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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	Liberal
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	NDP
CARR, James	Crescentwood	Liberal
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	Liberal
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	NDP
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	Liberal
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	NDP
CONNERY, Edward, Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	NDP
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	Liberal
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Liberal
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	NDP
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Liberal
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	NDP
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	NDP
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	NDP
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	NDP
STEFANSON, Eric	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, October 11, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., the Sergeant-at-Arms, carrying the Mace on the crook of his arm and followed by the Clerks of the Legislative Assembly, entered the House. The Sergeant-at-Arms remained at the main entrance of the House, and the Clerks took post on the west side of the Chamber, stood and awaited the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Military and Civil Aides, and officers comprising the Officer Escort, met in the Lieutenant-Governor's reception room.

The Premier, Members of the Executive Council, Military and Civil Aides, accompanied His Honour from the reception room to the Chamber in the following order:

The Civil Aide on the right;
The Military Aide on the left;
The Officer Escort;
The Members of the Executive Council;
The Premier; and then
The Lieutenant-Governor

At the Bar of the House, the Military and Civil Aides, the Officer Escort, Members of the Executive Council and the Premier halted and turned inward to allow the Lieutenant-Governor and the Premier to advance to the head of the Escort, where His Honour was met by the Mace.

Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms (Mr. Roy MacGillivray): His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Lieutenant-Governor then, preceded by the Mace carried shoulder high and followed on his left by the Military Aide, and on his right by the Civil Aide, proceeded along the west side of the Chamber to the Throne. The Premier proceeded along the east side and stood on the floor on the east side of the Chamber. The Members of the Executive Council took their places.

The Military Aide took up his position on the right of the Throne and the Civil Aide took up his position on the west side of the Chamber.

The Officer Escort positioned himself to the left of the Throne.

The Lieutenant-Governor seated himself on the Throne; the Mace made obeisance and retired to the east side of the Chamber.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to state that he does not see fit to declare the cause of the summoning of the present Legislature of this province until a Speaker of this House shall have been chosen, according to law.

* (1335)

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor retired.

The Mace then made obeisance before the Lieutenant-Governor and preceded His Honour along the east side of the Chamber to the Bar of the House, accompanied by the Premier and the Aides.

The Mace returned from the Bar of the House and was placed under the Table. The Premier re-entered by the north doors and proceeded to his seat in the Chamber, and the Clerks took their chairs at the Table.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Clerk of the House, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), that Denis Rocan, a Member of the Electoral District of Gladstone, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): It has been moved by the Honourable First Minister (Mr. Filmon), and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), that Denis Rocan, Esquire, Member for the Electoral Division of Gladstone, do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Clerk, no greater honour can be given to a Member of the Assembly than to be chosen as its presiding officer. The impartiality of the Speaker is indeed the hallmark of this office. The words of Mr. Speaker Lenthall of the House of Commons in Great Britain in 1642, when King Charles I stormed onto the floor of the House demanding the answer from the Speaker where certain Members were, shows the beginning of the

evolution of this office. Lenthall stated, "May it please Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here."

The Honourable Member for Gladstone (Mr. Rocan) has served this House well during the life of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature. Indeed, all in this Chamber are well aware that he faced some difficult decisions and some unusual circumstances and carried them out with impartiality, fairness and evenhandedness. He has fulfilled his responsibilities with diligence and in the traditions of the House. I know that he will continue to serve the House ably.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): It is indeed an honour to second the motion from the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) in the tremendous responsibility of the presiding officer of this Chamber. Members on this side are pleased to second the motion for the Member from Gladstone. We have always found the Member in his responsibilities as Speaker of the House in the Thirty-Fourth Session to be a person of integrity, fairness, sternness, and even a sense of humour when called for, Mr. Clerk.

We, therefore, are very proud to second the motion of the First Minister.

Mr. Clerk: Is the House ready for the question? Is it the will of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Mr. Clerk: The motion is accordingly carried, and I declare the Honourable Denis Rocan, Member for the Electoral Division of Gladstone, duly elected to the Chair of this House.

The Speaker was then conducted to the Chair by the Mover and Seconder and was invested with the robes of office.

The Speaker then, standing on the upper step, returned thanks to the House, and then took the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I am not unmindful of the honour which you have conferred on me today in electing me to the highest office within the gift of the Assembly, that of your Speaker and your servant.

Je m'engage résolument à maintenir les principes et l'usage de l'Assemblée, à garantir aux députés le droit d'exprimer leurs opinions dans les limites permises par le décorum, à reconnaître les droits et les privilèges des députés, des groupes

politiques et de l'Assemblée elle-même, à favoriser l'expédition ordonnée des affaires de la province et par-dessus tout, à me montrer juste et impartial dans les décisions que vous me confierez.

(Translation)

It will be my aim and duty to uphold the principles and traditions of the House and secure for each Member the right to express his or her opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; to recognize the rights and privileges of the Honourable Members, the political groups and the House itself; to facilitate the transaction of the public business in an orderly manner and, above all, to seek to be fair and impartial in the decisions you entrust to me.

(English)

If these are your objectives, and I believe they are, I ask your patience and co-operation in approaching them.

I deeply appreciate your actions in elevating me to the Speaker's Chair, and with your assistance, I hope to fulfill this commitment with dignity and honour.

* (1340)

The Mace was then placed on the Table.

The Premier left the Chamber to meet His Honour in the reception room. The Clerks took post on the west side of the Chamber.

The Mace proceeded to the Bar of the House to meet His Honour, who re-entered the Chamber accompanied by the Aides and the Premier, as on his first entry. The Speaker left the Chair and stood on the floor of the Chamber on the east side.

The Mace made obeisance and retired to the east side of the Chamber.

Mr. McGillivray: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly has elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfill the important duties assigned to me.

Si dans l'exécution de ces devoirs, il m'arrivait de me tromper, je demande que la faute m'en soit imputée et non à l'Assemblée dont je suis le serviteur, et qui, par devoir envers sa reine et la patrie, hereby humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your

Honour's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Honour the most favourable consideration.

(Translation)

If, in the performance of these duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly, whose servant I am, and whoa through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duties to their Queen and country, . . .

Mr. McCrae: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional rights.

I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all reasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable consideration.

The Civil Aide advanced from the position he had taken on the west side of the Chamber and, after the usual obeisance on each step, handed the Lieutenant-Governor the Speech from the Throne.

The Civil Aide then retired, step by step, and took up his position on the west side of the Chamber.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. George Johnson (Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba):

Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Manitoba Legislature:

I welcome you to the First Session of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Province of Manitoba. May I express the wish that your goals and aspirations and the needs of the people you represent will be met in the course of your service as Members of this Legislature.

Monsieur le Président et Membres de l'Assemblée législative du Manitoba:

Je vous souhaite la bienvenue à l'occasion de la première session de la trente-cinquième législature

de la province du Manitoba. En vous acquittant de vos fonctions en tant que membres de l'Assemblée législative, j'espère que vous pourrez atteindre vos buts et aspirations et répondre aux besoins de vos électeurs.

In July of this year, our province was graced by the presence of His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward, on the occasion of the Opening of the Western Canada Summer Games. Our memories of the Royal Tour were enriched by the warm welcome His Royal Highness received in each of the communities he visited.

Since we last met, the people of Manitoba have elected this new Legislature. It is appropriate at this time for me to welcome the new Members who now sit in this Assembly. I would also like to thank those who served Manitoba in the Thirty-Fourth Legislature and are not returning to this Chamber.

* (1345)

The Mandate

As my Government enters its second term, it remains committed to the vision it set forth when it first took office: a strong economy with new and better jobs for our young people and quality health, education and social services available to all.

My Government's current mandate is founded on its commitment to make Manitoba strong.

My Government is committed to implementing a comprehensive economic program to secure sustainable economic growth as the foundation of a stronger Manitoba.

No single policy shows my Government's commitment to economic growth more clearly than its pledge to freeze personal income taxes. My Government reaffirms that commitment and will strive to do more in other areas of taxation.

Setting clear priorities and sticking to them is crucial to the Government's ability to keep taxes down. My Government will provide the strong leadership necessary to protect vital health, education and family services in an era of limited resources.

Finally, in this time of constitutional uncertainty, my Government remains committed to a united Canada with a strong federal Government. But my Government also recognizes a real need for the reform of our federal system so that the needs and concerns of the less populous regions of Canada

are heard more clearly and with more effect. My Government will strive to secure those reforms.

A New Era

The Thirty-Fifth Legislature will be facing some fundamental questions about the kind of Canada we want to see in the future and Manitoba's place within a renewed confederation.

Throughout Canada, public confidence in our national leadership has been shaken by a series of events culminating in the crisis surrounding the Meech Lake Accord, the stand-off at Oka and the current Senate impasse over the goods and services tax.

Yet while Canadians are questioning their leaders, they are showing new faith in themselves. That spirit fueled an environmental awareness which demanded attention from politicians. We saw it again with the Meech Lake Accord when Canadians said no to the old style of elite accommodation and closed door politics.

And Canadians are not alone in this new spirit of activism. Indeed, we have seen many more dramatic examples.

Everywhere we look, we see nations courageously addressing the fundamental challenges that lie before them.

It is not the governments of these nations that are initiating the solutions. Indeed, in many cases it is the governments themselves that have been the problems. Instead, we are seeing a massive upsurge in individual action.

Whether we are talking about the Gdansk Shipyards, the Berlin Wall or Tiananmen Square, throughout the world people are working together to solve challenges that dwarf those before us in this province.

It is true that sometimes the challenges people face cannot be overcome quickly or easily, but the courage of a lone student standing up to a column of tanks certainly puts our own difficulties in clear perspective.

How will we measure up when our children and their children look back upon this era and compare what we did with our tremendous good fortune compared to those who have started with so much less?

Keeping Taxes Down

There is one concern beyond all others that has frustrated and alienated the vast majority of Manitobans: high taxes.

My Government cut taxes in its last term and it is committed to keep them down in this term, but it will not be an easy task.

After seven years of expansion, the Canadian economy is slowing. High interest rates have limited consumer demand and levels of investments. They have also given rise to an over-valued Canadian dollar, making it more difficult for Canadian products to compete in export markets.

As a result, the Canadian economy actually declined slightly in the second quarter. Although Canadian interest rates have been trending down for several months, they are still too high. They must continue to fall if we are to see a return to healthy rates of growth.

To a certain extent, things are better in Manitoba than elsewhere. In its provincial forecast published last month, the Conference Board predicted that the Manitoba economy will grow at double the national average. The board also expects that Manitoba will have the strongest employment growth of any province, and that investment will grow at almost twice the national average.

* (1350)

Nevertheless, these are difficult times and they are creating very real pressures on the Manitoba Government. Steady or reduced revenues created by the slower economy combined with cuts in transfer payments from the federal Government and debt servicing costs from previous administrations leave the Government with very little flexibility.

The Fiscal Stabilization Fund created by my Government will help ease some of the pressure but there will be clear limits to our ability to spend in the next few budgets.

My Government is committed to following the path of fiscal responsibility it laid out in its last term.

While my Government is prepared for some increase in the deficit to cover the short-term slump in revenues, it recognizes that deficits merely represent delayed taxes. Already we must spend over \$500 million a year just to cover the interest on previous deficits.

Manitobans are already paying too much in taxes.

My Government will not return to the spend now, tax later policies of the 70s and 80s. It is committed to live within its means.

By keeping spending under control, my Government will avoid making the tax burden even worse. Once we get through the current slowdown, my Government aims to continue its program of tax reductions.

Une Province Forte

Nous devons avoir une économie vigoureuse si nous voulons faire du Manitoba une province forte. Il s'agit là d'un défi de taille.

(Translation)

Making Manitoba Strong

We must have a strong economy if we want a strong Manitoba. That is no simple challenge.

(English)

Economic renewal begins with the attitudes and approaches of each of us as individuals. We must recognize that there is a new economic reality—a global economy that is increasingly complex and competitive.

There are dangers in this new economy. Economic decisions made halfway around the world can have a disastrous effect here in Manitoba; witness the European Economic Community's agricultural subsidies. But we cannot escape those dangers without turning our backs on the opportunities as well.

Manitoba has a thriving aerospace industry because of those same global markets. We cannot hope to consume all the aircraft parts, buses, computers and wheat we produce. But we can sell them. And we do. Last year under the Free Trade Agreement, Manitoba exports to the United States increased by 11.5 percent.

We have a proven track record of success in the global economy. We can compete with the best the world has to offer—and win.

We are building world class facilities in the health industries, in aerospace, in information technologies and in sustainable development. The challenge is to develop these world class sectors to their full potential.

My Government has a plan to do just that over the next four years.

Building a Positive Economic Climate

The first step has already begun. We must reduce the burden of Government on the private sector to develop an economic climate that encourages risk and rewards initiative.

My Government has cut personal taxes, the payroll tax and the education tax on farm land, but we need to do more. If we can keep spending under control for the next few years we will do more.

Taxes are just one of the burdens governments place on businesses. Unnecessary paperwork is another burden. My Government is committed to the establishment of a review and assessment process to create "smarter" regulations.

A positive economic climate is only one element of my Government's program for economic growth. My Government recognizes that government cannot create competitive industries; only companies can do that. However, the Government can play a powerful role as a facilitator.

Attracting Investment

Increased investment is an important foundation for economic growth. My Government has undertaken significant efforts in targeted markets including expanded activities out of our Hong Kong office into Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore and a restructured effort in Western Europe.

Of particular note was a decision made early last summer to target expansion-minded companies from the high-priced areas of Eastern Canada. Renewed emphasis will be placed on these efforts.

My Government intends to supplement its efforts through the creation of a Manitoba Ambassadors Program to tap into the expertise and networks of former Manitobans who are scattered throughout the globe. The Manitoba Ambassadors will assist in finding investors and in developing markets.

It is not necessary to go outside Manitoba to attract new investment. Too much Manitoba money leaves this province for lack of satisfactory vehicles in which to invest.

* (1355)

My Government will establish a task force to examine means of re-establishing a dynamic capital market in Winnipeg, helping Manitobans rebuild the confidence to invest in themselves.

My Government will also examine ways of

fostering employee ownership. Such an initiative may provide progressive alternatives to plant closings and business liquidations, and serve an innovative role in local economic renewal.

Developing Markets

As the agricultural trade wars have shown, we must be ever vigilant to protect and expand the markets for Manitoba products.

Our best potential untapped market is right here in Manitoba through the replacement of goods we import with goods produced in Manitoba. My Government will work together with the Manitoba business organizations to establish an Import Profile to identify potential markets and an Industrial Capabilities Registry to identify potential suppliers.

Our next best markets are our neighbours. During this year's Annual Premiers' Conference hosted by Manitoba, agreement in principle was reached on the reduction of interprovincial trade barriers to build upon the success of the Western Premiers' Agreement.

As well, during the last term, my Government secured Economic Development Agreements with Minnesota and Kansas and strengthened our ongoing ties with North Dakota.

Our international trading relations are also extremely important to us. My Government is particularly concerned about the outcome of the GATT negotiations.

The First Minister and his colleagues, the Minister of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture, have carried the concerns of Manitoba farmers and other businesses about subsidies and unfair practices directly to the Canadian Delegation at the GATT negotiations in Geneva, and to other international negotiators. My Government will continue to advance Manitoba's concerns.

Knowledge, Skills and People

We need effective and well-educated people if we are to produce reliable, high quality goods that will bring customers back for more.

We will invest in our education system to make it more responsive to the challenges our children will face in the 21st Century.

We will match the talents of Canadians, new and old alike, to job opportunities, filling critical skills shortages in Manitoba.

My Government will implement a skills training strategy known as the Workforce 2000 Plan. This strategy will encompass Training Advisory and Brokerage Services, a Skills Bank Inventory, private sector training incentives, industry-wide planning and training, as well as province-wide special courses to address broad technological changes and innovations.

As well, my Government will reconstitute the Manitoba Research Council as the Manitoba Innovations Council with priority to be given to providing expertise in technological research and assessment to companies identified by the Import Replacement Program.

The Manitoba Innovations Council will receive an injection of \$10 million from the proceeds of the Manitoba Data Services divestiture for the purposes of cost-sharing research and development in new technologies.

Regional and Sectoral Strategies

Consistent with our approach of building on Manitoba's strengths, and in recognition of the recommendations of Winnipeg 2000, the province will work co-operatively with organizations from throughout Manitoba to focus on the efforts of Government bodies that provide assistance to targeted sectors of the Manitoba economy.

My Government will ensure that each region of this province reaches its full potential by developing strategies to address the specific needs of northern and rural Manitoba.

My Government will build partnerships with rural communities to strengthen their infrastructure and expand off-farm income opportunities with programs like Manitoba Sustainable Communities, the Manitoba Rural Development Bond, Downtown Revitalization, a strong Highways program and Sewer and Water expansion.

A Northern Manitoba Development Commission will be established to formulate a strategy to secure sustainable economic development in the North through consultation with Northerners. A key component of that strategy must be a strengthened working relationship with Manitoba's Native people.

Agriculture

* (1400)

A strong agricultural sector is vital to the health of

our rural communities. Recent national negotiations have resulted in a proposed comprehensive safety net program which my Government has accepted in principle. The province will seek to ensure that a fair proportion of the cost is borne by the federal Government.

In addition, we will continue to pressure the federal Government to develop a special assistance program for grain producers to offset low international grain prices and to re-establish the interest-free cash advance program.

While working towards an overall solution for stabilizing farm incomes, our Government will institute a series of initiatives to strengthen the farm economy. These include working with producers and industry to undertake more aggressive marketing to find new and expanded markets for Manitoba agricultural products and the development of an irrigation strategy.

Social Priorities

With today's reality of limits on the Government's ability to spend, it is more important than ever to set clear priorities and to stick with them.

Health care has been and will continue to be the top spending priority of my Government. Over the past two budgets, the Department of Health has received increases well beyond the average increase in Government spending, and that priority will continue.

My Government will seek to strengthen the prevention and detection of cervical and breast cancer which has had such tragic consequences for so many Manitoba women.

The second phase of the innovative approach towards improving mental health services begun in the previous Session will continue with the implementation of a strategic long-range plan for the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

In response to the increasing cultural diversity of the Manitoban society and increased numbers of immigrants and refugees, there will be additional initiatives to address the special needs and barriers to health services of the multicultural community.

My Government will also continue to give high priority to programs aimed at supporting the family.

Victims of wife abuse, child abuse and elder abuse will be supported in their right to speedy

justice through the establishment of a Family Violence Court.

Parents will be assisted in protecting their children from pornographic and explicitly violent videos through the introduction of a home video classification system.

My Government will initiate a strategy to deal with youth drug abuse which includes enforcement, education, community-based consultation and improved treatment. Work is proceeding immediately toward the establishment of a 12-bed treatment centre to provide treatment for adolescent women.

Following an extensive consultation process, my Government will be implementing a strategy to protect seniors from abuse while working to ensure they can remain independent. This strategy will include initiatives to deal with financial abuse, respite care, a seniors' safehouse, strengthened enforcement of personal care home standards and a volunteer assistance program.

Protecting the Environment

My Government will continue to place an important priority on environmental initiatives.

Manitoba has a tremendous natural heritage of clean air, clean water and wide open spaces. It is a big part of what makes Manitoba a great place to live. We have to protect that legacy. We must ensure that future development is sustainable development.

The Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy will be releasing a core document on a provincial sustainable development strategy for public scrutiny and input.

Efforts to increase the level of recycling in Manitoba will be continued through the use of the Environmental Innovation Fund and the establishment of a Paper Collection and Marketing Association.

My Government is also pleased to be one of the first Governments in Canada to participate in the Endangered Spaces program of the World Wildlife Fund.

My Government will be continuing to provide strong leadership on environmental protection, emphasizing prevention of environmental problems through a strong and completely open environmental licensing process, and innovative

undertakings with our neighbouring jurisdictions. At the same time, we will be continuing our long-term program of providing the Department of Environment with the necessary tools to take strong action against polluters.

National Renewal

Manitobans are strongly committed to Canada. We believe in a united Canada and a strong federal Government. Yet it is difficult not to notice that many of the challenges facing this province are exacerbated by the action or inaction of the federal Government.

High interest rates have a tremendously damaging effect on our economy. The federal Government has failed to give its full support to western farmers who are fighting the combined Treasuries of the European Economic Community and the United States, and it has even scaled down its support for health care and post-secondary education.

My Government is prepared to work with the federal Government to meet common goals as we did earlier this week with the Municipal Water Infrastructure Agreement, but it will continue to fight to re-establish a set of national priorities that include health care, farmers and the national economy outside of Toronto.

My Government is also prepared to take the initiative when it comes to national renewal through constitutional negotiations. Manitoba needs a fairer deal in Confederation and the people of Manitoba must be full participants in the process to secure a fairer deal.

Mon gouvernement mettra en oeuvre la recommandation du Groupe de travail manitobain sur l'Accord du lac Meech visant à assouplir le processus d'approbation avant que les accords ne soient conclus de façon définitive par les gouvernements.

(Translation)

My Government will be taking forward the Meech Lake Task Force recommendation to open up the approval process before Governments sign any final agreements.

(English)

My Government is a strong proponent of an Equal, Elected and Effective Senate as one element of a renewed constitutional agreement. I have been

informed that the Meech Lake Task Force Report found strong support for this model but did not have enough input to make detailed recommendations regarding its powers.

My Government will be establishing an all-party Constitutional Task Force chaired by Professor Wally Fox-Decent with representation from the Government and the Opposition to seek further public input to develop more detailed Senate recommendations and to invite public comment on Manitoba's further constitutional priorities.

My Government has informed me that there is a strong degree of consensus among the four western provinces on many federal-provincial issues. It recognizes that there is a much better chance of success when the four work together rather than separately. It is my Government's intention to strengthen the co-operation among the western provinces so far as it allows us to move forward on issues of concern to Manitoba.

While my Government does recognize that Canada is facing some serious difficulties, we can take heart in the success of those who are facing much greater challenges throughout the world.

The Current Session

While my Government has an extensive agenda for its current term of office, it will present a very limited legislative agenda to the House at this time.

Over the past two years, the Legislature has fallen behind the normal legislative cycle. This delay resulted in last year's Estimates being approved just 10 days before the fiscal year was over. This year's budget will be introduced after it has been half spent.

Thus, the priority in this Session will be the passage of the Budget and Estimates as well as those few Bills which remain from my Government's last term.

My Government will introduce a new Residential Tenancies Act. This Bill reflects the extensive consultations that occurred in the interim period, to ensure that it is evenly balanced and fair to all affected groups.

My Government will bring forward The Business Practices Act to define misleading and deceptive practices and provide improved redress mechanisms for consumers who are victims of unfair or deceptive practices.

My Government will reintroduce an amendment

to The Labour Relations Act to repeal Final Offer Selection. This Bill forms a key element in my Government's plans to attract new business to Manitoba and has been delayed for two Sessions.

* (1410)

In addition, my Government will bring forward legislation to deal with the application of the provincial sales tax and the proposed goods and services tax. This legislation will ensure that we do not tax the tax by requiring the two taxes to be applied side by side. This has the additional benefit of forcing the visibility of the GST so that Manitobans become aware of the impact.

En conformité avec l'ordonnance de la Cour suprême du Canada, le ministère de la Justice prévoit d'achever la réadoption des Lois du Manitoba en anglais et en français avant le 21 décembre 1990.

(Translation)

As well, the Department of Justice anticipates the completion of the re-enactment of the Statutes of Manitoba into English and French by December 21, 1990. This re-enactment is in compliance with the Order of the Supreme Court of Canada.

(English)

Meeting the Challenge

With a tremendous storehouse of natural resources, a strategic location and diverse and talented people, Manitoba has an enormous potential that has yet to be tapped.

Over the course of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature, you will be presented with a comprehensive program of strategies aimed at helping our province to reach that potential.

My Government will place a renewed emphasis on economic development in every region of this province. Keeping taxes down will be a major priority within that effort.

Manitoba is a great place to live. My Government will continue to move forward on social and environmental initiatives to keep it that way.

My Government will take the initiative to establish Manitoba's own agenda for national reform.

In an age where the Berlin Wall has fallen, the arms race has ended and Nelson Mandela walks free, my Government is confident we can meet our own challenges here in Manitoba.

Estimates for the requirements for the public services of the province for the next fiscal year will be placed before you for your consideration.

Je vous laisse maintenant aux nombreuses tâches que vous allez être appelés à accomplir fidèlement. Que la divine Providence vous éclaire au cours des délibérations nécessaires à l'exécution de ces tâches.

I leave you now to the faithful performance of your many duties and trust that in meeting them you may have the guidance of Divine Providence in all your deliberations.

Mr. Speaker: O Eternal and Almighty God from Whom all power and wisdom come, we are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province. Grant O Merciful God, we pray Thee, that we may desire only that which is in accordance with Thy Will; that we may seek it with wisdom, know it with certainty and accomplish it perfectly for the Glory and Honour of Thy name and for the welfare of all our people. Amen.

The Speaker bowed to the Members and seated the House.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL 1—AN ACT RESPECTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

Hon. Gary Fillmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), that leave be given to introduce a Bill, No. 1, An Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office; Loi sur la prestation des serments d'entrée en fonction, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I wish to inform the House that in order to prevent mistakes I have received a copy of the Address of His Honour which was read.

I am further pleased to inform the House that Clifford Morrissey has been appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, and Roy MacGillivray has been appointed Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms for the Thirty-Fifth Legislature.

I am also pleased to inform the House that the following Pages have been appointed for this Session and they are: Natalie Kosteckyj, Hadley

Archer, Nicole Sellner, Neil Fast, Arlan Gates and Lucille Perreault.

HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Cummings), that the Votes and Proceedings of the House be printed, having first been perused by the Speaker, and that the Speaker do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as the Speaker shall appoint do presume to print the same.

Motion agreed to.

* (1420)

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that the Standing Committees of this House for the present Legislature be appointed for the following purposes:

Agriculture, Economic Development, Industrial Relations, Law Amendments, Municipal Affairs, Private Bills, Privileges and Elections, Public Accounts, Public Utilities and Natural Resources, Rules of the House, Statutory Regulations and Orders, which several committees shall be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon with power to send for persons, papers and documents and examine witnesses under oath.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), that Louise Dacquay, Member for the Electoral Division of Seine River, be Chair of the Committees of the Whole House and Deputy Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson), that Marcel Laurendeau, Esquire, Member for Electoral Division of St. Norbert, be Deputy Chair of the Committees of the Whole House.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger), that the speech of His Honour the

Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration tomorrow.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), that this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: Before putting the motion to the House, may I inform all present that a receiving line composed of Their Honours, the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Johnson, the Premier and Mrs. Filmon, and the Speaker and Mrs. Rocan will form shortly in Room 200 at the north end of the building, and that refreshments will be served in Room 254 at the south end of the building.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow (Friday).