

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, April 2, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed, I should like to direct the Honourable Members' attention to the gallery where we have the Ambassador of Belgium, Mr. H. E. Charles Verremans; Mr. Ferdinand DeWilde, Consul-General of Belgium; the Consul of Belgium in Winnipeg, Mr. Joseph Bcecx (sic); and Mr. Paul Ponjaert, Cultural Counsellor for the Belgium Assembly.

We also have 40 Students from Red River Community College under the direction of Mrs. Braid, from Red River Community College. On behalf of all the honourable members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, last year I tabled a report of Provincial Tax Comparisons, and the question was raised about the updating of this by the Member for St. Johns. I've tabled here and have made available the additions to that report, and there's one provided for each member of the Legislature and will be distributed. It will be necessary for the members to integrate these tables into the larger tables that were distributed last year.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK (St. Johns): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order in relation to the Minister of Finance's statement for which I thank him, since I deliberately worded this order as an "Updating", could the Minister inform us whether he has now arranged that it becomes a routine matter of the updating material being distributed for insertion into the book?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, we'll attempt to undertake that. It's not a required distribution in the rules of the House, but we will attempt every year to make this updating a routine thing — it will be a yearly affair.

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would just like to advise you, Sir, and all members of the Assembly, that the daffodils on each member's desk are extended as a courtesy of the Manitoba Division of the Canadian Cancer Society. The flower is the floral symbol of the society, whose motto is "Cancer can be Beaten."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, the Member for Logan asked me if I would table the results of a study that was taking place in 1976 in relationship to two schools here in the city — it's lead samples that were taken at that particular time — I would like to table the report at this particular time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the response to an Order for Return No. 1, filed by the Honourable Meer for Elmwood on March 31st, 1978.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (on behalf of Mr. George Minaker) introduced Bill No. 33, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate Bel Acres Golf and Country Club.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ROBERT ANDERSON (on behalf of Mr. Steen) introduced Bill No. 31, An Act to amend An Act to incorporate The Investors Group.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General confirm that during this past week, there nearly occurred a strike of court reporters throughout his department? .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): No, I cannot, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that my Deputy-Minister has met in recent weeks with the chief court reporter, with the chief provincial judge, with people in the administration to review certain forms that were agreed to by all parties concerned and those meetings will continue this afternoon.

MR. PAWLEY: Further supplementary to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General confirm that his special appointee, Mr. Keith Knox, has only interviewed the very top ranking officials within his department, and has not involved himself in discussions or interviews with the general staff, who might very well have complaints within his department.

MR. MERCIER: No, I cannot, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, will the Attorney-General assure the House that prior to us dealing with the Estimates of his department, that we will have available for us, a copy of the Keith Knox report, insofar as the difficulties and problems within his department?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, with respect to these problems which I inherited from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give him the assurance that he has asked for. I have not yet received the report, and until I do I cannot give him any assurance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, despite the Attorney-General's references about inheriting the problems, could the Attorney-General confirm that in fact during the past eight months, he has received reports from the Spivak Enquiry, from the Philco Enquiry, from the Provincial Judges' draft report proposing changes and improvements within the department, and now that he is engaged in a fourth review, an investigation of his department, and that during that period of time, no corrective steps have been undertaken by the Attorney-General pursuant to those reports?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, again with respect to these problems which I inherited from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, there have been a number of reports that have been made on which some changes have been made, and on which I'll be able to comment further when the final report is received.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, half in jest I would like to pose a question to the Attorney-General, whether in fact the problems might not have been inherited from his First Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I really cannot see how the Honourable Leader of the Opposition can speak in jest about the problems which he created.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Attorney-General's admission that in close to 18 months he's not been able to cope with the problems that he finds in his department, is he prepared to delay review of his Estimates until he is in a position to report, both the Knox Report and what is happening and will be done in his department in relation to the allegations that appear in today's newspaper?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, with respect to these problems which I inherited from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition and the Member for St. Johns, we will be dealing with this report very shortly, and I hope these problems will be resolved by the time we consider the Estimates in my department.

MR. CHERNIACK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Attorney-General's ignorance of the task that I performed when I was a member of Cabinet four years ago and the fact that I never did deal with the Attorney-General's Department, is he prepared to answer the question, which was to delay his Estimates until he is in a position to file the Knox Report and in addition, is he prepared to have his staff available at the Estimate period to discuss this particular question which he has failed to deal with in close to 18 months of his stewardship?

MR. MERCIER: Well, for the sake of clearing the record, Mr. Speaker, I will confirm that the Member for St. Johns performed no task with the previous government, if that's what he wishes. Mr. Speaker, when the report is received, it will be dealt with. I'm not certain as to the exact date when I will receive it, so I can't give the Member for St. Johns that assurance.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Attorney-General would like to concur that well prior to his assumption of office as Attorney-General, that at least warrants were being issued and served in rural parts of Manitoba, and that the backlog in our courts were at least, to some degree, less than what we witness presently in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that when the Honourable Leader of the Opposition was the Attorney-General of this province, the backlog was six months, and as a number of judges have noted, the backlog is such that it has fed upon itself and it has increased one month.

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

MR. SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Highways whether he can tell the House just what the nature of the construction is at the bridge site at East Selkirk, apart from the bridge itself.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to take that question as notice and answer the Minister tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I had assured the Member for Flin Flon that I would report back on the 100 people that were tested in the HBMS area in relationship to lead in blood, and that 99 had come in with fairly low readings and that one was questionable. We have re-done the one, and I'm pleased to report to him that it came in at .038, so on that last run that we have 100 were in reasonably good condition.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism and

Cultural Affairs. Has she taken any action to assist the Festival du Voyageur in their recent problems?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Tourism.

HON. NORMA L. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, we are in the throes of having a meeting set up for Thursday of this week. We just received their briefs on Friday.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to ask the Minister whether she is giving serious consideration to increasing provincial funding, which apparently is only 3 percent of the present budget.

MRS. PRICE: Mr. Speaker, that decision will be made after we have had the meeting and we discuss it in Cabinet.

MR. DOERN: I would ask the Minister whether she feels to this point that the funding of the senior government has been adequate.

MRS. PRICE: I don't think it's my place to comment or question, if that's all right, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Last Friday when I asked the Minister why none of the six business people he appointed to the board were representing tenants, he told me it was none of my business, yet outside the House he told the press that apparently some of these business people are tenants, as he is himself. Could the Minister now tell us which of the six people that he appointed to the board last week are indeed tenants?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I have not undertaken to determine which are tenants and which are owners of homes. I don't know whether, in my view, that that enters into the picture, whether there is any significance about being a tenant or an owner. The disputes that are to be settled are between tenants and landlords. And the Rent Stabilization Board is a board that is set up for the purpose of hearing the disputes that come before the board between tenants and landlords, and the only qualification that I would be interested in having, insofar as the board is concerned, is that the people who are placed on that board are knowledgeable, first of all, in this area, and secondly, that they're capable of making compassionate and wise judgments. It remains to be seen, Sir, whether or not that is going to be the case.

I might add that, insofar as the decisions of the Rent Stabilization Board up to this point are concerned, I don't know whether my honourable friend has any criticisms to make of that board, and the decisions that they have handed down so far. I don't happen to have any criticisms of the Board, and I don't think that there will be any need to criticize the board in the future.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. It would appear then that he misled the press when he told them that some of these business people that he appointed were in fact tenants. I'd like to ask the Minister, then, since he feels that the qualifications of the past members appointed to the Board aren't of relevance. Could he indicate why the press release specifically described each of his appointments to the Board as business people or retired business people if in fact that holds no relevance?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: All that we were attempting to do was to point out the qualifications of those people who were appointed to the Board, which is not an unusual practice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I would like to ask the Minister if he is satisfied that tenants who are under the rent control program are indeed represented by people on the Boards who are sensitive to the

need of those people who are living under the rent control program an presently being administered by this government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the decisions that are made are made by the Rent Stabilization Board and I repeat, I have the utmost confidence in that Board and their capability of making decisions that do take into consideration the needs of not only tenants but landlords.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona. with a fourth question.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, since the Minister has obviously reviewed the operations of the Rent Stabilization Program and the operations of the Rent Stabilization Board, is he now in a position to answer the questions that the former Minister of Consumer Affairs took as notice on the last day of the House last year regarding improper actions by Rent Stabilization Board officers regarding Edison Realty Corporation? Are you now in the position having had a year and one-half to look into the matter to report back to the House on it, seeing as you have obviously looked into the operations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: I have at the moment no knowledge of the problem that my honourable friend is now raising. I can only say that I will take the matter up with the present Chairman of the Board who was, I might add, appointed at the time that the Rent Stabilization Board was set up. He was appointed by my honourable friends and I will consult with them to make sure that my honourable friend gets the answer to his question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona with a fifth question.

MR. PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to my fourth question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. I would ask him if he would please check with his seat mate to his right, the former Minister of Consumer Affairs who solemnly undertook on the last day of the session last year, to investigate the matters raised in the Coerred ittee of the Legislature the day before who I ref a whole package of information to, who received also information from the Associated Tenants Action Committee and who promised to look into the matter and report back. I assume that the Minister will, in fact, confer with his colleague on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I'll be looking into this matter, I will check Hansard of last year and review the question and ensure that the answer is provided.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Labour, I would like to ask him in view of the continued rising cost of living, how much more time he needs to make a decision in respect to the minimum wage?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MCMASTER: I would hope not too much longer, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Attorney-General in view of this seven month backlog of court cases which is, of course, a deteriorating situation. Has the Minister lifted the freeze on renovations in the Law Courts or has he approved of any new renovations to the existing Law Courts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, that whole area is under review with the Minister of Government Services.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Attorney-General whether he has given the go-ahead for the construction of the new Provincial Judges Building, in view of the fact that land has been expropriated and an architect was appointed several years ago by our administration.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Elmwood indicates once again his ignorance of matters that he previously had jurisdiction for as Minister of Public Works. He knows full well, Mr. Speaker, that constructions of those kinds of facilities comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the imminent departure of the Minister of Public Works and the deteriorating backlog of court cases, does the Attorney-General intend to press his government, his Premier, his colleagues, to do something about this increasing backlog of Court cases, other than to say things were bad a few years ago?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I advised the member previously that that matter was under active consideration by our government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Some three weeks ago, I asked the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs if he would check out the appointments to the Hearing Aid Board as the result of complaints which I was receiving in my office on the part of those that wish to have their complaints dealt with. Can the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs now indicate whether or not that Board has been reactivated and members appointed to it, so that grievances can be filed by those who do have complaints pertaining to hearing aids?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I want to advise my honourable friend that the Hearing Aid Board does not come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It just so happens that the secretary of the board is the head of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but the board actually comes under the Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs had undertaken to look into this when the question was raised some three weeks ago. I regret now that apparently it has not been followed through, so I would like to redirect my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development and ascertain whether he can advise me as to whether or not the board is being reconstituted and appointments made thereto, so that those who have complaints pertaining to hearing aids can properly have them adjudicated upon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are in the process of reconstituting that board right now.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable Minister of Finance has had an opportunity to ascertain the whereabouts and the dating and the nature of Order-in-Council No. 152 of '79?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. STERLING R. LYON (Charleswood): Mr. Speaker, I was apprised of my honourable friend's question. Somebody on the staff is taking a look at it and I hope to have some information for him tomorrow.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable the First Minister. I would like now to direct a question to the Minister of Highways to whom I spoke about this last week, and I suppose the Minister of Tourism would also be interested in the answer, that I've been asked about from an Ontario resident who wanted to know what method is now being used to inform automobile travellers as to what is meant by "Orbit" when they see a sign saying: "Orbit in 10 Seconds"? Are they to go into orbit or is the Honourable Minister in orbit, or is he able to tell us whether there is information? I mean, this was a serious inquiry, as to how peOple are informed of that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Honourable Member for St. Johns, who asked this question a week ago of me. I have since then set up a task force to come up with the answers. It perplexes me too. It seems that most Manitobans, particularly if you drive in from some of our busier highways — when you see the garbage and Other things piled around the containers — know what the Orbit is for, but I suppose there are some that don't. I'll undertake to look into that.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, now that we are informed that the Minister of Highways is doing as all other Ministers of his government, studying, setting up task forces, and monitoring, could he take to his own attention, and that of his task force, the question of what non-Manitobans are supposed to know; people coming in from any of the other three borders, or people flying in and renting a car. I assume he will have to set up an out-of-town task force as well out-of-province, or whatever; would he take that into consideration, considering that as a tourist promotion, if he doesn't care, the Minister of Tourism would certainly be concerned with servicing tourists as well as local residents.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to answer the Honourable Member for St. Johns seriously, in the sense that that program does receive, by the Department of Highways and Transportation, perhaps more letters of commendation than on many other things that the department does. We provide, of course, the little plastic litter bags, which, with particular information on it, metric information on it. We provide a capability of relieving the roadsides of litter. The department receives a surprisingly number of complimentary comments about the "Orbit" garbage collection program.

I will have to undertake, in conjunction with the Minister of Tourism and others, who has in her budget, and advertises the finer things of life: the Winnipeg Symphony; the Ballet, and our "Orbit" systems that are available in this province when they visit this province, to insert perhaps in some of the bottom ads, what the "Orbit" cans are for in Manitoba. On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, I could suggest that in-coming visitors leave their garbage at home and not bring it into Manitoba. But, in any event, Mr. Speaker, I undertake to look into the problem. I will have the Task Force put it up high on its priority list.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address a question to the Minister of Health and Community Services, respecting the Brandon Correctional Institute, which is still under construction I believe. Could the Honourable Minister advise the House when the Brandon Correctional Institute will become operational?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the firmest date I have at the moment is mid-fall, 1979.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Honourable Minister advise the House whether it is still the intention of the government of Manitoba to house juveniles under the same roof as adults in that particular facility now under construction, when it is operational?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, that couldn't be described as an intention, Mr. Speaker. It certainly would be an ambition provided it's legal and acceptable. If it's not legal and acceptable, well then we won't do it.

MR. EVANS: Well, I would gather then, Mr. Speaker, by way of confirmation then, is the Honourable

Minister advising the House that the Government of Manitoba will not break the federal laws of this land, which prohibits the housing of juveniles in the same facility as adults? So the Honourable Minister is now confirming that the government has no intention of housing juveniles in the new Brandon correctional facility because it is breaking the federal law, and I believe, some provincial laws in this matter.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, what I am confirming to the Honourable Member for Brandon East, is something that I presume he has known ever since school days, and that is that life is a series of compromises, and the world is made up of co-operation and compromise. We don't intend to push that compromise any further than we feel we reasonably can.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Churchill had asked me a few days ago, which particular companies we were starting with in relationship to our lead program here in the city, and it's Canadian Bronze; Northwest Smelting and Refining; Bay Bronze, Canada Metal, and Varta Batteries. That's the five that we're starting with.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentions in his answer just briefly, that they are starting with those five companies. I am wondering if the Minister then can confirm that they are intending to pursue that so-called lead controlled program further and apply it to more companies in the city?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, this is a start for the program that we have in place and we will be expanding on it. I don't know which program the member is talking about — the so-called one — but the one that's working reasonably effectively so far, that's the one that we're going to be carrying on with.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems as if I've had this discussion with the Minister before. The program I'm talking about is the one that has failed to gain acceptance from the unions involved. I would further ask the Minister, when he intends to enlarge this program and if he will be enlarging it into areas other than in secondary smelters?

MR. MacMASTER: This is a program, Mr. Speaker, that the working men and women of the province are very appreciative of; that's the one I'm talking about, and we will be expanding it as soon as we have handled these particular companies and grappled with the situation that we're now faced with in dealing with them, a situation that we're all aware of that's been with us for many many years.

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

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister. Can the Minister confirm, that according to the report that he tabled in the House today, that over 41 percent of the 295 students tested at Weston School, showed lead in blood levels that are either approaching — dangerously approaching — or exceeding what is considered the permissible exposure limit for children?

MR. MacMASTER: I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker, the report has been tabled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a fourth question.

MR. COWAN: Yes. I would ask the Minister then, Mr. Speaker, if he can confirm that 30 micrograms of lead per 100 grams of whole blood is considered to be the permissible exposure limit for children?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what country those statistics would apply to.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a fifth question.

MR. COWAN: Yes, a supplementary to the Minister. Can the Minister confirm that the results of

lead in blood testing done at have not been sent back to HBMS , so that the employees there can be notified because — and I am quoting from an article from MacLeans that just appeared — because the company doctor tells us that the laboratory in Winnipeg doesn't have enough typists to get the results back to us?

MR. MacMASTER: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that's nonsense.

MR. MacMASTER: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that's nonsense.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a sixth question.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, about a week ago, or two weeks ago, we asked the Minister if he could indicate why the results weren't being given back to HBMS, and that there was a delay, and we got that information from the officials at HBMS and the Minister has never answered us. I'm wondering if the Minister can now inform us as to why people in Flin Flon have been waiting since November . . . have been waiting since November, for the results of lead and blood testing that has been sent in to the Workplace Safety and Health Division?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, before our program was implemented and there was no concentrated effort in relationship to this particular problem in the Province of Manitoba, it was taking a period of months. It's never been denied by myself or by officials of the Department that it took months. We can now say fairly positively that tests are now running through in a period of two weeks, and I think that in itself is a substantial improvement on what existed before.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a seventh question.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not keeping count, but I feel the item is worth pursuing. I would ask the Minister then if the Minister can indicate specifically, which he has refused to do on numerous occasions, can he indicate specifically what the delay was that kept the results from reaching Flin Flon for a matter of three or four months?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Fitness and Sport and deals with Order for Return

55 asking for bids on the Lord Selkirk. Can the Minister tell me which member of the Treasury Branch now has the responsibility for this Order?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sports.

MR. BANMAN: I believe the Minister of Finance was filing that Order for Return. The Minister of Finance.

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

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question then to the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance inform the House when he expects to take this paper out of the appropriate filing cabinet and file it in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, Orders for Return are normally dealt with by the House Leader, and I would direct them through the House Leader .If there's one standing that has yet to be filed, it will be filed as soon as the information is ready.

MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Honourable House Leader. Would the Honourable House Leader bring it to the attention of his colleague, the Minister of Finance, that Order for Return No. 55 is still outstanding.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I will do that immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM (Rupertsland): Mr. Speaker, given the special conditions on the permit which the Province of Manitoba issued to Mr. J. A. Jarmoc regarding the right of way clearance and the disposal of debris from the building of the road that the province has allowed the gentleman to construct, I wonder if the Minister can confirm that the individual in question used the debris to put in the centre of the right of way, and build his road over top of the debris, and did not comply with the special conditions as outlined in the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the day. The Honourable Minister of Mines, Natural Resources and the Environment.

MR. RANSOM: No, Mr. Speaker, I can't confirm that.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this matter was brought to the government's attention last year in the Session, I wonder if the Minister can undertake to have this matter investigated; and also, can the Minister answer the other question which we raised at that time, and that is did this gentleman in question pay the province for the borrowed material utilized in constructing this particular road?

MR. RANSOM: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd be quite happy to enquire in my department what they know about the type of construction that went into the road in question, and I believe that the honourable member would find that the questions with respect to the aggregate material that was used, that those questions were answered in the last Session.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Premier with respect to branch line abandonment — a subject which he seems to be knowledgeable of. Could the Minister advise the House whether the Government of Manitoba is satisfied with the recommendations of the Prairie Rail Action Committee respecting the elimination of certain branch lines in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I can't imagine any government of any prairie province in western Canada that's satisfied with the recommendations of the PRAC Committee.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, can the Honourable Premier advise the House what action his government is taking to aggressively and actively oppose the recommendations and implementation of those recommendations with respect to branch line abandonment?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, we have two departments of government with an input into the rail line abandonment question — both of whom are working assiduously with the communities and with the other people who are involved with respect to rail line abandonment.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Honourable Premier advise the House whether his government and the various departments involved are actively making their views known — the views of the Government of Manitoba — known to the Prairie Rail Action Committee to persuade them to change their mind, if that should be the case, or to alter any decision that may be negative in the views of the Government of Manitoba?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, that is my information, yes.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Honourable Premier be kind enough to provide the members of the Legislature with a report or data outlining those branch lines that are in the

process of being abandoned by virtue of decisions of the Prairie Rail Action Committee?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I believe that that information is all public, and my honourable friend has access to it the same as the government. If there's any particular information he wants that the relevant departments can provide, I'm sure we'd be happy to provide them so that we could add his voice to that of the government with respect to rail line abandonment.

MR. EVANS: I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Premier could advise the Members of the House whether the government has a particular position on the various branch lines that are being proposed for abandonment? Can the Premier advise specifically what the position is with respect to the various lines that are in the process of being abandoned?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that the departments in question have worked up position papers largely for the benefit of those who are active in the opposition to some of the PRAC reports. I will have the respective ministers check, and if there's any information that would be of help to my honourable friend, we'll make sure he gets it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a fifth question.

MR. EVANS: Would the Honourable Premier be prepared to table, if any should exist, to table for the information of the Members of the Legislature, information on the negative impact — the negative economic impact — on those communities that are being negatively affected by branch line abandonment?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I believe I've already answered that question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a sixth question.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the Premier answer in the positive with respect to that and just for a matter of clarity, I was asking the Premier a question with regard to the negative impact on the communities involved and is he assuring me that he's prepared to make that information available to the House, that is information of the possible or potential negative impacts to the communities involved by the branch line abandonment process that is now taking place in this province?

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I previously undertook to check with the departments and see what information was available for my honourable friend and let him have it. He can make his own opinion then, as to whether the information is negative, positive or whatever. But I won't presume to tell him what's in reports until we see them ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Labour. In light of previous answers the Minister gave today, can the Minister indicate which threshold limit value or value limits the Workplace Safety and Health Division is using as the permissible exposure level for children and adults who wish to plan families?

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, perhaps the Minister then would undertake to provide us with that information. It is extremely important in light of the contents of the report that he tabled today. I'll ask the Minister then if there is any intention to conduct further studies as to establish what effects lead emissions are having on schools and residential areas in close proximity to lead using industries?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Our department, right as of today and as of yesterday, is considering the possibility of conducting another survey, Mr. Speaker. As time goes by you develop better methods of doing things and this study was done in 1976 and I'm not totally satisfied that it's acceptable and we're going to conduct another survey in the near future.

MR. COWAN: Yes thank you, Mr. Speaker, while following upon that very interesting statement that the Minister is not certain that the report is acceptable, I am wondering if he would be kind enough to inform us as to exactly what it is in this report that he finds unacceptable or possibly unacceptable.

MR. MacMASTER: I meant acceptable on the contents of advancement in technology over the course of the years, Mr. Speaker. I thought I made that clear. This is three years later and I would assume, I don't know, but I would assume there's better methods of doing things and I would like our department, and they are going to in the near future, take a survey along the same lines as the one that was taken three years ago and we'll determine what results come out of that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for questioning having expired, the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce a change on the Standing Committee of Law Amendments. The Member for Selkirk to be replaced by the Member for Rupertsland.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSON: Will you call Bill No. 26, Mr. Speaker.

BILL NO. 26 — The INTERIM APPROPRIATION ACT, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 26. The Honourable Member for Burrows. He has 22 minutes left.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday I was in the process of assisting this government by attempting to refresh its memory on the some of the promises and commitments that they made to the people of Manitoba during the fall of 1977 and in particular promises and commitments which the government had made but which over the past year and a half did not keep. And in the 21 minutes remaining, Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue along that same vein and thus demonstrate to the government our displeasure at having to approve Interim Supply which do not reflect those promises which the government had made to the people of Manitoba in which, I suppose, many Manitobans accepted in good faith that those were promises that the government was going to keep but in fact, has not.

Now all Manitobans of course weren't that blind. Some Manitobans did see through it all and did not accept the government's promises and in fact the majority, the 51 percent did not accept the government's promises and amongst that 51 percent, Mr. Speaker, is a fair number of the people in the north as representation in this House demonstrates. When the First Minister was at Split Lake about September 13th, the headline in the press following his meeting there read as follows: "Lyons says biggest need in north is more jobs," and at the same meeting in Split Lake he said: "Lyons said if elected his would be a listening government that would try find out what local people think is the solution to their problems."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we know this government has not created any jobs, neither in the north nor in the south nor in any part of Manitoba and then the listening government attitude, well we've seen that too, monitor, study, keep a close eye on, keep a close watch on, etc. Anything but to delay action.

And another commitment a week later made by the First Minister in Grand Beach . . . —(Interjection)— and yes, and the First Minister said another example of this approach — and listen to this, Mr. Speaker, of not making any false promises. He's very determined not to make any false promises and what was a promise he made? Well it's a P.C. commitment to increase the province's share of funding the Foundation Program from the current 50 percent level up to 80 percent, but he did say that we can't bring it up to 80 percent in one year. Mr. Speaker, over the past year and a half what we've seen is not any move toward bringing the level of provincial support closer to 80 percent but in fact, the government is moving in the opposite direction, further away from 80 percent.

And then a couple of days later speaking at Emerson, "Lyon accuses NDP of scaring elderly." Well, Mr. Speaker, who is scaring the elderly? What did we hear from the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet just a few days ago about the Bill that she had received for extra services at her hospital. Who is scaring the elderly, Mr. Speaker? This is the government that is scaring the elderly? —(Interjections)— And they are scaring the elderly in a variety of other ways with all their

cutbacks and the Honourable Member for Lakeside, he knows full well that is true. —(Interjection)—
The Honourable Minister of Highways says that he wouldn't scare his mother.
—(Interjection)—

MR. HANUSCHAK: I don't know, his mother may have written him off long ago as a lost cause. Then, Mr. Speaker, getting to Winnipeg the first week of October. Well, this is the way it's described, "The P.C.s revel in Schreyer's heart gland." And the way it was described by Debbie Sproat in the Free Press, it could have been a carnival with clouds sporting bulbous red noses and signs reading "I'm a better clown than our present MLA". A big clown act. That's the way they hope to attract votes, and there too, what are some of the promises that the First Minister made? Lyon said the core area of Winnipeg is deteriorating with the kind of urban blight that has caused the fester and disease of other cities in North America. And how does this government treat the city of Winnipeg? Announce their \$30 million fund blocking program. Then . . . —(Interjection)— Fund blocking program. Then the First Minister went on to say that money from Central Mortgage and Housing could be used in some areas of the city to help preserve these neighbourhoods and encourage young families to return to downtown areas.

How much of that has the government done? Where is there evidence of it, Mr. Speaker? An improvement to the health care — oh, listen to this, Mr. Speaker. An improvement in the health care system, he suggested might be the inclusion of ambulance services, which can be prohibitively costly in rural areas within the Medicare program, as soon as this is fiscally possible. In the field of education, he said the Conservatives would work in practical ways to extend fuller educational opportunities to the handicapped, and not a thing has been done in this area. Not a thing.

MR. ENNS: Not true.

MR. HANUSCHAK: He goes to Dauphin, Mr. Speaker, and there his speech has been billed as a major issue and policy address. But the press, they heard the speech before. In fact, in the same paragraph, it goes on to say it was a repeat of the same speech he made all week at places such as Stonewall and Steinbach and Emerson, Miami and Dugald.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the other day, in Private Members' Debate, I think it was the Honourable Member for St. Matthews who said, "Thank goodness members in this House have not yet been replaced by a machine". Members on that side may as well be replaced by a very simple machine called a tape recorder, because obviously it was the same speech, the same garbage that the First Leader, the First Minister — the First Minister, the Minister, who's an expert in the operation of a peanut stand. —(Interjection)— From that peanut stand Cabinet over there, that peanut stand Cabinet, with their peanut stand First Minister. Mr. Speaker, but the expert on the operation of peanut stands is the one occupying the centre seat, because he is the one who has a tendency to get up from his seat and use that as a criterion of another person's ability, his ability to run or not to run a peanut stand. The First Minister says that. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what the job description is for the operation of a peanut stand, but the First Minister seems to know. So he and his colleagues must be an expert on the operation of peanut stands.

Now, we also hear chirping from the Member for Wolseley, Mr. Speaker. Well, he has reasons to be concerned. He's got reasons to be concerned, because he's losing the next election and he's worried because he can recall the last election when he did not receive any assistance from his leader. His leader didn't even set food in his riding. You recall the story, Mr. Speaker, in the October 7th issue of the Tribune, titled "Bitter Tory In-fighting". Bitter Tory In-fighting. Mr. Wilson running in Wolseley said Mr. Lyon has not yet visited his riding. Organization — ah, well this sort of — one squares with the other. Because as the promises that the First Minister made to the people of Manitoba, he's not delivering, and he demonstrated the same type of conduct and behavior within his own party ranks. Because listen to this, Mr. Speaker. "Organizational assistance promised by party headquarters also never materialized." So, you know, they treat their own members in the same fashion.

Nw, the member is talking about a coat-tail candidate. I would like the Member for Wolseley to know that I was elected to this House at a time when there was no Ed Schreyer leading this party. In 1966 there was no Ed Schreyer. We ran on the platform of our party, and eleven of us got elected. And then in '69 we went on to get elected to form the government, as we will again, come the next election.

And then of course, well, you know, the article goes on to talk about backstabbing within the party and so on and so forth, members dropping out like flies, and candidates nominated at private unpublicized meetings. —(Interjection)— That was with Phil Lee was nominated, at a private, unpublicized meeting. I don't think he made out all that well. In fact, I distinctly recall him losing.

Now of course, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Wolseley, you know, has another matter of concern to him, because he, the Member for Wolseley, did not appear on that short list of candidates for Cabinet, despite the fact that two days before Cabinet was appointed of this government, the Honourable Member for Wolseley, was speaking at — I believe, yes — this was a meeting of the Tourist and Convention Association of Manitoba. And I guess he was screeching for a call, Mr. Speaker, when he was speaking at this meeting. But it didn't work, because like I said, he didn't even appear on the short list, when he said, "If I was the Minister of Tourism, I would get some of the Federal dollars available for promotional material." And you know what else he said, Mr. Speaker? "And I'd also market Manitoba Moods, which is an excellent publication", says the Member for Wolseley. And the Member for Wolseley did not get the appointment; the one who did scrapped the magazine, and he did the same thing with it in the same manner as he handled the boat. Because, as you will recall, Mr. Speaker, the first thing that he did upon being appointed Minister of Tourism, he cancelled all reservations for the boat. And then attempts to sell it. And then attempts to sell it. Now, Mr. Speaker, is that the type of advice that this government may have — this free advice that they may have been getting from the two gentlemen by the name of J. Derek Riley and Edson Boyd, two Winnipeg businessmen who had volunteered to advise the provincial government, and the best means of disposing of companies now owned by the Manitoba Development Corporation. Drive them into the ground and then sell them, knowing full well that nobody will pay a half decent price for it, so that way their friends will be able to pick up assets owned by the people of Manitoba for next to nothing. Which has been the story of Saunders Aircraft, which has been the story of Morden Fine Foods, which has been the story of the Lord Selkirk, and which likely will be the story of other assets owned by the people of the province of Manitoba.

Now, the Honourable Member for Minnedosa is already serving notice he's going to sell Gull Harbour, and I'm sure that he will. I'm sure that he will. And he'll sell it in the same fashion, that's right, he'll sell it in the same fashion as he sold other assets. He'll give them away. He'll give them away. So, well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps what the First Minister should take a second look, just to refresh his memory and take a second look at some of the names that he was throwing around for various Cabinet appointments, and which weren't appointed to Cabinet. They can't do any worse than this gang. They won't do any better, but you know they are all of the same kind of cloth — but maybe change around. Of course, the First Minister will have to make some Cabinet changes, and appointments, in the very near future, because he's lost one Minister this morning; and so, the election campaign is just under way, I don't know, there may be one or two others who may have their cites set on the political exercise scheduled for May 22nd. So maybe, at the same time, as he's filling that vacancy, which I admit isn't a very interesting one, because all he is merely the head caretaker of the buildings owned by the people of Manitoba, because there's no construction going on, you know, there's no planning, no building of any facilities. So all he has to do at the present time is to make sure that the floors are swept from time to time and the floor is washed, and that's about all that he has to do.

So maybe the First Minister should take a look at some of these who missed out the last time around, like the Honourable Member for Swan River, who was pegged as you know one of the more definite ones from rural Manitoba. I see the Member for St. James was also considered and he lost out, oh the Member for St. Matthews was considered for appointment to Cabinet; —(Interjection)— well, maybe the First Minister should appoint the Member for St. Matthews to Cabinet. —(Interjection)— That's right, that's right, maybe he should appoint him Minister of Labour, and get the 25 cent increase in the Minimum Wage; and now there are some others who were by-passed — yes, the Member for St. James, I mentioned him. For some reason or the other the Minister of Highways at one time, he was considered as Minister of Health, he was considered as being the recipient of the Health Portfolio, and he missed out on that one; so maybe he and the Member for Fort Garry should change jobs. —(Interjection)— Yes, so we've been told, and so it's evident; or it was also suggested that for Corrections, perhaps the Member for St. Matthews might be the Minister for Correction, or the present Minister of Economic Development; and the Member for Minnedosa for Renewable Resources or High ways; and the Member for Crescentwood for Public Works. So the First Minister, he has all these names to look at, and maybe he ought to consider appointing some of them, and just for a change of venue assign them some of the portfolios that are presently occupied by the present occupants of the Treasury Bench.

And the Member for Wolseley says that he has a few surprises. Well, I think that the same surprise that the Member for Wolseley experienced a year and one-half ago, when he discovered that he was not appointed to Cabinet, he will experience the same surprise again. —(Interjection)— Yes, the '73 surprise was the best surprise.

So, Mr. Speaker, for these reasons we do find it difficult to give approval to Interim Supply, in view of the fact that they do not reflect the promises and commitments made by this Party during the 1977 election campaign. As I indicated at the outset today, that I want to help this government

by refreshing its memory of the promises that they made, and we on this side will be quite willing and prepared to offer that type of assistance again and again and again from now until the next election, and will keep reminding them and will continue to remind the people of Manitoba of the countless promises made by the Conservative Party, and not kept but broken.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no desire to hold up passage of the matter before us, but I did want to make some statements on the record before this item is passed; particularly given the provocative kind of diatribe we had on Friday last, from the Minister of Health, who seemed to be trying to give a whitewash job to the whole policy that this government is following, particularly in the field of health. We have very serious conditions in the area of health care in Manitoba today because of the actions of this government, and we hear the Minister of Health coming in and saying that there has been no change; there is no change; there's no deterioration in the health care in Manitoba; when all the facts that are coming to our attention are showing information to the contrary.

We have had in this province for the last seventeen months, now, a policy of P.C. restraint, which, if anything, shows that they have a very queer sense of priorities, certainly misdirected priorities in the view of members on this side of the House. Their philosophy is revealing itself to all Manitobans and I hope, through people across Canada watching what's happening in this province, that the rest of Canada will realize what is happening with a P.C. government — what can happen with a P.C. government — and will realize that the kind of policies that they espouse are outdated, and certainly do not fit the problems of modern day society. The kind of government that they believe in — the kind of inactive, lack-of-action government — based on one simple policy, and that is restraint, certainly brought us into a very difficult position in Manitoba.

We find out after seventeen months of this kind of government that the government services do not cost the same, they cost more, and the services that we are receiving are deteriorating under this government; their priorities are certainly not the kind of priorities that we would have, if we were in government. I believe we would put a priority on things like health care, like education, and this government is giving those a back seat as far as their priorities are concerned.

The result is that people in Manitoba certainly do not feel better after 17 months of this government, they feel worse. And the poor and middle income people in Manitoba are not paying less as the P.C.s promised them during the election campaign in 1977, they are paying more for less. The P.C. government has proven that it's not even good at dismantling programs. It's now, after 17 months of government, proving that after dismantling many programs it's costing the people of Manitoba — the taxpayers of Manitoba — more money to receive less services.

Where's the fat they talked about during the last election? Where was all of that fat that they were going to remove from the expenditures in Manitoba? After making their tax cuts initially in the special session in the fall of 1977, they claimed they could afford those tax cuts; now we see that they are going to have a deficit this coming year approaching \$131 million — for the end of this fiscal year, rather. Even without the tax cuts which they made, there would have been a deficit of \$50 million or more. So, Mr. Speaker, where is the fat that these people talked about during the election campaign of 1977?

In following their priorities, they still have a deficit of \$131 million in this fiscal year, and in order to maintain their set of priorities, their peculiar set of priorities, they cut into the muscle and the bone of programs that are essential to the well-being of all Manitobans. They've cut into our health care, very seriously assaulted the health care of this province to the point where almost daily we have calls coming in to radio programs, calls coming in to MLAs, calls coming in to reporters and the press, complaining about the state of our health care in Manitoba. We find that the PC government, after 17 months in office, has only one policy and that is restraint. You ask him about any other policy, "Well, we're reviewing it, we're monitoring it, we're reviewing this policy, we'll announce this policy in due course." They have no other policies.

During the Estimates of the Honourable Minister for Mines and Resources, we asked him about mining policy, we asked him about park policy, we asked him about resources policy; after 17 months in office, he didn't have a policy. He still doesn't have a policy. The only policy this government has is a policy of restraint and, Mr. Speaker, that restraint means that we are facing an assault on health care in this province, we're facing an assault on public school education. They seem to have money for private schools at the expense of the public school system in Manitoba. We have an assault on municipal services in this province, where there are cutbacks to municipalities and then the municipalities have to increase their tax load on the property taxpayers of Manitoba, in order to just maintain services.

We saw in the city of Winnipeg this winter, a severe deterioration in the services that the City

of Winnipeg was able to supply to the residents of the city, and as a result of the cutbacks that this government has imposed on the City of Winnipeg, we're going to have even poorer services next year and we'll pay more for them. And, Mr. Speaker, this is the same in all the municipalities in the province of Manitoba. Either they've had to severely restrict and pull back on services, or else they've had to increase taxes or both; in most cases both, because most of the services that the municipalities delivered to people are essential services. They must be done.

We have had an assault on northern communities, where there have been severe cutbacks. The job situation in remote communities, Indian reserves in Manitoba is nothing short of scandalous. This government has no policy in that regard either. They have no programs to assist communities in attempting to get themselves out of the welfare rut; to develop their resources to be able to create employment for the people that live in their communities. All we see is an assault on the programs that were assisting these communities, that were attempting to help these communities pull themselves up and get out of the situation they were in to improve their lot.

Mr. Speaker, the result is that there is untold suffering of those who are directly affected by the restraint policies of this government. One thing they have been very successful at is intimidating people. They have intimidated people who are in institutions; they have been intimidating to people who are in northern communities. They are intimidating to those who are in the civil service of Manitoba. They are intimidating to workers who are working in the various industries that are somehow connected one way or another with government. So, it's very difficult for any of these people, at least they feel it's very difficult for them to come out and be openly critical of this government. Because they are afraid, Mr. Speaker, if they are critical, that there will be even more severe cutbacks, even more severe than they have experienced so far. They tread very lightly and, Mr. Speaker, it's a pent-up kind of emotion that people are feeling, a pent-up disgust and dismay with this government, but at the same time, they're intimidated into not coming out and really speaking out strongly against the measures that this government is following. And there's untold suffering, Mr. Speaker, on the part of those who are directly affected and certainly untold suffering by every thinking, feeling Manitoban, who sees the problems that this government is creating.

The result of their policies means that there's more people in Manitoba on welfare, and you can certainly see it in the northern communities, on the Indian reserves and in the northern remote communities. There is no more work programs of any kind; there's no kind of economic aid for these communities to be able to develop industries, based on resource harvesting or other kinds of industries to create jobs for people and, Mr. Speaker, this government has shown through its own statistics which it has produced here in the House, that they provided nothing in the way of jobs for people that are coming on to the market — the young people of Manitoba, who are coming on to the market, looking for work. In the last month, according to the statistics that were presented by the First Minister himself, there were a thousand people come on the market, and they were just put right on to the unemployment rolls. There were no jobs for them. And, Mr. Speaker, these people are either going on some kind of assistance or they're leaving the province. In either case, Mr. Speaker, it's shameful and it's certainly an indictment of this government and the actions that they have taken.

All you have to do is look at the headlines that come out in the press and, Mr. Speaker, we know that the press is not always the most friendly to the New Democratic Party, and it's certainly not unfriendly to the P.C. group, Mr. Speaker, but if you look at the newspapers, even the newspapers that are friendly to the Progressive Conservative Party in this province, even they can't ignore what is happening. You see the statements — University of Brandon, "Budget cuts cause irreversible damage to the University of Brandon." Mr. Speaker, irreversible damage to the institution which is turning out graduates for everybody in Manitoba, as well as Canadians as a whole.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that are coming out of the University of Brandon and the University of Manitoba, which has also been hurt by the cutbacks, that are coming out of there as graduates without as good a background as they would have had with proper funding. These graduates will not be adequately trained, and as a result they're permanently damaging the futures of these young people that are coming out of these universities, because they will be going on to a job market, competing with other graduates from other universities, and their prospects will be less likely to be successful than those that are coming out of more adequately funded universities.

And, Mr. Speaker, the budget cutbacks in this province have driven out the Dean of Engineering out of Manitoba, and at an interview with the University of Manitoba's student newspaper, and I quote from him and he is speaking to one of the reporters there who asked him why he was leaving Manitoba and I quote, "I would add one final word of warning that, unless the Province of Manitoba recognizes the seriousness of its position very soon, it will overtake Newfoundland as the poorest province in Canada." And, Mr. Speaker, this is a Dean of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Engineering, who is leaving Manitoba in dismay and disgust at this government's policies, this government's priorities, this government's sense of priorities as far as the —(Interjection)— I read

the article; you read the article. And I'm quoting directly from the article. —(Interjection)— I'm quoting directly from the university. And Mr. Speaker, this kind of a threat on the universities, I'm not surprised that the Honourable Member for St. James is dismayed at this, because I believe he's a graduate of the Faculty of Engineering. Perhaps at the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, when this Faculty of Engineering goes down the drain with the policies that this government is following, as a result of the policies this government is following, his degree will be less prestigious, certainly less valuable in the field of engineering in Canada. When he goes to another province or to another country and says, "Oh yes, I have a degree from the University of Manitoba Faculty of Engineering," and they say, "Oh, isn't that the Faculty where the dean left and it's likely to lose its accreditation?" Mr. Speaker, that's why the Honourable Member for St. James is dismayed by this. I don't blame him, because he should be dismayed, all the people of Manitoba should be dismayed. Because the graduates who are coming out of there will not be adequately trained, and it certainly puts a smudge on the degree that any former graduate of that university may have.

Mr. Speaker, it's obvious from the reports that we are getting that the radio stations are getting, the press is receiving, that the hospitals in Manitoba are unable to maintain their services. And we've had the example in the House here, which was very thoroughly debated, I believe, by my colleague the Honourable Member for St. Boniface, regarding the St. Boniface Hospital, and Mr. Speaker, the hospital of St. Boniface has reported that if the budget cuts are imposed on them as announced, they will have to turn away at least 15 people from the kidney dialysis section. And Mr. Speaker, what will happen with these people? Is this government going to abandon these people to a sure death? Because if the funds are not there, these people will be facing that consequence. Mr. Speaker, the patient care in general, in all hospitals in Manitoba, is deteriorating.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Lac du Bonnet just a week ago showed up another failing of this government, in failing to provide proper funding to hospitals. The hospitals are starting to charge a fee of over \$100 a day to any patient who has to continue to occupy a bed in a hospital after that person, as an elderly person, is discharged medically and not able to get into a personal care home. Mr. Speaker, this is scandalous. This means that an elderly person in a hospital bed, within a very short period of time, will have their complete life savings, their house, their land, whatever they may have, completely wiped out. And it's as a result of this government's policies. That never happened before. The Honourable Minister of Health can get up and say that this has been a practice. It certainly has not been a practice. It never happened before. It's a first case. It's certainly the first case in Selkirk. It's the first case since Medicare came in.

Mr. Speaker, we see the case of the personal care homes in Manitoba. And this, I believe, is really scandalous when you consider the cutbacks in the personal care homes and the result being the mistreatment of our elderly people in Manitoba. You've seen the editorials. This is not just the New Democratic Party that's speaking out on this issue. I mean, you see an article by Alice Kgueger in the Winnipeg Free Press, "Mistreatment for the Elderly". I hope you members on the other side will take the time to read this article. Because it points out, Mr. Speaker, a scandalous situation in personal care homes in this province. And if you quote from the article, there's a woman who came to complain to the reporter in question, saying that the kind of treatment her mother received in the Winnipeg Nursing Home was "like the concentration camps of Nazi Germany". Now, our reporter goes on to describe that maybe this was a bit extreme, but, Mr. Speaker, some of the things that were happening, not as a result of people in the homes not wanting to provide the proper care, but, Mr. Speaker, not being able to provide the proper care because of inadequate funding. Inadequate funding, which results in inadequate staff ratios, staff-patient ratios, which leads to patients being left on their own and not being able to fend for themselves. Mr. Speaker, this article refers to the people that came to this reporter to complain, to say that, where because of cutbacks, I quote again, "where because of cutbacks, bed-ridden patients have to lie in soiled diapers for hours because they're not being changed as often as before". Mr. Speaker, last session we brought up, just shortly after this government was elected, we brought up the problem with not changing the sheets in the beds. Well, Mr. Speaker, here's a case that's even more serious.

Mr. Speaker, she goes on to outline the complaint of another woman who talked to her, and this woman says that she came in to visit her mother in the personal care home and finds her mother lying on the dining room floor, after falling out of a chair. Mr. Speaker, this is after the cutbacks of this government, the cutbacks of the Progressive Conservative government, who proclaimed in the fall of 1977, when they were running for election, that they were going to do all these things better than the New Democrats were doing them, and it was going to cost less money. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's costing more money now, and they're doing less. And it's costing the people of Manitoba more for less services by this government. And if that's not inefficiency and mismanagement, I don't know what is.

Mr. Speaker, the reporter goes on to say in her kindest words, that these are just four instances

of alleged mistreatment of our elderly, and she says "maybe this is just a coincidence", but what if it isn't, Mr. Speaker. What if it isn't a coincidence? Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to believe from the reports that we have had, as members of the Opposition, that this is indeed the tip of the iceberg and that in many personal care homes the patients are facing inadequate service, it's bordering on mistreatment if it is not absolute mistreatment of our elderly people. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before, the people of Manitoba who have old people in these homes, that have parents or relatives, loved ones in these homes, are afraid to speak out, because they think this government will cut even more, and situations will get worse. And the people who are living in these homes are afraid to speak out because they are also afraid that this government will cut even more. And they will suffer even more than they're suffering now. So, Mr. Speaker, this group is suffering in silence. Both those who are in the homes and those who are outside the homes, fearful for those loved ones who are in these homes.

Mr. Speaker, there's certainly evidences of not enough care and attention being given to people in personal care homes. I believe that's a very serious indictment of this government and this government's policies, this government's sense of priorities. As our party has maintained, Mr. Speaker, it's a measure of any civilization how it treats those who are not able to help themselves, and particularly how it treats those who are the elderly in its population.

Mr. Speaker, this province, through the actions of this government, has slipped to one of the lowest levels of civilization in Canada because of the actions of this government. And yesterday, I'm sorry, not yesterday but on Friday, the Minister of Health and Social Development got up from his seat and said to the members of this House and to the press, to the people of Manitoba, that there have been no cuts in basic services. Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the press print his words. I hope that the media will report what he has said, because the people of Manitoba will judge the truth of those statements. It's not just up to the Opposition group in the Legislature to judge the truth of those statements, but let the people who have loved ones in the hospitals, let those who have loved ones in personal care homes and institutions in Manitoba, let them judge the truth of his statements, because, Mr. Speaker, they know that that is not the case, that there have indeed been reductions in the basic services in the hospitals, in the personal care homes and in the other institutions in our province.

Mr. Speaker, in almost every area where we're dealing with human services, this government has reduced its contribution, its sense of priorities. If you look at the community psychiatric services for children, reduction. If you look at the employment services providing jobs for chronically unemployed, \$1.3 million reduction. Office for income security, reduction. Financial assistance to disabled, reduction. Day care expenditures, reduction.

And Mr. Speaker, you look at other groups in society that are looking at the cuts following this government's sense of priorities, the Task Force on Human Needs and Restraints. Mr. Speaker, I don't recognize any of the names on this list here. They call themselves the Politically Non-Partisan Group. Mr. Speaker, they have held meetings all around the province of Manitoba, and it's their conclusion that the policies of government restraints have hurt the poor, the welfare recipients, the native people, all minority groups, senior citizens, pensioners, mentally ill, and Mr. Speaker, they quote in a press release of March 7th that the decline in staff-patient ratios in personal care homes are leaving the most dependent physically ill senior citizens in jeopardy. And Mr. Speaker, the Minister gets up and says that there has been no change in basic services. Mr. Speaker, they go on to say that government restraints are having an effect on adult education, child care, services to natives, correctional services, and so on. The Task Force learned that the basic literacy program has been eliminated by the provincial government, and the student allowances have been reduced. The critical home repair program has been withdrawn from Indian reserves in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, one of the poorest groups in our society has been just given the back of this government's hand, the critical home repair program, which was available to senior citizens to allow them to fix up their homes so that they could stay longer in their homes and not have to go into expensive institutions. This government has just eliminated it from Indian reserves in Manitoba. That's just one example where the services to native people have been affected by restraint. Mr. Speaker, this group also, this group also makes the same point that I made earlier, and that is that many community groups are overcome with a feeling of defeat and resignation when resources are withdrawn from them. Mr. Speaker, I go on to quote from this article where they say "Restraint is becoming a program of austerity with an effect of creating more dependence on government, as many of the cuts in programs which help people to become more self-reliant, have made these people more vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, this also substantiates the statement I made earlier, which is that through the actions of this government, through making cuts in areas which were designed to assist people to lift themselves up, to get out of the welfare situation, this government is actually costing more money. It's costing the people of Manitoba more because, Mr. Speaker, when those people are not working,

when they're not being productive, when they're not given a chance for an education, when people are not given a chance to get out of that rut that they're in, they have to go back on social assistance and, Mr. Speaker, in the overall impact on government, on the taxpayers of Manitoba, this is costing more money, not less.

So Mr. Speaker, this government, through its actions, is providing less services, less services to people and it's costing more money. Mr. Speaker, could you indicate, please, how much time I have left?

MR. SPEAKER: Ten minutes.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to comment as well on education, because I believe that the actions of this government falls right in line with their thinking, and that is to degrade the public school system of Manitoba at the expense of the taxpayers of Manitoba, supporting the private schools in Manitoba. We see where the contribution to the public school system is actually declining because it's not meeting the inflation rate; the cost of the school boards are not being met; and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, they are using the funds that are provided by the taxpayers of Manitoba to support the private schools.

So, Mr. Speaker, they're not getting hit by that elite group that supports them and that discusses with them the priorities that we should be following in Manitoba. They're not getting any phone calls from their friends in big private business and the elite groups in society because, Mr. Speaker, these people are not sending their children to the public school system in Manitoba; they're sending their children to the private school system. And, Mr. Speaker, these people are being supported by the taxpayers of Manitoba at the expense of their own children, because those moneys are being taken out of the public school system and they are being given as a taxpayers gift to the private schools in Manitoba.

And, Mr. Speaker, in the words of even the mass group in Manitoba, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, they have pointed out that in this year, the education costs of Manitoba are going to go up by 8.35 percent over 1978 and, Mr. Speaker, this government's answer to the school education cost for the public school system in Manitoba is to give them 6 percent and where does the other 2 percent coming from, Mr. Speaker? It has to come from the property taxpayers in Manitoba; the most regressive form of taxation in the province. The taxpayers have to pay more.

And where is that 80 percent commitment that these people were talking about during the election campaign in 1977, when they were painting such a rosy picture for Manitobans? "Oh, we'll do everything, we'll do everything NDP are doing and we'll do more and it will cost you less". Well, Mr. Speaker, now the chickens are coming home to roost, because when the property taxes are going up, they are going up because of this government's priorities; this government cutting back on education financing. And, Mr. Speaker, they promised they would cover 80 percent of the costs and I believe it's less than 74 percent now that the provincial government is paying of the overall costs. And even that is debatable. I'm being generous when I say they are paying 74; I think it's less than that, maximum 74.

The Manitoba Association of School Trustees say, and I quote them: "The government is moving away from its 80 percent support". So, Mr. Speaker, it's not even trying to live up to its election promise of 1977. They are moving away from it; they're not even maintaining what was, they're reducing it.

And, Mr. Speaker, at the same time that they're reducing the support for the general public school system in Manitoba, they are reducing the support to special programs that help native people in Manitoba to get an education, and I just refer to one as an example. The special Teacher Training projects that the New Democratic Government put into effect to assist native people to achieve teacher training certificates and be able to teach school in their own home communities, Mr. Speaker, this government in the seventeen months that it has been in office, has reduced the funding to these programs by a million dollars; a million dollars just on the programs that are jointly funded by the provincial and federal governments.

And, Mr. Speaker, these are programs that the federal government is reluctant to see the provincial government pull back on. And here's the Conservative Government pulling back on these programs that only cost the provincial government 40-cent dollars, 40 percent because the federal government was putting in 60 percent of that money. And what we see, Mr. Speaker, are programs that provided for teacher training or closing down centres like Camperville, The Pas; they are cutting back the Special Mature Students Program, and there is 150 applicants that I'm made aware of that are in one program alone — 150 applications for the Brandon University Teachers Program — that could not be filled this year because of this government's restraint program.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is a shameful thing because, at the present time in northern Manitoba,

over 70 percent of the teachers in northern Manitoba . . . I'm sorry. There is 150 out-of-province teachers that are currently teaching in northern Manitoba and, Mr. Speaker, these 150 teachers that could be trained by the Native Teacher Training Program, could have eventually taken those positions so that at least we could fill teacher positions in northern Manitoba from people that come not only from Manitoba, but from the native communities in northern Manitoba. And what does this government do with that kind of a program? They cut it back. Mr. Speaker, this is a program that should be increased, not cut back.

And as I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, but I did not elaborate on, they have chopped almost every employment program that provided some opportunity for people to get out of the welfare situation, to develop industries in their remote communities, Indian reserves, northern communities; programs like the Special Northern Employment Program. They have completely slashed them with no replacement, with no policy, no policy to deal with this situation. So, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that they really have no policy when it comes to this area, and as a result of having no policy, it's going to cost them more because it costs more money to have somebody on welfare than to give some minimal assistance; provide that person with the technical assistance and some seed money, to be able to produce something of value, such as cutting lumber, cutting pulpwood, going out fishing, going out trapping, harvesting wild rice, whatever it may be, Mr. Speaker.

With just a little bit of seed money, these people would be able to work. They want to work. And, Mr. Speaker, this government is really revealing itself, the Progressive Conservative Government in Manitoba is revealing itself to be the welfare government, the welfare party of Manitoba and, Mr. Speaker, if this kind of philosophy is put into power at the federal scene, what you will see is another dirty '30s kind of depression, because you are going to havenot only welfare at Manitoba level, you'll have welfare coast to coast with this kind of a government.

A MEMBER: Tory times are hard times.

MR. BOSTROM: As they say: "Tory times are hard times" and, Mr. Speaker, they are revealing that with a policy of the Progressive Conservative Government, the only policy they have is restraint and that policy is proving itself to not work, and in fact, to cost the public, the taxpayers, more money and receive less services.

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

MR. GEORGE MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I didn't intend to join into the debate on Interim Supply, but I couldn't let the unfounded and wild accusations that were made by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland go unanswered.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Rupertsland would suggest, and very strongly imply that the reason that the accreditation of the University of Manitoba's Engineering Department is at stake at the present time is because we've been in power for seventeen months, and that for some reason adequate funding hasn't been sent to the University.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, he implied that Dean Wedepohl had resigned because the Government of Manitoba was not giving the University of Manitoba enough money, particularly the government of the Progressive Conservatives that have been in power for seventeen months. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Rupertsland, who I thought had more intelligence than to try and make wild statements like that in this House, that he does some research, does some reading — does some reading on what is actually happening at the University of Manitoba — and I'll do the reading for him, Mr. Speaker, and it comes from the University of Manitoba Bulletin dated March 7th, 1979, the university paper, and it's under an article that: "Wedepohl finds McQuades statement misleading", and I'll gladly table the article to the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. And I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that to imply that Dean Wedepohl resigned because of the Government of Manitoba — particularly the new Government of Manitoba — is an outright falsity, because I'll read the exact statement per quote in this article where Dean Wedepohl stated the reasons for why he resigned, and it started off, under Budgetary Process: "I have extensive industrial experience in a number of countries of various methods of budgeting within industry in university, and I believe that there is something wrong with the budgeting process. I have said, let somebody dispassionate from outside, judge". It goes on further in the article, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the credibility and the integrity of the President of the University of Manitoba, Dean Wedepohl, and I quote what he says: "I resigned in protest a year ago and have gone public because of persistent rebuff by the Board of Governors, the President, and the senior administration, to listen to my pleas". And I would like the Honourable Member for Rupertsland to listen to the next part of the quote, and it goes as such: "Going over the past four years", not the last year and a half, but "going over the past four years with a file full of unanswered memos, my attack is not

on the President, it is on the budgetary process".

And, Mr. Speaker, that's far from accusing the Government of Manitoba, particularly the Progressive Conservative Government, of causing the resignation of the Dean of Engineering, further causing the problem that we presently have at the University of Manitoba with regard to the accreditation of the Engineering Faculty. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, it's been going on for several years as the Dean indicated four years and it was during buoyant years.

So, Mr. Speaker, if I understand the Honourable Member for Rupertsland what he wants this government to do, is to step into the University and say: "You spend your money on this Faculty, you spend your money on this Faculty — control". That's exactly what he's recommending; government control of the University in their spending, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is wrong. If that is what the Member for Rupertsland wants, it's typical of what the members did when they were in government with the City of Winnipeg and many other areas where they should have had independent control of how they spent their money.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland with a question.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege. I have listened to the honourable member . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If the member has a point of privilege, it should be with a substantive motion to carry.

MR. BOSTROM: . . . whether unparliamentary or not, has indicated that I made a falsehood in saying that the University of Manitoba Dean of Engineering left in disgust and dismay at the level of funding for the University Faculty of Engineering.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have listened patiently to his comments after he made that statement, to try to find out why exactly he accused me of using a falsehood, because, Mr. Speaker, I was quoting from the University of Manitoba newspaper, a student union newspaper of Thursday, March 22nd, 1979, and in reading the article I came to the conclusion that the University of Manitoba Dean of Engineering did indeed leave because there was a lack of funding for the University Faculty of Engineering, and I believe that it was attributed to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please, order please. Order please. The honourable member has no point of privilege. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, then I wanted to put it on the record straight that this hasn't happened overnight like the Honourable Member for Rupertsland would imply. There obviously is a problem out at the university with regards to the Engineering Faculty and with regards to them getting their share of the money that's available. But, Mr. Speaker, to try and imply in the way that he did that the Government of Manitoba was the fault of it is incorrect. And, Mr. Speaker, I hope and I am confident that the problem at the university will be corrected, but it is something that the university themselves have to do if we believe that the university should be run by themselves independently from the Government of Manitoba.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, all one can conclude . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I suggest to all members that they extend the same courtesy to other speakers that were extended to them when they were speaking. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, one can only conclude from looking at that type of wild accusation and statement that was made by the Member for Rupertsland that one must accept that the other wild statements that he made in the remainder of his speech have to be considered in the same tone. So, Mr. Speaker, I didn't want to prolong this debate, but I thought it should go on the record and be correct of why the Dean of Engineering has resigned and is leaving our province. I can tell you that the engineering profession will miss Dean Wedepohl and I know that the people of Manitoba will miss Dean Wedepohl, and it's unfortunate that he has to leave our province under these conditions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, like so many others before me in this debate, I too have hesitated to enter into debate on this subject. I hesitated until going through the paper today, I happened to read an article in the Tribune mentioning that the M.F.L. — the Manitoba Federation of Labour — and the Manitoba Metis Federation — the M.M.F. — and the M.I.B. — the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood — were going to meet in The Pas later this month to discuss problems that all three of those groups experienced because of this government's reaction to the economic problems of the day.

And there is one quote from that article which caused me to rise to my feet, because I think it is important and I think it should be put on the record so that the First Minister can peruse it, or at least is made aware of it. It says "Unless Premier Sterling Lyon becomes serious about this massive unemployment of Indian and Metis people, it appears that civil disobedience could erupt by this summer", the release states. Civil disobedience, Mr. Speaker, I assume of the order of the civil disobedience that we've seen just recently at Easterville, because this sort of climate of conflict is coming about specifically and in large part due to the policies of the Progressive Conservative government over the past two years.

Mr. Speaker, it is a government that governs with a sneer — an arrogant, obtuse, sneering government; mean and nasty. You know, I think back to last year when there was a protest of students in front of this building — one of the first protests to take place under this government's tenure. And one of the signs outside . . . one of the students was carrying a sign that said "Sterling Lyon is nasty, broodish and short". Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the students as well as the rest of us know that not only Sterling Lyon is nasty and broodish, as the sign said, but that their government is nasty and broodish, and we can only hope that it too will be short.

Mr. Speaker, history is the best judge of governments, because as time passes time, we can look back on what sort of climate that that government was able to create, or able to abet, during its tenure. We can look back, devoid of emotion, we can look back, stripped of the rhetoric of the day and the slings and arrows that are cast across these floors; we can look back beyond the statistics slinging which we do quite often because the statistics can be slung both ways. We get an overview. So when people look back on the government, they judge a government on the basis of the society that they created, because the bottom line of any government — and this is something that those members should take note of on the opposite side, Mr. Speaker — the bottom line of any government is not whether they were able to balance a budget in any one given year — that's not the bottom line. It's not how many civil servants they can callously and cruelly let go. It's not how many roads they can build, or how much asphalt they can lay in the province. It is . . . the Member for Pembina asks "what is it?" What it is, I'll inform the Member for Pembina, is what kind of society has resulted from their efforts. What kind of environment have they been able to create to mirror their own philosophy? That is the bottom line — and that is what history will judge.

Mr. Speaker, history will not be kind to this government. Because . . .

MR. ENNS: History will be ecstatic about this government.

MR. COWAN: The Minister of Highways tells me that history will be ecstatic about this government, and I say to him that we shall have to wait and see, but I suggest that I have a firmer grip on what history will say than he does. History will not be kind to a government that has created a society in its own image — a society of conflict — a society for the few, the privileged few — at the expense of many.

Mr. Speaker, this government has been a dismal failure in its first two years.

MR. FERGUSON: In 18 months.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Gladstone, I believe, says in 18 months. I'll say in eight months, or eight days, it was a dismal failure. And it will continue to be a dismal failure. —(Interjection)— If the first 18 months . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. May I suggest to all honourable members that they allow the member who has the floor the opportunity to make his presentation.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, if the first 18 months are any indication, they will have luck making the first 36 months, much less 20 years. We look at what's happened in 1978, Mr. Speaker, which is the first full year of their government. The first full year in which they've had a handle — a grip — or so they say they've had a handle and a grip — on the economy and the society at large.

Mr. Speaker, in 1977, the annual increase in average weekly wages and salaries in this province was 8.6 percent; barely keeping up with inflation — barely keeping up. Now inflation didn't go down much — as a matter of fact it went up in the first full year of this government's tenure — but the average increase in weekly wages and salaries went down — went down to 5.8 percent, while inflation went up 8.5 percent. And the workers of this province slipped further and further behind.

The workers who have the power to negotiate collective bargains, and the workers who don't have the power — the minimum wage earners — have had nothing — nothing in three years, half of which . . . or more than half of which . . . nearly three years . . . more than half of which has been the responsibility of this government.

And one of the other judges of a government, One of the other ways in which we judge how parties govern, is what advantage they take of the opportunities presented to them. And this government has taken opportunities only in their self-interest — in the self-interest of the privileged few. And the minimum wage is just one more indication of them turning their backs on the workers of this province.

But going back to the average increase in the consumer price index, the cost of living, because that's what it is — it is the cost of living that people have to battle with. When they . . . in '77 when they had an 8.6 percent increase in wages, the average consumer price index went up 8 percent. They were barely ahead, as I said previously. In '78 when they had a 5.6 percent increase in average wages and salaries, the cost of living increased even more over the previous year, to 8.5 percent, and that's for the Winnipeg area, Mr. Speaker.

So they have not been able, they have not been able to do anything about the cost of living or the increases in the consumer price index, or the inflation, because they have been unwilling to commit themselves to the type of economic changes that are necessitated by the economics of the day. They talk about how many jobs they created, Mr. Speaker.

A MEMBER: Thousands.

MR. COWAN: Thousands of jobs, they tell me. Well, they've also put thousands of more people out on the streets looking for work. In '77, Mr. Speaker, the average number of unemployed in the province was 27,000. In the first full year of the Progressive Conservative great capitalist experiment, as the Member for Inkster says, there were 31,000 people on the streets — 4,000 more unemployed. The unemployment rate, Mr. Speaker, increased from 5.9 percent to 6.5 percent. That is a 10 percent increase, Mr. Speaker. That 10 percent increase in the unemployment rate from 1977 to 1978 represented the largest increase in all the provinces of Canada. This government had the largest increase — percentage increase in the unemployment rate — than any other government in Canada for 1978. And they beat their breasts and puffed their chests and say "we created thousands and thousands of jobs".

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. The hour being 4:30 p.m., I am interrupting proceedings for Private Members' Hour.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

RESOLUTION NO. 4. SHELTER ALLOWANCE PROGRAM

MR. SPEAKER: First item of business is Resolutions. The first resolution is the Proposed Resolution of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge as amended. The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution raises the entire issue of affordable housing. I think whereas as part of the Resolution in fact warrant a lot of debate by the Members of the Legislature, unfortunately the "resolve" part of the Resolution, completely fails to deal with the problem, and indeed as amended by the Conservative majority last week, this amended Resolution deals with the problem Conservative-style, by sweeping it under the carpet; by having another study look at the whole matter, and now they've shifted the whole problem over to the government White Paper on tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, this won't really solve the problem. I think it's important to establish the context of what the housing situation is like in Manitoba. Over the last year, we've had extra-middle and upper-middle income homes built — these are homes priced for upper-middle-class people. They're on the market; they're not being sold that well; there is an inventory of that type of housing.

So we have some excess supply at the middle and uppermiddle-priced levels. We've had slow

real estate sales of private homes. The market has been sluggish. We have lot prices, however, continuing very high — the average lot prices of a 50-foot lot in Manitoba, especially in Winnipeg . . . sorry, in Winnipeg, are something in the order of \$20,000 per lot, which compares to the \$11,000 per lot that home-buyers in Saskatoon, where they have a land-banking program, where they've given the land-banking program a chance to work, where they've established a public land servicing program — the lot prices there are at \$11,000 a lot for 50-foot lots. Here, they're averaging about \$20,000 a lot.

We have apartment vacancies that are going up slightly, but again, in a misleading way. The CMHC survey that was conducted last October, 1978, and that's the last date that this survey was conducted, the new survey isn't out yet — indicates that vacancies are increasing somewhat for the City of Winnipeg as a whole — up to 4.8 percent increasing from the previous rate that existed, but again there's a problem there in that the old City of Winnipeg has vacancy rates that are very low. As of October, there was a vacancy rate of 2.9 percent in the old City of Winnipeg. This is an increase of 1.1 percent from April of 1978, which means that there's still an insufficient supply of rental units in the old City of Winnipeg.

And indeed, if you look at particular sections of the City of Winnipeg, and I take the Zone No. 1, downtown north, of the City of Winnipeg — the vacancy rate there is only 1.1 percent. That's an incredibly low vacancy rate. So there's this tremendous pressure — there's an insufficient amount of affordable rental housing, especially in the old city of Winnipeg, and nothing is happening that would appear to be relieving this pressure.

Indeed, there has been a lot of apartment building, and that accounts for the increased vacancy rates in the suburbs. There was something like 11,000 new apartment units built last year; according to the CMHC's own statistics, something in the order of 9,000 of these were publicly initiated — that is, they received a public subsidy of one type or another — 9,000 out of 11,000, and most of this was the MURB housing; high-priced apartment units being built as a tax shelter; being built, in essence, to provide a tax dodge for wealthier people to invest their money so that they do not have to pay as much income tax. This MURB housing does not meet the needs of lower and middle income people; it does not meet the needs that are pointed out in this Resolution, and yet there is a phenomenal amount of public subsidy going into that type of housing. And that is the type of tragedy that exists, because this unnecessary housing which CMHC now admits there is too much of in Winnipeg, has created the impression amongst some people, that the vacancy rates are high enough that the market in housing is actually working. Well, that is not the case; the case is that for lower and middle income people, there really is no viable market working for housing. And this has been confirmed by a study done by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, which indicated that single parents — single parent families — and senior citizens, and other low income people, have an insufficient stock of good quality housing. The study concentrated a great deal on the single parent families, and I think that that was a phraseology used by them to really try to induct the issue of providing low income family housing, because although everyone talks about the need for low income family housing, there is a tendency on the part of administrations — municipal, provincial and federal — not to be as aggressive in meeting that particular need. People are afraid of ghettoizing; people are afraid of the backlash that might exist, especially in suburban areas; so there has been an insufficient supply of low income family housing built, because frankly the low income family housing is primarily geared to single parent families, that's why they are of low income. Usually these are single parents, they are sometimes living on welfare, otherwise they are trying to work at jobs that really don't provide a sufficient income for them to provide decent housing for themselves, and for their families. Those people have a whole set of struggles that they are dealing with, and the struggle to provide adequate shelter is just one of many.

The Social Planning Council study was a bit misleading with respect to assessing demand for senior citizens' housing, in that it surveyed people in their homes and asked them if they had adequate housing, and for many of these people, they do have adequate housing for now, but they are at a stage where they cannot keep up that house physically. They are at a stage where, as they get older, they look for alternative accommodation; accommodation which should be non-inflationary, and should be designed to handle them — to accommodate them — and much of the private housing stock that exists right now is not designed to accommodate senior citizens. It doesn't have ramps for wheelchairs; it's not inflationary; it doesn't have common room facilities; sometimes the units are too big, on the other hand they might be far too small. These people are looking for public senior citizens housing or they are looking for non-profit senior citizens housing.

So that's the situation we have — a very imperfect housing market; it isn't working at all well; there's over supply at the higher price ranges; and there's under supply at the lower price ranges, where the need is greatest. This problem is also being compounded by the fact that last year, in the city of Winnipeg alone, the old city of Winnipeg, some 800 units were withdrawn from the rental

market, because they were demolished, because they were condemned or because otherwise they were just taken out of the rental market. Again, that has added more pressure for low income people, in their quest to provide decent housing for themselves and their families.

Now, the approach of the past administration in this respect was to try and use as varied a program as possible, to try and meet the problem of an imperfect housing market, and the provincial administration in the past had been constrained by federal guidelines which often were very rigid in terms of what would be cost-shared and what wouldn't be cost-shared in the way of providing for the housing needs of Manitobans. But there was a mixed program of public senior and low income housing, the co-operative housing program was getting off the ground very well, there were some very successful co-operative housing projects launched in Manitoba over the last four years; there was a shelter allowance, through the Assisted Rental Program, and this Resolution of the Member for Fort Rouge talks about shelter allowance as if it's some new endeavour. Well, in fact, it's not. It has existed before; it has existed in moderation, however and it has existed as part of an overall program.

I wondered why the Member for Fort Rouge was so anxious to introduce this type of program, which is so narrow, and so out of keeping with some of the past statements that he's made about housing, and what should be done in a comprehensive manner to deal with the housing program, that I was really quite surprised by his action, and I've looked into it, and I find in a paper done by the Co-op Housing Foundation of Canada, which is funded by CMHC, that one of the major thrusts of the Federal Liberal government over the last year, has been to pass the buck for housing on to the province, and also, it's been to utilize the large stock of unsold or unrented privately built housing units, by encouraging non-profit groups to purchase them. The MURBs I was telling you about before, those higher priced units built as tax dodges for wealthy people are sitting there unrented, or under rented, and now the federal government is coming along and trying to set up some programs and establish pressure whereby non-profit organizations — community organizations or co-ops — or possibly the provincial government through its MHRC, would bail these people out, and take over these particular under rented private buildings. And that won't happen unless there's some way of subsidizing those people who take over these buildings, so that we'll be providing two sets of subsidies to these people: the subsidy in the tax dodge and the tax deferral and also the subsidy to the tenants who take over, who end up living in these units and this is done for the common good, supposedly. But it's not for the common good, Mr. Speaker, it's geared specifically and entirely to the tax dodgers, and I'm surprised that the Member for Fort Rouge would bring that forward here in this House, having talked before about a comprehensive housing program.

I'm not surprised that the Conservative Party in Manitoba would be keen and receptive to that type of approach of public subsidies, to bail out private tax dodgers. What we've had since October, 1977, in Manitoba, has been a complete cop out; the province has really cut back on its housing program quite dramatically. There's only a trickle of projects coming forward now, which were initiated in the first place by the previous administration, in fact, that trickle that has started just recently really is an admission that the proposed program of the present Minister of Housing, which he brought forward last year in Estimates, really hasn't worked and nothing is happening. Last year he said he'd be coming forward with a subsidy program; last year he said he'd be coming forward with alternatives but that hasn't happened.

Despite all the rhetoric about non-profit housing, whenever people at the constituency level have tried to bring forward non-profit housing projects, they've been stymied by the federal government and they've been stymied by the provincial government; and a case in point, Mr. Speaker, is the case of Park Manor Personal Care Home in Transcona, which is a nursing home, but also has extra land around it, and it's tried to get an enriched senior citizens housing project going, and two years ago I sat in on a dinner at that place, where everyone said, "Yes, we are proceeding. We should get it moving within about six month..". And I've talked with the director of that nursing home, and he finds that he's been getting no support — no support provincially, and no support federally — so that's another non-profit senior citizens enriched project, which the Health Minister says, "Yes, that's very good, that's a good idea, we should be doing it," but yet in practice, it's not happening, it's not been started.

We have that happening with respect to a whole set of other communities, where the Minister said, "Well, there wasn't sufficient demand, so therefore we've cut out the program. We've cut out the project — we're stalling on it," and now when communities are sending in documentation which proves that there is sufficient demand for senior citizens housing, the Minister is still stalling.

We've had the cop out at the municipal level, where they've not proceeded with their non-profit housing corporation. I think it was a good idea for the Minister to undertake to meet the commitment of the previous administration with respect to providing a million dollar start-up for the City's Non-Profit Housing Corporation; it was an incredible cop out on the part of the city not to pursue

that though, however, the ball has bounced back on to the provincial court, and what's the province doing about it? It's just sitting there — it's just sitting there on its hands. But, Mr. Speaker, the province has a Non-Profit Housing Corporation that it could activate; it could fill that gap, if it was going to show any leadership whatsoever in the housing field.

The federal government is showing no leadership, it's passing the buck onto the province, it's following Tory policy of restraint, shift the cost onto someone else, shift the program onto someone else. The province has done the same thing, it has shifted its responsibility for housing onto the city; the city says we can't afford it, we don't want to take that risk — it pushes the problem back up to the province — and I would expect that when the Minister gets up he's going to say, "Well, we think that the federal government should be showing more leadership in this." So the problem goes around and around and around, and what we, on this side of the House, are saying, Mr. Speaker, is now is the time to show some leadership with respect to the whole housing area. We think it's important to deal both with the supply of housing, and we think it's important to deal with the whole question of incomes, so that people will have sufficient income to afford the type of housing or the various types of housing that can be provided through a program which would increase the supply of affordable housing units starting up public senior citizens programs again; by starting up some low income housing projects; by really seriously providing some funds and some start-up funds and some land for co-op housing projects; by ensuring that community non-profit housing projects get a chance to get going by providing some assistance to these non-profit organizations, who do want to establish housing projects in their communities, and who do require a commitment from this government that a certain percentage of their units will, in fact, be taken up by low income families or by senior citizens. That would make those programs viable, it would make those projects viable in those communities, but that's not been happening.

We need renovations and upgrading of existing apartment stock, and that's not happening either, and I see the other day in the paper MHRC has put up for tender sale, Burrows Court, at the corner of Salter and Burrows, 23 units, which could have been upgraded and renovated and would have provided some non-inflationary apartment space for low income families in the old city of Winnipeg. I imagine that what they are going to say is that it's too expensive; we'll let the private sector buy it from us; we'll let the private sector renovate it and then we'll subsidize their rents when they go out to the market and try to rent it. That's the type of program they're going to pursue, but those units — that Burrows Court — will be refinanced over and over again, and our subsidy will end up being very high.

We should provide start-up funds, and I don't see that in the Minister's Estimates for the province's non-profit housing corporation that it has.

And we should continue the shelter allowances. We, on this side of the House, aren't against shelter allowances to utilize needed reasonably priced dwelling units that are privately owned, but we want that to be part of an overall package. If you look at the income side, I don't know how we can provide affordable housing if we don't do anything about the Minimum Wage; if we cancel the Manitoba Supplement for the elderly; if we increase the fee for Pharmacare; if we start making the users pay more rather than providing needed social services from the general tax base.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, we on this side, are proposing an amendment to this Resolution because it is insufficient.

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Member for St. Johns that the amended motion of the Member for Fort Rouge be further amended by adding thereto the following:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government consider the advisability of an optional program which would consist of: (1) Establishing a comprehensive program to increase the supply of affordable housing units through: public senior citizens and low income housing projects, co-operative housing projects, community non-profit housing projects, renovations and upgrading of existing apartment stock, the provision of start-up funds for the province's non-profit housing corporation and the continued provision of shelter allowances to utilize needed reasonably priced dwelling units that are privately owned.

(2) Improving the incomes of impoverished Manitobans who cannot afford proper housing by: increasing the minimum wage, not canceling the Manitoba supplement for the elderly, removing the increased fee for Pharmacare, reversing the transfer of payment for needed public services from the general tax base to users who are unable / to bear this cost.

(3) And ensuring that the government White Paper on tax credits maintains and expands the present tax credit programs which are related to the progressive ability-to-pay principle.

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard the proposed amendment of the Honourable Member for Transcona. I would hope that the House would give me a chance to check the amendment for its correctness and I will take it under advisement and look after it at a later date.

The Honourable Government House Leader.

Monday, April 2, 1979

MR. JORGENSON: I wonder if I may have a copy of that amendment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: With the approval of the House, can we move on then to the next Resolution? Resolution No. 6. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll be brief. I wanted to respond to the Member for Rupertsland very quickly . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I have taken the amendment under advisement and until I have an opportunity to study it and rule as to its correctness or not, there be no further debate on the issue at the present time. The Honourable Member for Kildonan wish to offer me some advise?

MR. FOX: Yes, in view of the fact that you wish to take the matter under advisement and in view of the fact that under Private Members' Hour we have to go either onto another Resolution or vote on it, I would suggest that if the House is prepared to call at 5:30 that would give you some time until the next Private Members' Hour to have a look at it.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm at the pleasure of the House on advice. Is the pleasure of the House then to call at 5:30? The hour being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8:00 p.m. tonight.