



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

40 Elizabeth II

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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	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, Cliff	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Nell	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, Hon.	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack	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, Hon.	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

Wednesday, April 3, 1991

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Jack Penner (Chairman of the Committee on Economic Development): Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in presenting the Second Report of the Committee on Economic Development.

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Your committee met on Tuesday, April 2, 1991, at 10 a.m. in Room 255 of the Legislative Building to consider the Annual Reports of the Communities Economic Development Fund for the fiscal years ending March 31, 1989, and March 31, 1990.

Ms. Loretta Clarke, General Manager, Mr. Harold Westdal, Chairperson, and Mr. Rein Roelofs, Manager of Finance and Corporate Secretary, provided such information as was requested with respect to the Annual Reports and business of the Communities Economic Development Fund.

Your committee has considered the Annual Reports of the Communities Economic Development Fund for the fiscal years ending March 31, 1989, and March 31, 1990, and has adopted the same as presented.

Mr. Penner: I move, seconded by the honourable member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson), that the report of the committee be received.

Motion agreed to.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to table the Annual Report 1989 of the Department of Health.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 27—The Health Services Insurance Amendment Act (2)

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr), that Bill 27, The Health Services Insurance Amendment Act (2); Loi no 2 modifiant la Loi sur l'assurance-maladie, be introduced and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few comments on the bill itself. This bill is proposed to ensure two things: first, that annual inspections be done in nursing homes and hospitals of this province to guarantee that we have quality service to the patients and clients who reside therein; and that annual audits be conducted of laboratories in the province to ensure we get the best value for the taxpayers' dollar in the province of Manitoba.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us this afternoon 47 visitors from Melville, Saskatchewan. They are from the No. 752 Ed Campbell Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. They are under the direction of Captain Merv Ozirny. These cadets are guests of the honourable member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine).

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Also with us this afternoon, from the Grant Park High School we have eighteen Grade 9 students. They are under the direction of Ed Lenzman. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable Member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr).

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Tender Process Procedure Changes

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House I asked the Premier on three occasions whether it was in fact Treasury Board who changed the process in the tendering from an open public process to a closed bid process. The Premier, in the House, said the short answer to the question is no. Then the Premier went out in the hallway and said, I cannot remember. Then he further went with another statement that maybe they had rubber-stamped the approval.

* (1335)

My question to the Premier is: What is the answer to the question we asked yesterday? Was it in fact Treasury Board that changed the open public process that had originally been tendered nine months ago to the closed bid process of nine days that had been authorized by his government? Who did it?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, -(interjection)- that is right, that is very cute. The Premier thinks it is funny to give the same answers that Bill Vander Zalm gave out in British Columbia—I cannot remember. He thinks it is a funny item, a funny way to act.

Point of Order

Mr. Filmon: I did not give the same answer. I said no, unequivocally.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable First Minister did not have a point of order.

* * *

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, given the fact the Premier will not acknowledge the fact that the Treasury Board does in fact have the responsibility to approve the changes in the tendering process, my question to the Premier deals with the second argument yesterday in the House and with the public that the reason they had changed from an open public tendering process to a closed bid process was that the old bids were stale-dated because "interest rates had changed."

My question to the Premier is: Given the fact that interest rates have changed and gone down 1 percent since the bid date closed the second time, would the Premier now agree to have an open public tendering process, because the old bids are stale-dated, so that we can open up the tendering process and restore its integrity and also save money, as the Premier alleged yesterday?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is somehow, I believe, misrepresenting what in fact took place. The bids came in but, because of a whole host of reasons, the top three bidders were not able to meet the requirements of the tender. A long process had taken place that led to that final time, after a tentative award had been made conditional upon people meeting certain requirements. Under those circumstances they did not meet the requirements.

We were faced with having the top three bids being invalid, Mr. Speaker. Because so much time had taken place, we asked all of the bidders who had previously put forth bids—not gone to different people, not gone to special people. We went to the same people who had bid and said either reconfirm your bid or adjust your bid given the passage of time. People indeed did do that.

Even those people who complained about the bid adjusted their bid downward to reflect the fact that interest rates had dropped and that construction costs had dropped. So every one of them who had put in a bid was given the same opportunity. All those qualified bidders were given the same opportunity. In doing so we saved a million dollars for the taxpayer. A million dollars was saved over the previous low bid award.

If that is a crime I will take full responsibility for it, Mr. Speaker, because it is only the New Democratic Party who could argue that you should spend a million dollars more of taxpayers' monies—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, when obviously the same criteria is in place now—interest rates have dropped a percent in the last period of time—you would save even more money and restore the integrity to the open tendering process by having an open process. You could take away the business allegations of this open tendering process.

* (1340)

Maple Leaf Fund Financial Arrangement

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I have a further supplementary question to the Premier.

The Maple Leaf Fund was involved in part of the financing of the so-called successful bid. The Maple Leaf Fund, Mr. Speaker, is a fund that has serious questions raised in terms of its financing its partners. In fact, one of its subsidiaries just was cancelled, and its registrations under The Corporations Act of Manitoba. It is one of the financing areas of this building.

My question to the Premier is: Have they approved a new financial arrangement with the Maple Leaf Fund, with the federal government, the so-called immigration visas for cash program of the Tory government?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to the preamble of the member for Concordia, because he is wrong again.

In going through a complete, open, long process for retendering we would be jeopardizing great cost again for the taxpayer, because we are staying in a building in which we have made an interim arrangement with respect to the rental of that building.

That landlord—that the member for River Heights and the member for Concordia—who is taking us to court is gouging us for a substantial increase in rent to keep us there on a short-term basis. Every month that we stay longer he is gouging us substantially more than that building is worth, Mr. Speaker, because that is what the New Democrats want for a headline tomorrow.

We will not accept that type of business. We will not accept that type of gouging. So we will not put out a long-term process just to satisfy tomorrow's headlines for the member for Concordia.

We are going to protect the taxpayer. We are going to ensure that we are not gouged for a longer term than the short-term lease that we have had to put in place in order for us to get into a building by October 1, and that is what we are doing. We are saving a million dollars, and we are saving the taxpayer from being gouged, and it does not matter—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRIP Program Review

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): A sensitive First Minister.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended a meeting in Carroll, Manitoba, attended by over 70 grain producers from Souris, Carroll, Margaret, Brandon, Nesbitt, Boissevain, Minto, Fairfax, Alexander, Coulter, Killarney and other locations.

Prior to that meeting, the organizers of the meeting distributed a survey for those present, and the results were tabulated, Mr. Speaker.

Eighty-nine percent felt that there had not been sufficient information on GRIP to make an intelligent decision. One hundred percent felt that the government should not be able to change the rules after the farmers were locked in; 96 percent felt the government was trying to lever or force them to sign by withholding ad hoc money; 83 percent felt the premiums were unaffordable; 85 percent wanted a free ride on GRIP. A whopping—

Mr. Speaker: And the question is.

Mr. Plohman: I will get to my question, Mr. Speaker. Ninety-eight percent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Dauphin, kindly put his question.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that 98 percent wanted the program put on hold, at that meeting, for six months or as long as it took to deal with the concerns, I would ask the minister—these are farmers in the heart of the Tory ridings—will the minister now agree to place this program on hold and go out and consult with the farmers out there and find out exactly what their concerns are and incorporate them into this program so that it meets their needs during this crisis?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising those issues, because I want to remind him of some of the other comments and the actions that are going on in rural Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we have mobilized out of the Department of Agriculture some 140 staff along with crop insurance staff who have held a wide variety of meetings, well over a hundred, all over rural Manitoba, where we have had turnouts as high as 250 people seeking information on this program.

* (1345)

I would like to read to the member comments out of the Manitoba Co-operator: Manitoba farmers should feel fortunate having been presented with what looks like the best package of information of any province.

I want to tell the member that we have more crops eligible for coverage in Manitoba than any other province. We have the lowest premiums on average than any other province. We have superior management adjustment available only in this province. We have a 5 percent discount of premiums only in this province. We have responded to the needs and the interests of the Manitoba farmer and we continue to do that.

We have another proposal in front of the federal government; we have waited two weeks on their response on whether they will approve it or not, to again give the farmers more of what they want in terms of the premiums and the cost and the eventual benefits of the program. Farmers know that the real market price of wheat is close to \$2. The program offers a coverage of \$4.15. I do not think farmers can have this program put on hold and wait and hope things work out. They need the support that this program will give in the short term, medium term and the long term.

Mr. Plohman: The mere fact, Mr. Speaker, that this minister mentions all of those facts shows what a mess the program is in. I am even advised that Charlie Mayer will not sign up for this program. He says this program is a mess in this province. This is incredible.

Mr. Speaker, will this minister now agree, as was requested at this meeting, in the fielding of the producers to put this GRIP program to a vote of producers? If he is so confident that it is a good program, put it to a vote. Let the producers say.

Mr. Findlay: The member clearly does not understand the events that are about us. A few months ago, back in November, December we hoped that GATT would give solution to the grain price problem. That has not materialized. We are going into a growing season and over the last four months farmers, federal-provincial people are trying to work on a program that can be developed to meet the immediate needs, and that in the spring of 1991. A national signatories committee has been put in place to deal with the adjustments that the producers want in this program over time.

Collectively I think there is very strong support for the principle. We need some protection from the risks of low grain prices that exist in the world, which we cannot change overnight and, hopefully, over time there will be some common sense prevail in the world market, but the farmers need the right to survive in the short term. This program gives them that stability.

Deficiency Payment

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): This minister knows it is very, very short term, if at all.

If this minister is so convinced, why will he not put this program to a vote, as I have asked him to do -(interjection)- because they are being pressured right now to put their signature, and they know it. They say it, and KAP knows it, and the minister knows it.

I ask this minister: Will he now put forward the proposal and the position that he will not require any ties of the deficiency payment, as it is being felt by the farmers at this time, to signing up to this program? Will he separate and disassociate those two so that a deficiency payment can be made without pressure of signing up for this program?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, approximately 70 percent of the farmers in rural Manitoba have signed up for crop insurance last year and clearly probably will this year. They vote by their decision to sign up, and they will do so in this program, too.

Whether there is a requirement for signing up in the program for any deficiency payment that might be paid by the federal government, that is the decision that they clearly have made on their own, a decision that, if they want to make a deficiency payment, they will do it on whatever basis they deem appropriate.

The farm group, the farm community has said, some degree of signing bonus in terms of deficiency payment should be in place. We have advocated to the federal government, we need the support of this program. We also need the short-term support of a deficiency payment. We are asking them to make the announcement as soon as possible. We had hoped they would make it by early April. They have made the announcement on Western Grain Stabilization, although the size of the interim payment is a little bit disappointing. It is cash for the farm community to this point in time, and I can

assure the member that we will be working with the farm community—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Corporate Sponsorship Government Participation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier.

I did not raise this question prior to the World Curling Championships, because I did not want to do anything that would mar the event. However, it is important that this issue be clarified.

Will the Premier tell the House today what guidelines he has in place and under what conditions will he and his cabinet appear in corporate sponsorship advertisements in the province of Manitoba?

For example, can we now expect to see him in du Maurier commercials, a cigarette company which has a long record of contributing to the sponsorship of cultural events in the province of Manitoba?

* (1350)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, my appearance in publicity for the World Curling Championship was simply and straightforwardly for the World Curling Championship. I have been criticized, I might say, by people who take, I would say, a narrow view of the responsibility of somebody in public office to support and speak out on behalf of causes that they believe in.

I have been criticized by people for doing commercials on behalf of the Salvation Army, which I have done each and every year as they make their annual appeal. I have been criticized by some people for lending my name to support of fundraising for Manitoba Theatre Centre. I have been criticized by people for lending my name in support of major public events that I believe are good for the province and the city.

I will accept your criticism, Mr. Speaker, but the fact of the matter is that I made a judgment as to whether or not I would lend my name as Premier in support of a major world championship, the World Curling Championship, that brought some \$30 million of revenue, as I understand it, to the province of Manitoba, that was one of the biggest events that will be held here in a long, long time.

I make no apology for it, Mr. Speaker. I think it was the right thing to do and, if given the choice, I would do it again.

Maple Leaf Fund Government Involvement

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the question was about guidelines, and I can only assume there are no guidelines.

My supplementary question to the Premier is this: Can the Premier tell the House if the videotape taken several months ago at a cocktail party of the Maple Leaf Fund, a video tape which shows pictures of both the Premier and the then Minister of Industry, Trade and now the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst), was a government project, or was it taken by the Maple Leaf Fund?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I know of no such video tape, so I have to assume that it was not done by the government of Manitoba.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question to the Premier is: What assurances does this Premier have that that video tape will not be used in Hong Kong, in other places showing the attendance of members of this cabinet at a cocktail party and, therefore, showing what might appear to a potential investor to be a close relationship between the government and the corporation and, more importantly, lending a sense that there is, therefore, a closeness to the government that may indeed not exist?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, this government—and it is one of the things that I invite further discussion on, the use of Immigrant Investor funds, the cheap shots that are being taken by members opposite with respect to what is being done with Immigrant Investor funds. We as a government—you know, the Leader of the Liberal party has stated that we have not gotten our share of money under those funds. She wants us to get more money invested in Manitoba under those funds.

We have been very scrupulous in insisting that in no way do any Immigrant Investor funds utilize or suggest that they have the stamp of approval of the government of Manitoba on these funds, unlike other provinces, including the one to the west of us that has in fact lent its name to funds and said that these are Saskatchewan-backed funds.

We have been very scrupulous and said, we do not want that to be the case, that these are private solicitations of investment and that the government of Manitoba has only its involvement in the approval for the funds that is ultimately given by Ottawa.

We have been very cautious to say that the types of investments that they can put themselves into are ones in which the capital must indeed be safeguarded, so that they do not go into high-risk ventures, Mr. Speaker. They have all sorts of opportunities to be abused, and we have done what we believe is due diligence in ensuring that those sorts of things happen.

First and foremost, we have made it absolutely clear that they cannot say that they are authorized by or that they are fronted by or guaranteed by the Province of Manitoba, and I give her—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Judicial System Public Confidence

Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

Criminal charges are laid against a controversial lawyer. The charges are dropped. Senior police officials are transferred. A secret report is prepared for the mayor. The police chief apparently meets with the Crown. The mayor blames the Crown, and I assume the Crown holds the police responsible.

What steps if any will the minister take to restore full confidence in the justice system as a result of the Pollock matter?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I think it is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, when you are bringing allegations into the Legislature of the province of Manitoba that you check out the accuracy of the facts that you bring forward. In fact, that is one of our rules, as I recall it.

* (1355)

I know the honourable member reads the newspapers. I know the newspapers have characterized the reaction of the Mayor of Winnipeg as somehow pointing fingers at the prosecution in the matter. I can only suggest the honourable member talk to the mayor, go directly to the source, if that is what the mayor is doing. I have not been given any indications by the mayor myself about fingers being pointed in the direction of the Crown.

Although, I can tell the honourable member that since the matter about which he asks arose, there have indeed been discussions between the Crown of this province and the Winnipeg city police with respect to the charging policy that ought to be used in the future for prosecutions in this province. Those discussions are coming to a point where we can come out with a charging policy for Manitoba that may avoid getting into some of the perceptual difficulties, the trap into which the honourable member seems to have fallen.

Mr. Chomlak: The trap seems to be, the minister seems to constantly bait the media or the opposition for areas that are his responsibility.

Does the minister have confidence that the system is working effectively and that occurrences of this kind will not happen again? If he does not have confidence, will he launch an investigation?

Mr. McCrae: The Winnipeg city police is the responsibility of the properly and duly elected council of the City of Winnipeg, and the responsibilities of the province are spelled out clearly in the provincial police act. It might make interesting reading for the honourable member.

We have ongoing communications with police authorities throughout this province. Problems arise, problems are solved, and I would like to think solved effectively in this province. No province is immune from issues that arise having to do with the administration of justice. Manitoba is certainly no exception to that rule, and Manitoba has indeed encountered difficulties in recent years.

We have taken concrete steps to put into place probably one of the best justice systems in this country. That does not mean that there are no problems remaining and that problems do not need to be solved as and when they arise. We do as diligent a job as we can to keep on top of those problems and to solve them in a meaningful way, which will result we hope ultimately in a higher level of confidence in the justice system.

Harvey Pollock Case Investigation

Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan): The minister alluded in a report to the fact that he would consider launching an investigation or commission to study the matter.

Will the minister now launch a public investigation, rather than do everything behind closed doors as appears to be his habit?

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I think to be fair, Mr. Speaker, it would be right and proper for me to reject categorically and out of hand the suggestion that the Department of Justice in Manitoba operates in the way described by the honourable member. If the honourable member has a real question he wants to put, I will be pleased to answer it.

Norway House Indian Band Employment Project Funding

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education and Training (Mr. Derkach).

A year ago the minister committed his department to fund the Native employability training placement centre project of the Norway House Indian Band through a grant of \$35,000 as a salary of the co-ordinator and assuming the cost of the office space as well as monitoring and evaluating the project. Last week, the band was advised by letter from the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs that no department of this administration would fulfill the previous commitment that the minister had made to the band and also made by his deputy.

My question for the minister is straightforward. Why did he not live up to that commitment of March 27, 1990? Why will he not now fund the project? I have documents here, Mr. Speaker, that I want to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Table, fine. The question has been put.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs, responsible for Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, let me first of all say to the honourable member for The Pas that discussions had been held with the Norway House Band and the leadership from that community. There were discussions related to a support of some kind as it related to the project. I believe it was an alternative being looked at of some office space or some staff position available in Winnipeg at which, apparently, it was not acceptable or was not agreed to be sufficient. That, basically, was the commitment as I understand it.

If there is anything more to it, I will report back to the House after I have had a chance to investigate more fully the situation.

* (1400)

Northern Manitoba Employment Services

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the same minister is: If this minister is not prepared to fund training programs, even programs to which he has committed to himself, how does he expect the cycle of poverty in the north to be broken, especially amongst those who have the fewest job opportunities in society?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs, responsible for Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the greatest problem in the continuation of the cycle of poverty and unemployment in the north certainly was because of the 16 years of unattended activities of the New Democratic Party who ignored the northern people and the Native people. It was their record of inactivity and uncaring approach that has left the north in the kind of situation it is. I think he should stop and investigate a little closer before he stands and asks a question as to the conditions of the north, trying to blame this party and this government for the conditions which were left after 16 years of NDP in the north.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the project and the program that he is talking about was in fact a federal program and that is where the funds, I believe, should come to support such a project.

Northern Manitoba Employment Services

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Minister of Family Services.

In view of growing unemployment in the north, as a result of massive layoffs, and the growing need for trained and skilled people for future employment opportunities, will the minister assure this House that he will maintain the human resource centres as well as the employment service offices in northern Manitoba?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, the member is asking a similar question that the member for Brandon East

(Mr. Leonard Evans) asked a couple of weeks ago. I indicated to him that he was working from inaccurate information at that time.

We are still in the process of making many decisions which will be the subject of the provincial budget, which will be tabled hopefully later this month. We will have a chance to discuss these things in some detail when we get into the Estimates process.

55-Plus Program Deindexing

Mr. Nell Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, six years ago the federal Minister of Finance attempted to deindex the pensions of our senior citizens, setting off a storm of protest across the country which ended with the cancellation of the government's plan. When Solange Denis confronted the Prime Minister and said, good-bye, Charlie Brown, well, Charlie Brown is alive and well and sitting in the Premier's chair.

Point of Order

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would remind the honourable member for St. Boniface that we refer to all honourable members in this Chamber as honourable members, and I would ask the honourable member for St. Boniface to withdraw that comment.

Mr. Gaudry: I have great respect for the Chair, and I will withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the honourable member for St. Boniface.

* * *

Mr. Gaudry: This government has adopted the ideological mantle of their Mulroney cousin and is deindexing the provincial 55-Plus program.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Why is this government placing the blame for the bad economic times upon the seniors of this province by deindexing the 55-Plus benefit, which is directed at those seniors most in need, and will they reverse this policy and reinstate this cut to seniors?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, this administration is faced with some very, very difficult challenges. -(interjection)- Well, choices. The member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) says choices.

I will tell him about choices that are made by Liberal governments. Clyde Wells, the Premier of Newfoundland, has cut 2,600 people from their public service. He has closed 360 beds. He has cut 300 nurses, and he has decreased many, many services to seniors and to poor people in his province. He has made choices, Liberal choices that I do not agree with.

We are looking on a very balanced basis at all of the things that we must provide to the people of this province. We have said before that we are going to do this on a balanced and a fair basis.

We are protecting health care so that people will have beds available to them, unlike the Liberals have done in Newfoundland, where they have cut 360 beds. We are protecting our healthcare dollars so that the hospitals will continue to operate.

Mr. Speaker, we have passed along not only a 4.5 percent increase to those on welfare but, in addition, had them keep their rebate from the GST, an additional 4 percent—8.5 percent benefit this year passed along to the most vulnerable in our society. We are looking at these things on a fair and valid basis.

Seniors' Society Recommendations

Mr. Nell Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Premier.

In view of the Recommendation 13 of the Manitoba Society of Seniors 1991 position paper which asked the government to seek ways to direct additional funding to the 55-Plus income supplements program, as to increase benefits to single, unattached persons, particularly women who represent one of the poorest groups in Canadian society, why is the Premier ignoring the Manitoba Society of Seniors? Why is he more interested in pursuing his goal of slashing social services instead of protecting seniors in need?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal Party in this Legislature wants to talk about harming senior citizens, they can talk about the commitment that their Leader made in Minnedosa when she said that she would kick 40 percent of those who were in personal care homes out on the streets. She said that she would send 40 percent of those who were in personal care homes in Manitoba out on the streets, because they did not deserve and they did not need to be in personal care homes.

She said she would charge the vulnerable, the poor, the elderly in our hospitals for food, Mr. Speaker. She would charge them for extra things like toothbrushes and toothpaste. She would charge them for all sorts of extra things. That is what I think is irresponsible. That is Liberal policy in Manitoba and we will not do that.

Seniors' Minister Responsibility

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my final supplemental is for the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Why did he support this attack of Manitoba seniors, and why did he not stand up and protect those he is in charge to serve?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister responsible for Seniors): Mr. Speaker, . . . been through the process that we have gone through the last month and a half will be dealt with at the budget time. The announcements of all the seniors and the 55-Plus plan will be through that announcement.

AIDS Prevention Programs Government Initiatives

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, three months ago the Minister of Health did a disservice to this province by suggesting that we really did not have an AIDS problem in Manitoba.

Yesterday, in response to the news about a study showing an increase of eight times the rate of infection among Manitobans the Minister said, and I quote: there is good news in this study for Manitoba.

Only the Minister of Health could find good news in a study that found two pregnant women for the first time infected with HIV and 56 cases of men—all new cases in terms of the AIDS problem now in Manitoba.

I want to ask the Minister of Health, is the news of even one pregnant woman infected with AIDS or one new case among the male community in Manitoba or an 8 percent increase in the rate of infection not serious enough to warrant some leadership from this minister and some public action?

* (1410)

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, as often happens when my honourable friend, the NDP Health critic, poses a question, she does not have her facts straight. She suffers from the same congenital disease that her Leader does and I regret that.

She indicated that these were 56 new cases. There is no possible way for my honourable friend to make that statement. It is an unfactual statement because it was a blind study with absolutely no ability to identify whether those 56 individuals were already identified as carrying the AIDS virus. So let my honourable friend not try to start a wave of alarmist concern with those kinds of false statements.

Now, let me tell my honourable friend that, yes, the infection rate was higher than some predicted and significantly lower than others predicted. Now, Mr. Speaker, I happen to think that being significantly lower is good news for Manitobans. I happen to think that having the lowest infection rate of expectant mothers in Canada is good news for Manitoba. I happen to think it is good news for Manitoba that no intravenous drug users were found to be infected with the AIDS virus. That is good news for Manitoba, and I do not accept the advice that we are spending too much money in the province of Manitoba combating this deadly disease.

AIDS Statistics Infection Rate

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): We, on this side of the House, do not accept the news of even one expectant mother infected with HIV, or any new cases of AIDS in the province of Manitoba, and we find the inaction of this minister appalling in the face of a very serious dangerous disease.

I want to ask the minister if, in view of this study which shows a rate increase of 8 percent higher, in terms of HIV infections, will this minister now publicly recognize that we have a serious problem? Will he finally admit that this is not a problem confined to a minority group in society, but that it is insidiously and steadily moving into the wider population?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, again my honourable friend does not have her facts straight when she presents the question. Now I will try very diligently and sincerely, as we

debate the Estimates, to make my honourable friend understand and pose factual questions. I may not be successful, but let me tell my honourable friend that it is recognized across Canada by the Canadian Public Health Association, that Manitoba under this government had the most progressive advertising campaign targeted at the youth of Manitoba, widely recognized, acknowledged and acclaimed.

Secondly, it is widely recognized that we have one of the most progressive peer counselling projects to have counselling at the university and community college campuses throughout this province so that students in that high-risk age groups, 15 to 24, receive peer counselling. It is widely recognized that our Street LINKS program, in co-operation with the City of Winnipeg, is the most progressive program reaching a high-risk needle trade group of individuals and street kids in the city of Winnipeg. Those are positive steps by this government, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Speaker, we have a problem that the minister still refuses to recognize. He does not have to keep telling me I have got it all wrong when his study he is familiar with shows—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

AIDS Prevention Programs Government Initiatives

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member for St. Johns, kindly put your question now, please.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): I want to ask the Minister of Health, as soon as he has the final report of these two studies, would he commit himself to tabling those results here in this Legislature, and would he also commit himself to meeting with the community activists, the stakeholders in this area, immediately upon receipt of that report to discuss the alarming increase in the rate of HIV infections?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, this is reminiscent of five years ago when we had the alarming language used around the potential growth of AIDS in the population in North America and around the world. That kind of alarmism did not serve the purposes of education which we have undertaken in the last two years successfully with high-risk groups, with schoolchildren, with the community at large. It has

led to a progressive group of programs which are recognized as some of the leading ones in Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that my honourable friend contact Dr. Hammond, the researcher who developed these statistics, and ask him if it is his intent as the researcher and the owner of those statistics to make them public. I have no difficulty with such public release.

Mr. Speaker: Time for Oral Questions has expired.

Speaker's Rulings

Mr. Speaker: I have several rulings for the House.

On Wednesday, March 20, 1991, I took under advisement a matter of privilege raised by the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton). I wish to thank all honourable members who provided advice to the Chair.

The matter arose because of a decision taken that day to restrict access to the Legislative Building as a result of a large demonstration on the grounds outside the building. The motion proposed by the honourable member was that "members of the public not be denied access to the Legislative Building, and that the restriction of access by the government be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections." The member's main points, I believe, were:

- (1) that there had been a denial of open access to this building;
- (2) that the provincial government does not have jurisdiction within the parliamentary precincts; and
- (3) that the unilateral decision of the government to restrict access to the building had resulted in persons who had previously received passes being unable to enter the galleries of this Chamber.

The government House leader stated that the matter was not one of privilege, as members' rights were not affected by any action taken nor any words spoken. The House leader for the second opposition party argued that members have a right to have individuals present in the gallery. He stated that under Citation 40 of Beauchesne's 6th Edition, the Speaker has the right to order the galleries cleared without a motion of the House to that effect and submitted that the Speaker had been denied the use of that authority because the government had

prevented individuals from entering the building itself.

This situation is not unlike one which occurred here in June of 1990, when the then honourable member for Rupertsland raised a matter of privilege about public access to the galleries of this Chamber. In ruling on that matter, I cited Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, which defines privilege as "the sum of the peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively as a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament, and by Members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions."

I also referenced the Canadian authority, Joseph Maingot, in Parliamentary Privilege in Canada, who indicates that parliamentary privilege extends to witnesses, legal counsel and to petitioners "participating in some parliamentary proceeding"—and I emphasize those words.

I stated in my June 1990 ruling, however, that privilege does not extend to visitors to a Legislature. Also I advised the House in June of House of Commons Speaker Sauve's ruling of May 29, 1980, in which she stated that a complaint made by an elected member that some of his constituents had been denied access to the gallery of the House of Commons was not a question of privilege, but rather one of security. My ruling in June of 1990 was that while the matter raised was a most serious complaint, it was not a matter of privilege.

* (1420)

I believe it would be a good time to bring to the attention of this House a ruling of Speaker Lamoureux of the Canadian House of Commons of April 29, 1971, in which he pointed out the limited nature of a member's parliamentary privilege, and I quote: ". . . parliamentary privilege does not go much beyond the right of free speech in the House of Commons and the right of a Member to discharge his duties in the House as a Member of the House of Commons." He noted that in many cases, if a member has a cause for complaint, it ought to be taken up in the form of a grievance against the minister or the government by way of a substantive motion, not as a matter of privilege.

The matter raised by the honourable member has not demonstrated how the actions complained of have made it impossible or very much more difficult for him to carry out his parliamentary duties. This is

a fundamental test which must be met by a claim of breach of privilege.

Therefore, I must rule that the matter raised by the opposition House leader is not a matter of privilege.

Having dealt with the technical question of privilege, I would like to take this opportunity to comment upon other issues related to the situation which arose on March 20. During the arguments raised on this matter of privilege and on a second matter of privilege raised that same day, some honourable members made the point that any member of the public should be able to enter the Legislative Building at any time. Again, I wish to reference my ruling to this House of June 19, 1990, when I quoted from a House of Commons report from the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization, which report also stated, and I quote: "Your Committee believes that the main problem in connection with security in Parliament is to strike a reasonable balance between the importance of allowing ready access to the House of Commons on the one hand and the necessity of preserving the security of the House on the other."

Joseph Maingot, on page 150, clearly indicates that, and I quote: "the public does not have an intrinsic right to enter property merely because it is owned or used by a branch of the government." In reference to the Senate and the House of Commons he continues that they "have at least the same right to exclude strangers as the law affords to private persons in possession of property."

Indeed, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled on the matter of public access, and I quote: "the liberty of access which the public has to attend the proceedings of the House of Assembly and its Committees and to visit the precincts and rooms of the House is not a right but a license or privilege capable of being revoked."

In his submission, the opposition House leader, I believe, argued that the staff of the Department of Government Services did not have, as he put it, the right to unilaterally make decisions about matters within the precincts of parliament. He referenced a portion of Citation 130 of Beauchesne in this regard. I would note that the Centre Block of the Canadian Parliament is controlled by the protective staffs of the Senate and the House of Commons, who are parliamentary employees; outside of that building, security and control of access are more directly under the control of the executive branch of the

government. This is not unlike the situation we have here in Manitoba. Security for this building is provided by and is under the control of the Department of Government Services.

Nevertheless, we still have the ongoing question of jurisdiction and security. As I indicated in my ruling in June of last year, the Department of Government Services is responsible for security in all government operated buildings, including this one. The Legislative Assembly Management Commission has a shared responsibility with that department respecting this Chamber and the Assembly offices.

I cite subsection 6(e) of The Legislative Assembly Management Commission Act: the Commission "is responsible subject to the authority of the department of the executive government of the province charged with the responsibility for such security, for maintaining a proper system of security for the Chamber and the Assembly offices."

We must resolve certain questions, including the existing situation where the House controls the galleries in terms of persons entering it, by way of the use of passes issued under the authority of the Speaker, and in terms of ejecting persons from the gallery, but the security of the public visiting this building, as well as the security of the persons working here, is under the control of the Department of Government Services. I note that in his submission on the matter of privilege, the government House leader stated that there was a need for greater discourse as to where the jurisdiction of the Speaker, as the chief custodian of the Legislature, begins and ends and where the Minister of Government Services has jurisdiction, and he stated that the question of who and how many people can come into this building and/or enter the galleries needs to be discussed and addressed.

Therefore, I will immediately be convening a meeting of the three House leaders as well as the Minister of Government Services to have preliminary discussions. This will be followed by a discussion of the issues at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly Management Commission. I believe that such an all-party forum is the most appropriate place in which to resolve these very serious difficulties.

* * *

Mr. Speaker: On Friday, March 22, 1991, I took under advisement a point of order raised by the honourable government House leader (Mr. Manness) during Oral Questions. The point of order alleged that the member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) had imputed unworthy motives in using the words, "I want to ask the Premier, is that the policy of the government? To start with hitting the aboriginal people, the northern people, perhaps because they did not vote right." I indicated to the House that I had some question as to whether the words complained of were spoken on or off the record. Hansard confirms that the words, indeed, were on the record.

As I have indicated in the past, language which imputes or attributes bad or unworthy motives of a member or which impugns or attacks as false the motive of a member is unparliamentary. The Speaker, when determining whether certain words or phrases are unparliamentary or not, must consider matters such as a manner, tone, intention of the person speaking and, in some cases, the degree of provocation. Also, as I have said before, and I would refer members in particular to a ruling of November 24, 1988, this is a political forum in which all members hold strong and often opposing views. Provocative and sometimes discourteous, but not necessarily unparliamentary words may be used. In this case, I do not believe the words did impugn unworthy motives. Further, the honourable member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) was making a general comment about government policy and was not directing his remarks at a specific member. Our past practice and past rulings indicate that general observations about a group of members have been treated more leniently than direct and specific remarks about individual honourable members. I am therefore ruling that the government House leader did not have a point of order.

But while I am ruling that there is no point of order in this particular case, I note that the decorum in this session is heading for a new low. "Limited" heckling is an accepted parliamentary practice, but the noise level in this place during Oral Questions and often during debate has made it virtually impossible to hear the person who has the floor.

This is a public forum with the public watching and hearing us both in the galleries and on television. The TV camera may leave at the end of Oral

Questions, but I would remind all honourable members that the audio portion of our proceedings is transmitted on cable TV from the time the House starts until it finishes. My office continues to receive complaints from the public about the lack of decorum and dignity in this House. Members have also approached me privately with the same concerns.

I am asking all honourable members to moderate the tone and the volume of their language and to exercise care in their choice of words, both when you have the floor and when you are listening to other members who have the floor.

We are wrestling with some grave questions here. We have just had two members raise serious matters of privilege about the ability of members of the public to view these proceedings. What kind of image are we conveying to those who are watching and listening? I ask in the strongest and most sincere way that all members of the House, government and both opposition parties, remember who we are, where we are and who put us here—and act accordingly.

Nonpolitical Statements

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could I have leave for a nonpolitical statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member have leave for a nonpolitical statement? Leave.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, I think all members of the House today would like to take note of two events that particularly affected women historically and in the present in our nation.

Today in Quebec City, Madam Pauline Vanier will be buried. Madam Pauline Vanier was known primarily as the spouse of a person active in public life, but she was much more than that. I had the opportunity of meeting her on one occasion when she was chatelaine of the Governor General's residence. At that point, I think, anyone who had met her would realize that this was a woman of great warmth and charm who reached out to people in a very loving and caring manner.

* (1430)

It, of course, surprises no one that someone like that would have a son who would spend his life dedicated to the mentally handicapped and that she, in turn, when she finished her involvement in public

life would join him in France to participate in that care and compassion for the mentally handicapped within our community.

Just as we watch one era pass and Madam Vanier buried, we watch a new era begin because in the province of British Columbia some of us learned last night and some of us woke up this morning to discover that we have for the first time in the history of Canada a woman Premier in the province of British Columbia.

I think that we all can rejoice in another step forward for women. We can all rejoice in the fact that young women in this province and other provinces can say, that is one more hurdle that has been crossed, that is one more opportunity that I have, that is one more occasion in which I can see myself being able to educate myself and move toward. These two important occasions both happening literally within 24 hours of one another I think are important for women generally, but particularly for the young women of our country.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Government Services): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to get up on a nonpolitical statement.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable minister have leave to make a nonpolitical statement? Leave.

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have been associated with the new Premier Johnson in B.C. In my tenure as Minister of Urban Affairs, I had a couple of years of meetings and got to know her very, very well. I remember the last time I went to B.C., in November, she told me that she was enjoying her job as Deputy Premier, never suspecting that she would be Premier someday. She is a very, very fine lady, and she will serve them well while they are going through the process of their leadership review. I congratulate her on behalf of the government of Manitoba.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House Business

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as we have a situation whereby if Bill 33, the Legislative Assembly Management Bill, is not dealt with in an expeditious manner by this House that certain increases of salaries to members will automatically occur, I am asking members of the Legislature whether or not they will grant leave to the consideration of Bill 33.

Point of Order

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if it is in order for the government House leader to be making editorial comments and calling it government business. We wish that all bills be dealt with through the normal process, and we are not willing to give leave.

If the government House leader wishes to expedite any dealing with a bill that contains a number of sections and particularly wants to deal with the salary freeze provisions, we are quite prepared to do that, but there are a number of other sections, including a section that was brought in yesterday without any consultation whatsoever with opposition parties that forms a part of that bill. We do not believe that the government should expect the members of the Legislature should rubber-stamp hastily made bills.

I want to make it clear, Mr. Speaker, if you are allowing editorial comments from the government House leader, we are quite willing to expedite measures related to the salary freeze, but not with other provisions of that bill. The choice then is up to the government House leader as where to proceed from here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is there leave to—

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

Some Honourable Members: No.

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

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Second Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make sure the record is clear that we in the Liberal Party would grant leave to allow the bill to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the honourable member.

The honourable member for Thompson did not have a point of order.

* (1440)

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave of the House to proceed with the entire Bill 33? Is leave agreed?

Some Honourable Members: Leave.

Some Honourable Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: No. Leave is denied.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, would you then call Bills 5 and 6 as shown on the Order Paper.

Committee Changes

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make some changes to the committees.

I move, seconded by the member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: the member for Arthur-Virden (Mr. Downey) for the member for St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau); and the member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) for the member for Sturgeon Creek (Mr. McAlpine).

I move, seconded by the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be amended as follows: the member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer) for the member for Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld).

Mr. Speaker: Agreed? Agreed.

DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS

Bill 5—The Mental Health Amendment Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), Bill 5, The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale, standing in the name of the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis).

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Stand? Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

Bill 6—The Mines and Minerals and Consequential Amendments Act

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), Bill 6, The Mines and Minerals and Consequential Amendments Act; Loi sur les mines et les minéraux et modifiant diverses dispositions législatives, standing in the name of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickes). Stand?

An Honourable Member: Stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave that this matter remain standing? Leave?

An Honourable Member: Leave.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

* (1450)

House Business

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that it is the wish of the House at this time to entertain certain motions of condolence for members who have represented Manitobans in the past. It may take us a few moments to get organized. I would therefore ask the House to move into that consideration if possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am going to recess the House till three o'clock. The one-minute bell will go at exactly three o'clock, so this House will be functional at 3:01.

* * *

The House took recess at 2:52 p.m.

After Recess

The House resumed at 3 p.m.

Motions of Condolence

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Keith Cosens, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, as we rise today to discuss and speak upon the various motions of condolence that are being presented in the Legislature, one of the unique characteristics of these condolence motions is that many of us in the Legislature know most of the people about whom we will be speaking on a personal basis. Part of it is due to the fact that perhaps many of us have been

here more years than we would like to think about, and we are getting on in age.

The other part is that a number of these former colleagues, former members of this Legislature, passed I believe too early in their time and at an untimely and young age.

Certainly Keith Cosens is well known to all members on this side of the House and many members on the other side of the House. He is not only a former colleague in the Legislature but certainly someone who was considered by many of us a very good friend.

He was born in Teulon in 1932 and was raised on the family farm in Argyle, graduated from Stonewall Collegiate, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts, his Bachelor of Education and his Masters of Education degree from the University of Manitoba. He began his teaching career in Kelwood and also taught in Wawanesa and Rosser before coming eventually to Stonewall Collegiate in 1960. He became eventually the vice-principal of Stonewall Collegiate in 1965.

Keith always enjoyed very much being an educator and being associated with young people. He was the president of the Interlake Teachers' Association and a provincial executive member of The Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Keith was always actively involved in his community. He was chairman of the Congregational Church of Stonewall, United Church, a manager of the Stonewall Singing Carillons, executive member of the Scouts and Guides Association, president of the Stonewall Tennis Club, secretary of the South Interlake Development Corporation, and a patron of the Peace Gardens Music Camp.

He was active in the Stonewall Lions Club, serving as president in 1989 and instrumental in the construction of the Lions Manor in Stonewall, serving on the building committee. In fact, he was honoured with their international award of the Lions Club just shortly before his death last year. It was the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award of Lions Club International for his dedication to humanitarian service.

Keith was, of course, elected to this Legislature in 1977 as a member for Gimli and he served immediately upon election. He was appointed as the Minister of Education and served with distinction for four years in that capacity. He served as a

member and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada. He was a prominent spokesperson for government and certainly, I think, served effectively and well in all of his capacities as a member of this Legislature and a member of the government of Sterling Lyon.

In 1982 and '83, he went into the private sector and served as vice-president of Northern Goose Processors in Teulon, his home community—his community at birth I should say, because of course he lived much of his adult life in Stonewall. He continued service in public life. He became the executive director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba, was at one time my special assistant when I was Leader of the Opposition, and became a special projects officer for the government on our election to office in 1988.

Certainly Keith is going to be missed by all who knew him, because he was indeed a good friend. He was a true gentleman. All of us know him as being a person who was always very calm, steady, above all else very, very friendly. He was a real family man. He really loved his wife, Marie, and each of his children. He was very, very proud of them—Brant, Kevin, Lisa—for all of their accomplishments and for all of their contributions as fine citizens.

He had a broad range of friends, and I know by virtue of the attendants at his funeral, there were people from all political parties there. There were people who had known him in a variety of different ways, through his public service, through his efforts in the community. He was certainly a very sociable individual and one who, in interacting with his colleagues, was always a part of many of the other activities that give us fond memories of our service in this Legislature. I know that along with fellow caucus members he often went on fishing and hunting trips in the north, and he had a great fondness for northern Manitoba and for the many people that he got to know up there.

I had many happy hours in social gatherings with him. I remember, as a matter of fact, very fondly, Keith and I playing horseshoes in the back yard of the former mayor of Winnipeg Beach. Keith always remembered that with great delight because he and I were partners against the former mayor and Keith's former executive assistant, and we did not let them beat us once all afternoon. So he was one of those types of individuals that you could enjoy and always have happy times with.

Certainly, he was a person of honesty, of sincerity, of great integrity, and on behalf of his former colleagues, on behalf of all of his friends, on behalf of this Legislature, I certainly want to extend to Marie, to Brant, to Kevin, to Lisa, to their spouses and families our sincerest sympathies and our gratitude for a life of service to Manitoba.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of the New Democratic Party, members of this side of the House, we want to join the Premier (Mr. Filmon) on the motion of condolence presented here today on Keith Cosens. Certainly, we would like our words passed on to the family in terms of the respect we have for the contributions he has made to public life in Manitoba and contributions he has made to the democratic public life in this Legislature.

As the Premier has noted, he was a career educator known in the Interlake area and widely in the province as a career educator. He, of course, was well known for his activities, I believe, as vice-principal of the Stonewall Collegiate prior to his election in office in the Legislature in 1977. He was appointed to the now-named Ministry of Education, a portfolio, I believe, he held right throughout the Lyon administration from 1977 to 1981.

He was a person, as the Premier has noted, of integrity and commitment to education, and I, too, know some of the personal sides of Keith Cosens. I think all of us in the House would see Keith Cosens in the coffee shop. Those of us elected more recently got to know him fairly well in the coffee shop. He was always there for a good old-fashioned political barb back and forth, and I think all of us enjoyed that side of Keith, the kind of fierce partisan barb with a tremendous sense of humour and humanity he brought to those comments. As the Premier has noted, many of the people who we are honouring today in this Legislature have indeed passed at a very young age, and Keith Cosens is one of those people.

We would just like to express our sincere condolences to the family and say on the record that Manitobans were well served by his contributions to our public life. Thank you, very much.

* (1510)

Mr. Nell Gaudry (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Liberal Party, we would also like to join the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) to express our condolences

to the family of Keith Cosens. I did not know him personally, but knew of him personally by his involvement in the community in the Department of Education, in his years that he served in the Legislature, having been involved in St. Boniface with the school divisions. He was well respected.

We could go on. I think the Premier of Manitoba, the honourable Mr. Filmon, expressed what he has done for the community, I think, for all ages, especially in the education field. On behalf of the Liberal Party, I would like to express condolences to his family and that they be passed on sincerely on behalf of the Liberal Party. Thank you.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Rural Development): I, too, want to join in the condolence motion to the Cosens family and say particularly, as a friend of Keith and the family, Linda, Ryan and I, having had the opportunity to come to the Manitoba Legislature in 1977 to share, first with Keith, the first time that he was elected, the first time that I was elected and to be appointed to cabinet some 10 or 11 days after the election on October 11 of 1977, and to go to cabinet was truly a first-time experience.

We had many opportunities, as we shared offices or adjoining offices at the back of the building, whether it was after a cabinet meeting or during a day when one of us had a few minutes, to talk about the events of being in government and the experiences that we were having, and this was certainly enjoyable and rewarding to me.

Keith, as an educator and community leader, is certainly well known throughout the area in which he was born and spent a lot of his life, and had many good friends. Some of his friends are from the Arthur-Virden constituency, having spent several years with the Innes family. I have had many fond discussions with the Innes family about the time that was spent when Keith boarded at their place when teaching school, I believe it was, at Kelwood.

I have to say as well that it was truly demonstrated, on any visits that Linda, Ryan and I had to the Cosens' home, the openness in which friends were welcomed, the attitude which both Keith and Marie had to their family, the love and the caringness. The caring approach they put towards their family was put towards each and every one of those who entered their home and was certainly well respected within their community.

I do have to mention, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) made comment about the hunting trip on which I had the privilege of joining Keith Cosens. It was another first-time experience when we had a goose-hunting trip up north of Churchill and had to overnight in a small pup tent. I have to say it was a tremendous experience to be able to share with a friend in the openness and the atmosphere of Canada's great north. Those kinds of fond memories will never be taken away from me, and they will be an enjoyment which I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I know he was taken too early, and we all regret that, but I think Keith did live life to the fullest. I am sure that it was God's will that he be taken to serve in the greater capacity, which I am sure Keith never held a sour note about. I am sure that he faced that the way in which he faced life, as a courageous person and one whom I had a lot of respect for and will miss. Thank you.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): I, too, would like to add my condolences to the Cosens family and express some of my sentiments with regard to my knowing Keith Cosens. I came to know Keith when he was the Minister of Education in the early years, in 1977. I was chairman of a board at that time. I came to know Keith quite well and also respected the contributions he made, not only to this province, but especially in the area of education. As an educator, Mr. Speaker, I can say truly that Keith contributed very generously, was committed to ensuring that the educational system of this province would improve under his stewardship.

In later years, I must say that I came to know Keith more personally when I entered the area of politics, and indeed I came to know his wife and his family, because his wife did come from the Shoal Lake area, the western part of Manitoba. They spent much time in the western part of this province, so there were many occasions when I had an opportunity to sit down with Keith and his family and talk about not only education, but indeed this beautiful province. We will all miss Keith. That goes without saying, but indeed he has contributed very richly to this province, and we will all remember him. Thank you.

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and my other colleagues in offering condolences to the Cosens

family. It was my pleasure and privilege to know Keith and to call him my friend.

Keith was born, as you know, in Teulon and attended the Brant/Argyle Elementary School and the Stonewall Collegiate. Keith completed his formal education at the University of Manitoba.

During the winter of 1952, Keith married Marie. Keith and Marie raised three wonderful children, Brant, Kevin and Lisa.

Keith worked as a school administrator in Stonewall prior to his service in this Legislature.

Keith Cosens has an outstanding record of service to his fellow Manitobans. Keith was a life-long Progressive Conservative. Last year, he received the Award of Distinction for outstanding service to his party. Also last year, the Keith A. Cosens Annual Scholarship was established to assist the Stonewall Collegiate grad in furthering his or her studies.

Education was more than an occupation with Keith. Following his election to the Manitoba Legislature in 1977, Keith was appointed Minister of Education and Minister of Continuing Education and Manpower.

During his term as MLA for Gimli, I had the pleasure of serving on the executive of the Gimli PC Association and worked very closely with Keith. Keith was a very well-respected businessman and leader in the community.

In the years that followed, Keith continued to work for a better Manitoba. In 1983, he served as executive assistant to our Leader, the honourable Gary Filmon. The following year, he was appointed Executive Director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba, and in 1988, Keith Cosens went to work for the Province of Manitoba as projects co-ordinator, Awards and Commissions, a position he held until his death.

Keith Cosens' name will serve for years to come as a shining example of dedication and outstanding achievement.

Keith had the honour of leaving Manitoba a better place than he found it. We salute his service to Manitoba and offer our deepest sympathy to Marie and his family.

* (1520)

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, as a long-time

neighbour of Keith Cosens and his family, I, too, wish to add just a few words to the condolence motion currently before the House.

The honourable member for Gimli indicated Keith's long service and devotion to the party of our political persuasion. I have a more intimate recollection of Keith Cosens. His first overt political move was in support of my leadership race back in 1970, when I aspired to that position, and that brought Keith out of the woodwork with banners and flags and things at the Auditorium of the University of Manitoba.

I recall some seven years later, the same Keith Cosens visiting me on a cold winter's night at the ranch, asking me about the trials and tribulations of becoming himself actively involved as a member of the Legislature. He wanted to know about what it meant to his family life and what it meant—yes, even the mechanical things.

He was the principal at the Stonewall Collegiate at that time. The question of remuneration was not all that much different in those days than it is now. So these are the memories that I have of my neighbour and good friend Keith Cosens.

One of the things that I think those of us who had the good fortune of seeing in him shortly before he died was the remarkable courage that he displayed, the remarkable spirit that he displayed. It was not difficult to visit him, even in his very last days. He certainly portrayed a role model that his family can be justly proud of.

Keith Cosens did not leave the public service after his time here in the Legislature. As a senior member of the Lions Club in Stonewall, he was a driving force to providing that community with one of the finest senior citizen projects throughout the Interlake, indeed throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

His wife continues to be extremely active, herself, as a teacher in the Interlake. The family, having a musical bent, enlivens many of our public occasions throughout the Interlake with the choral group that she directs throughout the Interlake.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the thoughts that come to mind when we think of our good friend Keith Cosens. I send my sincerest condolences, those of the neighbouring constituency of Lakeside, to Marie and her family on this occasion.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to associate myself with the resolution expressing sympathy to the family of Keith Cosens.

I was not part of that 1977 era and yet I, too, found myself in the position of developing certain observations and impressions of one Keith Cosens. He always struck me as an individual who, when he made friendships, made strong and lasting friendships. He seemed also to rise above partisan politics, not that he was not partisan, because the world knows that he was.

There are always a handful of people from various political persuasions who seem to be able to rise above partisan politics, sometimes even when they are in this Chamber, but certainly when they leave. He was one of those, at least in my observation.

Colleagues of his and indeed previous speakers, my colleagues have mentioned how he did not turn his back on his constituents and indeed his neighbours, his community.

Mr. Speaker, I always find it kind of fascinating to look upon those who of course retire, either by the will of the people or on their own volition, and how it is they go back to their way of life. All of us who come here at times most likely have been involved in community affairs and, from time to time, some of us enjoy political success leading to government, leading to even having an opportunity to sit at Executive Council and then again, through retirement, in one fashion or another return to the community.

The great observation with Keith, as has been expressed by the Premier and the member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), that in Keith's case he took up the mantle of, again, inspired community work. Of course, to me at least, who tries to observe various retirees of this particular Legislature, that is the very real mark of a man and/or a woman because it says that their community sees them fully for what they are, what they have been and what they continue to be.

I also observed an individual who brought certainly a high degree of professionalism to politics, let alone the high standards in all aspects of his educational endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to extend deepest sympathy to Keith's family. He has left us too early.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to rise with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and other members of this House to express condolences to Keith's family. I rise partly because I knew his wife as much as I knew Keith because Marie came from Shoal Lake. I knew all the Smith family. Marie was one of three girls and people that we grew up with and went to school with.

I had the occasion to meet Keith—really, the first time I can remember meeting him was in church on a Christmas Eve many, many years ago. That is where I got to know him a little bit and got to know he was involved in politics. He expressed to me the qualities that I liked in a person. He was the kind of person you could talk to about anything, a person who was open and committed to his province.

As years went by, I got to know Keith as a family man, as a politician, as a cabinet minister and in that period, '77 to '81, that is when my greatest interest in politics started. I met him a couple of times during that period of time. I got to know him after his career in politics as a businessman, and I have clearly known him as a community leader and a worker on behalf particularly of the Stonewall community of this province.

I think we are all saddened by the fact that Keith was called too soon, far too soon for the efforts he put out for Manitoba. I always thought of Keith as a true and committed Manitoban who always, in everything he did, thought of trying to make Manitoba a better place to live for not only his family, but everybody that he met.

I was certainly impressed with the turnout at his funeral, a very large funeral, as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) mentioned, representatives of all political parties showing the dedication people had to the man and the commitment to support his family at that critical time.

I guess the thing that I remember most about Keith was, as the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) has mentioned, his spirit in the dying days before he was called and his sense of humour. His family reminded me of that in the discussions after the funeral, how he had given them strength in the final days because of his sense of humour.

With that I would like to express condolences to the family on behalf of all the people of Shoal Lake who knew him through his in-laws and the many people who met him at annual Christmas functions at the United Church which he always attended.

* (1530)

Mrs. Louise Dacquay (Seine River): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my personal condolences to Marie Cosens, her daughter Lisa, sons Kevin and Brant and families on the first anniversary of the untimely passing of Keith Cosens, a beloved husband and father.

I had the opportunity of working with Keith Cosens in his capacity as Executive Director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba. This was both a privilege and an honour. He was a colleague and a friend. Keith was a strong and capable administrator and always demonstrated fairness in all decision-making. Keith and I shared in our interest in education and our involvement in education. As has been reiterated earlier, Keith's interest and dedication to education was most noteworthy.

Keith was also an influencing factor in my decision to pursue a career in public life. He was sympathetic to women's issues, and he recognized the need for a stronger commitment by our party to encourage women in politics. Keith was also well known as a keynote speaker. He was articulate, humorous and most professional in his delivery. Keith was also kind, generous, sincere, frank, open-minded and above all, a gentleman. His commitment to his community was above reproach. He truly exemplified the real meaning applied to a volunteer. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to have been associated with such an exemplary citizen of Manitoba.

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I too want to join with our Premier (Mr. Filmon) and others in the House in expressing condolences to the family of Keith Cosens. I want to do it not only on behalf of myself but on behalf of my entire family, who have a long history in the Interlake and have known Keith Cosens for many years, going back to my father's political days starting in the Interlake in 1958 and carrying on with some of my brothers. I have a brother in the educational field, my brother Dennis, who got to know Keith through that particular profession and another brother Tom who became a good personal friend of Keith's.

Being from Gimli myself, whenever I would come in contact with Keith, there was always the bond of Manitoba's Interlake, the pride that we would share in Manitoba's Interlake and the many mutual friends

we shared. I can certainly indicate here today, Mr. Speaker, that those mutual friends always spoke and held Keith with the highest of regard in terms of his competence, his hard work and his genuineness. I also want to indicate, as I touched on Keith's fierce pride for Manitoba's Interlake, I think it is something that many of us coming from there have. I am not sure what it necessarily is that creates that in us, but it certainly is a fine part of Manitoba, and Keith certainly was always proud of his roots in Manitoba's Interlake and served the area very well.

As has been indicated, he certainly passed away at far too young an age but certainly during his short time here on Earth, made a significant contribution to the people of Manitoba in terms of the well-being of all of us. Thank you.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my condolences to the family of Keith Cosens. Keith Cosens taught in the Kelwood area, not far from where I live, then moved away. There was an example of the type of man that he was. How many people remembered him? How many people continued to keep in touch with him? How many people treasured his friendship? I would only want to add that Keith was always one of those people who provided encouragement to his friends, encouragement to those he worked with. He was a role model. No matter what he did, he did it well. He did it with sincerity; he did it with pride. He did it in the best interests of the people he served. He was a friend of everyone whom he touched almost. He was certainly a friend of the public, the people of this province; he was a role model to many of us and he passed away far too soon.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Keith Cosens.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Gordon Fines, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty and a useful life of active community and public service, and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Filmon: Gordon Richard Fines was first elected into the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in the general election of November 10, 1949, as a New Democrat for the electoral division of Winnipeg Centre, later known as St. Matthews.

He was unsuccessful in his election bid in the general election of 1953, and subsequently he ran again unsuccessfully in the 1958, 1959 and 1962 general elections.

During his career, Mr. Fines worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway, as well he was an elementary school teacher. During his active political career, Gordon Fines served as an alderman on the Winnipeg City Council for some 20 years and, in an honour that he shares with a number of current members of the Assembly, he served one term as deputy mayor.

His other public service included serving as Chairman of the Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Commission, a member of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Telephone System, a member of the Highway Traffic Board, a member of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation Board and a member of the Municipal Hospitals Board. He was also a past president of Isaac Brock Community Club.

Although I did not know Mr. Fines personally, as a young person, I recall the name as being one of a prominent public figure who served at both levels of government and on many public boards and commissions. He certainly leaves behind a rich heritage of service to the public, for which we are all very grateful.

To his wife, Marion, and his family, my colleagues and I extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Gordon Fines.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the Premier and members of the Legislative Assembly on the condolence motion before the Chamber here this afternoon.

Gordon Fines was a person who had a long and illustrious public career in Manitoba and in the city of Winnipeg. He is a person who was a working person in the railway. He was a teacher. He was elected in civic jobs, community jobs and other voluntary activities over the great length of his political career.

* (1540)

I knew Gordon Fines as a teacher. He was—I think it was Grade 5 or Grade 6, I cannot recall—a substitute teacher in a school I was attending. He was the first person I ever met in school or any other time that was actually on the radio, you know, as a member of City Council. I thought this was very, very fascinating. Of course, because of that, a lot of us in the class would ask him a lot of questions, not about the subjects we were allegedly supposed to be discussing, but about public life and his job as a city councillor. He would talk a long time and discuss issues with us at a great deal of length. We were very fortunate to have Gordon Fines in our classroom, I think, for almost a whole year, as fate turned out. He was a very, very interesting person for a student to listen to and learn from.

I know Gordon Fines from his career in teaching, not in his career directly in elected politics, but I have spoken to other people who have remembered Gordon Fines. He was, of course, a member of the CCF before the NDP, and he campaigned in areas that he would call and his friends would call tough territory for the CCF numbers of years ago, in St. James and sometimes the west end. He preferred the west end to the St. James area at that time. Of course, he was elected to the Legislature for one term and ran and carried the banner of the New Democratic Party or the CCF in a number of other provincial elections.

He had a very, very long and successful political career in the civic arena. He was elected a number of times as alderman in the City of Winnipeg and, as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has noted, he was elected as deputy mayor in the City of Winnipeg as well, a tremendous honour for him.

He has also a long-term reputation of community service at the Isaac Brock Community Club. He is really well known in the west end of Winnipeg for the contributions he has made to the community life at the Isaac Brock Community Centre.

I would just again like to say to his wife, Marion, and his family, our deepest sympathy and respect for the long and successful career and the dedication that he provided all throughout his life to his fellow citizens, whether it was at a civic level, whether it was at a provincial or at a voluntary level in the various community activities he was involved in.

Thank you.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I in the Liberal Party would like to join with the government and the official opposition in paying our deepest respects to the family of the late Gordon Richard Fines.

You know, when we do these condolence motions we recognize I think, each and every one of us that what we are really doing is celebrating life. Celebrating the life of someone who made an extraordinary contribution to the public process. Anyone who serves for 20 years on the City of Winnipeg's City Council or is elected for one term and runs in a number of elections in which they are defeated but are prepared to show very clearly that this is the political philosophy that they recognize and accept, is someone who has said to himself and therefore his family, I care deeply about my community. I care deeply about my province. I care deeply about my country. Therefore, as part of that commitment to living I am going to commit myself to the political process.

It is very easy for those who are not in public life, I think, to think that there are all kinds of ulterior motives as to why people get into politics. I do not think there are many, as a matter of fact, no matter what your political stripe, other than the desire to be of service, the desire to make a contribution. Gordon Fines, indeed, exemplified his desire to make a contribution to his political party, to his province and to his city. For that, all of us in this Chamber hold him in high respect, and we want his family to know that.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Gordon Fines.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Peter Fox, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in the useful life of active community and public service, and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Filmon: Peter Fox was first elected to this Assembly in the general election of June 23, 1966, as a New Democrat for the electoral division of Kildonan, now known as Concordia.

I recall from my early days in the Legislature that there was the so-called class of '66, that regardless of political stripe used to get together once a year on the 23rd of June and celebrate their first election. It includes, of course, one current member of this assembly, the member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns), and it included, as I recall, the late Russ Doern, Wally McKenzie, and Sam Uskiw. I am sure that the member for Lakeside will tell us who the other auspicious alumni of that group were, but they served, all of them for many, many years in this Chamber.

For instance, Peter Fox was re-elected in the general elections of 1969, 1973, 1977 and 1981 and was replaced eventually by the Leader of the Opposition. Peter, of course, retired from active politics in 1986. Again, I have a special feeling having been here while he served as a member and having known him as an individual, I might say a very friendly individual.

As a matter of fact, I had difficulty believing the stories that I heard from those who sat opposite him during the Schreyer years, in which he was considered to be a very partisan individual, active on—I believe he was the government's representative on Manitoba Hydro's Board.

I believe that he then, of course, became Speaker of this assembly and he was considered to be a pretty stern taskmaster. Those who were on the opposition benches, of course, always had their stories about whether or not he was as even handed as the current Speaker or other Speakers, but having said that I think they said it with tongue in cheek because they appreciated him as an individual who was certainly very sociable.

I can recall many occasions on which we got together at the annual dinner of the Manitoba Hotel Association. In fact I recall being on the bus to Brandon in one of those early years with his wife Nancy, who was always involved with him in all public activities, his daughter Elaine. We had such an enjoyable time on the MLA's bus for MLA's day at the Brandon winter fair. Certainly, he will be sadly missed by all of his friends and acquaintances and certainly his surviving family, his wife Norma and the children and their families.

* (1550)

Prior to entering politics, Peter Fox was active in the labour movement, and I think it is probably somewhat fitting that he should be replaced in the seat of Concordia which was his constituency by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), who, of course, was a leader in the labour movement before entering this Chamber. Peter, I know, was proud of that and proud of his successor's accomplishments and his successor's experiences and pedigree in coming to this Chamber. Peter was a leader in the labour movement through his service in executive positions for the Winnipeg Labour Congress.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who remember Peter, remember him very fondly, remember him well, appreciate very much his devotion to service, his many, many contributions to the service of his community and to this Chamber. We want to extend to his wife, Norma, and his family our sincere sympathies for a life of service to the community and a life of strong contributions in all of the areas in which he participated.

Mr. Doer: It is indeed an honour to second the motion of condolence for Peter Fox and to celebrate his public life and his public life in this Legislature.

Certainly as the Premier has pointed out, Mr. Fox, Peter, a 20-year career in the Manitoba Legislature, a career that spans three different decades. He was a person that has, I guess, worked with and under and across from—let me count them—at least four Premiers that I can think of, four different administrations, with the Roblin years, the Weir years, the Schreyer years, the Lyon years and the Pawley years—five, I am sorry. Of course, that always gave him a tremendous insight into public life, policy issues and he had a wealth of experience which he shared with all of us.

I think many of us saw him on the loge after his retirement, often. He would often stop in at our caucus meetings, our Monday night meetings. I know it was not for the meals. It was really for the advice and ideas he had. He was a tremendous person for all of us, and as the MLA that had the opportunity to serve or run in his seat after he decided to step down, he was tremendous for me in that area and carrying on as an elected MLA.

He was Speaker of this Assembly and that was a job, I am not aware of all the comments about Speakers from past years, but he was very proud to have been nominated by Ed Schreyer and selected

by this Assembly to that position. He was very, very proud of the role of Speaker in a democracy. He was very proud of the workings of this Chamber itself, and he always talked at length not just about the partisan side of it as a New Democrat, but also about democracy in action and his role as Speaker in that.

He was very, very proud of being Speaker and it was the job that he had a tremendous respect for and was so honoured to be chosen. I think that was something we all observed when we celebrated with Peter just a couple of years ago the hanging of his portrait in the hallway with other Speakers.

He was part of the labour movement as the Premier has mentioned, and he would say that before he would say he was MLA. He would say that before he would say he was Speaker. He would say that after all the titles he would make sure that everybody knew that he was not an honourable this, or an honourable that, or an MLA this, or any "hotshot" to use his language. He was from the labour movement and he saw himself as a representative of the labour movement in terms of the words and ideas and commitment he had to this Assembly. He felt it was very important that democracy include people who worked on all sides of the employment spectrum, Mr. Speaker. He felt that it was very important that he and other people who were working at Canada Packers as engineers or other plants in the province be also in this Assembly. He felt that was a tremendous achievement on his part, and he was very, very proud of it.

I also knew Peter as an MLA. I was working, I think, as deputy superintendent of the Manitoba Youth Centre in the early '70s and I got a call from an MLA. It was my first call from an MLA. As a person I was kind of worried about that. I did not know what that meant, and he was sometimes—I found out later on in life in working in the public service people that were MLAs would kind of act like they were controlling the situation.

I always felt that Peter, when he asked questions, again, approached it with integrity, honesty, asked questions about a certain constituent of his, put forward some statements about that constituent, I thought, in a positive way without any kind of suggestion or interpretation that because he was an MLA, that we should treat his phone call any differently than anybody else's. He was just representing a constituent with integrity, and I will

never forget that, working in the public service at the time.

Peter, of course, had a long and illustrious public career. He sat on the Board of Hydro, as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has pointed out after he was elected again in the '80s, and he sat on the Licence Appeal Board, I believe, as well.

He also took up golf on his retirement. I do not think Peter golfed a lot before he retired—not a lot, I do not think. The New Democrats and others in the area would go out to the Transcona Golf Course a few times. I remember—I am a terrible golfer myself—but it would be Peter and I, Parasiuk and Schroeder going down the last stretch, and Peter and I would be competing for last place on the 18th hole. I think I ended up in last place all the time with Peter, and I think that made him feel pretty good about those results. I know he loved golf and he loved taking it up on his retirement.

I just want to say that we have created a scholarship in his name at the Kildonan East High School that we present every year. Peter Fox was a person, again, who respected the trades, and we have created a scholarship in his name at Kildonan East for a graduate out of the trades program in that school. I know that Norma and Elaine and others in his family are very proud of that scholarship and very proud of the tremendous career of Peter Fox.

As I say, we are just happy to join with the words and honoured to join with the words to his family through this Legislature on the tremendous contributions of Peter Fox. Thank you.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I too would like to join in the condolences to the family of the late Peter Fox. I met Peter on a number of occasions, but I did not know him. I think that is true of many of us who meet former MLAs rather than those who sit in this House. We meet them, we can admire their activities, but it is not fair to say that we knew them.

In reading something about Peter Fox, I found an amazing similarity between his record of service and my own father's record of service because they both served for 20 years in a Legislature, in Nova Scotia in the case of my father and in Manitoba in the case of Peter Fox. That got me to reading a little bit more.

Then, of course, I had known that Peter Fox was the Speaker, and just by a coincidence, because the Speaker was very ill, my father had become the Speaker which was kind of unusual having been the

Premier and then you became the Speaker for a short period of time. It was because he was retiring and was just filling in.

As I continue to read about Peter Fox, I recognize that the sense of dedication was similar, a sense of dedication that I think, obviously, is displayed in anyone who runs five times and is successful in those five election campaigns, who serves six years as Speaker.

That is a challenge in and of itself. I think, Mr. Speaker, you could recognize that perhaps more than most. I do not think it is an easy position to hold for six years. It is very draining. It is by its very nature nonpartisan, and for someone who has to face an electorate on five occasions in his life, it must be very difficult on occasion to maintain that nonpartisan approach to the political process which is inherent in being the Speaker. Yet my sense of what I read and the people I spoke to about Peter Fox was that it was a mark of his love of this Chamber that he did serve in an exemplary way as the Speaker of this Chamber.

Peter Fox is another example of someone who used his life span on earth. In terms of overall life spans today, he did not get his full measure—death at 68 is still now considered to be quite a young life span in the course of time—and did not get as much retirement time and as much golf playing as perhaps he would have liked to have had.

I think his family must take a certain amount of pride in that he certainly lived life to its fullest in the 68 years which he was granted. What more can be said of anyone of us than that we are members of our community, we reach out to our community, we serve our community, and we do it with a sense of love and dedication.

To his family I offer our sincere condolences and a hope that for them the memories of their life with Peter Fox will sustain them, give them hope and give them a future of knowing that they were cared for and loved by someone who was loving and caring.

* (1600)

Mr. Jerry Storle (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to be able to stand and join with others in the Legislature in paying my last respects to Peter Fox and offering condolence to Peter's family, Norma, Elaine and Ken, to the many people who knew and loved him and to his extended family.

We talked about Peter's long service in this Legislature. I think almost one-third of his life was spent in serving the people of Manitoba. There is no doubt that his life was unduly short, and I know that Peter, certainly when he retired in 1986, was looking forward to a well-deserved respite from public service.

Peter Fox was two things if anything. Number one, he was dedicated certainly to the New Democratic Party. He was the ultimate warrior when it came to supporting, remaining staunch and firm in his convictions, but he was also friendly and informal, and I think that anyone who knew Peter respected the fact that while Peter was not an orator in the Legislature, he was eloquent in his own way. He was particularly eloquent when dealing with average people and his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, when I joined the Legislature in 1981, Peter Fox had already served 15 years and I am proud to say that Peter Fox took me under his wing and offered me considerable excellent advice in terms of my role as a member of this Legislature and in terms of providing a view of this business that I think is very helpful. No one can deny that this is a difficult occupation. It is demanding and people like Peter deserve our commendation if for simply the longevity of service—20 years is remarkable.

Peter had a sense of humour about this place and I think understood very well the vagaries of political office and understood that sometimes despite our best intentions, our best efforts are not good enough, despite our intentions, they are not always viewed as we wished they were in the public domain. He had a sense of humour about this building and also a sense of humility. My colleague, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) talked about Peter's humble approach to his duties and he was indeed a humble individual.

Mr. Speaker, there are often times when one misses that golden opportunity to say goodbye to a friend. I, fortunately, went to see Peter when he was in the St. Boniface Hospital about a week before he died and Peter had maintained his sense of humour. He had maintained his optimism. He had just returned from a golfing trip in Florida with his wife and he was hoping to get out and hit that ball one more time. I guess we all could wish that that had been so, but we can pay our respects here today and wish Peter well.

He did offer the public of Manitoba 20 years of his life and, partisanship notwithstanding, he deserves credit and admiration and respect and he deserves the condolence of this Legislature for his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, earlier the Premier (Mr. Filmon) referenced the Class of '66 and obviously we see the passage of time in that period of time, now some 25 years since Peter Fox was elected. Like the member for Flin Flon, I was elected in 1981 and some 10 years now, I reflect on the fact that Peter Fox who was such a vibrant person, such an important person, when I was first elected that I really cannot believe that we are standing here today giving condolences, because the Peter Fox that I remember, I do not think he would have liked this quite frankly. This is far too sombre an occasion for Peter.

Peter had a real sense of the joy of life. He was really that joy, that salt of the earth, that is the only way I can describe him. I remember being first elected and I, too, was taken under Peter's wing. I was elected by the caucus as Whip. Little did I know at the time that that was not exactly an honour in this building. It was probably the toughest job that one ever faces. Peter Fox had been the Whip for the New Democratic Party and he introduced me to the realities of being Whip. He also introduced me to Beauchesne and the rules, of which he was quite an expert, something I have appreciated certainly in recent years in my role as House leader.

I remember talking to Peter on many occasions at his House. Both Peter and Nancy were tremendous in terms of welcoming me as an out-of-town member away from home. I still remember those evening sittings being invited over. It was almost on a regular basis, almost a weekly basis and I not only had the opportunity to appreciate both of them as individuals, but really obtain some sense of collective memory of this institution, because that is something that we sometimes tend to forget and perhaps with some of the raft of changes that have taken place politically the last number of years just how many things have happened and how much of a collective memory there really is in this place.

Peter was such a tremendous person to talk to in that sense, having been in government, in opposition, having been a Speaker, having been a Whip, and I had a really tremendous sense of what this institution was all about.

That is what I want to remember about Peter and indeed Nancy as well, because they were very much a couple in terms of the way they approached that 20 years. Of course, she was taken before Peter and did not have the opportunity to see him through to the retirement years, but that is the kind of thing that I remember, and also his loyalty, his loyalty to his party, his caucus, to his friends, to this institution. It is something I learned a lot from because, really, when one looks at where we stand, relatively speaking, Mr. Speaker, with the sands of time, the most that any of us in this institution will ever be is a footnote.

Peter, I think, would have preferred if he was not even written into the script at all, but he will be, because he will be remembered as a human being who had a tremendous sense of life and of this institution. I really regret that he did not have a longer time to enjoy his retirement. He was one of those people who never really knew when to retire. I do not think he really did it with much joy in 1986. All of a sudden he found that there were other challenges, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out—golfing.

He took in everything as a challenge. There was a real sense of that. I really wish he had had a few more years to appreciate that. As I said, in looking back, I hope that we do not treat this ourselves as too much of a sombre occasion, because Peter would have wanted us to be standing here not talking about more sombre aspects, but the fact that he approached this place with a real joy of life.

That is all I think we can ask from anyone and, of all the people I have known, and I will be proud to say this at any time, in terms of influences I have had in the 10 years I have been here and however many more years I may be an MLA, Peter Fox will rank as one of the most significant influences.

* (1610)

Mr. Conrad Santos (Broadway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in remembering one of our colleagues in the House, Peter Fox. I sometimes came to him for advice, and he gave the advice that I needed as a result of his experience.

Here is a person who is humble, and bless those who are humble, because in due time they shall be exalted, and he has been exalted by the highest office in the Legislature, has been a Speaker for many years.

There are these persons who are charitable. This person is charitable and, as a charitable person, he gets the respect of everybody, friends and acquaintances alike. He was a sincere person whose sincerity will not be doubted and, therefore, he will not be forgotten by the people whom he served.

It is not so easy to live at all; it is easier to die. All you need to do is take your time. It is in living that we try to prove to be honourable. In death everything ends.

I remember Peter because I remember this immortal word of the great writer. I love the man that can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress and grow brave by reflection. It is the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm and his conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principle until death. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I consider it an honour to have the opportunity to rise and express a few comments about the late Peter Fox. Peter had a very formative aspect, played a very important role in my life. Firstly, I had the occasion in the '70s to work for the then Premier, Edward Schreyer, and I never did ascertain how my name or my person came to the attention of Mr. Schreyer. It was only subsequent to my working for him and my friendship with Mr. Schreyer that I found out it was Peter Fox who was instrumental in recommending me to the then Premier for one of the most enjoyable periods of my life, that is working with Mr. Schreyer.

The other thing that I think is somewhat ironic and I think Peter would be very pleased and that I consider an honour, is that I am representing the seat of Kildonan. While it is geographically not the same seat that Peter represented—it is on the other side of the river—I consider it an honour that it is the same name. I have reflected on that on occasion as the seat represented by Peter Fox.

I will just add a few more comments about some of my experiences with Peter. I was very much, like other members have expressed, a student of Peter. Peter was the type of individual who I consider gave sage advice to many of us. Several points were given to me, Mr. Speaker, I think in terms of direction and advice. I have tried to keep them close to heart, and I hope I will during my tenure however long it should be in the Legislature.

First was commitment to family. Peter was remarkably devoted to his family and expressed that point on many, many occasions when I had opportunity to talk and to deal with him in terms of his commitment to family. I think that is something all of us in this Chamber can reflect on.

Secondly was, of course, his common sense and decency, Mr. Speaker, which other members have already alluded to. Thirdly I think it is a piece of advice that I often have to reflect on and that Peter made very clear to me, and that is one should never take oneself too seriously. Peter was that kind of an individual who, while he was devoted to the cause, was able to laugh at himself and look at himself in the light that perhaps we all are seen and often by others. I have taken that point to heart and it was something that Peter passed on to me in terms of, not only his actions, but in terms of words that he passed on to me.

Finally, one occasion I just wanted to reflect on was the occasion when I sat in the caucus room in the late '70s with Peter after the government had been defeated, and Peter was reflecting upon his experiences in World War II which was something that I had not heard him deal with before. I was struck by his sense of seriousness and horror at what he had experienced in World War II and his commitment to the fact that he would like to do everything that he could in his power to ensure that events of that kind would never take place in his children's generation.

On those notes, I join with other members of this House in wishing condolences to the family of Peter Fox. Thank you.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to add my personal condolences and a few words to the motion before the House. The Premier made reference to the election that brought Mr. Peter Fox into this Chamber in June 1966. It was, indeed, an occasion that many—if it appears somewhat immodest—talented and interesting people came to this Chamber.

In addition to those that the Premier alluded to as the Class of '66 were individuals like Mr. Russell Doern, who I understand we will also be honouring shortly, and people like Mr. Sid Green and people like Mr. Sidney Spivak, the former Leader of our group, people like Saul Miller, the former mayor of West Kildonan, to name not all of them but some of

them. It was a diverse group, and it was a different House.

It was a House that was composed of some 14 Liberal members in the official opposition and a fairly strong representative of 10 or 11 members of the New Democratic Party—their first instance really in that transition from the CCF to the New Democratic Party in a provincial way.

Mr. Peter Fox—and I wish to pay tribute to him in his role as Speaker, because he undertook that job while the House in the tenure of politics really changed in Manitoba. The House that he was elected to and that I was elected to in '66 had, would you believe it, Liberals from the southwest, Liberals from Russell, Mr. Rod Clement. It had the first you know strong union organized labour components into the House. It was not a polarized House, and certainly my Premier and other members who came and joined this Chamber by the year '77 realized what a polarized political circumstance Manitoba had evolved into.

The tribute that I want to pay to Speaker Fox is—and the Leader of the Opposition is absolutely correct, he took a great deal of pride in his role as Speaker. He did his best to bridge that polarization that was occurring not just among the body of politics generally but in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, you know every Speaker I guess implants a certain individual personality on his tenureship of your office, sir. One of the things that I have fond recollections of which Speaker Fox did on a regular basis was to invite small groups of members of the Legislature from the different parties—except it was difficult. It was a pretty black and white or should I say red and white situation in those polarized days.

They were genuinely appreciated, those luncheon meetings that Speaker Fox did provide in his chambers, where two opposition members with two or three government members had an opportunity to set aside some of the more partisan tenets of the politics of the day and get to know each other on a more personal basis.

I simply want to add my personal words of sympathy to the Fox family. Peter is well remembered by those who served with him, will I am sure be long remembered by the party that he served so faithfully, and acknowledge those 20 years of service that he paid to all Manitobans.

Thank you.

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words in memory of Peter Fox.

My association with Peter Fox was not in the political arena but, in more recent times, as a part of his second extended family, as it were. I had the opportunity to spend more than one evening in his house having supper and engaging in debate.

I want to assure those here that the fact that he spent some time in the Chair that you are in, Mr. Speaker, did not reduce his ability to debate or his willingness to enter into that debate and drive home what he thought were certain important points.

* (1620)

I want to concur that he was a person who, in my brief encounter, truly enjoyed life, enjoyed people and certainly was a valuable member of the community.

I extend my condolences to his family.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Peter Fox.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Sydney Ronald McBryde, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty in a useful life of active community and public service; and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, as we have referred to earlier in the condolence motions, the passage of people before their time, certainly all of us were shocked and saddened at the passing of Ron McBryde. I recall it being announced, as a matter of fact, in this Chamber on January 22, 1989, when his successor, Harry Harapiak, the then member of the Legislature for The Pas, rose and informed the House of Ron McBryde's passing. Certainly we all perhaps felt our own mortality a little bit that day as we realized that Ron was only 47 years old. Certainly he was taken from us much, much too soon.

Again, I joined the Legislature at a time when Ron McBryde was sitting as a member of this Chamber. He had been here throughout the Schreyer years and had been first elected on June 25, 1969, subsequently re-elected in the general elections of 1973 and 1977 and served indeed with great distinction in this Chamber. During his tenure in the Assembly he was appointed Minister without portfolio of Northern Affairs from December 1, 1971 until April 13, 1972. He then became the first Minister of Northern Affairs on November 1, 1972 when the department was officially created. Later, after leaving elected office, he served for a time as Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs during the administration of Howard Pawley.

(Mrs. Louise Dacquay, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Certainly many of us remember Ron on a personal basis. He too was very much of a gentleman in this Chamber and in all of his endeavours a very quiet-spoken but committed individual whom I think we all had a great deal of respect for.

Prior to entering politics, Ron McBryde was one of the first community development workers in The Pas area and was active in the founding of The Pas Friendship Centre.

Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of our caucus I certainly wish to extend our condolences to his wife, Gladys, and their three children, Gary, Joyce and Gregory. We certainly give thanks for a dedicated service to the community and to the province and a life of devotion to duty by Ron McBryde.

Mr. Doer: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is an honour to rise on the sympathy and condolence motion before the Chamber today on Ron McBryde. I, too, was absolutely shocked the day Harry Harapiak and Jay Cowan came to caucus, I think it was in June of 1989, and reported that after a very sudden illness, Ron McBryde had passed away at such a young age, 47 years old.

We were very shocked in our caucus, as the party was, and the public I am sure was with that news. We had heard that Ron was sick. We certainly did not know it was that serious, that such a healthy person would lose life at such a young age.

Ron has had, as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has pointed out, a very fascinating and interesting public life and political career in this Legislature. He was

elected at a very young age, 28 years of age. He was in cabinet at 31 years of age. He won three elections in the Manitoba Legislature, and he retired at 40 years of age, having served 12 years in the Legislature and some five or six years in the Schreyer cabinet.

I know that his background as a community economic development worker in the north—and as the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has pointed out, he was one of the first ones that was employed in that kind of position—I know his experience as a community economic development worker served him well in starting to develop programs in the Schreyer government for the north, and programs not only for the north but to be run by the north, because so many programs had traditionally been run from the city to the north.

There was just a start, I think, under Ron McBryde. He had the philosophy and the knowledge to try to develop programs outside of the city of Winnipeg, outside of the sort of central offices and move things and empower people in the north—a long way to go, Madam Deputy Speaker, in the '70s, '80s and even today in that philosophy. At least there was an attempt to move programs from Winnipeg and programs to be run by the people in the north which was Ron's philosophy and guiding direction in terms of the Northern Affairs department and his ministry.

I too want to pass on our sympathy and condolences to the family, to his three children, Gary, Joyce and Greg. I know Ron is missed by us and is missed by a number of his friends of all political stripes in the constituency he served, The Pas, but also in the constituency he worked for and that was the north.

Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker.

* (1630)

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Deputy Speaker, my colleagues would also like to go on the record as offering our condolences to the family of the late Ron McBryde. In reading over the materials, one note was significant, I think, and said his tall figure and ready smile was a frequent sight on the streets of The Pas.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as difficult as it may be to be an MLA, I think it is particularly difficult to be an MLA when your residence and your constituency are far apart. It is difficult for rural and northern MLAs of this House when they have to spend time

away from their families in order to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

He obviously felt seriously about representing his constituency or else this would not be in our notes that he spent a great deal of time in that constituency having contact with those people which meant that he found himself, if you will, with his feet in two houses, travelling back and forth. That requires sacrifice. It requires not only sacrifice of the member, it requires sacrifice of that member's family.

Raised in a family myself where, when I was 13, my father went to Ottawa, and we saw him one weekend a month, I understand that separation. It has been one of the reasons why I have never been interested in federal politics because I do not choose to live that way but recognize that there is an incredible sacrifice made by those who do live that life. I recognize it and quite frankly applaud them for putting their priorities in that direction. I do not always think they receive the adulation and congratulation they should for making that kind of personal sacrifice.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Those of us, and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) joins me in this, as does the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst) and perhaps a few others, as we are in our 48th year, living 48 years—we will go into our 49th year very quickly in 1991—it seems very short to die in your 47th year of life when you have obviously not nearly accomplished all of the goals that you would like to accomplish, have not moved forward in all of the ways that you would like to move forward, and it is particularly difficult, I think, when you leave children at that age.

His children are not unlike the ages of many of ours. While one likes to think of children at 18 and 22, which are the ages of mine, ready to take on the world—they certainly think they are ready to take on the world—I like to think that they still need a little bit of parental guidance, love and care, and those children have been denied that continuation from their father. That is sad moment upon which all of us have to reflect.

All one can say to children of that nature is, look with pride at what your father did, look with pride at what your father accomplished, look with pride to what he sacrificed in order to serve his community, and in that pride, be joyful in the memories of someone who served well his fellow citizens,

particularly in this case, the citizens of northern Manitoba.

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, when I read Paulo Freire and all about his Third World country development, I often think about the late Ron McBryde.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, The Pas constituency and all Northerners, whether they be aboriginal people or nonaboriginal people—I feel especially honoured and privileged, because the late Ron McBryde was an MLA for The Pas from '69 to 1977. I feel very honoured and privileged because of that to also remember the passing away of Ron McBryde and to extend our condolences to the family and many friends of Ron.

I was a young man when I first met Ron, but I must say that, when I first met Ron, he immediately made me feel as if I was someone important. I could tell that, as young as I was, he was interested in hearing what I had to say. I had just finished school then, and I had just started my job as band manager of my band when I first met Ron. Needless to say, being a band manager of my band, Ron and I spent many hours at council meetings and at meetings here in Winnipeg. For aboriginal people, and I am sure he was with everyone that he met, Ron was not only our MLA, he was our friend; he was our teacher; he was our mentor, counsellor; and he was also our coach, for he inspired many of us in The Pas with his unfailing dedication to helping the ordinary person.

The aboriginal people in particular liked and appreciated Ron for his down-to-earth approach, his humility and the dignity with which he dealt with people. Many times I saw Ron walking through an aboriginal home, go to the cupboards or go to the stove, make himself tea. If bannock was there in the house, he would have bannock. If there were no chairs available, he would put his long frame on the floor and sit down there. That is how, you know, I say that because that is how he was with people.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party again, we send our condolences; we express our appreciation for his contribution to public life. I also thank the Creator for having graced us with Ron's life and energy here on earth, even though it was too short for many of us. So once again, condolences go out to the family and may the Great Spirit keep Ron.

Mr. Ashton: I want to speak about an era, an era that began for many of us in 1969 in northern

Manitoba. It is an era that very much is passing at this time with the passage of some of the people who are very much a part of that. I think back to 1969, I was 12 years old at the time, 13 years old actually, in Thompson, and I remember the election of Joe Borowski in 1969, the retirement of Gordon Beard.

I remember the summer election, provincial election, in which Gordon Beard was re-elected, Tom Barrow was re-elected, Jean Allard and, of course, Ron McBryde. One reflects on that particular election, and if one also puts it in context with some of The Pas mythology—I know in the case of Ron McBryde, there were many stories that he was a rather reluctant candidate.

I believe and I stand to be corrected on this, but he was sought out at a baseball game by a constituency association that was looking for a candidate in a constituency that they did not think they could win necessarily but were wanting to put up a good fight. Ron accepted and some 35 days later found himself a member of the Legislature.

* (1640)

An inauspicious beginning, but if one looks at what he achieved—in fact relatively speaking, he probably contributed as much as anyone, particularly as Minister of Northern Affairs. It is in that way that I remember Ron McBryde the most, not just for the establishment of the department, but what it did to the north.

When I go into communities today, and land at airstrips that were essentially built in that period of time—travel over roads and winter roads that were essentially established in that period of time, go to band halls, community halls that were essentially established at that period of time—as I stand here today, I cannot help thinking of the many accomplishments that Ron McBryde was a part of.

Eras come and go, and the north will carry on. I really think when we look at the contribution of someone who did indeed pass away at such an early age, I really think it should be said for the record that in that short period of time of 47 years that Ron McBryde accomplished a great deal. I am very pleased to associate myself with the words of the member for The Pas (Mr. Lathlin), and I note someone in the gallery who knew Ron very well, and many people in The Pas constituency were very shocked at his passing. His memory will live on, I believe, in those accomplishments and not just in

the constituency of The Pas but many northern communities.

I think any of us, Mr. Speaker, when we have come to the end of our road that we could have accomplished anywhere near as much as Ron McBryde did during his period, I think we should consider ourselves very lucky indeed.

Mr. Downey: I wish to associate myself with the condolence motion for the late Ron McBryde and to extend sincere sympathy to the McBryde family.

I will be very brief, but just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that to be a representative outside of the city of Winnipeg such as Ron McBryde, or any member from the north or in rural Manitoba, it takes an extra effort. It takes away somewhat from what would be a traditional and normal family life. I know that Ron McBryde contributed in a way which was in that manner, having to travel the amount that he did to represent his constituency here in the Legislature.

As well, after having some experience with the Northern Affairs portfolio, the amount of travel and the amount of work that is involved to make sure the sparsely populated communities—in fact, have the recognition and the representation that they deserve in the Legislature—takes extra effort. I know that Ron McBryde, as people before him have, put that extra effort in.

I want to extend my sympathy to the McBryde family.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, I want to, as well, add a few remarks in memory of Ron McBryde. I did not know Ron personally until 1981, and between 1981 and 1983 Ron served for a period of time as Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs, and I did get to know him personally during that time. I did know much about Ron McBryde as a result of my moving to northern Manitoba in 1975 and being associated with northern Manitoba much earlier than that.

I wanted to just add to what my colleague from Thompson (Mr. Ashton) has said about the contributions that Ron McBryde made to an important era in northern Manitoba history.

Ron McBryde, when he became Minister of Northern Affairs formally in 1972, commenced developing a department and a philosophy within that department which served northern Manitoba very well. My first contact with many of the communities in northern Manitoba came in 1972

and when I was elected, some almost 10 years later, the growth and the development that was going on in our communities in northern Manitoba was largely due to the imagination and the foresight of Ron McBryde and his vision of what northern Manitoba could be.

Ron, as an individual, was extremely down-to-earth, pleasant and gentle. I often thought of Ron McBryde and I hope no one misconstrues this as a pejorative remark, but as Big Bird. He was big and yet kind and gentle, and he dealt that way with people. He was kind and gentle. Yet, I was always surprised that like many other political types, he had, underlying that gentleness, an extreme partisanship and could be extremely partisan and very aggressive.

I recall that during my brief time when I knew Ron personally I had the opportunity to play racketball with him and, as anybody who has played the racket sports would know, from time to time you hit someone accidentally with the ball. I accidentally hit Ron McBryde in the back of the head and if looks could kill, I would be dead. So Ron McBryde was gentle and compassionate, but he was also partisan and his contribution deserves to be recognized.

He spent 12 years in the Legislature, much of it in the Executive Council and his contribution is a part of the legend of northern Manitoba. I can assure anybody in this Chamber that if they attend events in northern Manitoba to this day, the name of Ron McBryde is well remembered and deservedly so.

Condolences to his family, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Sydney Ronald McBryde.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Stan Roberts, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its appreciation of his devotion to duty and a useful life of active community and public service, and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, again in proposing the motion of condolence I certainly believe that Stan Roberts passed on much before his time. He was only 63 when he died, and I can recall thinking that he was such a handsome vital man that it hardly seemed possible that he would go at such a young age.

Stan Roberts was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the general election of June 16, 1958, as a Liberal for the electoral division of La Verendrye. He was re-elected in the general election of 1959 and subsequently resigned in May of 1962 to contest the federal seat of Provencher.

* (1650)

From 1963 to 1970 Mr. Roberts was president of the National Grain Company in Winnipeg. It was during that period of time that I met him because he was then, as I recall, on the Board of the Red River Exhibition Association and my late father-in-law was not only on the board but ultimately the president during that era.

I recall Stan, and I believe his wife's name was Pia, as a very charming and handsome couple, indeed they were well liked by everyone. I recall many meetings at happy occasions and being very impressed with this individual.

I noted in reading an obituary of his the comment was made that he once credited former Manitoba Conservative Premier Duff Roblin with convincing him to enter politics. Roberts recalled that when he was involved in the chamber of commerce he had complained to Roblin about various government policies. If he did not like them, he remembered Roblin saying, why did he not run himself and change them.

Roblin later commented that, and I quote, my problem was he did not go to the right party.

Following a move to British Columbia, Stan became the vice-president of Simon Fraser University, and then in 1980 he was elected president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. It was in the 1980s that Stan Roberts again made a name for himself with his participation in the founding of the Reform Party of Canada for which he ran as its first Leader.

In recalling his many areas of service not only to his community and to the province of Manitoba but indeed on a national basis, giving service in a variety of very significant ways and making many excellent

contributions, again, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues join me in extending our deepest condolences to the Roberts' family in memory of Stan and his many contributions to society.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues join with the Premier, and I am privileged to second this condolence motion with respect to Stan Roberts.

Stan Roberts was a very eclectic human being. It is a rare thing I think to have been a farmer, a president of a grain company, vice-president of a university, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and a politician, a politician who was dissatisfied, quite frankly, with politics and the way politics expressed itself.

He entered politics because he wanted to change things. Certainly in the '80s he became very dissatisfied with the representation that western Canada seemed to receive from the national government. That is why he participated in the early years of the Reform Party. In his latter years, he broke ranks to some degree with that party as well, because it too was not as idealistic as Stan would have liked them to have been and failed to disclose, in his terms, adequately for his benefit the financial contributions to that particular political party.

To those who knew Stan, it did not come as any particular shock, because he was prepared to take very strong stands. If those strong stands were not supported by the majority, then fine, he was prepared to step down and try something new. That is, I think, the measure of the man to a very great degree.

Stan Roberts lived in a number of provinces, but I think in my conversations with him in his latter years, despite by that time he had spent considerable amounts of time in British Columbia, he still considered Manitoba to be his home base. This was his province. Although he lived elsewhere, he was always very concerned about the economic impacts of government policy on a province which he felt was not as well off as other provinces and, therefore, not quite as able to bear a national government without a sensitivity to those provinces who have less than other provinces have.

It is true he was also very concerned about the independence movement in Canada. He believed firmly that the desire for independence in western Canada was almost as substantial as the desire on the part of many in the province of Quebec to be independent, and that caused him grave concern.

That is why he wanted to participate in a political party that could perhaps right some of those wrongs.

He was much too young, 63, to die of a brain tumor when he had much academic talent and much to contribute to his society, but he did make a contribution. He gave it the best he could. He perhaps would like on his obituary the motto, "he did it his way," because that is how he lived his life. He did not care particularly if he was in step with everybody else. He listened to his own conscience and he listened to his own theme. He never betrayed what he believed was fundamental to what his conscience told him was in the best interests of his nation.

For that we have to salute Stan Roberts. We have to salute any human being who stands firm for what they believe in, even though some of us do not necessarily share that belief. It is not easy sometimes to be prepared to stand alone, and he was prepared to do that.

That is the legacy that he has left to us and, more particularly, the legacy that he has left to his family.

Mr. Doer: When I had my words, sympathy in the Legislature to the deceased Stan Roberts, I knew Stan from a different situation altogether than the Premier and the Leader of the Liberal Party. I first met Stan Roberts when he invited me to be a participant on a panel at the Canada West Foundation, something that was missing in his obituary in the paper on the many contributions he made in public life.

He was the Executive Director of the Canada West Foundation I think in the early '80s. It was a formidable group at that time. It had Arthur Child who I think is still the president and Stan Roberts as part of their group. I was asked to join a panel of that session to debate energy policy.

I did not know whether I was being set up or whether it was some kind of credit that I was asked to debate it against a guy named Jack Gallagher from Dome Petroleum who knew a little bit about energy at the time, although I found it rather curious that Jack Gallagher was chosen because Dome Petroleum on the one hand was arguing for nonintervention in the energy market and on the other hand was an interesting participant with Marc Lalonde on some of the programming.

That was the kind of nature of Stan Roberts. He really did stir the pot, and as the Leader of the Liberal Party mentioned—she mentioned the term "out of

step." I was going to say he did march to the beat of his own drum in my opinion.

I also at the same meeting met a person called Robert Stanfield who Stan Roberts introduced me to. Obviously, that is quite a privilege to meet a person of his calibre and status in this country. Then I heard Robert Stanfield make a speech the next day on Pierre Trudeau conducting himself in a constitutional coup d'etat on the return of the Constitution to Canada and the National Energy Program.

Then I went back to Stan and I said, I thought you were a Liberal. I thought you were a Liberal, and you were bringing in people like Stanfield and having these energy policy debates. Later I found out that, yes, he had run as a Liberal, but the word "liberal" would be with him and not with him depending on the issue. I certainly found that out with the way in which Stanfield held forth on the Constitution—Robert Stanfield, an eloquent speech. No matter which side you were on in the debate, it was just a classic logical speech that he presented.

Then the next day we had Michael Kirby on a panel, and that was just the day after the Kirby memo was leaked by Premier Lougheed and, again, this was Stan Roberts setting this whole thing up. It was quite interesting to listen to that debate. Again, I went back and said, are you sure you are a Liberal? Stan would think it was funny, et cetera.

Then I heard later on he was again interested in the Liberals. After being president of the Chamber of Commerce in Canada, he was going to run for the leadership—I think he was looking at it. I cannot remember whether it was '83 -(interjection)- '84, so he was quite an interesting character, interesting individual, business community, farmer, member of this Legislature.

Then, of course, he was also the other candidate of the Reform Party of Canada and I think withdrew at the last moment when Preston Manning and he were going to run. People did not know who was going to win that race, the so-called flashy Stan Roberts or the so-called earthy Preston Manning.

However, needless to say, he did serve in this Legislature, and he did serve Canada well. He did introduce the whole area of western alienation, whether it was from the Canada West Foundation, whether it was from the Chamber of Commerce, whether it was from his various comments about

public life, he did raise the issues of western alienation early on and early on, I think, in a way that was a very responsible way, because he did not talk in terms of some other politicians, and I think it would be inappropriate to mention their names, in terms of the kind of approach to deal with western alienation in terms of joining the United States. He always talked about it in terms of, this is an issue that we have to deal with in our public policy debates.

* (1700)

I, for that reason, am pleased to be able to stand in the Chamber and just recall my personal experiences with Stan Roberts, and I too want to say that for a person that articulate and vibrant, et cetera, he again was too young to have left us. He has certainly intellectually and career-wise raised issues I think of importance to western Canadians throughout his public life, and for that I think we all should be very thankful.

Mr. Enns: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add a few words of condolence to the Roberts family.

My first recollection of Mr. Roberts was not as a politician, but as one of the more progressive cattle breeders in the province of Manitoba, being among the first in Manitoba to introduce and begin to breed the French breed of cattle, the Charolais white cattle that are now very prominent in our cattle industry and throughout western Canada. I think of Stan, you know, I see him as the Premier described, as a vibrant personality, as being among those first Westerners who recognized and understood that phenomena that was happening in Canadian politics.

You recall that we think of and indeed history will describe the Trudeau years as quite a dynasty of politics spanning some 16-17 years. The truth of the matter is, in terms of western Canada, elected representation stopped just about here in Winnipeg and left the West virtually without representation throughout the better part of those very important years in our life as a nation. Mr. Roberts, I believe, did what he could to bridge this gap between western Canada and that very powerful central government, did it in different ways, the Canada West Foundation as the Leader of the Opposition referred to.

I say without fear or favour that it is the Liberal Party's loss and indeed the country's loss that people like Mr. Stan Roberts could not have played a more formative role in advising the government of

Pierre Elliott Trudeau during those very important years of our country's evolution, particularly through those important decisions that led to the repatriation of the Constitution and indeed were the forerunner of some of the very serious constitutional issues that face this country today.

I always viewed Mr. Roberts as being among those who could not quite understand why there was not room for him in the Liberal Party nationally. I put Mr. Stan Roberts in the company of a prominent Winnipegger like Mr. James Richardson, who regrettably came to the same conclusion, you know, at or about the same time, and it was those voices that were lost to the counsel of central government that, in my judgment, Mr. Roberts could have made, should have made a very substantial contribution.

I take this occasion to voice those few thoughts that I have in memory of Stan Roberts.

House Business

Hon. Darren Praznik (Deputy Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would ask if you could canvass the House if there is leave of the members to waive private members' hour and to continue with motions of condolence?

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to waive private members' hour? Agreed.

* * *

Mr. Ben Sveinson (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I rise as the MLA for La Verendrye to offer my condolences to the Roberts family. It is indeed that Mr. Stan Roberts was the MLA for La Verendrye and, on behalf of the people, I would like to again offer my condolences to the Roberts family. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Stan Roberts.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Filmon: I move, seconded by the honourable member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs),

THAT this House convey to the family of the late Mark Gerald Smerchanski, who served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, its sincere sympathy in their bereavement and its

appreciation of his devotion to duty and a useful life of active community and public service; and

THAT Mr. Speaker be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the family.

Motion presented.

Mr. Fillmon: Mr. Speaker, many members will recall that it was on September 21, 1989, that the Leader of the Liberal Party drew to the Assembly's attention the death of the former member of this Assembly and a friend and acquaintance of many of us, Mark Smerchanski. At that time, I informed the House that Mark was not only a personal acquaintance, but I regarded him as a friend.

We shared a number of things in common. I recall saying that not the least of which is a Ukrainian heritage and the fact that we were both professional engineers. I remember hearing with great admiration and interest, when I attended a function that was put on by the Osvita Foundation of Manitoba, in which he was named a distinguished honouree, about Mark's family history, having been born in 1914 in Malonton, Manitoba. As I drive to Gimli on a regular basis many, many times throughout the year, up Highway 7 just north of Teulon, you have the sign for Malonton, which is just a short ways off Highway 7.

I could not help but recall, as I listen to his own family history, that he and his brother John Shanski, children of immigrant Ukrainian farmers in the area, had both achieved so much in their service in Manitoba both as leaders in the community, as leaders in society. It always intrigued me that they had this tremendous commitment to excellence and achievement in that family, which carries on, I might say, in their grandchildren, many of whom I know personally.

* (1710)

After obtaining his Honours Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Manitoba in 1937, Mark's work as a geologist took him from coast to coast in Canada, took him, as well, into South and Central America, Africa, Europe and the Far East. He founded numerous business ventures, very successful business ventures, which included Border Chemical Company Limited, Thunder Bay Chemicals Ltd., and he was a co-founder of Aerofoam Chemicals.

He was first elected to the Manitoba Legislature in the general election of 1962 as a Liberal for the

electoral division of Burrows, which at that time was my home constituency. He served in the Legislature until 1966. From 1968 to 1972, he represented the constituency of Provencher as member of the Parliament of Canada.

Mark was certainly very active in community service. He was past chairman, member of the Board of St. Boniface Hospital, member of the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba. He established the chair in Slavic studies at the University of Manitoba. He was also instrumental in establishing the Holy Family Nursing Home in Winnipeg in the early 1960s.

Following his service in the Second World War, Mark sponsored over 100 displaced persons, helping them to establish themselves as new citizens in Canada. He had continued over the years to sponsor and assist the settlement of new Canadians.

My colleagues join me in expressing our condolences to his wife, Patricia, and his daughters, Joan, Rhonda and Trish, at this time of sorrow. I have met and know, on a personal basis, both Rhonda and Trish, and certainly my colleagues and I want to extend not only our condolences but our gratitude for a life of service and achievement on behalf of the community and the province to Mark's family.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the condolence motion for Mark Gerald Smerchanski. Mark Smerchanski was the youngest of the four sons.

The Premier made reference to the fact that his older brother, John, was known as John Shanski, and that in itself tells a story of Manitoba, because when John Shanski tried to get his first job, he was told that he could not have the name Smerchanski, that it was Ukrainian and would not be acceptable. He was to go and head a lumber company in Saskatchewan, and the owner of the company suggested that he shorten his name. Shanski was an English name; there was a Lord Shanski. So he made the announcement that he would be John Shanski according to his employer.

So he went off to Saskatchewan, but part of his duty as John Shanski was to send money home so the youngest son, Mark, could get the education that the other boys could not have. So that is what he did. He sent money home, and nobody could have taken more pride in Mark's accomplishments than

John Shanski, because he considered this his duty to his younger brother and his family.

I first met Mark Smerchanski, in something the Premier might be amused at, in 1981. There was an election campaign going on, and I received a phone call from Bev McCaffery who said, I do not have anybody to help me in this constituency, which happened to be the constituency of Tuxedo. I was not working at the time and, although I lived in River Heights, I said, well, all right. If she did not have anybody and she was a woman candidate, I would go and help her in that campaign.

That night I met with Mark Smerchanski, and that was the first meeting. He said, how much money are you going to need to run this constituency—always the business person. How much money are you going to need to run this campaign? Unfortunately, a number of things had already been committed. They had already rented office space at the Tuxedo Park Shopping Centre, and I said, well, considering what has been committed, I am going to need \$5,000. He said fine. I guarantee that I will raise \$5,000 if I have to write the cheque myself.

It was not unusual for Mark. Mark did a lot of those kinds of writings of cheques for the Liberal Party, I can assure you, but he said anything over, I am not responsible for. About three days after the election, he and I had lunch. He said, I am sure you went over, and I said yes. He said, I told you you would and I told you you were going to be responsible. I said, well, that is fine, Mark. I think I can pick it up, and he said, how much did you go over? I said \$10.64.

Mark and I became very fond friends at that point, because he figured that I recognized a bottom line like he did. When I indicated to him that I was considering—had not announced—but was considering running for the leadership, I got a note from him with a very substantial cheque saying, go for it. That was part of Mark Smerchanski.

As I got to know Mark better, I learned of events and situations, not usually from him, but from those associated with him. For example, I remember being told that when his daughters were at Balmoral Hall, he was appalled at the lack of lab equipment. Not content to just go out and buy a few pieces of equipment, he built a whole new lab for the senior school with biology and chemistry labs at the school in order that he could assure that his daughters were going to get adequate training in science. As it

turned out, of course, one of them is now heading his geological and mining company so, obviously, her interest in scientific endeavours was helped along by the fact that her father had the money and was prepared to give the money to that kind of endeavour.

That is just one example of the kind of contributions that he has made. The one, of course, that I think that he took the greatest pride in was the Holy Family Nursing Home. He along with his brother, John, were founders of that nursing home and tremendous contributors to that nursing home which, while it had not the only mandate to serve the Ukrainian community, has certainly had a great many clients from the Ukrainian community live there and the nuns, of course, who have dedicated service there, have been of the Ukrainian Catholic faith. They have provided the care in many cases, along with those others working with them, to provide a quality of life to senior citizens in that part of our community.

Mark was a tough business person, no question about that, and occasionally found himself in a little conflict with the taxation department, but was prepared to challenge that all the way through the court system and did so. Even though he lost at the end, he indicated to me that he was right and the courts were wrong. He never doubted the rightness of his position, paid it finally, but that was Mark—stubborn, committed, devoted.

For most of us, of course, we did not expect it would be Mark that would go first. His wife, Pat, was very seriously ill, a number of complications, partly diabetes and partly some other conditions which had left her somewhat handicapped. She had to have a couple of hip transplants and replacements.

In the spirit of Mark, when he had a stroke in his office, he laughed about it. He said to his secretary, you know, it is really funny; I cannot feel anything in my legs. She, of course, immediately recognized that something happened to Mark and called an ambulance. The ambulance came, and the attendants put him on the stretcher. Mark continued to say, you know, this is really funny. I do not have any feeling in my legs. Everybody was getting obviously very nervous and agitated, and he kept saying it will be fine, it will be fine. Do not worry about it. It is just part of life. Of course, within some 24 hours, he had had another massive stroke and died, but that again was the measure of Mark Smerchanski.

He believed that life had been good to him, and nowhere had life been better to him than in his family. Mark took incredible pride in his family. He took incredible pride in his wife, Pat, going back to law school and becoming a lawyer. He thought that was wonderful. He took incredible pride in his daughters' achievements.

We used to laugh and tease him and say he was a feminist, but he was a feminist because he pushed everybody, whether they were male or female, to reach the height of their talents and their abilities. He also pushed, in his turn, his own nephews who had been left quite young without a father, Mark and Dennis. He pushed them and took them into the family company and made sure that they, too, had an adequate education.

* (1720)

Although I do not know the other brother—I only know John and Mark—I know that, for them, education was the key to all success. For them, if you could provide someone with the gift of an education, then all doors were open to them. That is what I think he would like to be most noted for, that one encouraged people to maximize their potential. Then, if they could not, if they reached a stage in their life, as with the Holy Family Nursing Home situation and the clients there, they could no longer care for themselves, well, then you provided the absolute essence of care, loving and caring within that environment.

So I have lost a good friend, Mr. Speaker, in Mark Smerchanski. He and I did not always agree, I mean, he was not a great fan of Pierre Elliott Trudeau's and he was an incredible fan of John Turner, so he and I were a little offside to some degree because I was a fan of one and not so much of the other.

I am sure he would not have supported my choice in the last leadership race since he did not support it in 1984. But that never stopped Mark from making contact with me, it did not stop him in his generosity to me personally in political campaigns, in trying to rebuild the Liberal Party; it did not stop him in his generosity to many other candidates along the way.

He always maintained a special feeling about the Burrows constituency and in the campaign in 1988 he was an active contributor to that campaign, but had been as well in 1986, both financially and in terms of work.

But, for me perhaps, the fondest memory of Mark was Doreen Froese who had been an active worker in the Liberal Party in our headquarters for many years until her retirement a few months ago. When I first was elected the Leader and went into my office to discover there was one staff person for both the provincial and federal wing of the party and very little in the way of supplies, Doreen said to me, that is okay, Mark will take care of it because Mark did take care of us.

Mr. Doer: I want to make a few brief comments in sympathy to the family of Mark Smerchanski. It is interesting, you know, the Leader of the Liberal Party mentioned the name and that is the first thing I remember about Mark because I knew the Shanskis and I knew the Smerchanskis and I did not know for years the story, and I found out about that and it did reflect a number of other stories I had heard of a similar nature where people changed their names, and families changed their names because of the prejudice against new Canadians and Slavic people through a period of time.

I guess in Canada we go through a period of time, new immigration, new prejudices, adjustments and another wave of immigrants comes in, but that to me was a revelation with other people I heard had to change their names and so I thought that was very interesting to hear, again, in terms of Mark Smerchanski.

I, too, found him a very tough individual, very, very forthright. I also first met him after he had lost in 1972, and yes, he was very vocal about Pierre Elliott Trudeau; that is what I found very interesting with the two Liberals that we are celebrating today; they were very much vocal about the Trudeau administration over the years. But he was a Liberal through and through and I am not surprised at the Leader of the Liberal Party's story about the Tuxedo campaign or the leadership campaign.

I did not know whether he gave a cheque to Bill Ridgeway or to Sharon Carstairs, but now I know, but I found him -(interjection)- Yes, that is what I was going to say, but I thought that would be irreverent.

He was a very, very strong Liberal and he was also very dedicated. Notwithstanding his business successes, he was very dedicated to our health care system. He would comment on the health care system, was a volunteer in our health care system and, as noted, the Holy Family nursing home is a fine institution. He had so much to do with the

establishment and maintenance of that centre. He was also on the Board of, I believe, St. Boniface Hospital and served in the health care system.

He was on the Board of the University of Manitoba, but I think more importantly than being on the Board of Governors is the fact that he was instrumental in establishing the chair of Slavic Studies at the university, and I think we should certainly credit him for that contribution to the University of Manitoba.

I want to, on behalf of our colleagues in the New Democratic Party, pay tribute to his elected public life in Manitoba in this Legislature, in the House of Commons, and his tremendous contributions to public life as a participant, a voluntary participant in education and health care programs in our province, and just say that our sympathy is with the family of Mark Smerchanski today.

Mr. James Carr (Crescentwood): Mr. Speaker, when I hear the name of Mark Smerchanski, I am taken right back to my political roots, because in 1968 I was the president of the Manitoba High School Liberal Association. Mark had served in the Legislature for a number of years from Burrows and was one of our candidates for Parliament in the election of 1968 when I was working on the campaign of the honourable James Richardson.

Part of my function in those days, and I ask all members to cast their mind back to the culture of 1968, was to organize a group called the Trudeau Troopers. Now the Trudeau Troopers were not young men and women, they were just young women. One of those young women was Trish Smerchanski who was very committed to the Liberal Party. My recollection of Mark, which begins back in 1968 and was sustained right through our friendship until very recently, was his commitment to public life and the political process and how delighted he was that young people of the high school age were making a commitment to the political process and to public life.

I think of him in a very avuncular way, in a sense handing to me and my generation the torch of liberalism that meant so much to him. While the leader of my party and others talk about his toughness in business, I never saw that side of Mark. For me, Mark was a kind, older fellow who put his arm around me and thanked me for being a Liberal, and one of the reasons I am is because of him.

Mr. Helwer: I, too, would like to join in those expressing condolences on the passing of Mark Smerchanski. I understand he served in this Legislature from 1962 to 1966, and in 1968 joined the list of former Manitoba MLAs that served in the House of Commons. I am sure that he represented his constituents with dedication. His record of service to his community will not soon be forgotten.

Mark Smerchanski worked very hard, not only for himself and his family, but also on behalf of new Canadians as a sponsor of over 100 immigrants. He also worked on behalf of his Slavic heritage establishing the chair in Slavic Studies at the University of Manitoba, and I am pleased to say that for a time Mr. Smerchanski resided in my constituency of Gimli. He was born in Malonton and grew up in the Malonton-Fraserwood-Teulon-Stonewall areas and was instrumental in starting the Sheer Mist hosiery plant in Teulon and retained ownership of that for many years and was a respected businessman in the Interlake community. I want to join today in expressing sincere sympathy to the entire Smerchanski family.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the world works in strange ways and how you meet someone—really what it does is it shows that the community is really not all that big.

Let me tell you the first time I met Mark Smerchanski. Mark Smerchanski owned the Lodge Theatre, which was located at the corner of Sharpe Boulevard and Portage Avenue in St. James. At the age of 10 or 11, I guess, when I was sneaking in the back door of the Lodge Theatre to gain access to the movie that cost 15 cents that I did not have, I was grabbed by the scruff of the neck by the gentleman in question, royally chastised, and then allowed to watch the movie because that is the kind of a gentleman he was. He knew that it was wrong, I knew that it was wrong—did I ever know it was wrong after having heard from him—but nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, knew that whatever I had spent my 25 cents allowance on that did not allow me to go to the movie, at least I did have that opportunity through his generosity.

* (1730)

I also shared something with Mark Smerchanski that he very much loved and that was his cottage at West Hawk Lake, a very beautiful part of our province, one that I have been at for some 25 years now and certainly we together enjoyed the beauty

and serenity of that location for many, many summers.

My father also knew Mark Smerchanski much better than I. I had occasional run-ins, as I have just mentioned, with that gentleman, but he was involved directly with the Holy Family Nursing Home in its original founding. My dad had been involved very deeply with that and had originally sold the property to—on behalf of, I guess, it was the Children's Hospital I believe at that time, the transfer of that to the Holy Family people.

My father also was a member of the Knights of Columbus and state deputy for that organization in the province that had founded the first Ukrainian Council in the province of Manitoba, of which Mark Smerchanski of course had been an active participant.

I also might mention that both John Shanski Senior—who is now a resident of the Premier's (Mr. Filmon) constituency by stroke of the pen by the electoral boundaries people, but had been a constituent of mine for some time—as well as Mark's nephew, John Shanski Junior, who is also now still a constituent of mine, does not vote the right way unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, and that each time

I drive down Roblin Boulevard amidst a sea of blue signs, there is always one red one. Although I have known John Shanski for some 25 or 30 years, went to school and so on, he pays the price each time when I knock on his door to ask for his vote.

I must say that certainly Mark Smerchanski has left his mark on the province of Manitoba, and I express my condolences to the family.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to stand and observe a moment of silence for the late Mark Gerald Smerchanski.

(A moment of silence was observed)

Mr. Praznik: Mr. Speaker, would it be the will of the House to call it six o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock?

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Wednesday, April 3, 1991

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