon? Does he have that opinion, and is he prepared to table it in this House?

**Mr. Connery:** The facts are that this so-called waste that is coming in from the United States has less lead or arsenic than is processed on a daily basis in the mine at Flin Flon. There is arsenic used every day in the mine at Flin Flon. Our department and our officials acted very responsibly. They were the ones who stopped the use of the lead from California. Our department has worked very closely with the union people up at Flin Flon in total consultation to ensure that there is nothing that happens to the employees and that there is nothing put into the environment that is harmful. There is a licence and they are following that licence. Our employees are totally monitoring that on a continuing basis. If hearings are required, then at some point in time, if that is required, they will be held. We will not attempt to hide anything. We want to be up front and open about this.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery) has demonstrated on at least three occasions that he does not know what he is talking about. He has no legal opinion with respect to the appropriateness of processing your . . .

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

**Mr. Storie:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have a further question.

Will the Minister examine The Clean Environment Act and the new environment Act, require public hearings before HBM&S processes further waste from the United States in the smelter in Flin Flon to protect the safety of workers, to protect the environment in Flin Flon and the surrounding areas, so that the people in Flin Flon can have the assurance that the questions that need to be asked are asked because this Minister will not ask them?

**Mr. Connery:** The previous Government sat on a legislation of the clean environment issue for four years. There was no protection until the regulation came into place on March 31 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely concerned about the environment in Flin Flon. To that extent I had Mr. Eagleton in, who is the member that runs the Clean Environment Commission. We had a long discussion; we discussed the licence. We discussed what was going on in Flin Flon. Therefore, he is satisfied that the licence is appropriate, is for emissions. There is no other licence required under the Act at this point.

We want to make sure that the people of Manitoba realize that the chemical from Dow is from Dow Corning, not Dow Chemical, Dow Corning which is a glass manufacturing company.

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

## NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** I would like to request leave to make a non-political statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have leave? (Agreed). The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**Mr. Findlay:** I would just like to briefly, Mr. Speaker, welcome 26 Japanese students to the Province of Manitoba, high school students, who have come over here on a visit to some Manitoba family farms. They are sponsored by the York Beneroux (phonetic) Foundation in Japan, a foundation who has sent young people, high school students, to different countries of the world for five years. The last two years they have sent a group to Manitoba. We are very pleased to receive them in Manitoba. They arrived here last night. I met with them at noon hour. They are now heading out into the country to their host families to have about a nine-day stay in the Province of Manitoba. We welcome them and congratulate the host families for their good hospitality.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), who has 24 minutes remaining. The Honourable Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased to get back into the debate which, I think, is an extremely important document for the people of Manitoba, a positive thrust, one which identifies major opportunities not only throughout southern but also northern and the rest of Manitoba. I think the people of Manitoba were truly ready for it.

\* (1430)

I was a little remiss the other day in my opening comments not to touch on really the historical experience in which I had the opportunity to participate, and my colleagues who were formerly Members of the Opposition to participate in. Maybe it explains why the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) is so somewhat upset about the activities in the House and the fact that things are not going the way he thinks they should be. I sat here on that historical day when one of the former New Democratic colleagues of the Government of the Day stood in his place and, in one minute, struck down an incompetent Government and released the Province of Manitoba from the most devastating policies, economically and socially, that we have ever seen—an historical day in this province. I say to the media who were there at that particular time, I am pleased that they reported it in the true and open fashion which they did.

I, as well, want to say to those Members who I sat with formerly, they were from the Government side or from Opposition. They truly were committed people. They truly worked hard even though some were misdirected in their political beliefs, but at least they participated in public life and, I am sure, gave of their utmost to the system.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I think it is extremely important, as I said the other day, that we work together as Government, as Opposition, to make a better Manitoba. That is why we are sent here.

There are a couple of things that I want to touch base on, because I want to get on with my positive speech dealing with the Throne Speech. I want to get on with my positive speech which I am so anxious to give. I do want to tell the public precisely what kind of a Leader the New Democratic Party has. I think it is extremely important that a judgment be made on it.

**An Honourable Member:** I heard this last Session.

**Mr. Downey:** No, you did not hear it last Session. Some of it had not been said yet last Session.

This is in the Free Press of March 19, 1988. Here is what the then candidate in the leadership for the New Democratic Party said, and I quote: "Doer sits in his office and quickly gets down to specifics,"—he is right down to specifics—"employment, especially retraining programs for the next generations"—and note this—"and programs to halt the depopulation of rural centres, as people head to the city in search of work, are high on his list." That is the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

Now let us go back a little bit in history when he was the former head of the Manitoba Government

Employees' Association, MGEA. I was the Minister of Agriculture with the control of water services under my jurisdiction. What was one of the major initiatives which we carried out? We carried out decentralization to Brandon. Lo and behold, what did that president say at that particular time? I think it is important to quote again for the record, Mr. Speaker. Should I tell him? -(Interjection)- Okay, thank you for the encouragement. I am sure we will have the forgiveness of the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

The MGEA president, being the now president or the head of the N.D. Party, the president said he has written Premier Sterling Lyon asking the transfers cancelled because those affected can not afford to relocate. The Civil Service union wrote to Treasury Board Chairman, Brian Ransom, in June asking for a moratorium on the transferred amount announced a month earlier. So much for decentralization. He wanted it cancelled.

Here is another comment from that former MGEA Leader: "The union leader said the MGEA has asked Lyon for an immediate freeze on transfers of Winnipeg-based civil servants to other communities in the province." He stands and tells the public of Manitoba, because he wants to be the Leader of the Party and the province, that he is so much for decentralization. I let the people of Manitoba judge, I let the Liberal Party judge, and I let the colleagues of the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) judge his approach to the whole business, very accommodating when he is in a leadership to try and get the rural votes—he is all for decentralization—but he speaks totally differently when he is head of the MGEA organization.

I think, as well, it is extremely important to talk briefly about the current Leader of the Liberal Party, because one does not know how long she may last. You see, she has taken some advice from a new upstart who sits directly beside her in the Legislature who is giving her some pretty questionable advice on constitutional matters. I think that he is taking her down a path that could be very dangerous. I think he has some ambitions that she should be very careful about. I think maybe, when the question comes as to whether or not they are on the right constitutional path when it comes to Meech Lake, it could be the current Leader of the Liberal Party who is left hung out to dry and the rest of the Party go on without her, the rest of Manitoba go on without her, and the rest of Canada go on without her because, when it comes to the question of whether the people of Manitoba want a Canada that they love and that they are proud of, all as one, or they want the Leader of the Liberal Party standing up for her political purposes, who will they decide? Who will they choose? I can tell you they are Canadians through and through and they will chose Canada every time.

So I caution members of the Liberal Party to do your own thinking. Please do your own thinking on all matters. Do not be directed by the new upstart who certainly has future designs because of the information that he is feeding the now Leader of the Liberal Party. I would say, be cautious in how you approach this whole matter.

I have to touch one more point. I missed it on my notes. We talk about decentralization and who really

stands for decentralization. The Conservative Party stands for decentralization, as proven under the water services decentralization. It was proven again recently with the reorganization of Northern Affairs when we reorganized our Department and sent four people who are now currently working in Winnipeg to the regional offices. Yes, it was unfortunate that an individual's position was lost in that shake-up. I feel extremely upset that those kinds of things happen but, in decentralization, it had to take place.

As well, let me talk about the Leader of the Liberal Party's (Mrs. Carstairs) questioning today. I find it extremely amusing that she is coming on the attack when it comes to the appointments of boards and the politicization of the system. We had a lovely meeting in our office not too long ago with some of the Liberal Members. It is not up to me to tell secrets outside of my office, particularly when I am meeting with Liberals. I can assure you it is kept very much confidential, but I have to tell you—and I think they will forgive me for this little one slip—that they really were not clear what their Leader was meaning on the whole question of depoliticization.

Yes, they thought it was extremely important to depoliticize the Civil Service, for which I thank them. They were not really clear though on boards and commissions as to really what their Leader was meaning. I would have expected at that time they would have gone to their Leader or they would have come to us and recommended how best they thought it should happen, rather than standing in this Assembly and again being negative against people who are truly committed Manitobans. Yes, the people of Manitoba voted for change on the 9th of May. They voted to turf out the former administration. Do you expect us to continue to give those Crown corporations the same - (Interjection)- Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, can you believe that the Liberal Party would want us to leave all the appointments of the former New Democrats in office, those people who misdirected, misguided and cost us a fortune, that we should leave those people in office? Why not appoint competent people, people who I am sure the Liberal Party, if they sat down and gave it careful assessment, would fully appreciate their capabilities.

**An Honourable Member:** That is right.

**Mr. Downey:** I would hope if they do not have a positive suggestion, they should back off a little on their criticism. I have not heard of one positive policy statement in that regard. What I said a few minutes ago, they do not have one, so I would suggest that it would be helpful if they developed a positive policy statement that would be helpful in the administration of all these affairs. It is an open invitation. I am surprised it has not come forward sooner.

\* (1440)

Let me continue on with the whole question of the North. I think it is extremely important that we address this northern issue, and address it as it relates to the people of northern Manitoba. Do you know what one

of the recommendations by the former Government, the former Minister of the Communities Economic Development Fund was? They were cutting staff positions out of Thompson. They were cutting the Communities Economic Development officer out of Thompson. I thought that was a little less than being straight up with the people of Manitoba, because they always take credit for doing things in the North. What I did was I did not reverse that decision, although I transferred the responsibilities of that individual to the Northern Affairs Department so the people of northern Manitoba had the services available of the Communities Economic Development officer in Thompson. I did not cut and hack and slash like the former New Democratic Party did in the City of Thompson with the people who were there serving that community.

Let me go on again and talk in a positive note about the announcement that I made today. I think it is extremely important, and I am extremely disappointed in the critic for Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Driedger) and the critic from the New Democratic Party (Mr. Harper) who said, we were started, we were beginning. After six years, they were starting and they were beginning to address some of the problems. What were they doing for the five-and-a-half years prior to that? And he has the gall to stand in his place today and say they had a beginning.

The employment situation is deplorable in the North with the Native communities. The conditions of which the young people are being put through are deplorable—no job opportunities, no recreation. In fact, the only recreation that is up there is on that constituent's own home ground.

Let me tell you a little bit about a visit the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and I had, and my colleague, the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), to a community that was desperately in need of a recreation facility not very far from the former Minister of Northern and Native Affairs. The story was in one sign. Here is a young boy going around with a sign that told it all. "He shoots, he scores—no arena." That told it all.

This Member, who is trying to give us the "what for" for not looking after the northern and Native communities, particularly the young people who were absolutely ignored by his Government, he talks about constitutional reform. He talks about hunting rights. He talks about, yes, important things, but what is most important is the well-being of those young people and those women living in those conditions and the opportunities for young people to get out and be a part of our productive society.

He did not address that, and that is why we are introducing a review of the Native Affairs Secretariat. We are going to make it a positive tool for the Native people of this province. It is not a beginning under him. It is an end for him and his Government. They are the rump Party of this province and will remain the same. We are going to do something for the Native community.

He brings up the question of jurisdiction all the time, about federal/provincial. Let us debate it.

He gave \$100,000 to the Assembly of Chiefs. Is that the provincial responsibility? He promised a further

\$325,000.00. Is that a provincial responsibility? He was trying but he was doing it in a political way. There is a real need out there for the Native community of this province. There is a tremendous need that has not been addressed by he and his political colleagues. All they were after from the people of the North and the Native community was their vote. He did not give a darn about the well-being of the children or the women in those communities. He did not care about their opportunities. If he did, why do we have 80 percent to 90 percent unemployment? Why? I ask that question. The criticism that comes from those two people today is appalling.

We hired a resource firm to do the work, friends of the Conservatives. I will stand and defend anytime the people that this Government employs to do a job. I will defend it anytime because they have been talked to. We have talked to those communities that want the work done. We do not go and unilaterally do something. We consult with the people who are going to be affected, and I have the support of those people, let me assure you. Those people will be fully involved in the activities.

Mr. Speaker, he says, "friends of us." I suppose, if I had to go out to find friends of his, I would have been very hard pressed to find any. I think I would have been hard pressed to find any the way in which they have handled Northern Affairs.

I get upset about it because we have the opportunity—and I say this again and you read it in the Throne Speech—the urban Native strategy which will be worked on very vigorously and we again invite input from Members here. We talk about and we will be carrying out effective programming under Northern Development Agreements. We believe it is extremely important that be struck.

We believe or I believe very strongly that the people of northern communities should be the people who take on the opportunities that are there. It is Government's responsibility to create the economic climate to encourage them. It is our responsibility to carry out the essential services. It is our responsibility to give those young people the hope that they have not had over the last how many years of New Democratic Party.

**An Honourable Member:** Fifteen out of nineteen.

**Mr. Downey:** Fifteen out of nineteen, and the former Minister of Northern and Native Affairs has the gall to stand here and say they were beginning. I think the people of the Native communities are ready for more than a beginning. They are ready to have some meaningful input into what is going on in those communities and I can assure you, having heard the comments of my Premier (Mr. Filmon) and my Cabinet colleagues, that I am given the mandate to carry out some active and meaningful projects and policy development.

Again, we have the criticisms of doing reviews. Maybe if the former administration had stopped just for a minute or two and asked somebody outside of Government or had a meaningful input from somebody, then it might not have gone off the rails quite so badly.

I suggest to the Liberal Party again, would they come floundering into office, as the critic for ManOil, come floundering into office and say, "You are misreading the report; you are misreading the people of Manitoba; do not sell ManOil; we want to lose several other hundreds of thousands of dollars before we divest of it." Is that what he wants? I mean, he has to come clean on this thing. He cannot sit there and say, do not sell ManOil because it has hope. Well, Manfor had hope; ManOil had hope; Flyer Bus had hope. It is nice to get into that philosophical, warm, comforting feeling that you want to do everything with Government. It does not work.

The Member refers to laying off people in jobs. I want to tell the Member, where does he think those jobs were. Does he think the jobs were out in the oil patch in southwestern Manitoba? Where does he think they were? If they were over in Eaton Place in a lovely office, nice and air conditioned and doing their utmost to make an oil company produce wealth so they could stay in that office, it does not work. There is one oil company out there alone that has 80 producing wells. They have two people looking after it, and they have not got a head office anywhere.

I am sorry the Member fell into that trap because it is nice to have that grandiose idea that you are going to do things big and brave in the oil patch. The action is out in southwestern Manitoba. The people of southwestern Manitoba have been getting on quite nicely, thank you, without Manitoba Oil and Gas.

Oh, there are a few people who come to me and say, gosh, I am sorry you are getting rid of ManOil because I am losing the best lease offer that I have. Well, the best lease offer was based on the ability to get taxpayers' money, not the actual value of the property. If that was the case, why was not the private sector in doing it? Come on, let us get real about this thing. We are carrying out the divestiture in a common-sense, practical approach, taking care of the interests of the taxpayers.

Yes, we are using oil people and we are going to continue to use advice from people who know. I mean, we would be no better than the NDP if we did not use people who knew what was going on. That is why we got into a lot of the mess we got into. Why were we in Saudi Arabia? Who asked for that \$27 million ride in the sand?

**An Honourable Member:** It started with Sterling Lyon.

**Mr. Downey:** No, I am sorry. Again, you have a difficulty. That is probably the biggest regret that I have, that we had a good colleague in here from one of those—I am not saying that he is not a good Member who is here now, but we had a tremendous contribution from some of the other former colleagues. They will return though. That is the positive side of my speech. They will return. Back to the Throne Speech, because I think it is extremely important—how much time is there left?

**An Honourable Member:** Lots, lots. We will give you leave.

**Mr. Downey:** I think it is again important to put on the record some of the things which I think are going

to be important to the driving of our economy into getting back on track so that the people of Manitoba feel that they are getting value for their dollar.

\* (1450)

What was one of the major initiatives of the former administration? What was one of the major areas which they thought they should move to save money? They did have a major initiative, but you know what it was? It was to reduce the police protection in rural Manitoba. That was their major initiative. A priority item was to remove police protection in rural Manitoba. Now that is some kind of a priority, particularly when the City of Winnipeg was increasing their police staff by 80 members. In rural Manitoba, we were expected to reduce our staff complement in the RCMP.

I can tell you right now, it was not the desire of the head office of the RCMP to reduce RCMP detachments in rural Manitoba. In fact, I participated in the opening of two RCMP detachments in northeastern Manitoba, in Native communities, and I commend the RCMP detachment for that. I think it is extremely important the decision that my colleague made and my Premier (Mr. Filmon), and I thank them for it, in the restoration of RCMP protection to Reston, a commitment to deal with the Deloraine situation and the other communities that have had difficulties with RCMP.

I commend any Government that takes that kind of commitment to the people of Manitoba prior to an election and, without hesitation—and I emphasize that again for my Liberal colleagues—without hesitation, live up to that commitment very quickly. It restores in the minds of the people of Manitoba that someone cares, and I hope that the members of the Liberal Party will just read a little bit of the historical events that took place when it came to the RCMP removal in rural Manitoba. If we cannot have RCMP protection in this country, what can we have?

I again compliment the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) and thank my Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the colleagues of Treasury Board and MLAs from all ridings who felt that deep commitment and lived up to it in support of my commitment and the commitment of this Government.

I want to point out again—and this is an area dealing with some of the activities that we have to carry out as far as the people of not only southern and northern Manitoba, but I want to spend a couple of minutes on it because we, immediately, as people living in southern Manitoba think that with dry weather, shortage of snowfall—(Interjection)—Oh, thank you. I wondered maybe if—I could actually hold you to what you put on the record, I guess, and I will not try to do that. We will try and hit it down the middle someplace. We will be a little liberal today. Okay? Thank you.

As I said the other day, I think that the NDP are far to the left, the Liberals are far to the right, and we are coming right down the middle of the road with good Government, you see.

**An Honourable Member:** That is what you tell your people . . .

**Mr. Downey:** Well, certainly. They like the moderate approach.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the important thing to not only southern but northern Manitobans is the desperate situation we are in as far as moisture and runoff is concerned. It is not only water to produce crops and town water for towns and villages and communities and homes. That is a critical situation.

I had the opportunity to visit Cross Lake not too long ago, and I can tell you that there is some unwritten history yet that has to be put on the record, and that was the devastating impact that the development of Jenpeg had on some of our northern communities.—(Interjection)— Yes, developed by Ed Schreyer, a former Premier; yes, developed by one Cass-Beggs, a former chairman of Hydro. The devastation that has had on those communities is something that everyone in Manitoba should see.

I think that, when the history books are written, one individual that so many people feel was a great hero of the North, the Native people and all of the people of Manitoba, one Ed Schreyer, when the true history books are written, they will reflect something different. Again, it is perception over reality.

And I have to say, when you see the people up there who are having difficulties because of the fluctuations in water flow, the shortage of water flow, we have not only got a problem in southern Manitoba, we have major problems when it comes to the whole development and the whole running of our hydro-generating stations in the North.

I would expect full cooperation from the Official Opposition. I would expect, again, some negative comments from the former Government, as they are still spinning and reeling over the impact of their colleague who devastated them when he voted against them. They will be a long time coming back.

I have a message for the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan). He will never probably—and never is a long time—he probably will never grace the Government rolls again. I think that is because he is too vindictive, he is too sour and he is too bitter to go back in as Government. They are reflecting that everyday in how they are working in the House. His Leader is having a difficult time with him. In fact, you could see some major strains between the two of them. He keeps telling the Leader of the Party when to stand up, when to sit down, what to say and what not to say. That is really what is happening in the New Democratic Party. It is a reflection that I see coming out everyday in this Chamber.

In conclusion, I will say, No. 1, that I am extremely pleased to be a Member of a Government that has introduced such an important document for the people of Manitoba, so important that the Members of the Opposition have not, in any meaningful way, criticized it. They have talked about federal issues. They have talked about everything else but they really have not talked about the —(Interjection)— The Member says “timid.” Sometimes, timidity can be a virtue.

We are in a minority situation and I think it is important that we reflect that to the people of Manitoba, that we

want to produce a good Government for the people of Manitoba. It is being demonstrated daily by the Premier and by the Cabinet, and I say this document—and I appreciate the Members opposite not bringing in a non-confidence motion because it truly demonstrates that this is historical. It is what the people of Manitoba want, and we are going to deliver with the best of our ability for a better Manitoba under this direction.

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

**Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland):** First of all, I would like to congratulate the Speaker who is elected to the highest office in the Chamber. I look forward to working with him. I am looking forward to seeking his wisdom and his guidance.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko), being elected as Deputy Speaker and also the Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Deputy Chairman of the Whole House and Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer). I remember the former Member for Minnedosa, and I often had chats with him and I enjoyed his company. I am sure that he would represent his constituents very well from Minnedosa. I wish him luck and success.

I would also like to say congratulations to all the new Members in the House here. I can remember the first time that I came into this Chamber. I felt out of place and I did not know what to expect as to what my role and my functions as a Member of the Legislative Assembly would be, and also as a Member of the Government, as a backbencher of the Government for a number of years, and later on becoming a Member of the Executive Council of the Government. It was a great honour and privilege to serve in that capacity and I am sure everyone in the Chamber expects at some point to serve as a Member of Government.

I can appreciate the comments by Members opposite, by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), mentioning the fact that he is being put in a position to administer the affairs of the province and the people of the Province of Manitoba. I look forward to working with him on a number of issues.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

I also would like to extend my wishes and my thanks to the people of my constituency, the citizens of Rupertsland, who have elected me for the third time. I would like to extend my deep acknowledgments to the people who helped in my campaign and served with me. I look forward to representing the interests of the people of Rupertsland in this Chamber and also representing many of the issues that they would want addressed in their home communities.

Since there are many Members in this House who are new to this Chamber, I will talk about my constituency as being one of the largest constituencies in the Province of Manitoba.

**An Honourable Member:** Soon to be larger.

\* (1500)

**Mr. Harper:** Also soon to be larger if the Boundaries Commission is accepted.

I represent the constituency of Rupertsland, and it is a vast territory lying east of Lake Winnipeg and north of—close to Thompson and east of Thompson. It is primarily populated by the Native people. I can speak of the conditions of that constituency as being not up to par, as not being as equal to many of the southern communities and the City of Winnipeg.

Since Rupertsland is predominantly dominated by the aboriginal people, the conditions are well known in the country of the first citizens of this country. We are poor. We have poor housing conditions, unemployment is high, well over 90 percent. When I hear of unemployment rates going down in some areas, it is considered a disaster in some communities but, in these communities, we have unemployment that is well over 90 percent. That has been sort of an ugly trademark of the inadequacy of Governments to address the problem of unemployment and the social conditions. It is a very difficult task to address this problem. We need to look at the whole issue of employment education, the economic opportunities in those communities.

I know very well of the conditions of having no food to eat. I was raised in a remote community on a remote reserve called Red Sucker Lake. As a matter of fact, I was born in the bush; I was not born in a hospital. I was born in a tent, not even in a house, in a log house. Later on, I was raised by my grandparents who were traditionally trappers, fishermen and hunting people. I went on various trips into the bush, and I often do not remember eating any kind of the food that we eat, even canned food. All I ate was fish, moose meat and muskrat, those kinds of good foods, and rabbit that made you run a lot faster, and bannock—none of the junk foods that you eat now. I thought even a can of klick or even balogna was a treat. We now call a slice of balogna in Red Sucker Lake, a Red Sucker Lake round steak, it is so expensive. It costs you about \$6 a pound.

I enjoyed those days when I was young being raised in a bush, standing by the river in the spring looking at the rapids, the flow of water, the sun reflecting off of the rapids, beautiful days, birds singing by the shoreline. I did not even know a world existed much beyond that. My culture at that time was beginning to be, I guess, entrenched. I have very fond memories of those days with my grandparents. It was part of their lifestyle, part of the extended family relationship that existed. I come from a large family of 13 children. Today we are still all alive; my parents are still alive. We have a close family relationship.

When I came into this Chamber, I tried to address many of the issues concerning Native culture and look at the legislation, look at the guidelines that would enhance or recognize the Indian culture. It was a very difficult task. I came in here and we changed legislation to reflect the needs and the values of the Native people, like child welfare. In many of the homes—we do not

have homes like in Winnipeg. To meet the criteria in order to adopt or even place a child in an Indian home, the criteria would not be there because, first of all, you have to have an income in order to qualify for a foster home or even to have a child placed in your home. When you have 95 percent unemployment in reserves, that is quite impossible. Even the guidelines might say, the regulations might say that you would need to have a home, a square footage per person. A lot of times, we do not have that. Many of the families live today, as a matter of fact, in a single house, two families. When you look at the Indian culture, much of the legislation which was passed was done in ignorance of Indian people, lack of the cultural values of Indian people.

I come from a remote constituency that is very rich in culture, the one that I am very proud of. When I came in here and when I went to school later on in years, to residential schools, and coming here in this House, and try to address many of the Native issues, like treaty rights. One, the treaties are held in high regard, as a matter of fact sacred, by our Indian leaders, our elders. It has not gained or received the attention that it should have. I have mentioned too, earlier on during the day, about the Indian people not being part of this country. I mentioned that it was only a few years ago, in 1960, that for the very first time Indian people were given the right to vote in Canada. Before that, they were not allowed to vote, they were not allowed to be a part of the Canadian society.

\* (1510)

As a matter of fact, if they wanted to go to university to obtain, let us say, a doctor's degree or become a lawyer or even when they went in the army, they were stripped of their Treaty status, the treaties that were made between the Indian nations and also the federal Government with the Government at that time. They were stripped of their Treaty status in order to—and they said, well you have to get enfranchised so that you become a Canadian. Once you become a Canadian, then you had all these rights, the right to vote, and then you were also, in some cases, told that, if you enfranchised, you would get a job for the rest of your life. So many of the Indian people enfranchised and lost their Treaty status in order to become a Canadian citizen.

Then I talked to many of the elders when they went into cities. These are Indian people, the first people in this country, being treated as second-class citizens and being treated as a foreigner within your own country, in which the Indian people gave vast lands to the Canadian Government so that other Canadians can enjoy the land, the resources, that Canada has to offer. We were treated like foreigners. As a matter of fact, the reserves were set up, and the Indian Natives treated, the Indian people, like prisoners. You had to get a special pass to leave the reserve. I think they developed a chit system, in which you had to have a special pass to get into town and to leave the reserve.

It was no wonder that the Indian people have been neglected, and it is even within the last 30 years or less, given the right to vote. Most of the legislation was



created by legislators who did not have the knowledge or interest, even the interest of the Indian people, because the Indian people did not vote before that, so it was not in their interest to seek support or to solicit support from the Indian people because it did not matter. What mattered to them was gaining votes from people who they represented, I guess all the Canadians, except the Indian people.

So when you see the laws being created, it was not in the interest of the Indian people, even the recognition of treaties. When I read in 1867 and so on the development of The Indian Act, The Indian Act was developed by the Canadian Parliament. It was developed to meet the needs of the federal Government at that time. It was not developed to meet the needs of the Indian people. The Indian Act was also developed in a way to get the Indian people to become integrated, to become part of Canadian society and the economic opportunities.

They were also enticed to own farm land. In the process, they were told to enfranchise which meant that they would lose their Treaty status. So during the early stages of Parliament and the development of this country, Indian people were not represented. Their interests were not represented. Even the legislation, when one went to court, the judges always made decisions in favour of the Government, the Canadian people. They did not understand Indian people and also they did not take the time, parliamentarians did not take the time or Governments did not take the time to study the treaties that were made with the Indian people.

That is why Indian people have a high regard for the treaty-making process. It was a recognition that the Indian people had land in this country and also had their own form of Government. It might not be as complicated as the present system that we have, but they did sign documents, treaties, with the federal Government. In many instances, the federal Government has not lived up to its obligations.

We have references to the health care, to the education for Indian people. I know every year we get \$5 a year from the Canadian Government, and I am sure that, if we had inflation, \$5 a year would be well over \$1,500 now. That, I am sure, would go a longer way at this time instead of the \$5 that we get presently.

But the treaty-making process recognized that the Indian people had their own Government. That is why the Indian people are asking for recognition of self-government and also to implement their own system of Government.

When I went to the Constitutional Conference, in which you went with a cowboy hat—I remember the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) with a cowboy hat . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** There is nothing wrong with that.

**Mr. Harper:** No, there is nothing wrong with it.

**An Honourable Member:** That is discrimination.

**Mr. Harper:** Is that right? Okay, I will wear a cowboy hat next time.

During the Constitutional Conference we, as a New Democratic Party Government, recognized self-government.

There is a different definition of Government. First, it was the Conservative Governments in this country that denied the aboriginal people from getting self-government recognized in the Constitution. As a matter of fact, the Conservative Governments wanted to define first what it is, what you do mean by self-government, but I think, if you look at the history, the history-making process, the treaty-making process, that itself is recognizing that the Indian people have self-government. The Indian people were able to determine their own way of lifestyle and also to make arrangements with the federal Government.

But in today's society and today's complex bureaucracy, the Indian people are arming themselves, becoming educated. We are making headway, but there needs to be much done in terms of educating the general public.

I look forward to working with the Minister of Northern Affairs, the Minister of Native Affairs (Mr. Downey). I see that he has made an announcement today in the House regarding the Native Affairs Secretariat. He has a contract and I do not know how much he is paying for the contract. He is doing a review of the Native Affairs Secretariat. There are many issues that need to be addressed in regard to the Native issues. He mentioned today in his speech about the Chief Secretariat, we funded \$100,000 and it was a small part. The kind of money that we need to address many of the issues is enormous.

The Minister needs to know that they are some of the responsibilities of the provincial Government and we need to work with the aboriginal people in the Province of Manitoba. They do not have the resources to do the work that they need to do. He should be consulting with the aboriginal leaders, with the chiefs. He should be consulting with the Metis organizations, with the Metis leaders. He should be talking to them about the kind of course that this Government should be taking, but what he does, he give a contract to a consulting firm. He should be having a direct relationship with the Indian people.

\* (1520)

I would like to just mention a few of the things that he needs to address. I know that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) is going to be tackling the North, and I know in the Throne Speech he mentioned about the hydro line to the northeast communities. I applaud him for that, but we have been working with the federal Government on this issue for the last number of years and we did not get any commitment from the federal Government. I was just wondering why we were not getting any ear from the federal Minister of Indian Affairs.

As a matter of fact, two years ago, we went on a tour with the Minister of Energy and Mines at that time,

the Minister responsible for Hydro, Mr. Parasiuk. We went on a tour into the communities and we told them that, as a provincial Government, we made that commitment that we would build that line. The Manitoba Hydro, the provincial Government, made that commitment and all we needed was a commitment from the federal Government to cost-share that hydro line, but we did not get any commitment from the federal Government. They did not seem to want to meet with us. I do not know how many letters were sent by the Minister to get his commitment, and I hope that they succeed in getting a written commitment from the federal Minister of Indian Affairs from the federal Government. You already have my support on that and we, as a provincial Government, made that commitment also a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, we were not able to get anywhere with the federal Minister of Indian Affairs.

That comes with another problem, the whole question of the Treaty Land Entitlement. This is an ongoing issue that has been going for many years. When they were in Government, they were dealing with the Indian people on the Treaty Land Entitlement. I know when I was Chief of the Red Sucker Lake Band, I dealt with the Minister of Natural Resources on the Treaty Land Entitlement issue. I believe the Minister at the time was Brian Ransom and we were dealing with the Treaty Land Entitlement. Shortly after that, when we formed the Government in 1981, we had a commission done by Leon Mitchell, the Treaty Land Entitlement Commission, done for the Government. That commission was completed and also representation was made by Indian people by various groups and generally everybody was in support of the Treaty Land Entitlement.

The Treaty Land Entitlement is land that is still due to Indian people in the treaty-making process, land that needs to be given to the Indian people because Indian people, when they were given land, not all the land was surveyed for them. In the Natural Resources Transfer Act, when Manitoba became a province in 1870—but in 1930, when the land was transferred, the resources were transferred to the Province of Manitoba. There is a section there referring to the outstanding obligations by the Canadian Government which, if the Indian people, when they asked for land to fulfill the treaty obligations and then the Government or the province must return land or Crown land back to the Canadian Government so that it can fulfill its treaty obligations. That process has been ongoing for some time in which Indian people are beginning to require more land. I know in Red Sucker Lake, we have an outstanding Treaty Land Entitlement and we have a peninsula, I think we have only about 250 acres of land in which over 400 people are living on that piece of land. We are rapidly seeking more land so that the reserve can expand, but we cannot get more land until we resolve the Treaty Land Entitlement issue.

As a matter of fact, we did sign an agreement in principle with the Government in 1984, I believe, in which we agreed in principle a number of the guidelines and how to transfer land with the federal Government, with the Chiefs, and then with the provincial Government. Since the Conservative Government has

been in Government, they have not moved on that. We have been waiting for them for four or five years now—four years. When I was in Government, we were trying to get the Minister of Indian Affairs to resolve this issue. He would not respond to many of the letters that we wrote to him. I am talking about the Minister of Indian Affairs, the federal Minister. He did not respond to many of the letters that we wrote to him on the Treaty Land Entitlement issue. We were ready to sign . . . .

**An Honourable Member:** He speaks very highly of you.

**Mr. Harper:** This I know, but he does not respond to his letters.

Just before the constitutional conference last year, before it took place last year, I had the Premier write a letter to the Prime Minister saying that we were not getting any action on the Treaty Land Entitlement. Then shortly after we got a response from the Prime Minister saying that federal Minister of Indian Affairs would be responding to us, which he did, but he said that we should be dealing with this in the first part of April. Now I have not heard from him. That was in 1986, in '87.

Nothing has moved at all in the Treaty Lands Entitlement issue, and that is one issue that needs to be resolved here in this House and also especially in the North. If you are going to exercise any kind of economic development for many of those communities, the land question has to be resolved.

Also, in dealing with the land question, coming into an area like the Northern Flood Agreement—a lot of development because of the uncertainty of the land question. I think the Minister will find that many of the potential economic development initiatives will suffer because the land question has to be resolved. We have, I think, whole areas that amount to millions of acres and also specific areas that the bands have selected. Those were ongoing things that need to be addressed. I look forward to this Minister in working out, hopefully, successfully with the bands in addressing the issue.

**An Honourable Member:** Come over to this side of the House . . . .

**Mr. Harper:** I know the Member wants me to become a Conservative and I mentioned to him that I think I wanted to be more progressive, but I do not know whether he listens or not.

But that is one of the issues that you need to address is the Northern Flood issue, the Treaty Land Entitlement issue and the other one is, of course, the complicated issue of Indian gaming, the lotteries issue. As you know, bands are operating bingos and lotteries on reserves. Under the Indian Act, the Indian people are allowed to pass by-laws respecting gaming, but there seem to be some jurisdictional problems in terms of who has jurisdiction in respect to lotteries because, under the Criminal Code, the provinces have jurisdiction to make legislation guidelines in respect to lotteries. So there is some confusion as to whose jurisdiction it is.

\* (1530)

We were in the process of negotiating with the Indian bands as how to handle this. One of the ways of proceeding to do that is just to take it to court or refer it to the court, but I think a lot of Indian people do not trust the court system because, when you look at the present history and the precedents in terms of the courts, in terms of recognizing their rights, it has not been favourable to Indian people. Also, I had mentioned earlier about the development of legislation regulation and how the courts tended not to recognize the Indian values and Indian rights. So a lot of the preference of Indian people is rather to negotiate a political solution to many of their problems.

It would be a lot easier for Governments, if they do not want to deal with it, just to refer everything to the courts, and the courts will be tied up with many of the Indian issues. I think, when I look at the Indian issues, especially the Treaty Land Entitlement, the federal Government and their secret document that I had mentioned, they rather see many of the Treaty Land Entitlement, the land corrections referred to the courts. I think there needs to be a political will and a political courage by Governments to deal with many of the Indian issues, to deal with many of the problems that we have on reserves in employment housing, in education, and in the social chaos that exists. I think we need to look at that.

I had mentioned about the gaming. The other thing that I was going to mention is too that we are going to deal with the whole question of taxation. That is another matter that needs to be addressed by the Minister, the taxation. As you know, Indian people do not pay all taxation on reserves but they are subject to taxation in some areas, and I think that needs to be addressed. I know in hydro services, the Indian people do not pay the taxes and the other service things like MTS is one of the areas that we are going to look at, whether it should be taxed. We have other taxations that need to be addressed, sales tax, that if the store is situated on the reserve, the Indian people do not pay the sales tax on that. So it is a very complicated area that we were just beginning into the whole area. I know it is going to take a long time to unravel and have a clear direction to go in terms of that issue.

The other area that we have gone ahead—I think which this Government is proud of—is the Indian child welfare program. The Indian people have taken on the responsibility for the Indian child care agencies. I know there have been some criticisms that are very strong against the Native agencies, but it is sort of a process that they are going through. For the Indian people to take on that responsibility, we had to change some legislation in order for them to take over the Indian child welfare programs. Part of that problem is, of course, the funding that they are getting from the federal Government. I know that the federal Government is at this time not proceeding to fund the Indian child welfare agencies to the extent that these agencies need, because I know in certain areas they need training dollars so that they can train people so they can work more effectively. In certain areas, they need delivery dollars but they are not getting the dollars to do it and, as a matter of fact, are being denied the dollars to effectively deliver the program.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the Minister of Northern Affairs and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey). I am sure that I have not really criticized him yet. I look forward to what he can do and what kind of programs that he can do. I am sure I look forward to his budget. Let us see what kind of budget he has and what kind of programs he will be introducing. I know at this time he is giving the contract out to review the Native Secretariat, which means nothing at this point because I do not know what they are going to come up with, what kind of recommendations they are going to come up with, and maybe they will come up with something positive.

I know that they are doing something in the area of Native justice and I look forward to the recommendations of that Native justice coming, maybe in a couple of years or a year-and-a-half, and from there we will see what happens.

It has been my pleasure to say a few words on the Throne Speech, and to be able to pass information on to my Members in the Legislature. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** The most significant step in the world's history of law and order was perhaps that taken by primitive man. Consider, a tribe sitting down around the fire and, as if by some unconscious common consent, the tribe allowed only one man to stand and speak at a time. That, Mr. Speaker, was the beginning.

When any of us stand here today in the Legislature and others sit down and listen, let us remember that over 3,000 years of human struggle, learning and culture are involved in this simple act.

The early Greeks taught us that, without a system of public address, democracy did not exist. Democracy and speech-making were born together in those ancient days, and they are still an integral part of our free society, some 23 centuries later.

And if we followed democracy and speech-making through the centuries, we would be reminded of the great orators, Aristotle, Cicero, Erasmus and, later on, Churchill. And one of the achievements that made them great was their willingness to educate future speakers and orators.

There have been many orators in this House who were great. They have carried on the tradition of contemporary rhetoric. Let us hope that we will all learn from them.

In 1855, Cicero's writings were translated, and he wrote, and I quote: "All the force and the art of speaking must be employed in allaying or exciting the feelings of those who listen. To this must be added a certain portion of grace and wit, quickness and brevity in replying, accompanied with refined decorum and urbanity."

Il n'y a aucun doute que vous allez faire preuve de grande compétence, M. le président, et je tiens à ajouter mes félicitations à celles de mes collègues pour votre nomination à ce poste si honorable. Je voudrais aussi féliciter l'honorable membre de Seven Oaks pour sa nomination au poste de député président. La sagesse, l'intégrité, la bienveillance et la diplomatie sont

seulement des qualités aptes aux personnes qui occupent cette position. Je suis confiante que ces qualités vont être mises à l'oeuvre admirablement par vous, M. le président, et par vous, M. le député président.

**(Translation)**

There is no doubt that you will demonstrate great competence, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to add my congratulations to those of my colleagues on your appointment to this very honourable position. I would also like to congratulate the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) on his appointment to the position of Deputy Speaker. Wisdom, integrity, good will and diplomacy are only some of the qualities required to fill this position. I am confident that these qualities will be put into practice admirably by you, Mr. Speaker, and by you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

All in this House shall willingly defer to your judgment, as our perception is of a Speaker who is trustworthy, competent and objective.

M. le président, c'est pour moi un honneur de siéger dans la chambre comme député. Il y a vingt ans je suis venue dans cette chambre pour la première fois. J'ai été impressionnée par la splendeur de cet édifice, par sa belle architecture, ainsi que par la multitude de tableaux d'anciens premiers ministres du Manitoba. Les hommes représentés dans ces tableaux m'ont frappée. Ces hommes sérieux, de véritables héros, étaient sûrement venus de circonstances de vie bien différentes des miennes. Plus tard, assise au balcon de la chambre, je me suis aperçue que les politiciens manitobains étaient des citoyens ordinaires. Ils étaient originaires de grandes villes, du Nord et même de communautés rurales comme la mienne. Enfin, quand je pense à ma jeunesse, à mon vécu en milieu rural, je suis convaincue que cette expérience va être pour moi un immense atout dans mon rôle de député.

**(Translation)**

\* (1540)

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to sit in this House as a member. It was twenty years ago that I entered this House for the first time. I was impressed by the splendour of this building, by its lovely architecture as well as by the many paintings of the former premiers of Manitoba. The men depicted in these paintings struck me. These serious men, veritable heroes, surely must have come from circumstances very different from my own. Later, as I sat in the gallery, I noticed that Manitoba's politicians were ordinary citizens. They came from large cities, from the North and even from rural communities like my own. Now when I think of my youth and my experiences in a rural setting, I am convinced that they will be a great asset to me in my role as a member.

I grew up in a farm near the small community of Cromer, in southwestern Manitoba. Rural life affords many learning opportunities. I listened with interest when my colleague, the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans), told of his early years on the farm,

spent picking stones. My sister and I too spent many summers picking stones, and it was the one job on the farm that we disliked the most. It did teach us, however, that for every problem solved, there were 10 more waiting for you the next day.

We also learned to make choices at an early age. Should we order from the Sears catalogue or from the Eaton's catalogue? I, too, went to a one-room schoolhouse in Grades 1 through to 8. It was about as typical a schoolhouse as one could imagine, a red brick structure, dotted on an acre of bare prairie. Country schools did much to teach independence. When a teacher must handle Grades 1 through 8, a student is compelled to become a self-starter and be independent.

Often during the winter, when the teacher who commuted from Virden, could not make it out because of bad roads, the oldest girl in the school would step into her shoes, and it was business as usual.

There was always a tremendous sense of community in rural Manitoba. Through celebrations and disasters, neighbours were always there for each other to lend support and encouragement. The spirit of cooperation and strong community bonds transcended the culture, political persuasion and economic background.

Rural life taught me pride in my community, a sense of fellowship, and a strong recognition of the importance of cooperation.

What family did not live in rural Manitoba without having had the opportunity to be involved in the 4-H and youth program? The Honourable Member for Virden (Mr. Findlay), has pre-empted me in telling this House the meaning of the 4-H's, head, heart, hands and health. That however, is the official version. My father, who was appointed chief chauffeur for all of our 4-H activities, had his own interpretation of what 4-H stood for. He maintained it meant, hurry home, have supper, and hit the road.

We would be wise in this Legislative Assembly if we listened to the pledge and practised it here. My head to clearer thinking—as we make decisions for the people of Manitoba, we must be cognizant of taking a clear and responsible approach to all of our decisions. My heart to great loyalty—let us be loyal to ourselves and to our principles. Let us be loyal to our constituents and to all Manitobans, whom we are here to serve and for whom we uphold the principles of democracy. My hands to larger service—we must be sensitive to the needs of the people and work with them in resolving major economic and social problems. And my health to better living—it is essential for us to work toward a goal of a Manitoba which promotes the emotional, physical and mental well-being of its residents.

4-H instilled in me the value of leadership, and it taught me the art of public speaking. I might add there were many speaking competitions, and many judges, but none as tough as the judge in the basement of our house, called mother. I can only hope that the fine qualities that 4-H advocates for its youth will be the same qualities found within the Members of this House.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank all of the constituents of Ellice, for they are

the real reason that I am speaking today in this Legislature. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe the Ellice constituency is to tell you about a graduation I recently attended at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate.

The names of the graduates read something like this: Fontanella, Papadopoulos, Nygen, Sousa, Gilroy, Tran, Cellitti, and Neves. These names epitomize the nature of my constituency. Ellice is a unique, blended community which recognizes cultural diversity and strives to promote these ethnic variations, while maintaining a strong community identity.

Many of my constituents are newcomers to Canada and to Manitoba, and have not yet obtained their Canadian citizenship. To each and every resident of Ellice, as their elected representative, I vow to serve them with fairness, with honour, and with integrity.

At this juncture, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the Throne Speech. As I read through the contents, I found myself checking the back page to note the author's name, thinking that I had through a rare error in Government mail intercepted a virgin manuscript on its way to the publishers. This document had indeed all the characteristics of a beginner's novel. First, there was a lack of plan. Second, there were too many scenes that did not advance the story but merely interrupted it. Thirdly, the writer in an attempt to put something into the book for everyone, in effect, pleased no one. However, every beginner deserves some credit.

I applaud this Government for vowing to take a fresh approach to governing, for suggesting a willingness to pursue open, honest Government. In the past 10 years and particularly the last five, Manitobans and certainly civil servants have suffered from an administration whose style was one of an illusion of openness and listening but, behind the magic of the illusion, were closed minds and a posture of "we know best, we do not need to listen to the people."

May I be so bold as to counsel the present administration, if they choose to listen, on achieving effective, efficient management. Be cautious of solving management conflicts by avoiding the problem. A popular solution with the previous Government was to implement a solution that had nothing to do with the problem. One solution was to totally dismantle the regional health and community services in Winnipeg and instead develop three new structures. They chose to ignore any recommendations from middle and senior management and readily accepted the recommendations of one individual parachuted in who single-handedly destroyed a basically sound structure. What is inexcusable is that, in a time of financial crisis, this individual was allowed to create a system which tripled the cost of the operation.

Experts in promoting organizational change will tell us their basic principles for accomplishing change in a positive way. The NDP administration took every key principle and proceeded to do the opposite. In fact, as I read through history books, I realized that the previous administration must have been boning up on Petronius Arbitrator. He spoke words in 60 A.D. that are as true today as they were then, and I quote: "We tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing, and

a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

\* (1550)

The task of improving staff morale in the Civil Service, and particularly in the Departments of Health and Community Services, is an onerous one. There are dedicated, conscientious field staff and supervisors in these departments. They have devoted themselves to long hours, many evenings and weekends of work without compensation. They have put their heart and their soul into their job and all they ask for is some support, some clear direction and an occasional thank you, that was a job well done. Because of this lack of direction and conflicting direction from Ministers and directorates and because of reorganization, staff morale in these departments is at an all-time low.

There was no joy in mudville when the mighty Howard was up to bat. The NDP had struck out. There is no joy for staff who go to work every day and face drudgery and lack the motivation because of three years of chaos. Staff are prepared to deal with heavy workloads, but what they are not prepared to deal with is a continual punitive approach, disorganization, lack of direction and general chaos.

I challenge the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to set down the revitalization of our civil servants in their respective departments as a top priority. There are good dedicated professionals out there. Allow them a work environment which encourages them to reach their potential. We know the quality of service to the public is paramount. Only through staff who are enthusiastic, committed and positively challenged is that quality a reachable goal.

I noticed the Honourable Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson), in her response to the Throne Speech, said that she would welcome constructive criticism. I too see it as the role of the Opposition to simply not just oppose and attack but to offer suggestions and ideas which are constructive and meaningful. In my role as critic for Community Services, I would like to spend the next few minutes speaking to the major thrust in that department.

Child care is certainly not a new phenomena in Canada. Albeit in various forms, child care has been a part of this country for over a century, particularly in the more industrialized Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. It is only in the past few decades that we as a province have come to recognize the vital links between social services, work, family life and the quality of a child's life. We must commend the previous administration for its worthwhile efforts in being leaders in developing a quality child care system.

It is now incumbent upon the present administration to negotiate quickly with the federal Government to ensure that Manitoba is not discriminated against for being a leader in child care. It is also incumbent upon this Government to reassure Manitobans that indeed child care is a priority. We know there is a chronic shortage of child care spaces in Manitoba. I trust in

the upcoming Budget that adequate dollars will be allocated for those spaces.

This Government must act quickly and decisively to examine funding for extended hours of care. Many of our families work shift work and are discriminated against because they cannot find day cares who provide extended hours. Standards of care that have been developed over the years must be maintained and must be enhanced. It is critical that we continue to be a leader in Canada in the quality of care which we afford our children.

A child once told his definition of house and home. "When you are outside it looks like a house but when you are inside it feels like a home." Unfortunately, many children cannot appreciate the warm feelings associated with a home. They only know neglect and suffering. Children are our most precious resource.

It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the child-caring agencies offer a comprehensive coordinated approach to child abuse, that they ensure that there is a provision of community-based programming in working with families in areas of prevention, and that they support these agencies in becoming leaders and educating other community groups and institutions. The recent incident of a school administrator possibly not reporting the suspected child abuse situation perhaps illustrates the outstanding need for better education of our communities.

We on this side of the House were encouraged to see that the Child Protection Centre will be the beneficiary of additional resources. We were discouraged that a commitment has not been shown in reconciling the disparities in outreach funding between rural agencies and urban agencies. Child caring agencies must be adequately funded so that they can carry out their mandate for child protection services and for prevention programming. I trust this will be forthcoming in the Budget.

Foster care, Mr. Speaker, is the most desirable and economical form of alternate care for our children. I urge this Government to show commitment to foster parents for moving towards the much needed rate increases, and support the Foster Parents Association by working with them for establishing support systems for foster families, for providing the necessary education and for assisting the association in resolving some of the legal implications fostering can be involved with.

The Throne Speech also noted assisting Osborne House. I would hope that this Government as well recognizes the expressed need for more shelters in rural and northern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) spoke of the Government's commitment to the philosophy of moving vulnerable citizens from institutions to the community. I heartily concur with this philosophy. I also concur with the Honourable Minister's statement that perhaps the Welcome Home initiative was ill-planned. I trust this administration will learn from the mistakes of the past Government.

Yes, it is important to involve the community in planning services and resources for our vulnerable

citizens, but certainly anyone with knowledge in the field of community organization and community development knows that to develop principles where you have solid community participation and partnership, one must know that you cannot do this in a two-month period.

Furthermore, the Government has the responsibility to communicate honestly and clearly with community groups and agencies, to actually solicit their ideas and suggestions, and to develop specific funding guidelines so that staff and community are not of the impression of the blank cheque syndrome.

We know their resources are never infinite. I urge this Government to develop strategies for services for our vulnerable citizens, a better balance between enhancing quality of life for those people leaving institutions and for providing the much-needed opportunities for individuals already in our community.

Look critically at the various program components in Community Services. Program guidelines for eligibility are in urgent need of revamping. Staffing in Community Services need firm, clear direction from program directorates and from regional administration.

The organizational structure of the Community Services operations and Health operations requires major repair. There is an urgent need to revitalize the multidisciplinary team concept. The last four years has seen a general erosion of the team concept so that vertical programs reign supreme. This results in gaps in service for the consumer and program territoriality, which is not compatible with an integrated quality service for people in the community. Rather, it breeds fragmentation of service and, in some cases, results in duplication.

May I urge the Ministers of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and Health (Mr. Orchard) to seriously consider amalgamation of the three regions into one. The Honourable Minister of Health, when he sat on the Opposition side, was well aware of the multitude of problems facing the three-regional structure. His extensive knowledge of the subject is recorded in the many Question Period editions of Hansard. I am sure his insight into the problem will lead to further insight and action now.

My colleague, the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), actually expounded on the gravity of the concerns facing the health care system. As the deputy critic in Health, I would like to comment to this House on three vital health care thrusts.

One in four Manitobans will experience some form of a mental breakdown in their lifetime. The performance of the past Government in the provision of mental health services can be summed up in one word—dismal. For years now, from the days of the White Paper in 1975, the Government of the Day paid lip service but little else to mental health services. Consequently, we have a system in this province which is characterized by lack of coordination of the various mental health components, fewer psychiatrists available, a mental health hospital in Selkirk that does not know it has a mandate for community outreach, community mental

health workers who only have the time and, to some extent, only the knowledge to deal with crisis and rehabilitation not prevention; a prevalent philosophy that we do "for" individuals not do "with," and the inability of individuals needing acute care to access hospital beds. I could go on.

Manitobans are demanding that the Government sit up and take notice of the total failure of our mental health system and give notice that improvements in the system are a top priority with this Government.

\* (1600)

Yes, we listened to the Speech from the Throne when a commitment was made for ensuring this coordinated approach in mental health. But this Government must go beyond that. There must be a commitment to develop an overall strategy and allocate real dollars to programs.

For too many years, mental health services have been the receiver of the bottom of the barrel when it came to dollar allocation. For too many years, Manitobans requiring these services have been the brunt of an ill-conceived, ill-prepared system. The time is long overdue for a Government to initiate development of a comprehensive, coordinated mental health system, a system where Government and community agencies work in partnership.

Services to the elderly, Mr. Speaker, form a continuum from recreational opportunities in the community to extended-care medical services in the hospital. We know our population is aging and this is evident with the growth of the continuing care program over the years. The Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has expressed his concern about home care. He has expressed his concern about the lack of financial control. Regional home care services spend millions of dollars every year. In Winnipeg alone, the budget of the Home Care Assistance Program last year was over \$21 million. Yes, fiscal accountability is needed. As well, the delivery structure of home care must be examined. It is virtually impossible to deliver a quality, consistent service through the three-regional structure.

Better communication channels must be established with hospitals. The role of the VON must be critically examined. Priorities must be given to training of home care attendants and home support staff. The current training for the orderlies is woefully lacking. Immediate steps must be taken to improve the overall orientation and training.

It is time that the new Government encourages the philosophy of fair and equitable treatment for all Manitobans receiving services. For too many years, the Home Care Program has been plagued with an attitude from senior management and top officials where the squeaky wheel gets the grease. It is incumbent upon this Government that equity be returned to this system. While some elderly are at risk in their home waiting for services, other individuals are receiving home care attendant services. These home care attendants are doing their gardening and typing novels for them. Where is the equity in that system?

Four reviews have been conducted on the continuing care program in the last three years. I would suggest

that at least three of these reviews are now gathering dust on shelves and have never been used. I would encourage the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to examine these reviews and glean what useful recommendations there may be. Let us not call for another review before we have examined the existing data and recommendations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I must comment on health promotion and disease prevention. Laudable statements indeed! The previous administration, however, left us with the illusion that prevention was paramount. They even established a Health Promotion Directorate. In reality however, the lack of long-term planning and the lack of financial resources resulted in lip service to this concept as well.

Concrete prevention programs have proven themselves over the long term many times over. However, Governments are always reluctant to put the necessary dollars into prevention and health promotion. I ask the House, Mr. Speaker, will this Government become a leader in this field? I certainly hope so.

Democracy has travelled many miles from the early tribal caucus, but the essence of their meeting is with us today. One person speaks and the others listen. It is my wish that, during this Session, we maintain a decorum that would befit the great orators of history.

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

**Ms. Gray:** Certainly good repartee and sophisticated wit are admirable, but pettiness and character malignment is a lesser man's form of rhetoric. It is my wish that we pledge our heads to clearer thinking, our hearts to greater loyalty, our hands to larger service and our health to better living as we serve as legislators. It is my wish that this Government accepts our cause when given and also accepts constructive criticism, for we must remember that on both sides of this House we are here for but one goal—to serve Manitoba well.

It is my wish, Mr. Speaker, to remind my worthy colleagues that our performance is constantly being measured, for all of us must know the three great monitors of politicians: the ever watchful eye of the public, the written word of Hansard, and the sharp tongue of beer and skits.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to impart to the Members of this House words written by Sir William Osler and, as I read and reread his lines, I cannot help but think that surely Sir William must have known an individual who mirrored our own Honourable Member for River Heights, our Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). They are words that describe what I know she believes in, and they are words that I know she lives by. They are words which I hope this Assembly will all aspire to:

"To have striven, to have made the effort, to have been true to certain ideals, that alone is worth the struggle. We are here to add what we can to, not get what we can from, life."

**Mr. Helmut Pankratz (La Verendrye):** May I begin my remarks this afternoon by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on the appointment to your high office in this

Legislature. I also extend congratulations to those Members who were re-elected to this House. I also congratulate and welcome new Members, and I hope you will find it a rewarding experience.

I want to wish the Pages and staff working in this Assembly an enjoyable and productive Session. I also congratulate the Mover (Mr. Praznik) and the Seconder (Mr. Gilleshammer) of the Throne Speech. Lastly, but most importantly, are the constituents who I represent, and I want to thank them for their support that they have given me.

These are exciting yet challenging times for Manitoba as we prepare for the 1990s, and I am sure all Manitobans would agree that Manitoba should and could be a major player on the Canadian stage as we enter the next decade.

In order to achieve this, we must have a strong and vibrant economy so as to sustain the services that we are providing. It is for this reason that I do support the Throne Speech. Better management within Government and Crown corporations and a stronger economy will enable our Government to devote additional resources to maintain and improve services to all Manitobans. Our Government has inherited a legacy of high debt and taxes and a growing burden of debt-service costs.

We in Government today realize the mismanagement which took place in the previous administration. This mismanagement has led to an increased debt level due, in part, to mismanagement of Crown corporations and depending too heavily on the public sector and, in part, to the disincentive for businesses to locate here in this province. As the Premier has indicated already, we are committed to providing an open Government, encouraging individual initiatives and growth in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, Governments must be better managed. Governments must be more responsible and more accountable. We, as Members of this Legislative Assembly, must work together to achieve just this.

Our Premier (Mr. Filmon) has indicated that we are on our agenda and I support him, and not like some of the questions during Question Period where only fearmongering and grandstanding is taking place.

\* (1610)

I want to talk about my constituency. In the past seven years, virtually no road development has taken place. I must congratulate the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) in how he has taken serious consideration in the needs in our constituency and he has acted. He has acted quickly in rebuilding the 311 and the 216 to the 52. He also saw the need on the 303 into the Fredensthal Hall, that one mile, it will be paved. Then there is going to be land acquisition on the 303 to the 216. Then the intersection on 52, McKenzie and Hespeler Road. I give the Minister of Highways a lot of credit for seeing the need and the job—the roads that have been neglected in the past years by the past administration.

Then at the east end of my constituency is the small but vibrant community of Falcon Lake. They have an

organization called Falcon Ski Club. This club is actively involved in helping provide services which the province and areas so desperately need. I find it interesting when we have now got the figures as to which constituency has received from Community Places Program monies that this has been added in. It should also have been mentioned that a community like this has asked and requested for funding three previous times, I believe, and have always been refused. This club has been refused—by the way, what this money is described as for is to install a T-bar at Falcon Lake.—(Interjection)—I am happy that the Member opposite is also endorsing that. We worked very hard to get that, the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) and also myself. We worked very hard with the organization to get this for the ski club. We are very happy that the present Minister of Culture and Heritage (Mrs. Mitchelson) saw the need and approved this application.

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

The Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) in his speech stated: "Now we will have to raise 50 percent of the funding for Community Places." I would like to ask that Member how he would like it if they had had no funding until now. That is what we were living under before. We were getting virtually no funding from Community Places, and today at least we are getting a fairer administration in the Community Places program. I really want to admire the Minister for that.

I commend our Minister again for the fine job that she is doing. I would like to put on the record, constantly when discussing these different community projects, she always has indicated that we must administrate it fairly and equitably to all Manitobans. This is what she is doing and I give her a lot of credit for it.

I am also pleased that the Dawson Trailer Opportunities Unlimited has been given a green light. It is situated in Ste. Anne and serves Ste. Anne and surrounding area. This organization, and I would like to elaborate a little on this because I believe Members in this House should know, employs approximately 30 clients. It is a program where handicapped people are trained and work together to return them back into the constituency. This organization has been refused numerous times before, and I am pleased once again that this Minister saw the need for this program and approved their application. Now Dawson Trailers can carry on with their plans and thereby train clients to function more productively in the community than having them in some group home. I believe this is definitely being fair and equitable to all constituencies by realizing the need for these handicapped people in our communities and then allowing them to function.

Six years ago, we applied for a sewer and water project in the Town of Steinbach. The town needs a complete new lagoon. In the past, there have been joint funding programs, but the Pawley Government, the previous Government, never saw fit to renew any of these programs with the federal Government whereby communities like Steinbach, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and even the City of Winnipeg possibly could get joint funding through these programs. Now, after three months of talks are under way with our federal Minister, I believe we are close to signing an agreement whereby



communities like I just mentioned will be able to get partial funding from the federal Government, which was not possible before.

A community like Steinbach is put on hold as far as expansion is concerned. I think this is also what is happening in other communities—the expansion. They are not approving subdivisions because the lagoon structure is too small. So instead of supporting growth in rural communities, it is again detrimental to them. I must say again, I am really pleased with our present administration. Our present Premier (Mr. Filmon) is acting fast and, together with our federal Ministers, is trying to get something into place whereby these communities will not be stymied of their growth.

The Throne Speech charted an ambitious and comprehensive plan of action. As a rural Member, I am particularly pleased with the attention devoted to rural areas of Manitoba. Yes, our Government and our Agriculture Minister (Mr. Findlay) are committed to working together with Manitoba farmers, in cooperation with other western provinces and the federal Government, to help in these tough times. We must listen to the concerns of our farmers and work with them to help ease the burden.

Yes, I believe the Minister of Agriculture possibly could have, and should have maybe, been more sympathetic to the cereal crop growers in the southern part of the province. Crop insurance, I believe, was one way that could have been addressed. Now there are different ways of addressing this problem but, obviously, with crop insurance, there is a problem when only 47 percent of the land is participating in the crop insurance program, so there is a problem.

How could it have been administered? It could have been possibly under 80 percent funding only to those late entries or possibly even that they must make sure that they would be a part of the program for three years to come. Having said that, I must give and I want to give the Minister, publicly, credit for what he has accomplished. In this short time in office, he has a beef plan in place. He has worked hard at a feed plant and got that in place. We also have a tripartite for beans in place, and we must all give the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) a lot of credit for what he has already accomplished in this short while. After having been critical of him over the cereal crop, I must state that I think he has acted very responsibly and very fast in most areas of agriculture. For that, I think we are thankful to him.

By the way, we worked so hard for this tripartite in sugar beets in 1986, today I would like to indicate to this House that, if the prices are going to keep climbing the way they have to date, there is a good possibility that by the '88-89 crop year there will be no provincial or federal participation required if this trend will take place and keep on going in this direction.

I want to put on the record what the previous Member for Rossmore indicated during our negotiations in 1986. We were negotiating with the federal Minister, the Honourable Health Minister, and he indicated, "those are your people, not mine."

**An Honourable Member:** Is that what he said?

**Mr. Pankratz:** Those are your people, not mine. I think possibly that maybe has a bearing on why that Honourable Member is not in this House at the present time.

Is this how we, who are elected by the people for the people, should govern? Absolutely not. We are elected by the people to listen, to understand, to act upon their concerns. This Government is committed to do just that, with rural issues as important as urban concerns. Ideas have been put forth as to how to improve various services. I strongly believe, in order to sustain our rural communities, some services must be decentralized. I am making reference to the Land Titles Office. I have written the Minister. I am sure he and his staff will be reviewing the recommendations. I am sure records will show a number of transactions from the southeast that it would warrant an office in Steinbach. An office in Steinbach would add to the services already provided by the town and Government departments and thereby service the southeast more equitably.

\* (1620)

Another Minister that I would like to at this time give a lot of credit for acting speedily and hastily in this short term in office is the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger). I am appreciative of the fact that the Throne Speech addresses itself to the No. 75 Highway.

We have a City of Winnipeg, capital of the Province of Manitoba, we want tourists, people to come there. We have a lot of attractions in the City of Winnipeg. We have actually a poor road from the south going to the capital, which has well over 50 percent of the population of the Province of Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg has a lot of things to offer for tourists. I believe that this is really great that the Minister of Highways has acted speedily and that we will, within the next couple of years hopefully, see the completion of the 75 four lane.

I think everyone in this House cannot remember when the 29 south was not a four lane from the border. So it just would make sense that we would continue that on, continue that 29 American Interstate, all the way in to the City of Winnipeg which is the capital of the province.

I would like to then touch on the telephone. We are committed to removing party lines as soon as possible. With today's modern technology, there is no need for the existence of party lines. But like everything else, it costs money. This province saw the loss of \$27 million go down the tube with MTX that could have gone a long way to accomplish this.

Also another thing that will have to be wrestled with is the \$207 million where there is no money in reserve for the pension fund—lack of a responsible Government. I am sure that the present Premier (Mr. Filmon) and his Members, the Ministers, will act in a way more responsible way from here on. I am pleased that this will be addressed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Throne Speech also addressed the health care issue. Our commitment to

health care incentives is encouraging. I am particularly pleased that incentives will be offered to doctors to locate and remain in rural Manitoba, in rural areas. Surely it is a waste of time to train our young people in the medical profession of Manitoba only to suffer brain drain. As these doctors leave upon graduation, citing lack of opportunity incentives to remain in our province, the hospital program will review which will determine centres of excellence, expertise at the rural hospital level, will encourage standards of excellence and, in return, will recognize achievements. I think this is a great step in the right direction.

I am also supportive of a good day care system. I am sure the Minister will address the needs, but let us be mindful that not all parents want their children in day care. This is why I am supportive of the federal plan where there are also tax incentives. The previous Government wanted everybody raised in a child-care institution. This is not acceptable to me. We as parents and adults must have the right to decide how our children will be raised and educated. We, as elected Members, know that the provincial Government must, together with the federal Government, work out a system whereby we can best provide services to the people who need them most, and our Minister, I am sure, will do his utmost to achieve that goal.

A much-argued issue at this time is the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord. I am pleased the Premier (Mr. Filmon) addressed this issue in the Throne Speech. We will have public hearings like stated during our election campaign.

Right after the election, an hour after the election on TV, the Opposition Leader stated Meech Lake is dead. I am happy that the Premier of the province has addressed this issue, that he says we will be listening to the people, then we will and should have debate—and I will be waiting for that hearing and also to debate.

In regard to free trade, I have from the beginning supported free trade. I have from the beginning supported an adjustment that maybe will have to be made, but those adjustments you have to make in any kind of an agreement when you are making it. An agreement has to be a good deal for both, and I believe that this free trade deal is a good deal for both. That does not mean that there will be some certain commodities or certain issues that do not have to be addressed but I think we have to, by all means, address those problems as the time arises.

I believe both Governments are attempting to have a good deal and not just fearmongering again, like for instance in the water questions. Actually some of these questions that are raised in this House in Question Period, you sometimes wonder what the public must think about these. For instance, water, first of all, we have an agreement with Neche which is supplying Altona water. Then we have in my riding now a bottling plant which is almost going to cost almost \$2 million to build and it is under construction right today to sell water. Where to? The biggest market is going to be the USA, and here we are trying to fearmonger and again misrepresent or put a false impression to the public in raising such issues as water.

I want to read to you from an article policy options, which I will read into record, which Senator William

Brook, Chairman of the U.S. Delegation, states and I quote him: "I believe in Free Trade Agreements with Canada, but I wish the United States would sign a Free Trade Agreement with every country in the world. Let us have a super-GATT with the United States and Canada and Europe. Let us form a group of those who want to abide by the rules, and let us show the world what can be done. I think we could have a ball." I sure have to agree with that Senator on that statement. The trend in recent years has been in the direction of freer markets, and I am looking forward to the participation more on this debate in the weeks ahead.

Manitoba is a cultural mosaic of people from all walks of life, though everyone is different. So too are the differences to be found in different areas of our province and regions of our economy. We must try to make our differences work for us together for a better province and nation. I strongly believe we have an obligation in this House. We not only can but must work together and bring about a better Government in this province. I believe that we can prove to the people that we are the right Government and, given some time before we go back to the people, we will have gained the confidence and we will be given a majority Government.

We cannot spend our way out of it. We cannot expect that future generations should pay for our lavish spending that has been taking place in the past. So with that, I am going to be waiting for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) to bring down his Budget on August 8.

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** I was caught a little off guard, but I am always prepared and ready to go.

I firstly would like to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because you are in the Chair, for your appointment, and wish you impartiality in your dealings with the House when you are in the Chair.

I would like to go back and say to the Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, congratulations to him on his appointment. I wish him well and I know he will be a fair and impartial Speaker, as he has always been well-received and well-accepted by all Parties in the Legislature.

\* (1630)

I would like to congratulate all new Members who were elected to the House on all sides, all three Parties, and indicate to them how, just two short years ago, there were 11 of us on this side of the House who were brand new Members of the Legislature and how sometimes very intimidating it was and how nervous we all were when we first started, standing up and making our maiden speech in the House and asking our first questions. I must say that it is much more enjoyable over on the Government side of the House for all of us answering those questions, and I am waiting very patiently for my first question to be asked of me so I can respond.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to, at this point, offer my congratulations and best wishes to our Premier (Mr. Filmon) and indicate that we are very pleased to

be over here. I know that he has handled himself very well as the Premier of our province, and I know that the people of Manitoba are very impressed with the job that we are doing as a new Government.

We are being fair, honest and straightforward and using a little bit of common sense for a change, something that we have not seen over the past six years in dealings with the people of Manitoba. I know that the people of Manitoba are wishing us well. They are impressed with what we are doing. I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are going to continue to impress and to work with the people of Manitoba so that we have a fair, honest and open Government over the next several years.

As is tradition, I would just like to thank my constituents in River East for expressing their faith in me as their elected representative. I know that the confidence was there, but I also do want to thank those many people who put in long, hard hours out campaigning with me and on behalf of myself and the Conservative Party in River East. There were a lot of new people who got involved in this election campaign, people that were keen and interested and they knew it was time for a change. They were able to go out there and speak forcefully and with conviction to the constituents and convince them that the Conservative Party was the best alternative. I want to thank those people, those workers, who worked on my behalf and on behalf of our Party to get us elected as a Government.

I also do want to express deep thanks to my family, to my husband, who was a great support, and to my children.

I do have to say a few words about being a woman with a young family involved in politics. Sometimes, it is not easy. It really is not when you consider the time commitment that is involved and how you do have to spend those evening hours and weekends at times being responsible to your constituents and to our Government, to the process, and there are times when it seems like family needs are neglected for political reasons. I just want to say that my children have accepted and realize how busy I am, and I want to thank them especially for their support during this time.

I have a 14-year-old daughter who has been extremely supportive, and I try to include her as often as I can in any events that happen in the constituency or in the province so that she can share some of the experiences and some of my job with me and I can have her close by. My six-year-old son is a little different story, and I know sometimes he wonders why Mom is not there. He has been cooperative, and it is very important as a woman to be able to have those people who can look after your children and your family, people who you can depend on to provide good care, to have them know that they are loved and cared for, and it is important to me to know that they are loved and cared for while I cannot be there with them.

There are many issues that came up during the election campaign, issues that my constituents in River East were very concerned about. One was fiscal management of this province in the past. Quite clearly,

the message came across that it was time for a change, time to get rid of the NDP administration and put someone in there who could look after and meet the needs of the people of Manitoba. I heard time and time again at the doors—and I have to say that in one of the largest constituencies in the province I managed to get to almost every door, over 18,000 voters and over 12,000 households. I knocked on every door personally and listened to the people out there who had concerns.

The concerns were especially from the young families in River East who indicated that, because of the waste and mismanagement by the NDP over the last six years, they were finding that they just did not have the money in their pockets to provide for the needs of their family. There were young families with both the man and the woman working, attempting to try to make ends meet and, with the 2 percent tax on net income that was imposed by the NDP, they were finding that they were bringing home less money. They had less money in their pockets in order to meet the needs of their family. The money that disappeared was for that odd pizza that they were able to bring home for their family or the odd movie that they were able to go out to, and they were no longer able to do that. They were having difficulty making ends meet.

I had difficulty consoling these people because I knew that the provincial situation financially was so bad that things would not be able to turn around overnight. I could not promise them that immediately they would have more money in their pockets. I had to promise them good, sound financial management, that things in the process would take care of themselves and we would, as a result of good management, be able to down the road ensure that they had a little more money in their pockets. It was not something that I could promise overnight and I could not say we, if we were elected as the Government, would be able to do anything immediately.

What I indicated to them quite honestly was that it would all take time and in time, with good management, being fiscally responsible, they would be the benefactors.

Our Throne Speech, I think, did address the needs and the issues in the Province of Manitoba. We indicated in that speech that we would maintain and improve essential services—health care services, education and the social services—while attempting to reduce the deficit and provide for a better quality of life for the people of Manitoba. I think we are going to be able to accomplish that. I am looking forward with great expectation to the Budget on August 8. I am looking forward to the positive steps that we are going to take as a Government to address the concerns of the people of Manitoba.

I just want to get off the subject for a little bit and come back to Community Places, the program that has been criticized by the NDP Government and today by the Liberal Government, who indicated that the community programs—we had criticized the NDP Government that the Community Places Program was just a slush fund for NDP constituencies. I have to say, when I look at the facts and figures of what Community

Places provided last year, it was a slush fund. Let me just tell you, I want to put some facts on the record, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because the NDP have criticized us and the Liberals today have criticized us. I want everyone to know full well what happened last year under Community Places, and what has happened this year since a new Government was elected.

\* (1640)

Let me tell you that, last year, the applications that were received under the program, of those applications, 542 applications came from Conservative constituencies, 499 applications came from NDP constituencies, and one application came from the one Liberal constituency that was held last year. Of those applications that came in, 197 Conservative applications out of 542 received some money; 284 applications from the NDP constituencies out of 499 received funding; and the one Liberal application did receive some funding, too.

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

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** Out of those 197 applications that were approved in Conservative constituencies, the total committed dollars were \$2.7 million out of \$10 million. The total committed dollars for the NDP for 284 applications that were approved, committed \$7.5 million. Now I ask you, is that fair and equitable? There were more applications from Conservative constituencies, there were less applications approved for Conservative constituencies, and there was a difference from \$2.7 million to \$7.5 million in approvals. Now I ask you, is that fair and equitable treatment of the people of Manitoba?

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

Community Places Program is a program that is there to provide for community projects that are going to serve us, the whole province, the whole Province of Manitoba, in every constituency no matter what political Party they vote for.

Let me tell you what has happened, Mr. Speaker, since the Conservatives formed Government. There were 258 applications from Conservative constituencies. Out of that, 191 applications were approved. There were 89 applications from NDP constituencies—and I might say the reason there were only 89 applications was because all of the NDP applications were approved last year so they had very little need to look for any more approval. All their needs were met. Out of those 89 applications, we approved 53 applications for funding. And the Liberal constituencies—and I must say that there was increase in the number of applications in Liberal constituencies from last year to this year—there were 54 applications from Liberal constituencies, and we as a Conservative Government funded 39 of those applications. When you look at the overall approvals for the 1988 year, since the Conservatives have taken over, there has been fair and equitable distribution of funds throughout all constituencies and all political Parties. I think that the criticism that was there did not look at the overall total picture.

I just want to say that we had promised that we would look at things fairly and equitably. We wanted to treat the province all the same. What we did was go to staff in the department, in the Community Places Program, and we said to them: "You tell us what applications have come in, what your assessment of those applications has been, are they a good project, do they fall within the guidelines, do they have their funding in place, their community funding in place?" And I have to say to you that this is a 50-50 funded program. The people in the communities are to provide 50 percent of the funding and, when they have their funds in place and are ready to go, that is when Government should be looking at providing the other 50 percent of the funding.

I want to say to you that we are a Government and the message that we want to get out as a Government is that we are a Government and Government's role is there to provide a helping hand, not a hand-out. I know we as a Party agree that is our philosophy. We want people to take the initiative. There has to be community support out there. We as Government are not going to provide all the support, and I think that is only a common-sense approach. We have tried to look at the program as realistically as we could, treat everyone fairly and equitably. We have done that and I am not ashamed of our record.

I will put those figures on the record at any time because I want the people of Manitoba to know that it does not matter how you vote. If you have a worthwhile community project, you have funding in place and there is community interest and community support, we as a Government are certainly going to take that into consideration in approving any type of granting. That is on the record and is my responsibility as Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

You know, it is a very positive portfolio. It is a portfolio that has the positive aspect of giving money and providing money. I sign many cheques on a daily basis to different groups and organizations that have qualified under the criteria for any type of a grant program. I am the bearer of good news quite often when it comes to Government, and I want to continue to make sure that the process that is in place in our granting system is a fair and equitable process to all communities and all regions of the province. That is going to be my aim and my goal over the next little while.

I want to go on to talk a little bit about my role as Minister responsible for the multicultural community, the ethnic community in our province. I want to say that, over the past two days, I have had the great pleasure of visiting eight of our Folklorama pavilions and, over the next two weeks, I plan to attend and visit with every pavilion and every ethnic community. I do want to say that, when I do go and visit the pavilions and have a tour and I have the Mayor or the Queen of that pavilion take me on the tour and indicate to me what the culture and the heritage is of each and every specific group, I feel a very sad feeling in my heart because I am a third or fourth-generation Canadian and I do not have any specific heritage or tradition. When I look at the tradition that the different ethnic communities have when it comes to their culture

and their heritage, their holiday traditions, their special foods and their special drink, I really feel somewhat sorry for myself, I guess, that I do not have that. You know, when it comes to Christmas or Easter or those special times of the year when people do participate in their own specific culture, I feel that I really am missing something.

\* (1650)

I want to say that I am there to work on behalf of the whole ethnic community. I want to be in touch with each and every group and organization on a grass-roots level and have them indicate to me what they feel their needs are as a community. I want to be able to work with them all and I am going to work with them all. I think the message I do want to get across is that I am there to listen, to learn about their culture and to provide any assistance that we as Government can provide to those who are new Canadians and those who are well-established ethnic groups. I want to be able to treat them all fairly and equitably and have a good working relationship with them. That will be my major goal and objective over the next little while with the ethnic community.

I think all in the House are aware that we have a lotteries needs assessment ongoing right now, and I am expecting within the next month or so to have the final results of that. That is going to indicate to us where lotteries money should be going and what it should be doing. It has been a major task and undertaking and I do not have the final results of that, but the consultants have been working with all of the different umbrella groups that are providing lotteries funding to people in the province. I think we will have a clear direction once we get the results of that needs assessment so that we as Government know where we should be heading and what we should be doing. I hear criticism on a regular basis that quite often the lotteries revenues are not getting right down to the end user. There seems to be a lot of money spent on administration. The people out there in the community who should be benefitting from lotteries revenues are not necessarily the ones who benefitting. I am going to take a close and serious look at the results and the recommendations that are made by the consultants and we will be moving in the right direction.

I do want to indicate to you that, in my first year as an elected representative, I did do a questionnaire out into my constituency. One of the questions that I did ask was: Where do you feel lotteries revenue should be going? I asked the question whether it should be going to health care, to education, to community programs, to social services, to reduction of the provincial deficit. Quite clearly, the results—and there were 700 families that did answer that questionnaire. The results that I received were that, No. 1, health care was a main priority when it came to lotteries revenues. The second which surprised me somewhat, the second priority was reduction of the provincial deficit. It was quite amazing and quite surprising. That is how my—sports was third or fourth, I cannot exactly remember, and I do not have the figures right here in front of me. I think that education came in third or fourth, so it was between sports and education for third or fourth place.

I think that people out there in the general public sometimes tend to forget that lotteries revenues are Government revenues. It does not matter where they come from. They do not come from the general tax base, but they still are Government revenues and Government has to make the decision on how we are going to spend those. So I look forward to the results of the needs assessment, and I look forward to working with the board and the executive of the Lotteries Foundation and to my colleagues in the Manitoba Government to coming to an agreement and a direction on how lotteries revenue should be spent.

Mr. Speaker, other things that fall under my responsibility are the Archives. Of course, along with the Archives, comes Freedom of Information. I am pleased that we, as a new Government, were able to act fairly quickly. Some felt that we may have been dragging our feet, but there were certain things that had to be put into place before we could proclaim The Freedom of Information Act, certain things that could have been done over the last three years and were not done because obviously there was not the political will there, on behalf of the former Government, to put these things into place.

One of them was passing a regulation for fees for administration of Freedom of Information, a very simple procedure that takes a few weeks to put in place, but it was something that could have been done two years ago. That was one thing that we had to do and one thing that held us back from immediately proclaiming Freedom of Information.

For the first time, on September 30, the people of Manitoba, who pay taxes and support Government, are going to be able to get the information that they want, personal information about themselves or information about Government proceedings that they are entitled to have. They pay for it, they are entitled to know those facts and that information. So I am pleased, as the Minister responsible, to have proclaimed this. It will go down in history, I guess, as the Government that did have the political will to finally do something.

When the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) indicates that 95 percent of the work had already been done, I do have to say to him that, yes, some of the scheduling had been done. Maybe, if he looked at an overall overview of Government departments, he might be able to say to us that 95 percent of the scheduling was done, and I think that is a little high.

But I will tell you that the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, did not have their scheduling done. I look at Manitoba Hydro and they have zero percent of their records scheduled. Now you tell me whether there was any political will to go ahead and get on with the business of getting things ready for proclamation of The Freedom of Information Act.

I will tell you what direction we have taken, as a Government, and what my Premier (Mr. Filmon) has done. He has sent a letter out to every Minister in this Government and indicated to them that it was a priority that the Crown corporations get their records scheduled.

Every Minister has sent letters out to their Crown corporations indicating a specific date to have their

records scheduled and ready so they will be included in the next access guide that is available. Each and every one has an individual date because some Crowns are larger than others and some, of course, have more records to schedule. What we have done is taken a realistic look at what deadline they should be able to meet and that directive has gone out.

The heads of those Crown corporations will be ready unless they have some specific concern, and they can come back to the Minister responsible and negotiate a date. But we have indicated, we have made a commitment to have all of the Crowns and all of the departments ready with their information schedules so people will know what records are available and how they can go about getting information. I want to say that we have made moves in the right direction and we are pleased to be able to announce that Freedom of Information will be there and will be ready for use by September 30 of this year.

\* (1700)

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am finding being on this side of the House very much a challenge, very much a positive experience, a lot of hard work, but the people of Manitoba thus far and the people in River East constituency have been extremely supportive, have been extremely positive. I know that, with cooperation from Members of both Parties opposite, we can work towards providing good Government for the people of Manitoba.

As I said, I am looking forward to our Budget, and I hope all Members of the House are, because it is going to be a good Budget, it is going to be a positive Budget, and the people of Manitoba are going to be very pleased. I am hoping that Members in the Opposition will also be very pleased and hope that they will want to work together cooperatively with us so that we can meet the needs of the people of Manitoba, we can meet the financial needs of the people of Manitoba.

I want to say that I look forward to the years ahead in Government, many years, yes, and look forward to working with colleagues on all sides of the House towards a better, more responsible Government in Manitoba. Thank you.

**Mr. Harold Taylor (Wolseley):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to give this, my introductory address, as part of the Throne Speech Debate for the First Session of the 34th Legislature.

This is a very important time in the history of Manitoba. Manitobans have said, we are not prepared to put up with any more of the NDP's governing nor are we prepared to endorse the Conservatives with a majority Government. We have instead very much a three-way split in this House, and I think it is going to make for a very interesting and intriguing Session.

I would like to begin my address by first offering congratulations to the new Speaker of the House, Mr. Denis Rocan, and also to pass on my heartfelt congratulations and support to Mr. Mark Minenko. It is something very unusual to have an Opposition Member as Deputy Speaker of this House. I wish them both well.

I would like, at this moment, to also say thank you to the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) for his conciliatory words in the opening of this debate. I think it is a good measure that we can look to as a way Members should carry themselves during this Session for the betterment of Manitoba.

I would also like to say, at the very beginning of my address, how proud I am to work and serve with a leader of the calibre we have in Sharon Carstairs. This lady has gone from becoming a Leader of a Party in 1984 that no longer had any seats in the House to gaining her own seat in 1986, to the point now where we have 20 Members out of 57—no small feat. I offer my personal and public congratulations to her on becoming the first woman Leader of an Official Opposition anywhere in Canada. I think that is something that is really well done.

I wish, at this time, to as well give my gratitude to the electors of Wolseley for having elected me again. This is the third time in four-and-a-half years that they have done me the honour—first in 1983 and then again in 1986 in the Civil General Elections. I was elected for the area called Memorial Ward, which is almost exactly the same territory covered by the provincial riding of Wolseley.

I would also like to thank my campaign workers for their hard work, and would like to especially note the unending support and patience I received from Sharon Tefs and my daughter Catherine.

It was with wonder that I listened to many of my rural colleagues across the House in their opening addresses describe the areas that they represent. The geography I represent, by comparison, is rather miniscule. We have an average population in the Wolseley riding. The territory, however, is less than three miles wide and north/south averages approximately two-thirds of a mile. It is bounded on its south by the Assiniboine River, it is cut through by Omands Creek. It is bisected by major arteries such as Maryland and Sherbrooke. It is bounded most of the way on the north by Portage Avenue and on the west by St. James Street, the original far boundary of Winnipeg. Its eastern boundary is Osborne Street just outside the Legislature here.

This riding comprises some of the oldest residential areas of Winnipeg and is made up of a number of neighbourhoods: West Broadway, Armstrong Point, Wolseley West and part of the University of Winnipeg precinct. It has a number of very major road and rail bridges; a major hospital and a nursing school in Misericordia; three very large seniors' homes, McClure Place, Lions Manor and Lions Place; and also the University of Winnipeg and its schools and institutes, as I mentioned earlier.

Given the make-up of the community, having been a very major middle class neighbourhood just before and after the turn of the century, there are very many large churches, 13 in fact in this neighbourhood. There is much commerce as well: car dealerships, shops, stores, restaurants of all types catering to all tastes and needs; other institutes of learning such as Gordon Bell High School, three grade schools, a private girls'

school, the Cornish city library and three community clubs in this thriving community. It is a neighbourhood of historic buildings, historic events and historic persons.

When contemplating a move to Winnipeg just over 11 years ago, I was initially attracted to Wolseley with its stately elm trees winding and arching over our heads; its stately homes, many of them with a lot of character, some with not so much, and many in very good repair and many requiring major renovations—house renovating which, I should mention, has become quite a pastime in Wolseley. This neighbourhood, like many other old ones in Canada, is faced with a wide painting phenomenon in which the older homes are restored and brought back to life and rejuvenated by the younger families now populating them.

This was a part of town that was declining until some approximately eight years ago. The schools were depopulating to the point that Wolseley School was being contemplated for closure. This is not the problem today. Our schools are full. We have a new French Immersion Program in Laura Secord, a Special Needs Program in Mulvey School.

Wolseley reflects possibly one of the best examples of the ethnic make-up of Winnipeg. There are very strong representations of Mennonite, French Canadian, Ukrainian, Polish, Filipino, German and Native people. I should, in particular, mention the latter group in that now they have made part of the Wolseley riding a major home for them here in Winnipeg. They face many of the problems that Native people do when coming to the city for the first time. Social problems in this riding are, by necessity, a priority for me as their representative. I will be looking for Government support for agencies active in Wolseley, and I want to see this Government's answer for day care badly needed by working parents.

One of the loveliest features of the Wolseley riding are its water courses, the gently sloping, and unfortunately sometimes slipping, banks are very attractive. There is wildlife to this day: raccoons, beaver, groundhogs, rabbits and all types of birds and fish. The importance of rivers in Winnipeg is quite evident in this community. It is one of the reasons why, as a city councillor, I fought so hard to see that Winnipeg would attempt to regain its river heritage. I think we can see it now in this community, as we do now in much of Winnipeg.

The recent announcement of the development in the Forks on the site of the East Yards, the national historic park to be created there, the potential rail museum, all indicate the phenomenon of Winnipeggers turning back to their roots and back to their rivers. I have had the opportunity just this weekend, when touring a family from the West Coast through much of the city, to show them what has happened on the rivers, and they have noted the extensive parks and been impressed by what has happened. Yes, the river parks have come a long way in the last few years but more needs to be done, and I will continue in this House to fight for a better rivers management system, something much more adequate, something much more encompassing and something much more comprehensive, something that works for Winnipeggers.

The mishmash of jurisdictional problems, the lack of services, the lack of a positive attitude, the lack of action that we see right now is entirely unacceptable. While some positive things have been done, much more is required. Consideration has to be given to the establishment of a bipartite rivers' commission, as requested by the city, so Winnipeg rivers can be adequately managed and safely enjoyed.

I mentioned a moment ago the lovely tree-lined streets in Wolseley. I mentioned about the trees arching over those streets. This is peculiar to the elm tree, the most common on Winnipeg streets, comprising probably three-quarters of the city boulevard trees. Winnipeg and other Manitoba communities have yet to be really hit hard by Dutch elm disease but, unfortunately, we probably will be. The city can save much more, and so can the other communities have their elm stands, and have a much better case record than was the situation in St. Paul, Minnesota, only so recently.

Dutch elm disease has to be fought, and to be fought vociferously. I want to see this provincial Government providing grants to the City of Winnipeg along the same lines that it does for the other municipalities in this province, and that this provincial Government be more innovative and participate more in the development of new programs to contend with this scourge, and deal with the federal Government in looking for solutions through more research in the area of urban forestation. Not nearly enough has been done, and fixed funding over a decade is hardly the answer to contend with a very major problem.

I hate to see Winnipeg denuded or any other community in Manitoba denuded of its elm trees. Can you imagine? In Winnipeg, we would lose something like one third of a million trees. What would we look like? We would be back on the bald Prairies. I do not think any of us wants to see that. We would have a hotter, drier, dustier city, and certainly one not very pleasing to the eye. I am looking for and hoping for a positive response from this Government, and not the inaction we have had from the past one.

J'aimerais mentionner que les Canadiens français sont l'un des groupes qui est représentés dans le mélange qui est vraiment Wolseley. Il est remarquable aussi qu'il y a une attitude très positive envers les Canadiens français et aussi pour l'enseignement de la langue française aux jeunes. Nous sommes l'un des quartiers de Winnipeg qui envoie beaucoup d'étudiants aux écoles comme Sacré Coeur et aussi River Heights pour donner l'opportunité aux élèves d'apprendre l'autre langue officielle du Canada. Aussi maintenant nous avons un programme d'immersion local dans l'école Laura Secord. Durant le référendum de 1983 le quartier de Memorial, qui est vraiment Wolseley, a été second seulement au vieux Saint-Boniface à enregistrer le plus de votes en faveur des services en français. Cela indique une attitude positive envers les minorités et leurs droits.

**(Translation)**

I would like to mention that French Canadians are among the groups represented in the diversity which

is Wolseley. It is also noteworthy that there is a very positive attitude toward French Canadians and French language instruction for young people. We are one of the areas in Winnipeg in which many send their children to schools such as Sacré-Coeur and River Heights in order to give them the opportunity to learn Canada's other official language. We also now have an immersion program locally at Laura Secord school. During the referendum of 1983, Memorial Ward, which is actually Wolseley, was second only to old Saint-Boniface in registering the highest number of votes in favour of French language services. This indicates a positive attitude toward minorities and their rights.

Some 11 years ago, I chose to make Manitoba my home and that of my family. I am very pleased with that decision. I have lived in most of the major cities across Canada, from Montreal to Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, and Vancouver. Winnipeg had always interested me as a city where I would like to work and live. I am very proud to be a Manitoban and to be able to have served first on the City Council of Winnipeg and now, more recently, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly.

\* (1710)

Although not a Manitoban, I do have connections with this province, and the roots go deep. I also have other connections in western Canada. Approximately 90 years ago, my paternal grandmother, Mary Dickson, and her family moved from the Lindsay, Ontario area, northeast of Toronto, to a new family farm near east Selkirk. They farmed there for many years, and my grandmother took up nursing here just after the turn of the century. She was also very active with Nellie McClung in her suffragette movement at that time, and of the winning of the vote for women.

I can remember at her knee, her telling me these stories, and I wish she was still here because I would like to be able to learn more at an older, more mature age, particularly the detail of the political things that she worked on in what seems a time before people had as many rights, rights that they assume nowadays were always there.

The McClung home, at 97 Chestnut, has been restored to its pre-World War I style, and is mentioned in the Historic Wolseley Walking Tour Guide.

My father was born and raised here in Winnipeg, and lived in Norwood and River Heights. My mother was from British Columbia, and was from a homesteading family from the Caribou. I and my sister were born in Vancouver, but were brought up in Montreal. I was educated there, and went to Sir George Williams University, and lived through the trying times of 1969, and the supposedly racially-inspired computer riot. It was a time of trauma and testing, and one that resulted in lasting impressions.

I had an interest in politics in those days and was active on campus from the time I first went to university in 1963, but it was a time that showed how facts could be bent and distorted and how people could take those twisted facts and make reality out of them. It was very much an eye-opener for me, a rather naive neophyte dabbling in student party politics at that time.

One of the things I like most about Manitoba is its ethnic diversity. It is absolutely fantastic to see the mixture of the people that we have in this province and to see how they get along together. At the moment, we are in the midst of the 19th Folklorama Festival, a festival that is held up across Canada as an example of how people can live together, work together, and show each other what they are all about. It is, by the way, one that has been copied by the metropolis of Toronto.

My background, like that of many Manitobans, is also mixed. I come from an Anglo, Celtic and Scandinavian background and, having been fortunate enough to have the experience of growing up in Quebec, I was exposed to another side of our national diversity.

I consider myself very lucky to have benefitted by being shown Canada's earliest history, and by seeing the culture and the warmth of French Canadians. I was also a recipient of treatment that has been a part of the history of the English minority of that province. I wish we could do as well by the French minority here in Manitoba.

As a child and afterwards as an adult, I travelled Canada extensively. Also with the federal Government, I was posted to the major cities across the country and have seen the different make-up of those cities, how they operate, how they fit in each with their different provincial Governments. There has also been the chance to live in the core area of our cities, in suburban areas for a number of years, a small northern British Columbia town, and having experienced rural life on a farm, as I did on the outskirts of Montreal, has served to be very insightful.

When I think about Canada, I do not conjure up a Canada like that about to be created by the Meech Lake Accord. I am very sorry to see this Government put in its Throne Speech that this will make for a better, stronger Canada. It will make for a disaster. Anybody who suggests this has been propagandized and is not thinking out at all what they are saying. We will never see the likes again of national Medicare, the Canada Pension Plan, or an elected, effective and equal Senate. This would be viewed, quite frankly, in later years, as a figment of someone's dreams in the late 1980s.

Je dois dire que ma réponse à mon ancienne province Québec, que nous voulons que tu te joignes avec nous dans la constitution canadienne, mais pour nous l'accord du Meech Lake avait trop de problèmes et trop de défauts. On doit voir des garanties de droits concernant les femmes, concernant la population native, aussi on veut dans l'ouest du Canada une définition: qu'est ce qu'une société distincte? C'est une société distincte, distinctive ou quoi? Nous ne savons pas.

Ce n'est pas nécessaire de dire des choses si importantes dans une session de négociations de bonne heure le matin avec beaucoup de personnes et les pressions du premier ministre Mulroney. On doit avoir une chose, un mécanisme meilleur que ça pour avoir autant d'agrément constitutionnel pour tout le Canada. Pour moi, l'unanimité pour toutes les initiatives sociales dans l'avenir du Canada, c'est incroyable. C'est impossible. On doit avoir aussi une certaine protection



pour la minorité anglaise de la province du Québec et aussi pour les minorités françaises dans les autres provinces. Nous voulons tous être acceptés dans la famille du Canada, et j'espère que dans l'avenir les Québécois, par une autre session de négociations pour améliorer et faire des amendements nécessaires dans l'accord du lac Meech, arriveront à un plus fort et un meilleur Canada que maintenant.

**(Translation)**

I must say that my answer to my former province of Québec is that we want you to join in the Canadian constitution, but that the Meech Lake Accord, in our opinion, has too many problems and too many faults. We must have guarantees for women's rights, Natives, and in the West we want a definition of what a distinct society is. Is it a distinct society, a distinctive society or what?

We do not feel that it is necessary to deal with such significant issues in a negotiating session early in the morning with many others present and the pressures put on by Prime Minister Mulroney. We must have something, a better mechanism that will allow for as much constitutional agreement as possible for all of Canada. For me, achieving unanimity on all social initiatives for Canada is incredible. It is impossible. We must also have a certain protection for the English minority in the Province of Québec as well as for French minorities in the other provinces. We all want to be accepted in the Canadian family and I hope that, in the future, the Québécois, through another session of negotiations, will be able to improve and make the necessary changes to the Meech Lake agreement so as to achieve a stronger and better Canada than we now have.

I have also to say that the other initiative by the Mulroney Government, free trade, which although not referenced by that term, is in the Throne Speech and, along with the rest of the Liberal caucus, I have a lot of trouble with it. Liberals for decades have been free traders. In fact, we lost a very major national election in 1911 because of espousing that cause. It is rather ironic to see Liberals in many parts of Canada saying enough is enough. This Free Trade Agreement is not free. In fact, Canada will pay a terrible price if we enter into it. It is not based upon the concept of the elimination of tariffs and the gradual reducing of trade barriers.

The 1966 Auto Pact between Canada and the U.S. under the Pearson administration was a precedent. It was an example of what we could be doing to improve trade relations between Canada and the U.S. What I see in this is the subjugation of Canada. We do not see free trade here. I do not see the elimination of trade barriers. What I do see is Canada putting itself as secondary to the U.S. by having more restrictions on it than on the Americans. We do not have a dispute resolution mechanism that is real.

Let us call this document as it stands now for what it is. It is the economic integration of Canada with the United States and I, for one, am going to fight this trade agreement with as much effort as I can bring to bear on it. I know the rest of the Liberal caucus feels the same way.

I am very hopeful that on these last two major issues, Meech Lake and free trade, we will see some judicious reflection on the part of the third Party in this House, the NDP. The NDP has been irresponsible in the opening days of this Session. It has been highly manipulative and counterproductive in the way that it has dealt with the In-Vitro Fertilization Clinic at the Health Sciences Centre and also with some of the risks that are facing the Port of Churchill.

\* (1720)

We in the Liberal caucus feel very strongly about Churchill and its maintenance as an active port. Liberals have not been known to be doing a lot of shooting at Churchill, contrary to what some senior federal Tories have been doing over the last few years. I would hope, in the balance of this Session, that it will be possible to work together for the betterment of this province and, when we do see legislation that we do not find acceptable and when we find there is an issue looming before Manitoba that has to be dealt with expeditiously, that we will work together in a responsible fashion and I think it will be possible to make things happen. In this House, should there be reticence on the Government benches to take action when necessary in a way that will be most beneficial to Manitobans, I would ask for the NDP's cooperation.

Having been a city councillor for almost five years, The City of Winnipeg Act review exercise, which was started in early 1985, is near and dear to my heart. I participated, along with the minority of councillors, and put formal presentations forward both orally and in writing.

I am sorry we cannot say the same for the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) when he was chairman of the Executive Policy Committee. I heard him recently say in this House that he attended a session of The City of Winnipeg Act review as a member of the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners is made up of the senior bureaucrats of the city. The Mayor and the chairman of the Executive Policy Committee can sit in on that group but have no votes. That was the sort of participation that we got from this Minister in 1985 when councillors were expected to deal responsibly and put forward their thoughts and ideas and concerns to the review board. I am not terribly impressed, but I suppose it goes to show his lack of understanding and in-depth knowledge of some of the major issues that face this, our largest city. The City of Winnipeg Act certainly needs amendment, and I am hoping we are going to see amendments of that Act along the lines of what was recommended in the review committee.

However, there were things in that City of Winnipeg Act review report that did give rise to questions and, if one looks at the response by the provincial Department of Urban Affairs to The City of Winnipeg Act review, then one has an excellent document to deal with, a document that was readily accepted by City Hall and most of which was endorsed by the City of Winnipeg Council—with the exception of a few issues, was endorsed unanimously.

So I hope we will not be seeing in this Session a piecemeal way of dealing with The City of Winnipeg

Act amendments. This Act must be dealt with soon and it should be done on a comprehensive, inclusive basis. We cannot be picking here and choosing there. The updating of the Act that governs how the city operates should be dealt with in totality. I am looking forward to getting at it soon.

I mentioned earlier the problems on the rivers and the fact that this issue must be dealt with. The Minister opposite has not indicated a knowledge level sufficient to do the job in what I have seen in his response to the House and to the press in recent interviews. There were recommendations that there would be a rivers corporation set up on a bipartite basis in The City of Winnipeg Act review, which was previously endorsed by the city, and in a separate document as a result of a study carried out at my instigation in 1985 and unanimously endorsed by council in the fall of 1986. My question will be and will continue to be: When do the negotiations get under way so that we can have proper river management, proper river development, proper river enhancement, proper economic benefits and recreational benefits spinning off for Winnipeggers, Manitobans and our tourists? Almost two years ago, Winnipeg asked for negotiations with the province on this issue. The NDP chose not to respond. This Government cannot repeat that inaction.

Many people have complained about this Throne Speech as being one in which almost every interest group, lobby group and industry has been spoken to in some mild fashion, but a Throne Speech in which there are very, very few specifics and which it is difficult to see where there will be legislation coming and where there may be changes in regulations expected. This is troublesome, and is one of the reasons we have a Throne Speech that we cannot so much vote against but one in which it will serve to give warning to the Conservative Government that, if this is the sort of thing that is going to be coming forth throughout this Legislature, then this Legislature, the 34th, will be a fairly short one.

There is going to be a need for more specifics. We resent that the Government is attempting to make this a housekeeping Session with only very little new legislation. We hope that the next initiatives from this Government will be more precise, more concrete and more positive.

Specifically, from one of the areas that I am Opposition critic for, Natural Resources, is one that I am taken aback with the lack of content at all in this Throne Speech. Natural Resources is one of the biggest and most important sectors of the Manitoba economy. The extraction industries, whether renewable or non-renewable, are critical to this province and cannot be ignored. It is therefore surprising to see no mention, no encouragement, no incentives so as to further endeavours in mining, in fishing, quarrying and forestry.

Nor is there the required protection mentioned for our fur industry which is under constant attack in our overseas markets. What is this Government going to do in this area? The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) in his inaugural speech mentioned the potential of reforestation on the escarpments of Manitoba. I think this is a fine initiative

and I hope we will see it come to fruition. It will not only give us other stands of forests in this province and add to the beauty of the areas, but it will also provide erosion protection to those slopes.

There is also a need for more reforestation by those companies that harvest Manitoba's forests. There is no need to repeat in Manitoba the deforestation that has been experienced next door in Ontario. I will be expecting leadership from the Minister of Natural Resources in encouraging sound forestry.

On a positive note, Manitoba in the recent past has shown national leadership vis-a-vis studies on the environment and the economy, and there has been an acceptance at high levels across the country for the concept of sustainable development. A technique to achieve this sort of goal is that of round tables made up of leaders of Government, industry and non-Government organizations. A Natural Resources Round Table is proposed so as to produce a sustainable development strategy for this sector of the Manitoba economy. So far, so good, but the make-up of that table and the signals from the Government in general in this area will be key to the success of the exercise. More than lip service is essential from Government if a sound strategy is to be forthcoming.

I have very grave concerns given what has happened just recently, in which we have seen not only the firing of the Deputy Minister of Environment, somebody who won that position by competition, was in the job for five years, shepherded through the new Environment Act of this province and started its implementation, somebody who also helped set up the Manitoba Hazardous Waste Corporation, a provincial Crown corporation to deal with those very dangerous materials that have to be contended with in a modern industrial society. Instead, we not only see that person leave, but a person come in who has been trained only in one area, is not a generalist but a specialist. When Deputy Ministers should be generalists with wide-ranging experience, we instead are going to have a Deputy Minister who is narrow in focus and without wide-ranging experience.

It is also a very sad day for Manitoba that the Environment Department, after having got out from under other departments, is now being put under the Labour Department and Workplace Health and Safety. Not that these are not important departments in units—they most certainly are—but it is because of their very importance that I foresee Liberals in this House and foresee a subjugation of the Environment Department. The Minister and this Government are giving very, very clear signals to Manitobans and to Manitoba industry. I think this is completely wrong and something that this Government must be chastened for. I hope that there are going to be some sober second thoughts and that we will see a reversal of this move, and that the Environment Department will be restored to its own status with its own Deputy Minister.

The Throne Speech proposes the development of a comprehensive water strategy after public consultation. There is, however, no mention of this Government's philosophy when it comes to a water strategy. Is it to be oriented to conservation, a long-term approach to

critical, scarce resources and the appropriate rationing and sharing of our water? Quite possibly, we will see instead a consumption approach being employed. By that, I mean a take and use as much as possible, where the demands are highest, approach. We only have to look at the already announced Carman Diversion Project for a preview of a potential Tory approach to water usage instead of the required water conservation bias.

The glib answers by the Minister of Labour and Environment (Mr. Connery) on the issue of the Rafferty-Alameda Project in Saskatchewan in which half the water of the Souris River will be consumed in the near future in Saskatchewan was nothing short of a kiss-off. It did not answer the question. It did not address the fact that there has been no environmental assessment impact done here in Manitoba. There has not been an assurance of what materials or information has been coming from other jurisdictions. The federal Department of Environment may be even breaching its own Act, or North Dakota or Saskatchewan. I think this is abominable. It indicates that environmental issues are not issues that are to be dealt with in a serious and sincere fashion. It indicates an area that we have to be watching very closely.

Just recently, the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) of this province mentioned a program that I was quite interested in. It was a pilot child access program for non-custodial parents. It is obvious that some leadership is being shown here in Manitoba. I wish to commend him for carrying through on this initiative of the previous Government. I hope that the program will be successful, and it will lead to the entrenchment of a program of this nature on a permanent basis in Manitoba. I also hope it will be the beginning of other positive changes in dealing with the terrible trying times that couples have to put up with when there is a family separation and when there are children involved.

Much, much more work needs to be done in Manitoba in the areas of access, of custody, of involvement by non-custodial parents, and such things as elective medicine and education. The process we have today in the province, like most other jurisdictions in Canada, is one unfortunately fraught with confrontation. There is a legalistic approach when a conciliatory mediation approach should be attempted. Mediation should be the norm, not the exception.

Some very tentative steps have been made in this area by the past Government. I would hope we will see mediation as a norm, and the role of the courts as the exception instead of the converse which is true today. I look forward to the leadership of the Attorney-General and his Government in this very important area of family problem-solving.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am personally honoured and excited to be part of this 34th Session of the Manitoba Legislature. It is a time when Manitobans have said that they do not want Tweedledee and they are not certain about Tweedledum. They are looking for leadership, and they are looking for leadership by all three Parties. I hope we are going to be able to work together at that in

this Session of the House, and it will be productive. There have been conciliatory notes from some of the Government speakers, and those comments are very much appreciated. I am hoping we are going to see as much of a response in substance as that of the fine words.

\* (1730)

I think the NDP should take note of that also. Manitobans have been tried by some of the antics of that Government in the past. I hope they are not tried by any further antics here in this Session. I look forward to working hard with my caucus and with other Members in this House. There is a lot of work to be done for Manitoba, and I think we can produce positive legislation before we go back to see what the people's answer will be for a 35th Legislature.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and best wishes to all Members of this House.

**Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood):** I would like to welcome all the new Members on both sides of the House. I note with some trepidation that we do not have any new Members in our caucus. We will certainly work on correcting that in the next election.

For the last two years, I have been the second-youngest MLA in the Legislature, along with my colleague from Thompson, who had been the youngest for a long, long time, and I guess I am happy to see that there are three new Members—one from the Government side, the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux)—who are all younger than us. It reminds one of mortality when you see "re-elect" on your signs. So now I am in that area where you are somewhere between the bright-eyed rookie and the wise old fox like the dean of the House, the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns).

I remember coming here and being all fired up with radical ideas of implementing treasury branches, universal accident and sickness plans, and hearing one elder P.C. MLA, who I do not believe is here anymore, commenting that he will simmer down once he gets used to this place. In fact, it is hard to describe to the new Members what really happens to a person in this House when you have been here for a little while. The system tends to grind you down. Decisions never seem to get made. I am used to being in a business when I make a decision and something happens. That is not the way things tend to work in the Government. Most of us, of course, at times question why we ever came here in the first place. Many of us do it more often than others.

Before you get discouraged, there are many positives aspects to the job of being an MLA. You get to make long speeches about all sorts of things that you know nothing about. You think you have accomplished something. You get to mail them to your constituents and no one reads them. You get to ask Ministers questions and they answer a totally different question. These can be somewhat frustrating but, in spite of all of our trials and tribulations, we stick to it because we

really feel that we are doing a job for the people who sent us here in the first place.

I did want to congratulate the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Members of the Cabinet, as temporary as they all may be. The Premier was voted least likely to succeed as early as last February by the alligators in the front bench: the Health Minister (Mr. Orchard); the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness); the Native Affairs Minister (Mr. Downey); and the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch). These alligators, who are well-known, were trying to drain the swamp at that time. They were calling for a leadership review this coming November, and the Premier must have a very thick skin to have put up with all of that. In fact, a lot of people I talked to actually felt sorry for the guy, that he was under attack by these nasty people.

I do not think that he should think that he has the situation under control and he should not doze at the switch. As a matter of fact, his probable undoing will not be his blowing of a second sure-bet election in two years. Joe Clark blew only one election. This Premier has blown two sure bets. In fact, the Premier was the biggest liability in the P.C. election campaign. I think his undoing is going to be leaving the Interlake and leaving eastern Manitoba out of the Cabinet. That is what I think his ultimate undoing is going to be. How long has it been since that whole area has been left out of the Cabinet? Certainly, in the past number of years, a long, long time, there have been Cabinet Ministers in that area.

The other question I would like to ask is: Why would he leave the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) out of the Cabinet? Was it because he sees Reds under the beds? No, I do not think so. Was it because of his disloyalty to the Leader? I do not think so either. In fact, he was one of the key rural Tories who helped stop Brian Ransom back in 1983 in the leadership convention. He sat in the front benches just two months ago. He defended the Leader of the Opposition at that time when the alligators were out for him more or less publicly. Here is the dean of the House, probably the best speaker in this House, and an experienced Cabinet Minister going back to the Roblin days—I think the only Cabinet Minister back to the Roblin days—and from an area excluded from the Cabinet, and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) cannot find even one minor portfolio for him. Why is that?

That is because he asked an obvious question. Why did the Conservative Party lose seats in Winnipeg? I am sure you are all asking that. A lot of you really want to know. Good grief, how could you blow a lead? The Leader, the current Premier, had a 50 percent lead in the polls as early as February of this year. Mind you, that was when he was out of town in California. When he came back home, he started to dip.

I think those are the questions that the senior alligators and the junior alligator over there are going to be asking come November. I think that is an important question for them to resolve.

The Government Members are frustrated because they have to pander to the Liberals and it gets in their craw. They do not like this one bit. I have talked to a

lot of them and it really bothers them because they wanted to get in there, they wanted to start hacking and slashing, but they know that Attila the Hen would not let them. She wants to be the Premier and she knows that hacking and slashing is not going to work. So she wants to be as moderate as possible and hopes that the public will view that positively and potentially give her a term. That is, of course, supposing that the Conservatives do not take care of their internal problems in the meantime, which I have confidence that they will do.

Now the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), my old friend, in his speech talked about less socialists being elected in the Legislature and the desire of the Government to spend more of Highway's budget on Tory ridings. I remember the Member for Springfield when he was an NDP zealot. He was president of the Springfield riding back in 1975. He was an NDP appointee and he talks about that quite often. He was an NDP appointee to the Dental Board back in 1975. He was endorsed by Howard Pawley to run for the provincial executive at a convention back in the Seventies. He was a keen campaigner in every election, every by-election. Whenever one came up, he was the guy who walked the extra mile, knocked on the extra door, pushed the hardest.

Now what has he done? He has turned completely to the right. He has become an Adam Smith, born again, laissez-faire enterpriser, a real zealot of the right wing wanting to join the alligator crowd up in the front benches. He even tries to outdo the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness), and that is hard to do, and the Health Minister, but that is becoming increasingly more easy. The Health Minister (Mr. Orchard) is a real pussycat. I do not know what has happened to him but he is an awfully quiet guy these days. Maybe it is the responsibility of the Health Department.

But the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), he sees more Reds under the beds than the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns). He sees communists at the West End Cultural Centre which, to his credit, the Government is still funding. He wants the Government to make up for lost time and spend more of the Highway's budget in Tory ridings, and I gather that Springfield would be his preferred area. He wants to pave the whole thing.

\* (1740)

Mr. Speaker, today in the Free Press we have a story here about "Tory ridings sweep lion's share of grants." Here we see the Conservative Government coming back with a vengeance to pay what it sees as some inequities of the past Government. The Progressive Conservative MLAs have received an average of \$111,000 per riding. This compares with \$84,000 for the NDP and evidently only \$57,000 for Liberal ridings.

Taking the biggest haul so far were the ridings of Turtle Mountain, represented by the Speaker, Tory Darren Praznik's Lac du Bonnet, Helmut Pankratz's La Verendrye, Education Minister Len Derkach's Roblin, and Gimli's Ed Helwer. Nothing . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member for Springfield.

**Mr. Gilles Roch (Springfield):** I was just wondering if the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) would submit to a question.

**Mr. Maloway:** I would be happy to, Mr. Speaker, but certainly once I have finished. There are several other points that I want to put on the record.

I was happy to see that, in the list of grants today, the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club did get \$25,000, and I thank the Minister for that \$25,000 on behalf of the Elmwood Giants Baseball Club. There were probably several more grants that the Elmwood area got under the previous Government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know where this Government is going. We are not really sure. On the one hand, some of the Members have got the gears in forward and they want to get ahead and start hacking and slashing, and others sort of have their foot out trying to put on the brakes and preach moderation. I am certain the Member for River East (Mrs. Mitchelson) is one of those in the moderate section.

The Highways, and I wish he was here right at the moment, but he wants toll roads. In my old speeches, I would always talk about the P.C.'s hidden agenda of privatization—the selling of the liquor stores, community colleges, universities, hospitals—and the furthest-out idea I could think of was toll roads. I used to mention that their ultimate would be toll roads. This Minister must be bucking for the position of privatization Minister, but the Premier's aides were quick to rein the Minister in. I am sure that, if they fired some of those high-priced Premier staff which the Members opposite were so willing to talk about before, they might save enough money to avoid toll roads. So the Minister has been told to lay low for a while, but I really wish he would stop reading my old speeches because I really do not want to give him any more crazy ideas like setting up of toll roads. He has taken my advice.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to make just a passing comment about the caring Minister, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery), who claims to care so much about the environment that he got caught knowing very little about the environment. In fact, we are starting to refer to him as part of the walking dead. I think the Members who have been around here for a couple of years know what the walking dead are all about. They now have a couple of people joining that club.

In the Free Press today, we have an editorial article called, "The muddled minister." I think we are going to probably be reading a lot more of those in the months to come. It says: "The New Democrats caught him asleep at two of those switches last week. An environment minister on top of his department would not have been left spluttering and blustering, as Mr. Connery was, by the NDP's announcement that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting was experimenting with recovery of precious metals at its Flin Flon smelter." Again, they have only been in the House for a little more than a week and the Minister's number has come up almost everyday. I will be very interested in seeing what happens as we go through the succession of Ministers that I suppose we plan to deal with in terms of questions and other things.

Mr. Speaker, I have an article here, and I just wanted to read just a couple of sentences, from the Globe and Mail back a few months ago. It was called, "A hundred ways to wipe that smile off your face," and No. 92, dealing with free trade, it says: "With free trade and so on, the leader of Canada in the year 2000 will probably be the president of the United States." I think that probably the majority of people in this House would agree with that statement, given what the Conservatives federally and the Conservatives provincially are trying to do to us with this Free Trade Agreement.

I have read the synopsis of the Free Trade Agreement and my conclusion is that there are no real great economic benefits to be derived from the agreement but, in terms of sovereignty loss, a gradual sovereignty loss, I do not think there is any question that is going to happen over a period of several years. That sovereignty loss has been occurring, as most of us know, for our lifetimes and before that.

Economically some sectors will do well, others will do less well and the economic benefits are incremental. One year into the deal, we are not going to notice any big change. In fact, the proponents of the deal have suggested that at the end of the deal, over a 10-year period, each individual will save roughly \$200, if they have a job to go to when that time happens. But on an annual basis, a consumer is only going to save \$20 a year. So we are not going to notice any big change in the first year of the deal.

Ever so slowly, we are going to be sucked into a full union with the United States, and let us face some facts here. We have resisted, we have fought free trade agreement since Confederation and, in spite of that, we have still become more Americanized over the years. We have U.S. movies, we have U.S. TV, U.S. entertainment, sports, our economy is almost completely integrated already in with the United States and it certainly is dependent on the United States. There is no question about that.

The military of the two countries is virtually indistinguishable. As a matter of fact, the Canadian Government sometimes know less about what is happening with our military than the Americans. In the 1960s, there have been attempts at nationalism when the former Prime Minister Trudeau was in power. In the 1960s, he brought in FIRA to review foreign investment, which I thought at the time and still do that it was a good thing. He conducted a more independent foreign policy. When you went abroad—and being in the travel business, I do a fair amount of travelling. I know that, when Trudeau was the Prime Minister, I never did have any great love for the man, but the fact of the matter was that, when you went to other countries, people did know who he was and knew that he was separate from the United States. That is not the feeling that you get now when you travel. I was in Brazil last fall, Portugal last fall, Israel last January, and I did talk to people when I was there, and they viewed Brian Mulroney as just a junior Ronald Reagan. That is the impression that people abroad have of the guy.

With the advent of Mulroneyism, we have seen a holus-bolus attempt to hook up to the United States, and it is not surprising. Brian Mulroney was a branch

plant manager and I think that is the mentality of the guy. He is really just more or less a lackey for the Americans.

Simon Reisman was quoted as saying at one point that the Americans bargain like a Third World country, and none of my colleagues have been able to find out why he could have said something like that. I mean, here is the man who negotiated this deal.

\* (1750)

I have a little test for you, and some of you will remember this, so we will perhaps get some more participation from some of the new Members on the other side of the House. Who said the following: "Canada-U.S. free trade is like sleeping with an elephant. It's terrific until the elephant twitches and, if it ever rolls over, you're a dead man. This is why free trade was decided in an election in 1911. It affects Canadian sovereignty and we will have none of it, not during leadership campaigns or at any other time. Canadians rejected free trade with the United States in 1911, they would do so again in 1983. Canada must increase its share of total world trade which has dropped by 33 percent in the last two decades." Who said that? Ah, someone got it. None other than Mr. Sacred Trust himself, Brian Mulroney.

How about this? "Unrestrained free trade with the United States raises the possibility that thousands of jobs could be lost in such critical industries as textiles, furniture and footwear. Before we jump on the bandwagon of continentalism, we should strengthen our industrial structure so that we are more competitive." Who said that?

**An Honourable Member:** Is this a trick question?

**Mr. Maloway:** This is a trick question. The Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Pankratz) should know this. It was Joe Clark, his former Leader, the Leader they turfed out because he did not perform—Joe Clark.

Another famous quote, "Canadians do not understand what they have signed. In 20 years they will be sucked into the U.S. economy." Who was that? Clayton Yeutler, the American representative, the guy who negotiated with Reisman. These are his true feelings that are coming across here.

Another quote: "The momentous move toward uniting the two countries economically is very gratifying for me for more than a decade. My pop urged his newspapers that Canada become part of the United States." Who said that? William Randolph Hearst, the editor of Hearst Newspapers.

Another quote: "As a sovereign nation, Canada can sign whatever trade pact it wants with the U.S., but we would never sign such a deal like the one Canada signed. We won't be giving away our oil reserves to do a trade deal. Mexico intends to be an industrial nation and not a mere provider of raw materials." That was the economic advisor to the President of Mexico.

Who really wants this trade deal. From what I can see, it is a bunch of businesspeople down east in

Toronto. When you look at the organizations they belong to, you will find that by and large they are overrepresentative or controlled by people who are members of branch plants industries. So you have the president of company A whose boss is in New York, what position do you expect this person to take in this particular deal?

The history of free trade attempts, as I mentioned before, is rather long. There was one attempted in 1854; there was one attempted in 1880; 1911. In all of those occasions, at the last minute, the Canadians backed off. MacKenzie King backed off; St. Laurent backed off when Eisenhower wanted it. What we know is that the deal will lead to the de-industrialization of Canada and make us even more resource dependent. What will happen is people are going to—companies will close down plants up here in Canada and they will move themselves where they have got more of an economy of scale and where they have got better labour legislation and they will be heading, of course, to the right-to-work States.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to indicate that Mr. Lawrence Thibeault, who is the President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, what he said. The Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) might be interested in this if he would listen. "It is simply a fact that, as we ask our industries to compete toe to toe with American industries, we in Canada are obviously forced to create the same conditions in Canada that exist in the United States, whether it is the unemployment insurance scheme, the workers' compensation scheme, the cost of government, the level of taxation, and whatever."

The fact of the matter is that businesses who are operating here right now in Canada, because of tariffs, they have to set up and sell into the Canadian market. Once it is more advantageous for them to set up in the southern United States, in the right-to-work States where, for example, in Alabama there is no minimum wage, Arizona there is no minimum wage, in Kansas the minimum wage is \$1.60. There are about 20 of these right-to-work states and they are attracting industries in large numbers. Not only will they attract them from Canada but they will be and are attracting them from the northern United States as well. So it is a problem for the northern states of the United States as well.

As a matter of fact, in another article where business has been told to be lean and mean, they say that business will have to be leaner and meaner if Canadians are to reap full benefits from free trade with the United States, as a new federal council is studying the proposed trade deal. To me, that means lower wages and once again the right-to-work legislation that businesses will be pressing the Manitoba Government, will be pressing the Members on the front benches here to bring in, in very short order, when this deal goes through.

As many as 25,000 Canadian workers per year will be displaced on average during the first 10 years of the free trade deal. Now this is the Finance Department that has estimated that figure. There is no question that we are going to face a loss of sovereignty with the implementation of the free trade deal. I think a lot of us, if we wanted to be Americans, would have moved

there in the first place. I think that is why a lot of Canadians are in this country.

You know, old John A. Macdonald, I think he would be embarrassed knowing that these Members are affiliated with the Conservative Party. He would roll over in his grave with the way the P.C. Party has strayed.

Mr. Gavin Scott, who is a local tour operator and an old friend of mine, he happened to be actually the P.C. candidate in Ellice in 1981. Mr. Scott was interviewed in the Free Press some months ago when Tourism was supposedly giving their wholehearted support to the free trade deal. Mr. Scott, who again is normally a fairly right-wing Conservative supporter although he has wavered to the Liberals once or twice in the past, but I think that may change, he says and I quote: "I am a nationalist and I am against it, that free trade deal. I'm worried that it could mean integration into American society." So even right-wing Conservatives, and this man is quite a reasonable thinker and reads a lot and certainly has very good connections with people in the front benches here in the Government, he has his own reasons for opposing this deal. I think the Members here have a "once again similar to the Meech Lake situation."

They have been taken to the woodshed, as the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) likes to make reference to. They have been read the riot act. These people are not natural supporters of Meech Lake. Maybe they are of free trade, but I do not think Mulroney trusts them enough to leave them alone to make their own decisions. I think that he is watching them and he sends his people in here to whip them into line, make sure that they all pop up like trained seals. I think they are well under control of the Mulroneyites in the Conservative Party at the current time.

I did want to make some further comments about the reduction in tariffs, because I think it is not true that the NDP is opposed to looser trade and freer-type trade. We just do not like the Mulroney trade deal. We think that we could have much better trading arrangements. Trading arrangements that have been loosened through the GATT over the years have worked fairly well over the years. As a matter of fact, we should be looking at trading with more countries, expanding our horizons rather than basically getting into a fortress American mentality. The Members opposite, of course, are willing participants in that fortress America concept.

\* (1800)

I do not believe, as the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) has mentioned several times, that we have to cover and get into our closet and worry about will the Americans buy our resources or will they not buy our resources. Mr. Speaker, resources are vitally important to the Americans. I think there will always be a market for our resources. I think they are a hungry country and I think they will pay what we want for those resources. I also would not be afraid of a country that was 10 times smaller. I mean the Americans are sitting back here chuckling at this whole situation. Here we have a country of 20 million that thinks it could be on an equal footing with a country of 200 million. How absurd can you be? It would be like Canada setting up a free trade agreement with the Turks and the Caicos. I believe one of their federal, soon to be former MPs, thank goodness, was working on that one. Once again, we would not have a lot to fear having a trade agreement with a country that was 10 times as small as us. There is just that whole element of size that has to be considered in this.

The fact of the matter is, as I had mentioned earlier, that they already have a tremendous influence and control over us already. What this Free Trade Agreement is trying to do, I think, is just give us that final push into the union. All we will need then is just to hoist the flag. The Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) may be happier than some about that. I know that the Members over on this side of the House are not looking forward to that prospect. It is like putting Mike Tyson in the ring with the Premier. How long would the Premier last? He is having enough trouble with his alligators, let alone Tyson. Ninety percent of Ontario exports go to the United States, and that alone demonstrates the overdependence that we already have on the U.S. I am not advocating that we reduce that. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining for this evening?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the Rules, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 p.m., at which time the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) will have nine minutes remaining.