



**Third Session — Thirty-Second Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

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**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

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33 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Second Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANSTETT, Hon. Andy</b>	Springfield	NDP
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BANMAN, Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BLAKE, David R. (Dave)</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.</b>	Gimli	NDP
<b>CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.</b>	Brandon West	IND
<b>CORRIN, Q.C., Brian</b>	Ellice	NDP
<b>COWAN, Hon. Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DODICK, Doreen</b>	Riel	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	IND
<b>DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James E.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>EYLER, Phil</b>	River East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Harry</b>	Virден	PC
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry M.</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>HYDE, Lloyd</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JOHNSTON, J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Niakwa	PC
<b>LECUYER, Hon. Gérard</b>	Radisson	NDP
<b>LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al</b>	St. James	NDP
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<b>MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)</b>	St. Norbert	PC
<b>NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
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<b>SCOTT, Don</b>	Inkster	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>SMITH, Hon. Muriel</b>	Osborne	NDP
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>URUSKI, Hon. Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>USKIW, Hon. Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, Hon. D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 23 April, 1984.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

## OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### MPIC - general insurance re civil servants

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

The question is, can the Minister indicate whether or not a decision has been made to grant civil servants preferential treatment in dealing with MPIC for their general insurance on their cottages and homes?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Housing.

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was whether or not a decision had been made by the Minister. The Minister does not normally interfere into MPIC commercial activities to determine whether or not a potential client is acceptable or not.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, then according to reports on the weekend that indicate that preferential arrangement has been entered into between MPIC and the Manitoba Government Employees Association that will allow civil servants to get their general insurance on a preferred basis through MPIC, was that done then without consultation with the Minister?

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** Yes, that would be a normal commercial transaction in which the Minister does not interfere.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate whether or not he has looked into whether or not this would create a loss of jobs on the part of small individual insurance agents throughout the province who now are unable to deal with their clients in the normal commercial basis because of this global arrangement that has been entered into by MPIC and the Manitoba Government Employees Association?

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** I haven't received any report on this proposal, but I certainly will be asking for one. I don't imagine it will have a very serious impact in terms of creating unemployment in the insurance sector.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Well, Mr. Speaker, at a time when small business, in particular, is struggling, at a time

when the Minister's government's own Throne Speech indicates a desire and a commitment on the part of the government to support the efforts of small business throughout the province, is he not concerned that this kind of global arrangement, this deal that was entered into by MPIC and the MGEA, will in fact have a negative impact on the small agents throughout our province, who obviously are an employer of staff who rely on this for their business?

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** As indicated, I will be asking for a report on this. However, I don't see any difference between what is being proposed by the Manitoba Government Employees Association than what has been proposed by many other groups in decades and decades of the history of Manitoba.

I see the proposed arrangement between Manitoba Public Insurance and the Manitoba Government Employees Association as an indication of the confidence that the MGEA has expressed in the quality of service being provided by the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and in the integrity of the corporation, the financial integrity.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this is a further government intrusion into the affairs of the private sector, in view of the fact that this is not a normal business sort of company, it is one that is the only game in the province, so to speak, with respect to auto insurance, and has some monopoly jurisdiction, and in view of the fact that this government is working towards further damaging intrusions into the private sector, can the Minister now indicate whether or not he has any plans, or MPIC has any plans, to restrict the number of agents who will be allowed to represent Autopac throughout Manitoba?

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** First of all, I would like to comment on the Leader of the Opposition's comment that this is government intrusion.

As I indicated, government has nothing to do with this; this is a commercial transaction between the Manitoba Government Employees Association and the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation.

Secondly, this is not an abnormal situation, it is quite normal. MPIC is competitive with the other private sector fire insurance companies in Manitoba. I am sure that the Manitoba Government Employees Association could go to any other general insurance corporation and come up with a proposal. The fact that they are dealing with MPIC would indicate that they are quite satisfied with the arrangements that they've been able to make.

Lastly, is there any thought being given to restrict the number of agents in Manitoba? - the answer to that unequivocally is no.

### Health Sciences Centre - personnel

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Honourable Minister of Health. I would ask him whether his office or the Manitoba Health Services Commission has been asked by the Health Sciences Centre Board and administration for any help with their current problems with respect to administrative personnel and loss of top administrative personnel or, if not, has the Minister's office or the Health Services Commission undertaken or launched any initiative on its own or on their own to assist in that process?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the question that I'm very concerned is that there has been representation not by any official group at this time from the Health Sciences Centre. My answer to them was that if they wanted us to get involved, to investigate, that I would suggest that we have a formal request. It is a very difficult thing. You have a board also and the board has the responsibility for the staff. I think it's a very difficult thing for a Minister of Health, without the invitation of the board, unless there is something that is definitely wrong. In fact, I think the question just before was dealing with these things about government involvement and it is something that I intend to discuss with the chairman of the board and other members unofficially.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I take it from the Minister's answer that there has been no formal request as such from the Health Sciences Centre Board for that kind of assistance, but has the Health Services Commission itself recommended to the Minister that some initiative be taken to assist the Health Sciences Centre Board and administration with its current problems?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that some of the studies that are under way are aimed at decentralizing the administrative authority now vested in the president of the Health Sciences Centre and that some of the presidential duties and responsibilities would be redistributed among different senior personnel? Can the Minister confirm that report?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I haven't seen that report but that is my understanding, exactly as it was stated.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise the House whether there is any credence to the suggestion to the unofficial report that thought is being given to breaking the Health Sciences Centre down into four or more or less individual hospitals, such as was the case before the unification of the centre some 12 years ago, breaking it down into three or four individual hospitals, Children's, Rehabilitation, etc.?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** This is a difficult question to answer. I suspect that the member wants to put his ideas on the record, because I just finished saying that I haven't seen the report as yet, so nothing has been

done. There is certainly no decision at this time. I would hope that somebody will request that we assist them, be it the board or the medical profession at the Health Sciences Centre and, if not, we'll have to look after sending this report. I guess we'll have to certainly at least discuss it with them.

### K-Cycle Engines

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I ask him whether he has yet heard from the Federal Minister for Small Business, the Honourable David Smith, on the subject of K-Cycle Engines and their debenture and the action being taken by the Federal Business Development Bank, all of which I raised with him in this House some time ago? I'm not sure whether he's ever had any contact or response from the Federal Government on that question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Culture.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I regret to inform the member and the House that there has not been any reply to my initial telex to the Federal Minister responsible for the Federal Business Bank, and indeed last week I sent a further telex to him demanding that he respond and indicate whether or not he would be prepared to direct that bank to relook at that particular situation. I have also met with the main principals behind K-Cycle to look at ways and means of assisting him in the current difficulties, but a direct answer - no, at the present time there has been no response from the Federal Minister, nor am I aware of any change in attitude of the Federal Business Development Bank.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I missed part of the Minister's answer. I'm not sure whether he said he had sent a second telex to — (Interjection) — that being the case, Mr. Speaker, could I ask him two questions: (1) how long ago did that second telex go? And (2), would he give some thought to going beyond that now and dealing directly by means of a telephone call with the Federal Minister and asking him for some response?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I indicated, I guess it wasn't heard, that the second telex went out approximately one week ago and if there is no reply to that I will look at other means to contacting the Federal Minister and eliciting a reply from him with respect to this issue and this question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Our rules require any member wishing to speak to rise in his place.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary. Can the Minister advise whether . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** I don't know whether we've got things straightened out for the Honourable Member

for Inkster for the remainder of the day's sitting or not. Can the Minister advise, on a final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, whether he has met with any officials here in his department, with officials of the Federal Business Development Bank, and for the present principals in K-Cycle Engines, with a view to working out a loan guarantee that would enable the current expertise management and technology to remain here in Manitoba?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As I indicated, I have met with the principals of K-Cycle to explore possible options with them. Staff has attempted to contact and discuss this issue with the bank, but the bank has taken a position and that is why I tried to contact the Federal Minister. The bank has taken the position that this is a commercial transaction between that bank and that individual, and they have not been prepared to share information and discussion with representatives of the province. As a result of that, I took the action of contacting the Federal Minister, asking him to intervene directly, or to give direction to the bank to involve the province in those discussions so that we could explore options with respect to keeping K-Cycle, keeping that technology here in the province.

### Lakeshore Health District - administration of

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Health.

A moment ago the Minister of Health just indicated to my colleague that the government is not prepared to interfere in the administrative affairs of the Health Sciences Centre. My question to the Minister is why is he so eager to interfere in the administrative affairs of the Lakeshore Health District and its newly-elected board of directors which recently concluded that in an effort to live with ever-constricting budgets that it is in their interest to provide food services by contracting out that the Minister has threatened that district with direct interference and/or worse, has he in fact threatened them to withdraw from their grants any savings affected by this move?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** First of all, I did not at any time say that we wouldn't act if need be at the Health Sciences Centre. I said, but at this time we hadn't had any request to be involved, and that we would discuss this with the commission. — (Interjection) — Beg your pardon? I didn't hear that, I can't answer it, I'm sorry.

What I did state, in the other instance, very clearly, that it is a policy of government, the same as we do not believe in profit motivated personal care homes or hospitals in this field at all and that's the policy of the government. That was stated very clearly and I wouldn't mind discussing that or debating that during my Estimates with my honourable friend.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is well aware that these private firms are employing union people,

paying union CUPE wages. Is the Minister really telling the elected members of the Lakeshore Health District that they cannot avail themselves of the management expertise that obviously makes it possible for them to, at fully unionized CUPE wages, provide food services at a savings to the health district, that he will intervene?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I think that the directions are very clear. We said that before this could be done that there should be discussions with the employees. Many times we're presented with supposedly a big saving and it doesn't materialize. That's one of the things and, secondly, before this is done they should discuss it and get the okay from the commission and that wasn't done in this case at all.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question. Has the duly elected directors or Board of the Lakeshore Health District requested the Minister to interfere in this instance?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** No, but the duly elected members of this Cabinet has . . .

**MR. H. ENNS:** The Health Sciences Centre hasn't had to either.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Do you have the answer or did you ask a question?

The duly elected members of this Cabinet also, who have the responsibility for policy and financing of the hospital, feel that in these times especially, the idea is to protect jobs as much as possible, not start cutting down on jobs and restraint at this time. This is why we . . .

**A MEMBER:** It's unreal.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Well, it might be in the minds of some of the people, but it is the policy, the same as the members of the opposition have a policy that they would condone private personal care homes and probably private hospitals and we don't do that here.

### Corporate income tax revenues

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Inkster.

**MR. D. SCOTT:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I must apologize my affinity earlier for my old seat, it brings many fond memories.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance, and it's in response to a question a week or so ago by the financial wizard from the opposition . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question.

**MR. D. SCOTT:** . . . incurring the likelihood that the Department of Finance away over-estimated the revenues in the corporation income tax for the fiscal year just past.

Would the Minister of Finance please indicate to this House whether or not last year's Estimates of Revenue, which was some two times the actual receipts and revenues for corporation income taxes from the year

1982-83 was in fact an accurate or a near-accurate estimate of the estimates for corporation income tax for the year 1983-84?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. V. SCHROEDER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. — (Interjection) — No, I didn't just happen to have it written out. What I did happen to have is a copy of the galleys for Hansard for that particular day, where there was an impression left that we were estimating an approximately ten times greater increase in revenue for corporate income tax than the Federal Government was estimating.

I just want to make it very clear to the members of this Legislature that indeed the estimate that we put into our Revenue Estimates at the beginning of 1983-4 was derived specifically from the Federal Government as they always have been in the past under our government and, I believe, under the previous government.

As to whether we are anticipating we are going to meet that so-called 97 percent increase, our projections right now are certainly that we will be on target and indeed a little above target in that area, and although the Federal Government has estimated a 9.7 percent increase overall, this is just another indication of the strength of the Manitoba economy as opposed to the previous year.

### Hospitals - administration of

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Health, and follows upon the questions of my colleague from Lakeside. Did the Minister indicate that where we have a duly elected and appointed public board running a hospital that he is not willing to allow them the flexibility to determine whether or not they can provide the services more efficiently or more effectively on a contract-out basis than they could on the basis of having their own staff?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** More effectively is a question of opinion. I would imagine that the people running the hospitals in the United States would think that they are much more efficient, because efficiency is measured by the dollar sign out there.

It seems very efficient if you see everybody supposedly sleeping, being put under with drugs, it's a lot cheaper, you can save on staff. Well, that is not the kind of service and care that we want to give the people of Manitoba. We have much better care here than the free-enterprising system of the United States. I think that we will all recognize that; I don't think anybody would want to change with the system that they have in the United States. Furthermore, a couple of weeks ago, it was announced that the field of health was one of the priorities, they have received more than the general guidelines for the government. One of the main reasons in this day is to protect jobs. This is not

the way to protect jobs, to go on that system, and it is not more efficient. — (Interjection) — No. This is jobs in the . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** The situation is, Mr. Speaker, that we do not consider it interference at all. It is a general policy of this government, and I think we have every right to do so and we intend to exercise that right.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that, unlike the situations in the United States, these hospitals are not privately owned; in view of the fact that the organization that would provide the food services and maintenance services and so on would use the existing unionized staff; in view of the fact that all that is at stake here is whether or not the services can be provided more efficiently or more effectively by having proper management services and supervision . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question.

**MR. G. FILMON:** . . . why is the Minister overruling the wishes of the duly elected and appointed public board officials who know their situation and know their community and know their people? Why is he overruling them?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** If this is so obvious that this would be improvement, why did they refuse first of all? At no time did I say that under no conditions would that be permitted. I said, No. 1, they discuss it with the staff. No. 1, with the staff, then the union, if they're so sure they should discuss it with the staff and give the information to the staff; No. 2, to discuss it with the commission, which they do everything else. Any budget that's prepared is discussed with the commission. Those two things were the main things. At no time did we say that under no circumstances. We will not let this principle, the principle that you believe in, the system in the United States . . .

**MR. G. FILMON:** That's not what we said.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** That's not what you said, but awhile ago you were encouraging proprietary nursing homes, that's exactly what you said.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

### Fires in Manitoba

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

The Honourable Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the extremely volatile fire conditions within the province, can the Minister indicate whether he is considering a general ban on all open fires within the province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is certainly under consideration. I want to report to the House that there are 60 fires burning, 35 under control, 21 being held, two not under control and two where no action is now required. None of them, to date, have been life-threatening. They don't involve forests as yet to any extent, they are largely brush and grass fires, but nevertheless are serious. We have, as has been done in the past, given general cautions to people about burning, indicating that if fires do get out of control they can be subject to the loss that results. There are 310 people presently actioning these fires, involving seven helicopters and two water bombers at the present time.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** A supplementary question to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure this House and the people of Manitoba that all the government equipment is available to the municipalities and LGDs as well, which are tending or dealing with many of these fires right now? They're not necessarily of the forest fire extreme, but they are in the local areas and the local fire departments have extreme difficulty handling them. Is the government equipment available to these municipalities and LGDs to fight their local fires?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, yes. Subject to the demands that we have in respect to the numerous fires burning throughout the province, yes, we do go to the assistance of municipalities to suppress fires.

### Wild meat in restaurants

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I have another question regarding the conflicting reports between himself and his officials regarding the sale of wild meat in restaurants in Winnipeg. Can the Minister indicate whether there is an investigation going on as to the alleged sale of wild meat in restaurants in Winnipeg?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I am . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** I have asked staff to confirm and update to me the extent of any inquiries in respect to the sale of unauthorized meat. It is my understanding from senior staff that the report that appeared in the Free Press had no basis in fact.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. In view of the conflict of reports, could the Minister indicate why one of his staff made that kind of statement to the press, or whether there is a possibility of some consideration that an investigation is not warranted?

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I won't rise to the interjections of the Honourable Member for Lakeside.

I know that he would like to confuse the issue, this issue, as well as many others.

There is ongoing and serious concern with respect to poaching; there has been in this province for many many years. There are always concerns about how the illegal meat is handled, how it is marketed, and there is speculation rife as to how that takes place. We have had one prosecution in respect to a restaurant about two years ago. My senior staff indicate that there are no restaurants under investigation at the present time, no restaurants under surveillance. There is probability, possibility, that some illegal meat may be diverted in this manner, but certainly we have no precise knowledge of that. We certainly are making full inquiries in respect to the statements that were made. Perhaps it was a misunderstanding on the part of the reporter who took that story, I haven't verified that yet, Mr. Speaker.

### McKenzie Seeds

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It is almost six months now since the fiscal year of A.E. McKenzie. Can the Minister advise the House when the annual report of that company will be tabled?

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, there must be some extraordinary circumstances that prevent this report from being tabled within a period of six months. Can the Minister be more specific in terms of when this can be tabled, or what sort of information is in that report that prevents the government from tabling it?

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Does the Minister have the report? Is the report completed?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. V. SCHROEDER:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

### Brandon University Building Fund

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education.

The President of Brandon University Foundation, Mr. Beamish, is reported as saying that donors to the Brandon University Building Fund have asked for approximately \$125,000 to be refunded and that two major possible contributions are being put on hold because of the controversy at Brandon University. Can the Minister advise the House whether the group of left-wing radicals who are now in control of Brandon University will be asked to make this money up or will the government be making it up?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education. Order please, order please.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, I can remember rising in this House to discuss this issue in the last Session and indicating at the time that we were talking about the size of the building that was going in and that was requested, and the ability of Brandon University to raise the money for a \$6 million building that they requested when the members in opposition were in government was of considerable concern to me because they were having difficulty raising the amount of money that they projected they would be able to raise. This difficulty has been going on for several years because they have been trying to raise money for several years, so I think it is misleading in a time when it is difficult for everybody to raise money these days to put the blame for the inability for raising money on the activities that were happening at the Brandon University.

I would also like to point out to the member opposite that things at Brandon University have been very quiet and running very well, and if the members opposite would stop trying to make political hay at the expense of the university then they could get on with the business of educating the students.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please.  
The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Finance and the Attorney-General would like to rise and put their comments on the record. The Minister of Finance is making comments from his seat about allegations but he isn't prepared to table the financial report for McKenzie Seeds that he's had in his possession for months now.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Education report to the House whether or not . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** . . . the Brandon University Foundation is now finding it easier to raise money under the group of little revolutionaries that are in charge of the university at this time?

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

### **Attorney-General, Dept. of - maintenance payments**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney-General.

In recent editions, two national news magazines have praised the Manitoba system of maintenance enforcement introduced in 1980 as a model system for the country. Could the Attorney-General advise whether there is agreement with the Federal Government and other Provincial Governments to establish a national registry and to gain access to Federal Government

information in order to assist in the collection of outstanding maintenance payments?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. R. PENNER:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to confirm something which was implied in the question, namely, that Manitoba is a leader with respect to many areas of Family Law under several governments, including the government when the Member for St. Norbert was Attorney-General. I think he did a very good job in that area and we're continuing, and Manitoba for that reason is a leader in Canada in Family Law and in enforcement of maintenance judgments.

Indeed, under the head of our Family Law Department, Robyn Diamond, we have made submissions to the Federal Government, and more particularly at a conference of officials held here in the month of March, attended by representatives of all the Departments of the Attorneys-General where Family Law matters are concerned and where enforcement of maintenance judgments are generally handled, and the Manitoba system, which has been reported on favourably, is now being looked at in terms of a national registry. I'm happy to be able to say that here again in Family Law in Manitoba, not just this government, Manitoba shows the lead.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the estimates that the system saved the provincial taxpayers some \$650,000 in welfare payments last year, could the Attorney-General indicate whether he has attempted to continue, as we did, and perhaps hopefully has been more successful in persuading other provincial Attorneys-General to assist in the enforcement of custody orders and maintenance orders in other provinces?

**HON. R. PENNER:** Yes, here again I'm able to report that as recently as within the last two months we have written a strong letter with respect to this situation to the Minister of Justice federally and copied it to all Attorneys-General asking for stronger enforcement of maintenance and custody orders.

Slowly, bit by bit, province by province, other provinces have come along. There are one or two provinces where we still have some difficulties - notably Alberta and Quebec - and we're hoping that they will come along into the national system of protecting the orders, enforcing the orders of other provincial jurisdictions with respect to both maintenance and custody.

### **Lands, Florence - baby abandonment**

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I have one question for the Minister of Community Services.

In view of the fact that one, Florence Lands, Mr. Speaker, is being charged with abandoning a young two-year-old boy and in view of the fact that the Children's Aid Society have returned that boy to his mother, could the Minister indicate whether or not any special attention or precautions will be taken through her department to ensure that young boy is adequately



cared for, at least until the charges have been disposed of?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, in such a case the Children's Aid people do work in close consultation with the police and you may be assured that the well-being of the youngster is of prime importance.

### Rosburn, R.M.- livestock carcasses

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, regarding the widespread distribution of livestock carcasses in the R.M. of Rosburn for bear bait, is the Minister satisfied that the health of any or all citizens in that area has not been endangered as a result of this terrible practice of luring bears with these carcasses that's been going on in the area?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, to the honourable member, to the best of our knowledge there is no health hazard occasioned by the use of animal carcasses for bear baiting. However, we are concerned about the manner in which some of this bear baiting is taking place. Far too many baits have been set using large amounts of waste animal meat, whole animals piled up as an inducement to the bears and we have passed regulations. We are going to be much stiffer in respect to enforcing those regulations henceforth.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister.

Does the Minister agree with the opinion of Dr. Peter Warner from the Manitoba Department of Health who says that the health of the area could be affected as a result of the distribution of these carcasses?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. It is not a proper question to ask a Minister whether he agrees with some outside person. Perhaps the honourable member would wish to rephrase his question.

The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if the Honourable Minister then is prepared to communicate with Dr. Peter Warner, Manitoba Department of Health, who says that the distribution of animal livestock carcasses of this nature is a danger to the health of the community.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, yes, to the honourable member, I am prepared to communicate

with anyone who has a concern in respect to any aspect of the responsibility that I have in respect to resources. I am assured by staff that there is not a significant or any health hazard. However, we do not believe that diseased animal carcasses should be used, we don't know what these animals have died of and we don't think that the people who set these baits should be permitted to haul carcasses and leave them in the way they have.

As I have indicated, we are taking steps to ensure that there will not be a duplication of this kind of thing in the future.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time for Oral Questions has expired.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Mr. Speaker, before you call Orders of the Day, I wish to make a brief statement with regard to House business for the coming weeks. I regret I was unable to do so on Thursday at the close of the final week or at the close of last week, but with respect to this week, as has been previously announced, we expect the debate on the Throne Speech to be concluded late tomorrow afternoon, the Budget tomorrow evening and the House to be adjourned on Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources for Thursday of this week at 10:00 a.m. for purposes of considering the report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, and again on next Tuesday, May 1st, to either continue consideration of that report or to begin consideration of the Manitoba Telephone System Annual Report, and a further meeting of the same committee to consider the same two reports, depending on what stage that consideration is at at that point, on Thursday, May 3rd. So that's Public Utilities and Natural Resources on MPIC and MTS, this Thursday the 26th, and again on the 1st and 3rd of May, all hearings at 10:00 a.m.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts will meet next Tuesday, a week tomorrow, May 1st, at 10:00 a.m. to consider the Report of the Provincial Auditor and the Public Accounts, and will meet again for the same purpose on Thursday, May 3rd, again at 10:00 a.m., and on Tuesday, May 8th, on the assumption that the two meetings next week will be adequate for the purpose as announced with regard to Public Accounts, the Standing Committee on Economic Development will meet to consider the report of A.E. McKenzie Co. Ltd. That report may be delayed in consideration depending on how long it takes to consider the Reports of the Provincial Auditor and the Public Accounts, but tentatively scheduled for the 8th.

I'll leave it, Mr. Speaker, to the Clerks to decide which of the two committee rooms will be used for each of the committees, since we'll be sitting two committees simultaneously next week on Tuesday and Thursday.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** A further question for clarification, I take it that the scheduled meeting of the the Rules Committee is standing for Tuesday, tomorrow.

A further question, Mr. Speaker, surely the Honourable House Leader will prevail upon his Minister of Finance to ensure that the Annual Report of McKenzie Seeds will be available to members of the opposition in due time for consideration.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, my apologies for not noting that the previously scheduled meeting of the Rules Committee will be tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m., and I will convey to the Minister of Finance, my respected colleague, the concerns of members opposite - and I share those concerns - that the Report of A.E. McKenzie be in members' hands prior to the meeting of the committee.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Wolseley, and the amendment thereto proposed by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Member for Elmwood has 40 minutes.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by wishing you well on your difficult duties as Speaker of this Legislature and hope that there is a smoother passage than there was for the past nine to twelve months.

Mr. Speaker, I sat here, like everybody else, listening to the Speech from the Throne which seemed to be interminable, seemed to contain very little, was a disappointment, and failed to tackle the problems facing Manitobans at this point in our history.

Mr. Speaker, I think that in a way it accurately reflected the condition of the government, a government which is shell-shocked, enervated, dull and listless, unimaginative, clearly on the run, defensive as opposed to the first couple of years in office where the government was active, seeking to accomplish things, setting goals and striving towards them. We now come to the second part or the second half of the administration and it is in a sorry condition.

Mr. Speaker, we listened to this bragging and posturing about the job creation accomplishments of the government. Mr. Speaker, if you analyse what sort of jobs are available to Manitobans in the time of the Pawley administration, I think that most of them fall into four categories.

First of all, if you worked for an ad agency, you have a chance at gainful employment and high profits.

Secondly, if you are a bilingual teacher, you will probably be able to find employment in the school system through the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, if you are a bilingual civil servant, they will either find a job for you or they will create one, and if there isn't one available today, stick around, there may be one tomorrow because the promise is and the direction is that new opportunities will be available in that area.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, if you are a party hack, if you are a person who has served the party and wants to work for a Minister, there are quite a few new opportunities that were not available before. Most of us have seen the large number of New Democrats who

are now populating this building as special assistants and executive assistants, and assistants to the assistants, etc., for these are the areas, these are the opportunities that are available, but for the average Manitoban, the person who wants a job, needs a job, a young person looking for work, it's a pretty bleak picture.

I've spoken recently to a number of people who have come to me, people who have been laid off or plants have closed and so on and they look to the government and they don't see any opportunities whatsoever for them in this province at this particular time. — (Interjection) — Well, that's true. They could manufacture rain gauges or something like that because there's a new opportunity for manufacturing there.

If the government had done something dramatic, like remove the payroll tax, then I think they would have had our support. They may do that tomorrow night. The Leader of the Official Opposition is optimistic that there could be something dramatic announced tomorrow and that would, in fact, be the most dramatic announcement that I could see.

Mr. Speaker, the government said, the House Leader said before we got going, that he expected a quiet Session or was it that he wanted a quiet Session or was it that he needed a quiet Session so that some healing could go on, not only in the province but in his savaged mind - not savage mind, Mr. Speaker - savaged mind. The government is in a state of shell shock and they really want nothing more than to come into the Session, sneak into the Session, sneak out of the Session, slip into the Session, slip out of the Session, and all we can say is, we'll see.

I think all members on this side can say is it depends on what new targets are presented, whether it's shooting fish in a barrel or whether it's a difficult moving target or whether there are things that will be done that will garner not only the support of the Official Opposition but of the people in general.

Mr. Speaker, the Jobs Fund to me, which I think will be examined in great length, is no more than more money for more advertising and those jobs that are created tend to be of the kind that I mentioned, very helpful to the advertising agencies, very helpful to the government in attempting to publicly have its image shone, glossed, polished, but not very useful to the people of this province. What is the theme of this year's Throne Speech? It's hard to tell. One theme is wife beating and wife abuse. The government's going to do something there. Well, is that the theme of the government? Is that THE program that the government is going to go to the people on and then next year they're going to promote a policy to protect husbands from husband abuse or husband beating? Is that the sort of program - do half this year, do half the next, it's going to win votes, ensure the re-election of the administration? I don't think so, Mr. Speaker, I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, last day the Member for Inkster made his speech. Now ordinarily I would ignore anything the Member for Inkster said. He is, without question, I will say one thing personal to him, he does not know - not only does he not know where his seat is, but he does not know what heckling is; and I have sat here and watched him scream at the opposition for two years in the mistaken belief that screaming at the opposition

is heckling. Mr. Speaker, that is the opposite of heckling. Heckling is something that should be witty or should be, on occasion, cutting or should be, on occasion, a refutation, should be the perfect squelch. There are people in this House who are good at heckling; there are people who are masters at this art. I think the former Leader of the Conservative Party, the former Premier of Manitoba, is an expert in this area. So is the Member for Fort Garry, so is the Attorney-General on occasion, and so are others who sometimes use this as a high art and part of the political process, but heckling is not screaming your guts out at the opposition. That is what it is not, Mr. Speaker, and you know, however misguided the Member for Inkster is, who has now fled the Chamber, he has been encouraged in this approach.

Many times I've seen colleagues from the front benches go to him, slip him a note, but encourage him, tell him what a terrific job he has been doing, Mr. Speaker. I think this is misleading a young, impressionable member of the Legislature, setting him on the wrong path.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to deal with though is a remark made by the Member for Inkster and one that I think is the new approach taken by the government in regard to those who oppose the policies and the language policies of this particular administration; and in so doing they have done irreparable harm to the province because we listened for a long time about how anyone, in effect, who was criticizing the government. I'm not going to deal with the content here but I'm going to deal with the form of the debate and the attitude taken by many members of the government, that if you are against the government's language proposals, then you are a bigot. That's the old line. That was the line that we heard in this Chamber and out there over and over and over and over again and there was more said than that, but I'll give you the latest, Mr. Speaker.

For example, the Premier, on February 19, called the Conservatives extremists and fear mongers - or as he would say it, "fear mungers" - so, Mr. Speaker, that's what he called the Conservatives. The House Leader said the opposition is associating with extremists and he labelled them as "blackguards." — (Interjection) — That's coming.

Frances Russell, who spent a year on this subject, on February 8th, bemoans how the language extremists hurt the province and the nation. Then we had, of course, the worst, which was a compendium of remarks in the Sun on February 8th, compiled by George Stephenson, about some of the language used in the House which is pretty pathetic; and he says, it's a House infested with "rats, liars and sleaze bags." I've never heard the word "sleazy" used more in my entire life than in this Chamber. I think it's the new political word in the Manitoba Legislature. Everything is sleazy, and I think some young child listening to our debates might confuse us with one of the Seven Dwarfs. There's Sleepy and Sneezey and Sleazy and Dopey and Doc and all those other colourful characters, but sleazy, that's the new buzz word of the Pawley Administration, particularly coming from the Attorney-General and the Minister of Finance.

So then people worry, as Lloyd Axworthy and George Forest worry, in the Brandon Sun on February 14th,

they're worried about lasting divisions. Mr. Speaker, who is running around creating this kind of an environment? Who is running around blackening a whole segment of our population? So it's the word, bigot. Now we have the latest. We have the new addition. The word "bigot" has been used so much that it's wearing a bit thin. Now we have the argument put by the Member for Inkster that it's the Ku Klux Klan that is running the show, that some character in British Columbia made a comment that they had some role to play in terms of the 50,000 people who signed petitions and sent in coupons to Manitoba Grassroots that one or more of them was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Then you can see this terrific faulty logic at work on the part of the Member for Inkster and other government members that, ah ha, some members of Grassroots are Ku Klux Klanners according to some person out there in British Columbia, and some other hysterical type out in Toronto who heard that somebody in Vancouver said something, so therefore one or two people were members of the Ku Klux Klan and they are members of Grassroots; therefore, Grassroots is a Ku Klux Klan organization.

Mr. Speaker, is that pathetic? Is that pathetic or isn't it? Is the fact that the SFM contains a lot of zealots and people who are running around screaming for the rights that they have had restored to them, screaming for more jobs, demanding new rights and new services and new privileges, are they representative of all the French-speaking Manitobans? No, Mr. Speaker, they are not.

They are representative of the militant wing of the militant group of a small portion of French-speaking Manitobans, and if someone came up with evidence that said that one person or two people in the SFM were found as child molesters - they had criminal records - would someone then start to argue that all members of that organization fall into that pathetic category? Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of logic that we are getting from some members of the other side.

Mr. Speaker, it wasn't Grant Russell and it wasn't the Member for Elmwood and it wasn't the Member for Charleswood and it wasn't anybody on this side that I am aware of that has brought out some of the extremists on the right wing, because there are people from the far left spectrum to the far right spectrum who are involved and interested and follow this whole debate that has been going on. Mr. Speaker, it wasn't a member on this side that brought out the right-wing extremists, it was the Attorney-General of Manitoba, Roland Penner, that brought the extremists out of the woodwork and into the debate, because of the way in which the whole issue was handled, because of the fact that the Attorney-General would not listen to the people, would not listen to reason, would not listen to any amendment, insisted - along with the new House Leader and the backing of Cabinet and caucus being dragged along - that no change could be made on this deal that he had concocted along with Serge Joyal and Mark MacGuigan and others in the Federal Government. Not one comma, not one period, not one tit or one jottle - whatever that is, Mr. Speaker - could be changed, or vice versa - as my friend would say - a jot or tittle.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that it was the extreme position taken by the Attorney-General that brought

extremism into the debate, that brought hard lines and brought hard positions and hard feelings into the debate, closure being invoked, blind determination, no support in the public.

Now, Mr. Speaker, no mandate - for sure, no mandate - at election time, no mandate now and no mandate in the next election. Mr. Speaker, one of the problems is that there are people in the government who will not face reality. They will not bite the bullet. They will not face reality, Mr. Speaker, and that is a problem that goes back a long way.

Mr. Speaker, I have served in the party for a long time and I have heard that argument put time and time and time again. It's a bad press; it's the media; we can't get our message through. Our policies are right; our people are good but we are unable to break through the press, we are unable to communicate with the person out there. We shouldn't change our views, we shouldn't change our policies. We should keep up what we are doing and do more of the same. It is only a communication problem and a communication failure. Is that what the problem was for Mr. Broadbent and the federal Constitution and the stand of the party? Is that what the problem was in regard to the whole language question? A failure to persuade or to provide information? Well, that's what they think it was.

You know it is avoidance, Mr. Speaker. In the latest Maclean's magazine, which talks about the rise and fall of the NDP, that's the cover story. There is a quote from Rod Murphy. I think Rod Murphy is one of the people who is in very big trouble in the next election.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** You haven't been up North lately.

**MR. R. DOERN:** No, I haven't been up North. I have not been up North. I haven't been up there for months, but I would really like to hear what the Member for Thompson has to say about the strength of the party provincially and federally up North. I would like to hear him argue that that seat will be retained provincially and federally because I have a feeling that federally it is gone and that provincially it is gone, but I would like to hear counter arguments put by my honourable friend.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Ask him about hydro development.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Well, hydro development, that will be at least fighting ground. If that's a good deal, then you have fighting ground, but we will have to look at the deal.

Mr. Speaker, Rod Murphy said this in Maclean's magazine, he said the NDP should wait out the polls. They should wait patiently for the next election and hope for more publicity about the party's defence of existing social programs during the campaign. "Once the election starts," Murphy declared, "the media will start reporting what is actually said." Okay, that's what he said. No, he is not the one I wanted to quote because the next sentence is Terry Sargeant.

Added Terry Sargeant, another Manitoba NDP member, "We are basically on the right track. People just are not receiving our message." You see, the message is right, the communication problem is the problem. The medium is the message, etc., etc., get into Marshall McLuhan, that is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, when the party had a chance to examine some of the real problems facing the party and facing the province, what did they do? They swept it under the rug. When they had the convention - and you know, Mr. Speaker, this all seems so long ago - when I read these dates on press clippings, it seems like a year or more ago. The NDP Convention in Brandon was in mid-February. I mean that is not very long ago; it is only two months ago. It seems like a year or two ago. I can hardly believe that it was that recent and what is the Free Press editorial on that particular convention? "Avoiding the Debate." — (Interjection) — That's right. It said at the Annual Convention of the New Democratic Party "they demonstrated that the government is still running scared." That's what was demonstrated. Of course, Herb Schulz was hooted down, shouted down, and thrown out of the party.

Mr. Speaker, that was the stance. Don't face up to reality, don't bite the bullet, don't tackle the hard issues, blame it on the press, blame it on Doern, blame it on the Tories, blame it on the bigots, blame it on the Klu Klux Klan, blame it on anybody, but don't accept the responsibility whatever you do.

So, Mr. Speaker, after two years in office and more, two-and-a-half years, we start getting poll results. Not the poll of the Attorney-General, where he talked to a couple of buddies and one agreed with him and one didn't, so he said the results are 2 to 1 in favour of the NDP. That was a poll that he was not going to release to us.

The Leader of the Official Opposition has already given polls, and I'm sure that his polls are far more accurate in reflecting public opinion and I would be very interested, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives have now blanketed the province with a Report from the Legislature. It would be very interesting to hear the results that they got on that question about what concerns you. It would be interesting to work that all out, as I'm sure will be done, and to give the press and the public some idea of what people are thinking at this particular point in time.

Then, Mr. Speaker, came the Free Press edition of March 10th - now again, this seems like so long ago to me, but it's only a few weeks ago - a whole page and it is a poll called "1984 and You." It's a breakdown in what are the threats to the Conservative Party, the threats to the New Democratic Government, etc.

Mr. Speaker, if I were going to attempt to guess what the No. 1 problem was for the government, I would have guessed the French language question, but the poll was better, because the poll went beyond that, behind the issues, because that really wasn't the problem in the first place, was it? That was not the issue. The issue was the manner in which that issue was handled by the government.

Mr. Speaker, the language issue isn't new. The question of abortion is not new. Aid to private and parochial schools didn't just come up the other day. These are long-standing historic Manitoba problems. They drop out of sight for 20 years, come back 20 years from now, and they'll still be discussing these issues in this Legislature and on the street - the question of bilingualism, the question of the relations between the different ethnic communities. That's Canadian history, that's Canada, that's Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the Schreyer administration. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if that

question came before the Schreyer administration in the 1970's, it wouldn't have lasted five minutes. Five minutes in and five minutes out. There were people sitting around that table who were professionals, who would have examined the issue, made a decision, and the issue would have been finished on the spot. They would never in a million years have gone for the deal of the Attorney-General. If he had run in with that issue, he would have been fired out of Cabinet on his head, landed in the hall, dribbled down the stairs, out the front door onto the lawn, and would never have been seen again. He would have been laughed out of Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, not five minutes in the Schreyer administration. In the Lyon administration, probably the same thing. No way, no way would that have been handled for months and years, and all the agony and turmoil and confusion and so on that went on, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I simply say that it's a matter of how the issues were handled. That was demonstrated in the Winnipeg Free Press. They mentioned the top problems for the Pawley administration, the federal NDP's lack of credibility, and, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives, the Lyon administration, hurt the federal Conservatives in the elections in the 1970's and the Conservatives lost ground in Manitoba, and the New Democratic Party gained from two seats to five to seven. Now, we're going to see the reverse, the Pawley Government is going to hurt the federal members of Parliament, just like they hurt the municipal people. There was a pretty bad scene there.

**MR. H. ENNS:** They were going to take over City Hall.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Yes, they came close, they came close. They lost a seat, lost a couple of councillors just the other day and now down to what? Six or so.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is hurting the Manitoba NDP? The NDP federally; next, the leadership ability of Howard Pawley; and next, the leadership ability of Pierre Trudeau. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's remarkable, isn't it? The federal Liberal leader is hurting the NDP provincially. How could that possibly be?

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Because they're in bed together.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, a cigar to the gentleman on my right. Anyone could have answered that question, but that is the answer, but he got it first, so I owe you a cigar.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Turtle Mountain, who is a very intelligent and effective Member of the Legislature, he guesses first, but even some of his colleagues who are not as learned or capable, anybody could have guessed it, even members on the other side could have guessed it. Mr. Speaker, it was a lead pipe cinch. But when you're in bed with a political party, when you're too closely affiliated with the Mark MacGuigans and the Serge Joyals and the Pierre Elliott Trudeaus of this country, then you go with them. When you hitch your wagon to that star, if the star goes up, you go with it, and if it goes down, you go down too.

Then next comes the leadership ability of Ed Broadbent. Mr. Speaker, I still think, I still believe that Ed Broadbent is a good man. I still believe that, I can't

get that out of my mind, but on the language question and on the Constitution, he made a very big mistake. Mr. Speaker, I told him that to his face, I told him that to his face in caucus with my colleagues sitting there. Some of them told him that too, a couple of years ago. It wasn't easy to do, I didn't enjoy it, but I felt there was a danger that the federal leader was not reading the West very accurately at all, was not representing or reflecting western opinion.

Then the last two questions on the list were the lack of re-election credibility for the provincial NDP, because very few people believe the government's going to make it in the next election, even New Democrats find that hard to believe.

Then the sixth one - and this is very surprising - sixth on the list is the French language issue. So if you read this and if you study this poll, and if you study the polls around, it becomes very clear, Mr. Speaker, that the government is in big trouble, and that the Premier is in big trouble. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier himself may not lead the party in the next election because I think that he will have a difficult time winning his own seat in the next election.

Mr. Speaker, I don't say this just off the cuff because I heard stories months ago coming out of the Selkirk Rolling Mills that the people there, bedrock supporters of the NDP, were down on the Premier and down on the party. I heard almost a year ago, when this thing started, when a lady named Pat Maltman came to this building and knocked on my door with a petition of 350 names and she had 175 of those names were collected in the CN shops in Transcona. Then I knew that there was big trouble for the government and big trouble for some of the leading lights.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time I have left?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable member has seven minutes remaining.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more to say but I will save some of it for the Budget speech.

This might be a good time to read a few quotations. I have an interesting book of quotations that I bought about 30 years ago for 35 cents. Nowadays that's \$2.95 or \$3.95, but 35 cents - I say this to the Minister of Agriculture who is a - I don't know if he was born then. I think he was born then, but it was a lot of money 30 years ago - 35 cents. The way I know is I used to give my daughter quarters and I found out that doesn't mean anything. A dollar is what you give to a young child now. You don't give them a quarter anymore. When you go to the store, as I did the other day and bought an ice cream cone for 95 cents at Dutch Maid, I knew that a quarter didn't go very far anymore. It's "Hey Daddy, can I have a dollar for an ice cream cone?"

**A MEMBER:** But they still say, "A penny for your thoughts," Russ.

**MR. R. DOERN:** That's right. Mr. Speaker, I read three quotes in conclusion. One is for the Attorney-General, and I am sorry he isn't here. It is an epitaph. It looks like a poem, Mr. Speaker, but it doesn't rhyme, so I will read it as it is written in four lines, a very short one.

"Here lies beneath this mossy stone a politician who touched a live issue without gloves and never did come to." Mr. Speaker, that would be a good quote for the Honourable Minister.

And for many of the members in the party who are going with the government, right or wrong, they are going with the language issue no matter whether nobody in Manitoba supports it — (Interjection) — Well, the Minister of Highways, the Minister of . . .

**A MEMBER:** Business Development.

**MR. R. DOERN:** Business Development, he was smart, he went to Hawaii. The Member for St. Johns, he was smart, he went to Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, at one point during the language debate there were more New Democratic MLAs in Hawaii than in Manitoba, which shows that there is some sense and some intelligence in the party.

Mr. Speaker, to those members who are going to support the party, right or wrong, I simply say this - I read them W.S. Gilbert from HMS Pinafore, and this is their hope, of course - "I always voted at my party's call and never thought of thinking for myself at all." The optimism comes later: "I thought so little they rewarded me by making me the ruler of the Queen's Navy." Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we don't have a navy. Aye, there's the rub.

But, Mr. Speaker, I conclude my remarks with this comment, and this is a quote from an American president at his inaugural address March 5, 1877 - Rutherford B. Hayes. Now I don't know much about Mr. Hayes, President Hayes, but I can tell you he knew what he was talking about. He said this: "He serves his party best who serves the country best." And I say to the members of the government, and the backbenchers in particular, "He serves his party best who serves his province best," and they would do well to bear that in mind because, Mr. Speaker, it isn't just the New Democratic Party that they are serving. It is the people and the Province of Manitoba that they serve.

Mr. Speaker, when I first got elected, a Liberal lawyer that I knew who lived in Elmwood, still lives in Elmwood, still lives in my riding, made a lot of money, a very intelligent observer of the political scene. In fact, I will even name him, which perhaps I shouldn't, but he made a comment which I think can be quoted. Jack Walker - some of you would know Jack Walker. Jack said to me when I was first elected, in the first few months of my term, he said, "Listen, I want to tell you something." He said, "You are an MLA now." And he said, "You don't just represent the New Democratic Party in Elmwood." He said, "You represent everybody." Everybody. You know, Mr. Speaker, I had to think about that. I didn't just accept that and say, "Oh, you're right, Jack, absolutely, right on." I had to think about that and work that through because I thought that I was just representing the NDP, the guys who voted for me.

Mr. Speaker, that isn't how it works. An MLA must represent his entire riding. Mr. Speaker, that is the government's problem. The MLAs individually are, in 99 percent of the cases, not reflecting public opinion and neither is the government.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter the debate, and I would like to extend my best wishes to you and hope things go well this Session, and I think they will. At least I have hopes that they will.

I would like, also, to extend congratulations to my colleagues, the Member for Wolseley and Mover of the Speech from the Throne, and the Seconder, my colleague from Rupertsland. Mr. Speaker, they did a very excellent presentation, both of them, and it is always nice to hear some of our people express themselves and talk about their constituencies, particularly the Member for Rupertsland. He always has a way about him to make everyone sit back and listen. I really appreciate when my colleague for Rupertsland has an opportunity to speak in the House.

It's also a pleasure to speak after the Member for Elmwood. I believe that he is the champion newspaper clipper in the House. I sat with him for a number of years and I know that he likes to cut papers. He does a lot of cutting and I expect that that's where he gets most of his material. I'm a bit disappointed that he did not deal more with the Throne Speech, that's what we're dealing with now. He made a few comments, very short comments, about the speech, but he drifted away on a tangent on other issues and that is, of course, his prerogative so to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am very very pleased to support the Throne Speech. I think that what I have seen happening in the last two years has given me a sense of satisfaction. Things are changing in Manitoba, things have changed and for the better. I sat here, Mr. Speaker, for four years in the opposition and I know what happened. We know what happened.

Mr. Speaker, what we saw during the Conservative era was an exodus of people from this province, people leaving in droves, and I'm pleased that that has turned around. In two short years the drift that was going west, the drift is now coming east from the west, and they're stopping in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. They are stopping in Manitoba, and that is why our population in 1983 is the largest increase in the past 20 years. I think that that is something we can take pride in. I think that is something that we can be proud of, to have our people who left here in discouragement, they are now coming back where they were raised, where they were born, where they had worked for many many years and drifted away during a dark period in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker - families being broken up, sons having to go away and leave their families, and even husbands having to leave to go and look for a job somewhere else.

Mr. Speaker, we were very happy that - in a sense we can be happy that there was a relief valve in the west to absorb some of the things that were happening in Manitoba under the Conservatives here. We have to be glad about that, that some of our people were able to find work in the west, but it's much more satisfying to me, as a Manitoban, to see them coming back and finding work here.

Mr. Speaker, our record is one that many other provinces are looking at. They are looking at some of the policies that we have established here. I did a little travelling, Mr. Speaker, I've just come back from Saskatchewan. In fact, I went twice, I was there about three weeks ago and I was there over the weekend,

but, Mr. Speaker, things are not the same there anymore. Things are not the same. They had a good government, Mr. Speaker, over there and now they have changed, and things are not the same as they were, Mr. Speaker. The deficits are mounting. They never had deficits before. Balanced budgets was the order of the day in Saskatchewan under the New Democrats. Mr. Speaker, that is no longer the case.

You know, I heard my colleague talk about a taxi driver in Ontario, and I heard a lot of people scoff, on the other side, about the opinion of a taxi driver. If you want to know what's going on, ask the taxi driver. He can tell you what's going on, because he hears it all the time. Hundreds of people get in his cab and they talk and he hears a lot of things in the front seat of a cab.

You know, we just happened to talk to one cab driver in Saskatchewan not very long ago, it was three weeks ago, and we asked him, "Well, how are things going here in Saskatchewan?" He said, "I can tell you that the present government's not going to be re-elected." Now this is not a cab driver in Ontario, this is a cab driver in Saskatchewan. He says, this government's not going to get elected. I said, "Well, what's the matter anyway?" "Well," he says, "it hasn't done anything since it's been elected." I didn't argue with him, I didn't coax him, or try to encourage him to say anything derogatory about the government. He came out with it on his own, and the reason why he said that is because he can hear hundreds of people in his cab make comments about the government.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen - well, I can't miss what I have on my mind, to express my mind on when my colleague, the Minister of Energy and Mines, made the announcement of the largest deal on Hydro, the largest transaction on Hydro exports in the history of Canada - not Manitoba, but in the history of Canada - and I have never seen so many glum faces at one time, and not only glum but ashen, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we don't go around crowing about mega projects that are unattainable. We don't go around crowing about mega projects that are pie-in-the-sky. We mean business, we know how to operate, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to economic development, creating jobs, and making a better life for people, Conservatives are not even in the same league. You could look anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and when the former administration, when we were just entering a recession, brought in policies to dampen the economy to try and put inflation down, that was what we call a double whammy. There was a recession coming and they could not perceive that it was coming, and they said, well, we've got to try and create a little downturn in the economy to try and get the inflation rate down. The results were very clear as to what that policy caused this province and caused the people of Manitoba to reject that policy.

I listened to the — (Interjection) — well, the member talks about the payroll levy, he talks about the levy on health and education, Mr. Speaker. The fact is we have a better record of employment in Manitoba than anywhere else, so that certainly doesn't support his argument, Mr. Speaker.

We have moved from the third lowest unemployment rate in Canada to the lowest, even below mighty Saskatchewan, and I think Saskatchewan has the best

economy - if it's well-governed. They are very, very well situated to provide good economy for that province. They have the resources, they have the agriculture, they have the grain, they have a very good balance, but you watch what's going to happen, Mr. Speaker. You mark my words, just watch what's going to happen. Now the taxi driver may have been a little bit too optimistic, that the next time around the government may be defeated. Now they may be, Mr. Speaker, but they're not going to be there very, very long. I'm sure of that.

Of course, I don't claim to be a Saskatchewan resident. It's a long time since - I was a Saskatchewan resident once in my younger years, but look at the record on housing in the Province of Manitoba in the last two years - 218.4 percent increase in urban starts. That's the second highest increase of any province. That's something to be proud of, I would say. Investment has gone up 10.5 percent in 1983, the third highest increase in Canada again. That's a pretty good record.

We stack up very well with all those other Conservative provinces that we have throughout Canada and we're stacking up much better than they are in fact, the best in Western Canada certainly. For this year, Mr. Speaker, for 1984, the projections are for an increase of 11.8 percent. Isn't that something to be optimistic about or is it something to be ashen faced like we saw the other day and all those glum faces when the announcement was made that the biggest deal in the history of Canada on Hydro had been made and they were disappointed.

There will be more, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell them that. There will be more, but not in the same way as what we were getting when they were in office, Mr. Speaker, it ain't going to be giveaways.

Even in retail sales there has been an 8 percent increase which was the largest increase again in the west. Little Manitoba with its small population is leading the west because of good policies, innovative policies. The Jobs Fund has been criticized; there's a lot of nitpicking.

The Member for Robin-Russell raised the problems of agriculture and we are all concerned - I'm not going to get into that because I think my colleague should be dealing with agriculture, the Minister of Agriculture - but we are concerned about what is happening out there to the farm community and we have done more - and I'm not going to go into details - but we have done more in two years for the agriculture sector than that group ever did in four.

The Member for Roblin-Russell said he blamed the high interest rates as a cost on the farming and high energy costs. That is two issues he was blaming on the problems that are being created for farmers and those two policies, when the Member for Roblin-Russell was on this side and they had a Conservative Government, those were two issues they were supporting was high interest rates and high fuel costs. We can prove that; we can go back in the records and get it out. Now they stand up and say, hey, what are you doing about interest rates and high energy costs? When we were in opposition we were bringing that to their attention, what high energy costs were going to do to this country.

Some of the blame can be attached to the Premier of Alberta, on his policies on energy. When he brought

in a boycott of 160 barrels a day on oil, that's when the trouble for Alberta started. That was the beginning, and right now they have such a depressed economy. We're sorry about that, we're sorry that is happening in the west. Their policies were not well thought out and they made an error and we hope it turns around, but that was the beginning of the end for Alberta, when they started boycotting the rest of Canada with their oil. They wanted to extract more dollars out of Manitoba and Eastern Canada. Now the hens are coming home to roost and that's what's happening now.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at what we have accomplished in the last two years and we intend to continue to find ways and means to make this province a better place to live for ourselves and our children and our children's children.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

With indulgence, I'd like to allow my colleague, the Member for St. Norbert, to speak.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It occurred to me that, as I read this Throne Speech over and over trying to find something worthwhile in it, that the Throne Speech having been introduced during the Lenten season, it seemed to me that what would have been more appropriate for the government to do would have been to apologize for their performance during the past two-and-a-half years, to come clean with the people of Manitoba, to admit to their mistakes, to be honest with the people of Manitoba, to ask for forgiveness to the electorate in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, and to admit that their performance has been inadequate.

Now there is a whole list of Ministers, beginning with the Premier, Mr. Speaker, who have good reason to apologize to the people of Manitoba. The Premier could have begun, Mr. Speaker, by apologizing for the statements that he made in his election document, A Clear Choice for Manitobans, statements and promises which were simply wrong, were in error, lacked any factual basis and which were misleading to the people of Manitoba. He could apologize, Mr. Speaker, for not providing leadership to the Provincial Government, for lacking the capacity to govern.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he indicates through this Throne Speech that the government is going to concentrate on the private sector. Well, Mr. Speaker, does he think Manitobans have short memories? It was only last October that the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, who represent not the banks or the oil companies or large multinational corporations but represent the small businesses throughout Canada and in this province, and he described this government, Mr. Speaker, as the most anti-business regime in Canada and went on with a long list of complaints. His comments, Mr. Speaker, have been echoed by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce.

This government now proposes to concentrate on the private sector in Manitoba, having been described in this manner by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Speaker, it is almost as if this were some sort of deathbed confession. They are admitting now that the Progressive Conservatives were right in their criticism during the past two-and-a-half years.

Only this government, Mr. Speaker, is dying of an infliction caused by a lack of honesty, a lack of integrity, a lack of competence and a lack of credibility. It is self-inflicted, Mr. Speaker, and the government has no hope of recovery. It is doomed to defeat in the next election. That is something the First Minister could apologize for, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Energy and Mines, Mr. Speaker, could apologize for the loss of the mega projects, the loss of jobs. He could apologize for having abandoned the hydro rate freeze. We had an increase of 9.5 percent in 1983 under this government, and another increase of 7.9 percent in this year. His recent announcements about a power sale and his failure to provide information that's being requested to this Legislature have raised a lot of serious questions about that whole project, Mr. Speaker, and we hope to obtain the answers for the people of Manitoba in the coming months.

But at the present, Mr. Speaker, they have to be judged on their record. Their record of hydro development is not good. Hopefully it will have changed. He could apologize, Mr. Speaker, for ManOil. All that has happened there is they found a job for another Saskatchewan civil servant who has come to Manitoba from SaskOil.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance could also do some apologizing. I find it amazing that on Page 3 of the Throne Speech, the government, having brought in a record deficit last year, the highest in the history of Manitoba, more than the total of four years of deficits under the previous Progressive Conservative Government, now, because the deficit is going to come in slightly less than he estimated, he is taking credit for what still is a record deficit in the Province of Manitoba. It's still nearly \$500 million and he is taking credit, Mr. Speaker, for what is still a record deficit in the Province of Manitoba and he expects to get credit for people in this Legislature and the people of Manitoba for that kind of administration of the financial affairs of the province. That is absolutely ridiculous, Mr. Speaker.

He should apologize, Mr. Speaker, to the young people of this province who are going to have to pay off that deficit. He should apologize for the loss of the credit rating in this province, Mr. Speaker. He should apologize for the payroll tax. He should apologize for the increase in the sales tax, and he should apologize for the \$1.5 billion Special Warrant, which was, I submit, Mr. Speaker, in contravention of The Financial Administration Act. There was no urgent necessity to pass a Special Warrant in that amount.

The only urgency was that this government wants to avoid any questioning of its policies, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't have the courage. I am sure it didn't even want to come into the House, Mr. Speaker. If they had the legislative authority to pass a Special Warrant to eliminate Sessions of this Legislature, that is what they really would like to do, but they went as far as they



could under the authority - that was the only possible authority they had - and to avoid any questions in the Legislature, they passed an unbelievable \$1.5 billion Special Warrant.

Mr. Speaker, the Attorney-General could apologize to the Legislature. Remember those grand speeches last spring on the constitutional amendment? The Premier, I suppose, and his government took his advice, and what has happened? Manitobans have never been so bitterly and so badly divided, Mr. Speaker, and it will take decades, I regret, to overcome the division that this government has caused among the people of Manitoba. He should apologize, Mr. Speaker, to this Legislature for that.

He should apologize, Mr. Speaker, for one major error in the administration of justice. That, Mr. Speaker, was his changing of the criminal charges involving Dr. Morgentaler without consultation with the senior staff of his department after he had explicitly told this Legislature that the Director of Prosecutions would handle that particular prosecution. He took it upon himself, without consultation with the Director of Prosecutions and senior staff, to change those charges. That puts the administration of justice into disrepute in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, he should apologize for the election expenses legislation whereby the taxpayers in the next provincial election are going to have to pay 50 percent of the costs of the NDP Party.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health should apologize for his administration of the health care system in the province. Today we had an unbelievable example when the Member for Lakeside asked some reasonable questions about the authority of a local board to operate the affairs of their area in an efficient way, and the Minister of Health - as many other Ministers in this government, Mr. Speaker - is obviously the captive of organized labour. They are the captives of organized labour and they won't allow a simple common-sense decision to be made by a local board who want to operate their affairs in an efficient manner within the limited resources that are available to them.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen in recent months through the fall, as recently as on the weekend, stories - not generated by this side but generated by people in the health care system - that there are serious problems in the health care system. But what is our Minister of Health doing, Mr. Speaker? He is more concerned about the type of bingo cards that people are using in Manitoba. They have to use paper bingo cards that are produced by the government. He is indulging, Mr. Speaker, in a personal vendetta in that field much to the chagrin of many local community groups involved in raising funds through lotteries. He should be removed of his responsibility in that particular area and he should apologize for his conduct of his responsibilities in that area.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Municipal Affairs should apologize to the people of Manitoba for not dealing with the assessment problem. That is another important issue. It's a complicated issue; it's a complex issue. It has been in the hands of the government and the previous Minister for years now, and they refuse to deal with it, Mr. Speaker. I predict right now they won't deal with it prior to the next election. We will have to deal with it. — (Interjection) — The former Minister says

we didn't deal with it, Mr. Speaker. We authorized that report to be done, a very thorough report involving communications and dialogue with people throughout Manitoba in that area, and they don't have the courage to deal with it. We'll deal with it after the next election when we're elected. We'll have to deal with it because they don't have the courage to deal with it and they should apologize for that, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Community Services, or Minister of Employment now is his new title, he could apologize for everything he's done because he's botched absolutely everything he's done. However, I detect he still has some input into the government because on Page 2 of the Throne Speech they talk about the number of jobs in Manitoba, and the Throne Speech states, "There are 9,000 more Manitobans who are working than were in December, 1981, about three times as many new jobs as were created in the previous two years, 1980 and 1981." Talk about selective statistics! Mr. Speaker, there were 34,000 or 35,000 jobs created under the previous Progressive Conservative administration and now they have the nerve to put in their Throne Speech some selective comparisons to the last few years and I believe that even that comparison is wrong in itself. I believe even that comparison is wrong in itself because the statistics that I have, which are taken from Statistics Canada, indicate that in 1982 the province lost 5,000 jobs and it gained 6,000 in 1983. It would appear it would be a net gain of 1,000 jobs, but I want to reconfirm and verify again these statistics. Even if their figures are wrong, Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely incorrect for that type of selective statistical comparison to be made when, under our government, there were nearly 35,000 jobs created and virtually all in the private sector.

Of course, we know that Minister, the Minister of Employment, loves to play around with those figures because we were victimized by his figures, but he didn't tell the whole truth and now they're bearing the brunt of their actions and the manner in which they got elected. He still has some influence because he goes on to talk about, in June of last year, we recorded the largest annual increase in our population, an increase of some \$12,000.00. They don't tell you, Mr. Speaker, about the report in the media earlier on this year where it was pointed out that the province is losing people.

The February 22 edition of the Free Press indicated that statistics for the third quarter of 1983 show Manitoba lost 806 people in interprovincial migration. They go back in the Throne Speech to talk about June of last year and don't tell the people the truth, that in the following quarter there was a loss in interprovincial migration. Mr. Speaker, that is not being honest with the people of Manitoba.

I don't propose to make a big deal out of the loss as a result of interprovincial migration. The fact is that there are numbers of tradesmen and people who go where the jobs are and if there's a large construction project or project somewhere else, they're going to go there and they're going to return to Manitoba in due course, Mr. Speaker, but these are selective statistics, the kind of thing that particular Minister is well known for.

The Minister of Small Business Development, I think it's called now, and Tourism, he could apologize for not being stronger in the Cabinet, because we know

what his personal views are on so many things the government has done and he could apologize to this Legislature for not telling the government during the past two-and-a-half years that they were proceeding along the wrong path. As the Minister of Tourism, he could explain, perhaps to members of his Cabinet, that tourism faltered badly last year - as it was the report in February - with 262,000 fewer outside visitors than in 1982, because of buyer resistance to higher prices in Manitoba was what one party indicated was the reason. Those higher prices, of course, are all related to increased taxes of various kinds, including liquor taxes, which this government has imposed, that have proven to be adverse to the tourism industry and to visitors coming into this province.

The tourism industry is a very important industry for Manitoba. It employs a lot of people. Perhaps in this new position of responsibility that he has he can impress upon the members of Cabinet that something has to be done in that particular industry because they failed badly in promoting the province and in promoting tourists coming to Manitoba.

The now Minister of Government Services, the former Minister of Municipal Services, I tried to think of what he should apologize for. How could you ask that Minister to apologize for bringing Main Street Manitoba to this province, the program which was to be the economic saviour of this province?

**A MEMBER:** Don't run it down.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not running it down. The Minister built it up to be the economic saviour of this province.

The Minister of Agriculture - there's certainly other people much better qualified than I to speak on the subject of agriculture - but I do have some connections through my constituency to people in the agricultural field and there is a crisis in agriculture and the Minister doesn't seem to be dealing effectively with it. That government, I don't think, can relate properly to the affairs of farmers and it is becoming more and more a crisis.

Bankruptcies have been increasing sharply. Farmers can't afford to seed their crops. There are real financing problems in agriculture and unfortunately it's getting worse and we don't see any effective leadership on the part of this Minister or the government in dealing with it.

Mr. Speaker, the now Chairman of the Treasury Board, I noticed they've taken all administrative responsibility away from him, probably because as a result of his years in opposition and his irresponsible statements, I take it the Premier now realizes they can't give him any specific administrative responsibility because they know that somewhere in the past he's made some ridiculous statements that are going to come back to haunt him.

We remember them all - fogging mosquitoes, the whole works, right down the line, Mr. Speaker, so now he's left as Chairman of the Treasury Board, but even there he prefers to criticize. He really doesn't like to take any positive action. The government announced they're going to cut 273 positions and he's the Chairman of the Treasury Board. This is what he approved, but

he doesn't want to take any responsibility for who gets cut - oh, that's up to the departments. So what if the political aides and image makers and apple polishers have all been doubled? So what if advertising is excessive in Manitoba? He authorized 273 positions to be cut and the departments will do that. He's a good guy, he doesn't want to get involved in naming people, Mr. Speaker, or decide who's going to be cut. Mr. Speaker, that's really establishing priorities. That's what the Chairman of the Treasury Board is supposed to do, and he's really establishing priorities.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Natural Resources, I think should once again apologize to his constituents for not representing them in this Legislature. He didn't represent them on the constitutional amendment, Mr. Speaker. You would have thought he'd have learned. He didn't represent them years ago when the government brought in unicity and he was defeated. He didn't represent them this time, Mr. Speaker, and he's going to be defeated again.

Mr. Speaker, surely one of what appeared to be one of the brighter lights in this government at the beginning of its terms was the Minister of Education, but she is really leaving a legacy in the educational field. We have the recent indication of the change in tenures. She should apologize to the students of Manitoba for that. We have a crisis at the universities, Mr. Speaker. We have limited enrolment in amounts, in numbers, that I deplore, and I'm sure the young people of this province deplore. We have unparalleled staff cuts at the universities, and again she tries to be the good person, Mr. Speaker. They come to see her and she says, "Gee, I agree with you. Maybe if you go and see my colleagues in Cabinet, you can get more money. It's not my fault." She takes no responsibility for it, Mr. Speaker. That's not right, she is responsible for education in this province and it's going downhill.

Mr. Speaker, she takes no responsibility for the University of Brandon and the fiasco of firing Mr. Perkins. She takes no responsibility, Mr. Speaker, for the lack of financial support to school boards and municipalities, which have caused an extremely large increase in real property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, what about the grant to independent schools for this year? The grants for the public school system were announced a long time ago. What's happened to the grant for independent schools? When is that going to be announced, Mr. Speaker? What kind of infighting is going on over there, Mr. Speaker, and when is that government going to realize that a positive contribution is being made by independent schools in this province?

Mr. Speaker, is the government going to lean in favour of the - as the Member for Turtle Mountain referred to earlier today - left wing radicals, who would prefer not to give any assistance to independent schools or is it going to lean towards to the reasonable position? I know that's being taken by some members in that group? A decision is going to have to be made, Mr. Speaker. It should have been made long time and I hope will be made positively in favour of independent schools very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

Then we have, Mr. Speaker, the Minister - it's hard to keep up with all of the new names - I think it's the Minister of Economic Development, but anyway the former Minister of Urban Affairs, in charge of the Jobs

Fund. Mr. Speaker, talk about a lack of honesty. The reference to 21,000 jobs, when in fact Statistics Canada shows the actual number of jobs that have been created in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, of course, we all noticed the editorial correction in the paper, wherein Mr. Weppeler is not supposed to have told the Federal Government not to criticize the Jobs Fund without consulting them, but he only suggested that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that gentleman, as I understand it, in the Federal Employment and Immigration Department has been suspended for two weeks without pay as a result of this government's expressions of concern. As I understand it - and I don't know the gentlemen, but he's involved in the particular field of job statistics and he offered some genuine criticism of the Jobs Fund based on their criteria. For that, Mr. Speaker, this government has taken some action, which has resulted in his suspension for two weeks without pay.

Mr. Speaker, this government should apologize for the excessive advertising that they have used with respect to the Jobs Fund. They should apologize for the excessive amounts of money that are being used to publish and advertise, Mr. Speaker, figures which are misleading.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Community Services, I think, has to take a long hard realistic look at the policy that the government has introduced with respect to the adoption of native children in this province. There are now, according to the information I've received, it now takes from four to six years for a prospective adoptive parent to wait for a child. We have, Mr. Speaker, large numbers of native children who are unable to find homes. There is some criticism of what has happened in the past related to out-of-province or out-of-country adoptions, Mr. Speaker, but I seriously believe that it is not in the interest of these native children, who are being held away from people who are prepared to provide homes for them immediately. I don't know how any individual can justify keeping these children in foster homes when there are people who are prepared to adopt them, Mr. Speaker, and provide good homes for them.

I think the government, in spite of all the public reports and the judicial inquiries, has to take a careful look at that, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister had better be awfully careful in assessing her policy of returning abused, deprived, and abandoned children to their mothers without properly ensuring that those children are cared for, because there are already known some instances where those children have suffered harm in being returned. The interest of the mother is not paramount, it's the interest of the child. I'm afraid that future months and years are going to show that this policy is going to result in harm to a number of children.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour, who on behalf of the government takes some pride in the employment rate in Manitoba, should apologize for those 20,000 more people who are unemployed under this government than were employed when they took office. Mr. Speaker, she should apologize for the first contract legislation which was brought in supposedly to improve labour management relations when it was made clear in an article in a newspaper the other day by a union official that what this legislation essentially did was improve the organization of unions, helped to organize

unions better. That was the main purpose of the legislation; it wasn't to improve any labour-management relations because it doesn't do that. It was done to help organize labour, organize unions in this province, Mr. Speaker.

In a small aside, the government seems to take some credit in having Pope John Paul II come to Manitoba this year. Hopefully, prior to that visit, the Minister of Labour will also offer an apology to Roman Catholics for some of the comments that she's made in the past month, and she should apologize, as the Minister of Urban Affairs, for the drastic increase in real property taxes. I know the government doesn't like to hear these figures but they promised to ease the municipal tax burden.

They made reference to it in the Throne Speech and I want to cite once more, based on the most recent increase in taxes, that using as an example an average home assessed at \$7,000 in the Winnipeg School Division where they have all their seats, the total net taxes on that home from 1977 to 1981 increased by a total amount of \$78.03. In the first three years of this government, 1982 to 1984 under the NDP, the total taxes on that same home have increased by \$298.00. In three years, under the NDP, the total increase is nearly four times the total increase over four years under a PC Government. Mr. Speaker, they had the nerve to criticize us in opposition over the increase in taxes that had occurred. They should apologize for that.

In the limited time available to me, just a couple of more important references that I want to make. This government should apologize for this government indicating that it wants to enter the life insurance industry, Mr. Speaker. That has caused great consternation among the industry that has been good to Manitoba and in which a lot of people are employed.

This government should apologize also for the lack of apartment construction in this province. There is now a very low vacancy rate existing in this province, and I said, when they introduced their rent control legislation, what are they going to do to encourage the construction of rental housing in Manitoba and they've done nothing, Mr. Speaker. They've done nothing, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister responsible for the Workers Compensation Board should apologize for the increases in assessments and the incompetent board that he has put in place there, a 9 percent to 20 percent increase in assessments last year, over 20 percent this year, and the government had to use \$4 million of taxpayers' money to keep those assessments down.

Mr. Speaker, those are just some of the areas in which every Minister in every department has been involved in, in the last two-and-one-half years. It would have been much better, as I said at the beginning, that if they want to come in and ask for the support of the people of Manitoba they should have tried to clean the slate, to apologize for all of these mistakes that they've made, and errors and incompetence and been honest with the people of Manitoba and had some integrity. Then perhaps they would have some credibility; then perhaps they might have a possibility of being re-elected, but they haven't acknowledged any of this and they lack honesty and they lack integrity and they lack competence and they lack credibility and they're

doomed to defeat, and this Throne Speech is a testimonial to that. It's a testimonial to a government that is doomed, that doesn't have any real ideas and concept of its own, this government that has been called the worst anti-business government in Canada is now going to concentrate on the private sector. That doesn't offer much optimism to the people of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, when a government of this stripe is going to do that.

Meanwhile, as the Minister for La Verendrye indicates, they are participating in a plan with respect to Autopac coverage that will adversely affect all of the small agents in Manitoba. This government is obviously doomed to defeat and the Throne Speech is clear evidence of that.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** The Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I want to say that it's certainly a pleasure for myself to take part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne and to pay you congratulations in leading this Chamber once again, as well as my colleagues, the Member for Rupertsland and the Member for Wolseley, for moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne.

I want to say as well, Mr. Speaker, that it's a pleasure to speak in this debate because the Throne Speech presents, what I would consider, a good overview of this government's record of positive action to strengthen and develop the economic and social well-being of this province in times of severe economic adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I'm also proud of this administration's record on tackling these economic difficulties head on. In this respect I believe that we are unique among Provincial and Federal Governments because we've made massive commitments to stabilize our provincial economy and to, what I would say, neutralize the negative economic consequences imposed on our people by those outside of our borders.

We are living, Sir, in difficult economic times. For many years now we've staggered under the oppressive burden inflicted on our people by harsh and inhumane economic policies of our Federal Government and those of other countries and, really, what have we got to show for it? - exorbitant interest rates, record unemployment, housing shortages and negative economic growth throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, these hardships are the predictable outcome of what can be expected when you use 18th Century solutions to 20th Century problems. These harsh policies of those around us have triggered the deepest and most severe recession witnessed in our times.

The high interest rate policy is a logical position of Conservative governments who refuse to be creative and forward-looking in searching for solutions to modern-day problems. Mr. Speaker, instead they reach back to what I would say, the good old days, to measures that may have worked a hundred years ago, Sir. They pretend that nothing is changed and we need another dose of that good, old medicine and we'll certainly cure our economic ills.

What I've described, Sir, is the economic policy of every conservative-thinking country in the free world

and I'm sure that's the position of members opposite here, who hide your head and hope that things will get better. Mr. Speaker, that is a defeatist attitude which I am sure is shared - that kind of an attitude is shared - as expressed by members opposite, my colleagues would say, that is a defeatist attitude, a totally negative attitude; and it was displayed here this afternoon by the Member for St. Norbert time after time, someone who should - and he used the words - should apologize. Mr. Speaker, if anyone should apologize, it's the Member for St. Norbert, who doesn't recognize that the thrusts and the changes in policy, albeit so many, and if anything, that it probably hasn't gotten through to fellow Manitobans, is the massive thrust of the various changes in policies and programs that this government has instituted over the past few years which have been negated by the negativisms of the members of the opposition on the one issue that this government really had nothing to do with, but was exaggerated and blown out of proportion by themselves and the Member for Elmwood. That's really where we're at.

Mr. Speaker, this government has recognized the need for a partnership arrangement between the public and private sectors and that is why we have fostered a close and harmonious working relationship between government, business and labour. Together we can withstand economic adversity, adjust to change - and the world is changing very rapidly - and to lay the economic groundwork for future prosperity. I'm proud of our performance to date.

It will not be enough, admittedly, dealing in agriculture. Although we have put more money into agriculture than any government in the history of this province, it will be enough and it isn't enough and we recognize that the financial failures of many of our farmers will continue and no matter what we do here, in terms of the Province of Manitoba, we do need national action in terms of income support for the farmers of this province.

Mr. Speaker, it was, I guess, amusing to note that the Leader of the Opposition, during his remarks on the 16th of April, spoke about the meat packing industry, saying, tell us about it, tell us what your solutions are going to be and tell us how you're going to address those problems with the Canada Packers and its viability. He talked about the meat packing industry.

Sir, what is the record here in Manitoba? We had an administration here in the province that allowed about a quarter of our producers to cease producing beef in the Province of Manitoba during their term in office. We lost one packing house that cost the workers in Winnipeg hundreds and hundreds of jobs directly in this province. What have we done, Mr. Speaker?

**A MEMBER:** All our fault.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Speaker, not all your fault, but when they talk about action or inaction on behalf of a provincial government, the Leader of the Opposition should know that we have now stabilized the beef-cow herd in the Province of Manitoba. We are having an increase, albeit small, but in comparison to what's happening across North America, we have turned the tide. We have turned the tide by what, Mr. Speaker? By positive government action to encourage the production of beef and the finishing of beef in the

Province of Manitoba and it took a major capital investment of over \$20 million in the last two years; and I believe, and I venture to say, Sir, that it will protect thousands of jobs in the meat packing industry in the Province of Manitoba.

It will be an investment, a partnership between the farmers, the government, the workers and industry all together, working. Working for whom, Sir? For the benefit of the people of this province, to protect, to stabilize, increase production and make sure that Manitoba is a leader in food processing in this country. That is our advantage and that's what this government is working toward. That's what we're doing with respect to the meat packing industry and our farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba is one of the few provinces in this nation where production of hogs continues to increase far beyond what is happening in other provinces, and it is in part due to the long-term investment by this government into income stability of our hog producers. It does take millions of dollars and we are committed to agriculture in terms of stabilizing incomes of our producers and it is a partnership and it will pay off. It will pay off in long-term income stability.

The one area, Sir, that we are vulnerable in this country and which does require national action is in the area of income stabilization for our grain producers. That is one area where we are vulnerable. We have made time and time repeated requests and submissions to the Federal Government dealing with The Western Grain Stabilization Act. There is close to \$1 billion in that fund and grain producers in Western Canada, many of whom have gone bankrupt and some of whom will likely continue to go bankrupt as a result of the low prices received on the world markets for grain, at a time when the Grain Stabilization Fund is burgeoning, there is need to change those criteria and make sure that needed income is made and paid immediately, Mr. Speaker, to western grain farmers - immediately. — (Interjection) — The Honourable Member for Minnedosa says that's what we said in our press release from Regina. That was in March, I believe, Sir. Mr. Speaker, they were almost a year too late. In 1983, we made specific proposals to the Federal Government in which — (Interjection) — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members opposite, I am pleased with the support that we can share collectively as a Legislature here and we will want them to participate in adding further to that collective support to make sure that that message is shown very clearly to Ottawa that there is great need in the grain sector in the Province of Manitoba, Sir, and we will be putting forward some measures to make sure that that collective support from this Legislature goes forward in very short order.

There is one area, Mr. Speaker, that was touched on by members opposite, by the agricultural critic, dealing with one issue that I find a bit amusing in terms of coming from the former Minister of Agriculture, the Member for Arthur, dealing with my meetings that I've had with farmers of this province in the last several weeks regarding crop insurance, Sir. He made remarks in his speech saying - he's got one particular problem, Mr. Speaker, because his own farmers in the Interlake are paying a little too high a premium and he's trying to figure out how he can get the other farmers in the rest of the province to help him pay the premiums. The oldest socialist philosophy, Mr. Speaker, he's going to try and equalize them.

I have no problem with him taking a look at crop insurance and the premiums. Why doesn't he have someone do it for him? He toured through my community, a great idea. Being the Minister of Agriculture, I wish he'd let me - I think there were four or five - I wish he'd let me know and I could have gone and helped add to the crowd.

We've already done the kind of work on crop insurance and we're moving towards the kind of recommendations, so he's now trying to think it's a major priority. It's not a major priority. Well, Mr. Speaker, I wish the honourable member would have attended the meetings, because they were open to the public. I know the Honourable Member for Rhineland did attend with some 50 or 60 of the farmers from his area and we discussed at length some various proposals dealing with not only crop insurance, but with the grain stabilization fund, and I want to say that the Member for Rhineland was very positive in terms of his critique and questions that he raised along with the farmers in his area, and had the Member for Arthur come to the meetings, he would have seen that if we do do what many farmers have suggested, increase the coverage for most farmers in the Province of Manitoba, that there is a cost associated with it, but also the desire to make risk areas smaller in terms of crop insurance, that his own area, that the Member for Arthur's own area is one of the areas that will benefit as well from blending, if you make risk areas smaller, Mr. Speaker.

**A MEMBER:** Will you reduce the size of the areas?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** That's what will happen, Mr. Speaker. There are areas that will be made smaller, risk areas will be made smaller. That was part of the proposals. But Mr. Speaker, it will be members opposite who will then get up in the hustings and say, this government just rammed their policies through and they didn't want to consult with the farmers. It is not this Minister.

Mr. Speaker, we had a beef program. We consulted widely with the farmers of Manitoba. We are now in a major review of crop insurance, Sir, we will consult and we have consulted widely. Eleven public meetings, Sir, in the Province of Manitoba over the last few weeks. Mr. Speaker, over 500 producers attended those meetings and offered their advice and their views on the possible changes that we are working towards. Mr. Speaker, that is participation, because we know, Sir, that we cannot make changes and major changes in programs unless we have dialogue and input from the producers, Sir, and our next step is to go to the Federal Government to negotiate greater benefits for the producers of this province.

The Honourable Member for Arthur says that crop insurance is not a major priority. Let him talk to the farmers of Manitoba. Not enough coverage, the risk areas are too small, give us more coverage so that there can be more income stability on the production side to the farmers of Manitoba. If ever there was a need to review crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, it is now. If ever there was a need to put in more federal dollars into agriculture, it is through one of the major programs, that we consider major to the stability, the underpinning of agriculture, it is crop insurance. It is. And we have, in fact, lost the participants over the last number of

years from over 18,000 contracts in 1977, we're down to below 14,000, Sir. There is need to update that program and make it more in tune to the farmers of Manitoba.

We consider it a major program and I'm sure that the farmers do, even though the Member for Arthur may not consider crop insurance a major program, Sir. We will continue to work with the farmers of Manitoba to improve that programming.

Mr. Speaker, there is one area that the members opposite have talked about and have really something to crow about as far as their policies were, and I refer to the production and marketing of supply-managed products, that's milk, chickens, eggs and turkeys. You may know, Sir, that these products are produced and marketed under the jurisdiction of national agencies with national marketing plans and quota orders, and you may also know that Manitoba has a competitive advantage in the production of these products, as compared to most other provinces in this country. But thanks to members opposite, when they were in office, we lost our advantage position in the marketing of these products, because they allowed comparative advantage and competitive advantage to be downgraded as the dominant criteria for allocating additional quota amongst provinces. It was their inaction, Sir, that has now - you know, you can only say it's irresponsible action, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba producers and processors have not shared in the growth of markets to the fullest possible extent in this province, of those commodities, Sir.

You know, rather than serve growing markets with Manitoba products, supplies are imported and they're still being imported from other provinces and from the United States, because of good old Tory ineptitude, Sir, our processing plants are operating with idle capacity while other provinces have moved ahead with increased production and marketings. Much of what is produced in other provinces, Mr. Speaker, has to come back and is coming back to supply Manitoba markets.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed and has been, over the last two years, to work in close harmony with the elected representatives of the producer boards to rectify this situation and to restore the competitive advantage to its rightful and dominant place as the criteria in allocating over-base quota in this nation. That's why, when there are questions raised, why we haven't signed the odd agreement, it is for that reason, Sir, that we have, and are, continuing to fight a rear-guard action to correct the errors, Sir, and I say it very clearly, the errors made by the former Minister of Agriculture in this province, who have put our producers and our processors behind the eight ball. But Mr. Speaker, we are committed to fight back so that our industry can rightfully share in the growing market for these products. Had it not been for the inaction of the Member for Arthur and his colleagues, Sir, we would have not been in that position dealing with supply-managed products.

Now there are some members opposite that chirp, what about our cream producers, Sir, what about our milk producers and all others, Sir? Mr. Speaker, that kind of responsibility rests on their shoulders, Sir, it rests on their shoulders for the inaction that they took when they were in office in supply-managed

commodities. So much for the Tory commitment to agriculture, Mr. Speaker, and to the food processing industry in this province.

I want to say, thanks to them and their policies, the producers of Manitoba have lost millions of dollars in lost production and sales because of the incompetence and lack of commitment to orderly marketing, Mr. Speaker. That is their commitment, it is to wreck the orderly marketing systems that we have in place. It is, through carping, through the niggling effects and arguments that they continue to put forward, rather than support and fight for orderly marketing, they continually carp and chip away to try and create doubts about orderly marketing in this province and in this country, Sir.

One area, Mr. Speaker, that members opposite, if ever there was an action of incompetence in terms of agriculture policy, and that relates to the way they handled the legislation dealing with milk. They talked about great benefits to the consumers, and there were for a period of time. There were great benefits from the new legislation, Sir, about allowing price wars to continue and the like, Mr. Speaker.

What has happened? The moment that we had to change, Mr. Speaker, the pricing formula, that the former Minister of Agriculture didn't even realize how it worked, we had to actually update the formula because even members of staff didn't understand it, to update to trigger an increase in the cost of production to a formula that was instituted by their government.

What happened in the industry? Mr. Speaker, they went ahead and increased far beyond what could be attributable to increased cost of production. And why did they wait until the farmers got an increase, Mr. Speaker? So they could load that whole argument on the farmers of Manitoba in terms of increased cost, and we'll blame it on the farmers to increase the price of milk.

Mr. Speaker, at least I have to give credit to the Member for Arthur. He said that the actions taken by this government were right. Now what did we have to do? We had to use another piece of legislation in which to set up a commission to deal with the shortfalls in the present legislation dealing with milk. Their ineptitude in terms of the milk legislation, we could not do anything about milk pricing because what was happening, Sir, is that the wholesale industry was in a war for market share. Not to give producers and consumers benefits. It was in a war for market share to undercut and to cut out, to leave the industry with possibly two, maybe three at the most, likely with two producers or processors in this province.

What they were doing, Sir, is they were discounting at the wholesale level. And were the consumers getting the benefit? Oh no, Mr. Speaker, there were some benefits in the large chains in the City of Winnipeg, but ask the members opposite - the Member for Rhineland or the Member for Minnedosa or other members in rural Manitoba. Were you getting the benefits of the decreased prices at the wholesale level? Oh no, Sir, but they were discounting. They were discounting at the wholesale level to the tune of at least as high as 25 - and in some cases even more - 25 percent off the wholesale price, Sir. Then some of the processors said we need this increase that we have now put up from 12 to 18 cents per litre to pay for

our discounting practices. They admitted to the government, Sir.

But it is that legislation, that kind of ineptitude that we told them, Sir, that there would be problems that would be created and as my colleague, the Member for Ste. Rose, the Minister of Government Services, so eloquently spoke before, he said, "The chickens came home to roost." Even on this legislation, the chickens have come home to roost.

We had to patch it up, we had to try and straighten it out, Mr. Speaker, to get at the problem dealing with milk. We rolled back milk prices and we will do that again in very short order if any such measures that are undertaken by the industry happen again, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, there is action that we believe should be taken at the national level dealing with the farm financial crisis that many of our producers face. We believe, and we have stated it before and I want to repeat it here, that we will continue to press on major programming at the national level to help support our livestock industry and our grain sector. I want to put forward, again, three major proposals that we have put forward to the Federal Government.

1. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government should take immediate action to develop and implement effective national stabilization programs for hogs, beef and sheep. Not this talking and speaking and undercutting between provinces. If they don't do it, Sir, we will be putting forward positive measures to show them what we have done in Manitoba and is now being emulated by even governments east of us who are Conservative Governments and who recognize orderly marketing as the cornerstone of solid income support for our livestock industry, and I speak of the Ontario Government and the Minister from Ontario, and I give him full marks for moving in that direction even though members opposite don't want to give their own colleagues credit. They want to knock and niggle orderly marketing in this province, Sir.

2. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated earlier, there is need for changes in The Grain Stabilization Act, and we have put forward before five definitive proposals to the Federal Government to calculate payouts sorely needed by our grain producers.

3. Mr. Speaker, the federal Farm Credit Corporation should follow the lead of MACC in reducing the debt obligations of those who are locked into high-interest-rate loans.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to talk about this one. Members opposite accused me of wearing my banker's suit when the producers of Manitoba were locked in at the high-interest rate. It took this government, Sir, to save the farmers of Manitoba over \$18 million in one fell swoop at no cost to the taxpayers of this province. We did it, Sir. We did it for over 600 farmers in the Province of Manitoba and we say it could be done nationally as well because the FCC borrows most of its funds from the federal treasury bills, and it would amount to millions of dollars in lower interest rates to the farmers of this country, Mr. Speaker, and that should happen immediately, Sir, with the stroke of a pen at no cost to the taxpayers of this country. It can happen. It happened here, Sir. We could do it; they can do it.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of legislation, it is time that the Federal Government took the initiative to protect the rights of farmers and small businesses who are

facing foreclosure or bankruptcy proceedings. There is a bill now, Sir, before Parliament and that is Bill C-18, an act respecting insolvency and bankruptcy which provides a viable alternative to bankruptcy.

Under the proposed legislation, Sir, a farmer, like any other debtor, could prevent seizure of assets by simply filing a Notice of Intention to enter into a settlement or arrangement with his creditors. Should his creditors reject the proposed arrangement, the farmer would not be forced into bankruptcy. In fact, he could apply to a court for assistance in concluding a suitable arrangement with his creditors. Mr. Speaker, if amendments were made to this legislation, I believe it could go a long way to provide much needed protection for the farmers and small business people of this province, Sir, and across this country.

Mr. Speaker, my view therefore is that this type of legislation should be supported and put into effect and it should be done at the national level so that there is no one province legislation and court battles. It should be done right across this country, Mr. Speaker.

Those are the four immediate, positive measures that could be put forward quickly by Parliament, and I believe members of the opposition parties would give total and unanimous support to those kind of measures, and I would want to see them supported here in this House and in Ottawa, Sir, because if ever there was need for relief from financial woes of producers and small business people, these are the times in which this kind of legislation should be put into place.

Sir, I know that as much as we have done as a government, and as much as this Throne Speech signifies some of the achievements that we have made and we will continue to make in terms of agriculture and the plight of many producers, it will not be enough, and we recognize it, but we will continue to work with our heart and souls to assist producers of this province to meet their fullest potential and continue making agriculture the No. 1 industry that it is in the Province of Manitoba. We will work with our colleagues in Ottawa and I hope with all the members in this House to make agriculture the best that it is and has been in the Province of Manitoba.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome this opportunity to put one or two comments on the record in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Although I also recognize the time and there are some speakers that want to make some contribution, we have indicated on some notes back and forth that we realize your leader would like the adjournment at 5:30 and we're quite prepared to accommodate him without usurping his time. If someone wishes to speak after me, that's fine, and I hope the members opposite don't get too excited because we're quite prepared to let their leader have the adjournment and speak this evening.

Mr. Speaker, on the start of this new Session, I welcome you again to the Chair and hope that we don't, on this side of the House, cause you too many problems. We have a heavy business Session ahead of us and we hope that we can get on with that in good speed

and see somewhat more of a summer than we enjoyed last year.

I congratulate the Mover and Seconder to the Speech from the Throne, which is customary. I think, in view of what they had to work with, they did a splendid job because there wasn't too much there that they could find. The former speaker has indicated that this Throne Speech was an overview on the thrust and direction and what they've accomplished to date and where they're going in their future. It seems a bit odd, Mr. Speaker, that there wasn't one editorial writer or one newspaper article that I could find that really gleaned that out of the Speech from the Throne. There were 21 pages that went on and on and on and we've been through it and we find statements in the news releases, "Major new initiative to encourage long-term economic development will be the government's top priority for the new Legislature, according to the Throne Speech," it says.

Jobs Fund was mentioned 20-some-odd times during the Throne Speech. — (Interjection) — 38 times? There are various other great pronunciations in there and listening to the Minister of Agriculture who has just spoken and he made a pretty good speech and he was true to his word, he didn't take his 40 minutes.

**A MEMBER:** How long are you going to take?

**MR. D. BLAKE:** About 10. If we'd all only accommodate and hold hands and join together as brothers, there's nothing in this world will stop us.

That sounds very nice, Mr. Speaker, but I'm afraid the world just isn't built that way and Manitoba as a province just isn't built that way either, because there are some people who would maybe like to work with both hands rather than holding hands with somebody else. They'd like to get both hands working.

**A MEMBER:** Can you change hands?

**MR. D. BLAKE:** I can change hands and this government is holding one of my hands all the time and stopping me from doing the things that I would like to do for Manitoba, and that's hindering a lot of people from doing the best job that they can because they're busy holding hands with this government.

The Minister went on and on about the backward looking views of the former Conservative administration. Mr. Speaker, there are a great many problems in agriculture and those of us who are out there understand what's going on with the people out in the country, not like the Minister of Labour and a few others that wouldn't know a horse from a cow probably. We're out there every week and understand what's going on in the country. We know the costs of inputs to farm labour . . .

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** She said she grew up on a dairy farm. Mr. Speaker, that reminds me of that great Conservative leader, John Diefenbaker. One day when he was rallying against Otto Lang, the former Minister, about him not

knowing anything about agriculture and didn't know anything about wheat, when Otto Lang jumped up and he said, "I'll have you know I was born in a wheat field," and Dief shot back, "And so are gophers." So I don't know where the Minister of Labour was born or raised but she may have some knowledge of agriculture, and particularly the dairy business, and that's a section of our agricultural industry that the Minister of Agriculture did spend some time on. I know he's concerned with it, as I am, because he has a dairy industry and a creamery in his constituency and I have one in mine that's in very serious trouble, Mr. Speaker.

The cream shippers are without quota; they have had some relief lately but they're going to run out in another month or so and I don't know what you do to increase quotas but I know that's a very serious problem in the areas that have a creamery and support a creamery in the area that employs quite a number of people. What the answer is, Mr. Speaker, I don't know. The Minister of Agriculture would like to lay it on the last four years of Conservative administration and I think it's a problem that was occurring a long long time before that.

There's been some effort to straighten it out that maybe hasn't been as successful as we would like. I am sure the present Minister of Agriculture is bending whatever good efforts his department can place on the federal scene, but we have to recognize the pressure that's been put on agriculture, especially the dairy industry and the beef industry in the last while from the eastern section.

Quebec is subsidizing their cattle industry very very heavily and so is Ontario to a large degree. What happens to those quotas, what more we can do with quotas is a very serious problem. We've seen what's happened when you subsidize agricultural commodities too strongly; we've seen that happen in the European Common Market. There are grave problems in that sector, with agricultural commodities being too heavily subsidized. We don't want to see that here. We realize there's help necessary. These people want to produce and they should be allowed to produce, but it is a very very serious problem and my friends opposite say supply management, market stabilization or whatever term they want to put on it, is the answer. It may be a partial answer, Mr. Speaker, but you stifle an awful lot of initiative. There are an awful lot of young fellows would like to get into probably the milk distribution industry. They'd like to get into maybe shipping cream; they'd like to get into producing chickens or eggs. You can't get into it with supply management, Mr. Speaker, unless you buy out an existing operator and buy out a quota, so that in itself stifles initiative because there is no elbow room to move.

We can talk about the problems in agriculture all we like. We can talk about interest rates. There's no question in my mind that interest rates have had a terrible, disastrous effect on agriculture, as well as business and other ventures in our economy, but interest rates have been one of the greatest. There's no one will admit that sooner than I and as a former banker I don't know what the answer is. We tell the Bank of Canada that what they have been doing is not right. The economists are split on it; 50 percent of them say hold the dollar where it is and let interest rates go up, and others say let the dollar slide to 60 cents and



keep interest rates low. Only history will prove, I suppose, which of that group of economists are right, but I know that interest rates have had a disastrous effect on our whole economy, not only the farm community but the business community as well.

Agriculture is a very very important sector in my particular constituency, and I know the problems that they are having.

Mr. Speaker, when you sell grain for the price that you sold it for in 1972 and realize what has happened with the price of fertilizer and the price of chemicals, you just wonder why these hard-working fellows are trying to stay alive and trying to feed the hungry world because there are an awful lot of them that are walking away from it.

The thing that worries me, Mr. Speaker, is that now you have good operators that have their operation paid for and can survive are saying, look, it's not getting any better, we are going to bail out now while we've got a fairly good equity in this business and let somebody else take it over if they have got the nerve to plunge in and try and take it. If they do and if they have to borrow money to take it over, Mr. Speaker, there is no possible way with the price position that we are in today that they can survive. There is no way at all.

I am not going to comment on the Minister of Agriculture's criticism of the former Minister because he will be back very shortly as soon as he gets his crop in or as soon as it rains, and I am sure that he will have an opportunity to defend those remarks very very capably.

Mr. Speaker, a great number of things were mentioned in the Throne Speech in a general sort of a way, but there were an awful lot of things that I expected to see in there that weren't there, and one of them concerns the conditions of our roads in this province. The Minister is in the House now and I know he is handicapped to some degree - we won't see the Budget till tomorrow night - but they have probably taken another \$20 million out of his road program and slipped it into the "fraud" fund and I know that he hasn't any money to announce, unless it has happened lately, that there are funds coming from the Federal Government to assist with road maintenance and road construction.

That was a promise they made when they took some of the rail lines out, particularly in my area which was one of the worst hit areas when rail line abandonment came in. They said, oh, yes, we realize the traffic is going to be on the roads and we will be providing for upgrading and strengthening of roads. To my knowledge, there hasn't been a dime of federal money come in although there have been many many great pronouncements.

The First Minister got up, and at great lengths on an agreement that was just signed here a while ago, \$139 million or whatever it was - cost-sharing - that is another point, Mr. Speaker. Most of the programs of the thrust of this government have been federally funded programs, and I know it is good political policy to take advantage of everything that will make you look a little bit better because there hasn't been too much happening in the last two years to make this government look good, Mr. Speaker. We realize that. So when they get a chance to catch on to some federal money and use it to their political advantage, I can't really crime them for that.

The Jobs Fund was mentioned. I said 20-some times; they said 31 in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. We are not seeing the great benefits that we were told was going to happen with the Jobs Fund. Certainly there have been a few jobs created. Thirteen-week jobs I think has been about the average that statistics have proven. Some of them have been one or two days, cutting scrub or cutting grass or something. That's really not what we want to see in job creation in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. One of the members over here mentioned the great investment in industry and technology, the new Manitoba Investment Program, the great things that it's going to do to expand activities here and to encourage new enterprises to locate here. We are anxiously watching to see some of the announcements that are going to spring from that.

Mr. Speaker, to listen to members opposite rail on, if you go back to 1977 and 1981, we don't have to go far back to pick out some of the Hansards and read some of the speeches back. I have been on both sides of this House, Mr. Speaker, and it is very entertaining to sit back, it just depends who's on that side and who's on this side, I suppose, because they tell us - my friends in Saskatchewan say they'll mail me Allan Blakeney's speeches because we could just read them word for word and they'd fit right in with when we're replying to the Throne Speech or when we're replying to the Budget. A few years ago, he was on the other side and it was a little different situation.

There are quite a number of members opposite, Mr. Speaker, that were here in 1977-81. Unfortunately, there's an awful lot of them not going to back after '85, or fortunately, I should say, not unfortunately.

Mr. Speaker, I won't single out any one or two members, but there are quite a number over there that I could their speeches back and they would be hanging their heads. Maybe possibly some of them were read by the Minister of Agriculture or made by him when he was on this side and he was a Minister of another portfolio, but I'm sure we could pick out some of those things and read them back to him and he would just scratch his head and say, "Did I really say that in 1978 or '79?" or whenever.

Jay Cowan has got some great ones on the record for the environment and they would make very interesting material to read back. I just want to say - the Minister of Natural Resources is here - and I have an area abundant with wildlife and natural resources, animals, tourists, and good hunters that come up in there. I know many of the conservation officers, I always think it's a good idea to keep onside with conservation officers. Going hunting with a conservation officer, Mr. Speaker, is like taking your wife to a banquet or something, they say.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Explain, explain.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** I guess it's taking your wife to a convention, I might have had it out of context there.

The Minister has failed to provide funds, he's failed to listen to their pleas for more help to stop the illegal sale of wild game. If you look at the statistics and look at the number of people they have to service the large area, Mr. Speaker, I just have to suggest to him that there is an area in his department where he can take

a long hard look at it and start listening to some of the men in the field. Don't listen to all of the high-priced advisers that he hired from Saskatchewan that got out of a job there and a few other places. Listen to some of the men out in the field, listen to their problems, and try and rectify at least some of them. If he makes an attempt at it, surely we would see some light at the end of the tunnel to put a stop to the illegal hunting, especially the illegal sale of game, because it's a far bigger problem that he expects. The articles in the newspaper that we've seen so far I don't think have been too far off base, Mr. Speaker, so I urge him to provide some more funds and more equipment to the people that are charged with preserving our game and our wildlife and upholding the game laws that we pass in this House to help them in their work.

Mr. Speaker, I said earlier that I wouldn't speak for any longer than 10 minutes and I think I've used up my time. I indicated that we wouldn't prevent the Minister from taking the adjournment at 5:30 because I know he wouldn't want to start his speech now and then have to be interrupted, so if there is someone else who wants to go for 10 minutes, I want to thank you for the opportunity of saying a few words and I will allow someone else to take their opportunity in the Throne Speech because we have cut our time limits to some degree.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?  
The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was listening with great interest as my colleague, the Member for Minnedosa, was making some remarks about how the Minister of Health really didn't know the difference between a horse and a cow, and the Honourable Minister kind of nodded approval that he really didn't know the difference. Well, I would like to invite the Honourable Minister, on his way home, to stop by and have a glass of milk at my place.

Anyways, Mr. Speaker, I do know the difference between a horse and a cow because when I was out at Grunthal last year, I was entered into a cow milking contest, and they took advantage of the young fellow from the city who was invited to participate in the cow milking contest, and they supplied him with a dry quarter, so as it happened I came in last, I was given two minutes to fill a little tiny bottle and I never did get it filled, but I got an honourable mention.

Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity of speaking, even though I am going to be limited to just a very short time, because as this new House starts, I am in a very favourable position. I was going to say that since my little bit of a time with the dentist and the denturist that I am now able to articulate. I have to be very very careful that I don't get too excited and get everybody excited in the room, but I am able to articulate quite well now after my little bit of a time with my denturist.

As a matter of fact, it's kind of an interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, with the denturist, and I would relate it because my dentist was a Dr. Horvath over in St. Boniface and my denturist was a Mr. Borbely in St. Vital. He tested me out in all of the languages that I was able to participate in, and after he had fitted me,

he said, say something in English, and I did. He said say something in French, and with great difficulty I said something in French. Then he said say something in another language. I spoke to him in German, which I am really not that conversant on it, Mr. Speaker, but I was able to and he corrected the lisp that I had and by rearranging the teeth, you know, there no difficulty at all.

But anyways, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Mover of the Throne Speech Debate, the Member for Wolseley. I would like to also congratulate the Seconder of the Throne Speech Debate, the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to make reference to you now, Sir. We have a lot in common, Mr. Speaker. You are the Speaker of the Legislature. In the previous Session, the Thirty-first Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, I was the Deputy Speaker.

We have many other things in common, Mr. Speaker. We represent areas that are quite similar - part of St. Boniface and part of St. Vital which you represent and I represent - not the same parts of St. Boniface and St. Vital but some parts of St. Boniface and St. Vital, so there are many things in common there.

We have both lived in Windsor Park. We both . . .

**A MEMBER:** With the rich people.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, it's getting interesting now. Mr. Speaker, we both speak and understand a second language. We are both married to wonderful girls - not the same one. We both have interests in energy with the Manitoba Hydro, the hydro-electrical energy, as was quite evident when you were either the critic or the deputy critic of energy in the last Session before being elected to Speaker of this House.

I remember the debate on the power grid and the selling of electrical power to Alberta and the different cost factors that were involved, and I am not going to get into that, Mr. Speaker. You had a responsibility at that time and you honoured your responsibility very very well. But I have to make some comment concerning the selling of electrical power to the United States.

I am very very suspicious, Mr. Speaker, when we are not given any of the details of the contract. We are aware that there will be details of a contract, but right now there is just a Letter of Intent and I am quite suspicious as to what the Provincial Government had to do to receive this contract to supply them with power down to the United States. I am not going to dwell on it because there will be a time and a place for it at a later time.

I am going to make some remarks concerning the future of Limestone and the province, the planning for the future. Are we now working on the plans that were in effect before, or have we investigated the potential of the different costs of supplying them with power down to the United States as to what the costs are now, what the costs and the plans, because the plans that were originally designated for the Limestone I would imagine are outdated and have they all been taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker? Have the inflationary factors and all the additional costs been taken into consideration?

What is going to be the impact on the environment? We have the Environment Minister there and I just

wonder whether he has been taken into the confidence of the Minister of Energy and been requested to supply an environment study as to what's going to happen with the expansion of electrical power in the province, the expansion of electrical power to Churchill, the supplying of electrical power to the northern United States, and the supplying and the development of hydrogen power. How is this all going to affect the environment, Mr. Speaker? I don't believe that I've heard anything from the Honourable Minister of Environment, but I would hope that he will make some statements in the next short time putting my mind at ease that it is a good deal that we have entered into with the United States and the power into Churchill, which I must agree has been one of the nice things that I have supported for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not just going to carry on for the sake of carrying on, but the power to Churchill is a good thing and a long time in coming. It's going to advance the Port of Churchill beyond any of our expectations. I think that at this time I would just like to say thank you to one of our former members, Henry Einarson, for the input that he had in the developing of the Churchill power and the electrical power into Churchill. He didn't actually have anything at this time to do with the power going into Churchill, but he was one of the founding members that considered Churchill was a port that had to be developed, that it was good for the Province of Manitoba, and I just want to say thank you to Henry Einarson for everything that he did in seeing that the future of Churchill will be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, I've got to make some remarks concerning the Member for River East. We supported somewhat the same thing in the last Session where he brought in a Private Member's Resolution concerning the development of hydrogen power and I supported his remarks, and we are of one accord in that regard because we both believe that the future of the Province of Manitoba is in electrical energy, hydro energy, which is our future; but he did mention in his remarks concerning the Throne Speech, the complimentary remarks concerning the Throne Speech that you have to have a good look at the Throne Speech, you have to look into it deeply, very deeply, to see the good points.

Well, I've got to agree. You've got to look into it very, very deeply to see the good points because no matter how deep, there's not that many good points. I thought that the Throne Speech was a government filibuster when it first came about because it lasted a long time and said nothing, and I think I've got to congratulate the Speaker, the Clerk of the Legislature, the Deputy Clerk of the Legislature, for the manner in which they stood there and took all of the time and listened to everything that was going on, didn't seem to enjoy it, but had an air of being understanding, and I think that the Speaker, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk have to be congratulated, Mr. Speaker.

The only one that really appeared to be bored was the Premier who should have known what was in the Throne Speech, but didn't appear to know because he seemed to be quite interested and a little bit on the bored side.

The Throne Speech was like a treasure hunt, only somebody forgot to bring the treasure. You can look and there's just no treasure. I want to pose a few

questions on some of the things that will happen in the future, Mr. Speaker.

I represent the south part of St. Vital which has many industries in that area, greenhouses, market gardens, nurseries and garden centres, and something's been bothering me for a long time and I think I'll take this opportunity in the next few minutes of just expressing what's been bothering me. These people make their future in the Province of Manitoba in supplying garden plants and bedding plants and things to all of Manitoba. Now I know that it's not just south St. Vital. There's other areas, but there's things that could be done to help them in their future business - for instance, like supplying them with electrical power for heating their greenhouses and probably at a discount rate. I think that they deserve that type of an attitude because they are competing with American concerns from the northern United States who ship in hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of bedding plants to compete with our industry here in Manitoba.

I know that these greenhouses in the United States that ship up these bedding plants are government subsidized or they're given some help and I would hope that we would consider, either by supplying them with electrical energy, our own people here in Manitoba with electrical energy at a reduced cost so that they can compete with them on an equal basis.

I'm not against fair competition, Mr. Speaker, but I think it has to be on an equal basis. I think that with all the public relations that the government does in promoting seat-belt legislation and job funds and things of that nature, I think that maybe the government can jump in and spend a few dollars and take some of the monies and see if we can supply some sort of advertising, letting the people of Manitoba know that the bedding plant industry in Manitoba is a good industry. It's good; it supplies all kinds of jobs here and I think that if we supply the people of the province some sort of an idea that there is an industry here that's competing with the United States that maybe our people will give some favourable comment and support to our own industry here in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I'm only going to take a couple of more minutes. I'm trying to get in a lot of things in a very short period. What I don't finish today, I will be able to supply when the Minister of Finance brings down his Budget. I will be able to speak on that when I'm not finished what I have here today, but in the Throne Speech I don't see anything at all concerning the electrical generators that we have up in Churchill. What's going to happen to those electrical generators up at Churchill after we put power into Churchill?

Are these generators going to be transferred to some of the different areas . . . ?

**A MEMBER:** No, they shipped them back to Russia.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Well, they could have shipped them back to Russia because we have places like Red Sucker Lake - and I happened to be there a few years back and I think very highly of it - but there is nothing in the Throne Speech about improving the electrical power into some of the places.

Mr. Speaker, are you aware that in Red Sucker Lake that their power is limited to 15 amp. service? I think

that they deserve better, Mr. Speaker, and I think these generators will be of no use up in Churchill after we put in our power, and it will be transferred to Red Sucker Lake and some of the other areas that don't have the same type of power that they deserve; 15 amp. service is ridiculous and that is what they have up there right now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I've got maybe another 20 or 25 minutes of things that I want to speak to, but I think that I am going to curtail it at this point because I think there has been some arrangements. I think the privilege of the First Minister to start right at 8 o'clock is forthcoming and deserving and I will keep the rest of my remarks until such time as we get into the Budget Debate.

But just before we go, and I see that I might have two or three minutes, one thing that I want to bring to the attention of the members of the Legislature, because I am going to probably bring in a private members' bill so that something can be done for those people who cannot help themselves, those people who are restricted from the capacity that we as normal people have. Some people — (Interjection) — I beg you pardon?

**A MEMBER:** The rest of your caucus.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. A. KOVNATS:** Oh, Well, I am not going to make any remarks to that. But, Mr. Speaker, I do have some friends, particularly in my area, who have some disabilities and I was over to visit one of them the other day, a young man by the name of Kenny Risto, who happens to be one of my very very strong supporters, he still thinks that I was one of the best football referees that ever came out of Western Canada and he is a very strong supporter of mine, but in sitting around one evening when we were talking, I was feeling sorry for myself, because you know the old adage, Mr. Speaker, I was feeling sorry for myself because I had no shoes. Kenny doesn't have any feet, Mr. Speaker.

Anyways, what I really want to get across is that he and his parents live a very very wonderful life and association, but the parents would like to get away on occasions and spend a bit of a holiday and not have to worry about whether people like Kenny are going to be looked after.

I would like to propose, Mr. Speaker, and I will propose during the next Legislature, that there be a facility that these people can go to while their parents or their guardians are able to take a holiday, go away on a business trip, and have somebody look after them. That is the last I am going to make of that remark at this time because I know my time is running very quickly to an end and I want to thank you for your kind consideration and the kind consideration of the members of the government for sitting there and listening to me and not making any comments. Mind you, there was one comment made from the Honourable Member for Thompson, but I understand where it's coming from and it doesn't bother me one little bit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I would beg to move, seconded by the Honourable — (Interjections) — to call it 5:30.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Is it the pleasure of the House to call it 5:30? (Agreed)

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. A. ANSTETT:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, just before we call it 5:30, after some discussion with the Opposition House Leader, it was felt that it might be to the advantage of discussions in both caucuses regarding possible changes to our Rules that have been under discussion in the Rules Committee, to postpone the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Rules of the House which was scheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

I propose, Sir, to discuss with you, Sir, and the Opposition House Leader, a further date on which that meeting can be held, but would suggest, with the agreement of the Opposition House Leader, that the meeting scheduled for tomorrow be postponed to a date to be announced within the next couple of days.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The time being 5:30, I am leaving the Chair, to return this evening at 8:00 o'clock.