



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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39 Elizabeth II

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 22, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a few reports.

The first one is the 1988-89 Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture. Second, I would like to table the 1988-89 Annual Report of the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation; the 1988-89 Annual Report of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation; the 1988-89 Annual Report of the Manitoba Mediation Board; the 1988-89 Milk Prices Review Commission Annual Report; 1988-89 Annual Report to Farm Lands Ownership Board; the Report of the Agricultural Producers' Organization Certification Agency for 1989; the 1988-89 Annual Report of the Manitoba Beef Commission; and as a courtesy, I am going to table the 1989 Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Manitoba Pork Est. and its 36th Annual Progress Review for the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba for 1989.

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to table the Annual Report of the Department of Natural Resources 1988-89.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL 17—THE PRIVATE ACTS REPEAL ACT

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that leave be given to introduce Bill 17, The Private Acts Repeal Act; Loi sur l'abrogation de lois d'intérêt privé, and that the same be now received and read the first time.

Motion agreed to.

BILL 18—THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT (RE-ENACTED STATUTES) ACT

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that leave be given to introduce Bill 18, The Statute Law Amendment (Re-enacted Statutes) Act; Lois de 1990 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives (Lois réadoptées), and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's Gallery where we have with us today Mr. Jerry Wiggins, M.P., Chairman of the Select Committee on Agriculture, and seven other Members of the British Parliament who also sit on this committee.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

Also with us this afternoon, in the public gallery we have from the Assiniboine Community College, 20 adult students. They are under the direction of Bob Crighton. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans).

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

* (1335)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Hazardous Waste Disposal Regulations

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Premier. Some 16 or 17 months ago we experienced a massive explosion in the City of Winnipeg at Solvit, where residents of the city were alarmed to see the size and the reverberations of an explosion. Luckily nobody was hurt.

A number of questions were raised out of the Fire Commissioner's Report, out of other evidence. The Government has a report that states that 24 companies out of 30 were not in compliance with the Government's own regulations and action has to be taken.

My question to the Premier is: Why has the Government not taken any action on the report it has received, and when will the Premier finally move in and bring in the regulations necessary to protect Manitobans in terms of the disposal of hazardous waste in our province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, because the question is really one that is in the realm of the Minister of Environment, and I know that he has been working on it, I will refer that question to the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): As a result of the occurrences from the Solvit explosion, the three departments of the Government that were concerned have put together interim working arrangements whereby any of the occurrences that may have fallen between the cracks in the departments in the past, every effort will be made to ensure that is co-ordinated through all three departments, and anything that may have been previously overlooked between the three departments will now be carefully screened.

Mr. Doer: This is exactly the reason we called for a public inquiry on this issue.

The Premier has received -(interjection)- Mr. Speaker, we were raising this question before the Solvit explosion. If you want to talk to the residents of north St. Boniface, you will find that it is not so political when they are worried about their own health and safety.

My question to the Premier is: Given the fact that he changed the regulations backwards—he, the Premier, changed the regulations backwards without any report and any advice—why is he not acting on the interdepartmental recommendations of Wally Fox-Decent given to him and his Government on April 26, 1990? Why is he not acting?

Mr. Filmon: At least we do not table false pictures, as the Leader of the Opposition does.

That again is a matter that ought to properly be directed to the Minister of Environment. Once again I will ask him, since he has been in touch with it,

working on this, to respond to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Cummings: When the matter was referred to this working committee, it was specifically to work with the Workplace Safety and Health people with the safety of the workers that were involved to make sure that The Environment Act and all the relevant regulating authorities were properly respected.

We have that report, and we will be working on dealing with the best way that it can be implemented for the safety of all involved.

* (1340)

Mr. Doer: The Government has had the report for six months.

My question to the Premier is: Why has he sat on this report? Why has he not made it public? Why has he not tabled the strategy of the Government to deal with the situation? Why are we putting citizens at risk? Why is the Government not dealing with the very important health and safety items that were identified in the report that his Government commissioned some six months ago?

Mr. Filmon: There are about seven or eight questions there. I will remind the Leader of the Opposition that there were often reports that were presented to his Government when he was a Member of the NDP administration that preceded, and they took six years and did not act on them—not six months, but six years.

Mr. Speaker, again, I will ask the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) to respond to that question.

Point of Order

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Opposition House Leader, on a point of order.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I realize that it is the Government's decision as to who answers questions, but I do not believe it has been standard practice in this House for the Premier to stand, make some comments, which I feel very debatable and some would call them cheap shots, but let us be magnanimous and call them debatable, then sit down and ask a Minister to answer a question.

One Minister, Mr. Speaker, should answer questions, and one Minister only.

Mr. Speaker: On the point of order?

Mr. Filmon: The same point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable First Minister, on the same point of order.

Mr. Filmon: If the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) persists in playing games and asking questions of the Premier which ought to be directed properly to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), who is the operative Minister, then they will get this kind of answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have recognized the Honourable First Minister to respond to the question. The Honourable First Minister has.

Seven Oaks Hospital Cataract Surgery Safety

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. We on this side of the House are very concerned about a potentially dangerous situation at the Seven Oaks Hospital. As the Minister should know, there has been a change in policy such that anesthesiology stand-by coverage is no longer required for every patient undergoing cataract surgery. Many of these patients are elderly and, because of their health status, at some risk to begin with.

I want to ask the Minister of Health, since being informed about this situation at least as early as September 20, has he taken any action to redress the situation and work out solutions to the problem of lack of anesthesiologists other than putting the lives and health of patients at risk?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, the backup for anesthesiology for those patients requiring cataract surgery, wherein there is only administration of local anesthetic and no backup is required, those procedures are done on an out-patient basis. I think my honourable friend would appreciate that no backup is required because there is no administration of intravenous anesthetic material. However, in those instances where intravenous anesthetic material is required, it is my understanding that they have made appropriate arrangements so that those operations are only undertaken at such times when backup is available.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for St. Johns, with her supplementary question.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Yes, I want to ask the Minister, in light of those comments, why it has been the case over the past couple of months that he has known

about this situation, that operations have taken place where stand-by anesthesiology coverage was not available and where there indeed were complications that could have resulted in very serious ramifications for the health of that patient, what is this Minister doing to ensure that no lives are at risk, that no patient safety is in question, by ensuring that full-time, stand-by anesthesiology coverage is always there for patients undergoing any kind of cataract surgery?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend made a number of comments in her preamble which might cause concern to those patients who use the very fine ophthalmology program at Seven Oaks centre.

Mr. Speaker, my information is, as of the 17th of October there are precautions and procedures put in place so that those patients who require intravenous, the administration of anesthetic materials, that there is the routine and regularized backup of anesthesiology. Those patients who are in on an out-patient basis and require only local freezing, there is not to date, nor has there been, the backup necessary. That is the whole purpose behind out-patient surgery, to do it more effectively, more efficiently and with greater patient safety.

* (1345)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Speaker, every one of those back-up procedures has been questioned by the nurses involved. I want to ask the Minister if, as I believe he feels, the patient's health must always come first, how he is taking into account the concerns of the Seven Oaks nurses local No. 72, which has disputed every one of those back-up procedures, and how he is answering to the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses, who have said that anesthetic standby is more than a function, it is a role for which the registered nurse has not—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, my answer is as I have given to my honourable friend, that in the Department of Ophthalmology, where a patient, because of whatever number of medical circumstances, requires the administration of intravenous anesthesiology for the performance of cataract surgery, those surgeries are scheduled so that that backup is in place and patient safety is assured. I have answered that three times now. My Honourable friend seems not content with the procedures that have been taken and exist today to

provide quality, safe patient care at Seven Oaks Hospital.

Child and Family Services Youth Victim Services

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker—(interjection)—

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Osborne has the floor.

Mr. Alcock: Last week, we learned the results of the victimization of some 16 children. I now have a report from the Youth Victim Project which was made available on the 21st of September to the department, and the department was involved in it, that lists 183 children who are being similarly victimized in this city, 20 of them under the age of 12. There is a recommendation in this report, Mr. Speaker, that Child and Family Services of Central Winnipeg be asked to maintain a position to provide consultation and leadership regarding youth victims services.

I would ask the Minister of Family Services, has that recommendation been acted upon?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, the Child and Family Services agencies are working very intently with the victims I believe the Member is speaking about. A number of agencies are providing counselling. We are reviewing this on an ongoing basis.

Layoffs

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Osborne, with his supplementary question.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, the department was involved in the creation of this report. It recommends a specific position, and the person who filled that position was one of two staff laid off last week. I would ask the Minister if he is prepared to see if that position is reinstated so this project can be followed up on.

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): The staffing, Mr. Speaker, with the Child and Family Services agencies is a decision made by the board of Child and Family Services agencies. That agency, working in conjunction with other agencies, has assured us that there will be no cut in the quality of service that is provided by those agencies.

Youth Victim Services

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, there are two issues in those cuts. More than one of those staff have been attacked by dogs, by people bearing weapons, but this is a report from the department that specifically references the reinstatement of a position. Will the Minister act to see that this service is continued?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, I would assure the Member that our concern is with services provided, and we have been given the indication that these Child and Family Services agencies are working in a co-ordinated fashion to provide that service.

Free Trade Agreement - U.S.A. Report Tabling Request

Mr. Jerry Storie (Filn Flon): Mr. Speaker, it has been a long-standing requirement that Ministers of the Government provide accurate and appropriate information to questions and not attempt to mislead this House.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday I asked the Minister of Industry and Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) to table any information he had with respect to the impact of the Free Trade Agreement on the Province of Manitoba. He tabled the document which I have in my possession, which is both misleading and inaccurate, when in fact the Minister has in his—

* (1350)

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

Point of Order

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I have listened carefully to the preamble of the question. First of all, the Member opposite cast aspersion on every Minister in this Government by talking about attempting to mislead. Now he has identified one specific Minister, and he continues to talk about misleading information.

I am saying to you, Mr. Speaker, that you call the Member to order and you ask him to withdraw the spurious allegations he has made to the Ministers on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Opposition House Leader, on that same point of order. Order, please.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order, I would point out to the Government House Leader that

Beauchesne's Citation 490 clearly indicates that misleading has been ruled to be parliamentary. If the Government House Leader would recall, we have decided in this House, our tradition here has been that deliberately misleading has been considered unparliamentary.

In no way, Mr. Speaker, did the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) suggest that there was a deliberate attempt to mislead this House. He simply stated the fact that misleading information had been brought forward to the House, which is both parliamentary and I think his obligation as a Member to point out to this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Osborne, on the same point of order.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, I think the Minister involved has admitted that the information was inaccurate. I think the Member is quite correct in bringing forward the information to the House so we can get accurate information from this Government.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Government House Leader, on the same point of order. Order, please.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, if you would care to check the record, the Member's first comments, the Member for Flin Flon, were that Members of this Government were attempting to mislead. That again was a charge against all Members on whatever subject it is that one could conceive, and I would say that is out of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On the point of order raised, I would like to tell the Honourable Members that I was of the opinion that I had heard that the Honourable Member was stating that it was a tradition of this House to attempt to bring accurate information, I believe. Order, please. In consultation with the table officers I find there is some discrepancy in what I believed I had heard; so we will investigate the tape, and we will report back to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, kindly put his question now, please.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Given the fact that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism had in his possession a document from the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, which clearly shows that we are losing in every

category, manufacturing category, wholesale trade, retail trade, through the Free Trade Agreement, will this First Minister now lay on the table for the people of Manitoba any document in his possession, any study undertaken by the Government or asked to be undertaken by the Government, which pertains to the impact of the Free Trade Agreement on the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I might indicate that during the period of Government between the -(interjection)- during the period in which the Member for Flin Flon -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

*(1355)

Mr. Filmon: We now realize that the Member for Flin Flon is only here for joking around. He thinks that he is doing a service to the people he represents, and the fact of the matter is that this is a very serious matter.

During the period of time that the New Democratic Party was in Government, when he was a Minister of this Government, manufacturing employment in this province dropped by some 10,000 jobs. Between 1981 and 1987, 10,000 manufacturing jobs were lost, Mr. Speaker. That is a fact available through Statistics Canada, available through any source of information that he wants to check. That is the case.

Today we have employed in Manitoba overall 25,000 more people than were employed when we took office in April of 1988. That is fact according to Statistics Canada. Those are facts that are on the record, Mr. Speaker.

He may in his smarmy way want to rejig and represent any sort of information he wants, but those are two facts that represent what New Democrats represent in terms of job creation in this province.

Trade Deficit Increase

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Speaker, I do not know that it is joking around to attempt to inform Manitobans about the impact of free trade.

Could this Minister indicate what he intends to do for the industries and the workers in the Province of Manitoba in the following industries: food industries, which declined in terms of our trade deficit 244 percent; primary textiles, which declined 52 percent; clothing industries, 52 percent; furniture and fixtures industry declined 74 percent, trade deficits which

continue to increase month after month? What does this Minister intend to do about—

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

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I repeat that there are 25,000 more people employed in Manitoba today than were employed in April of 1988 when this Government took office in this province. That is fact. I repeat that while the Member for Flin Flon was in Government, was a Member of the business development portfolio, Minister of Business Development, they lost 10,000 manufacturing jobs in the period from 1981 to 1987.

I repeat as well that there are many employers in this province, many industry sectors, that are at their highest employment levels in their history. Places like Bristol, places like Boeing, places like Flyer Industries and other areas are at record employment levels in the last while since this administration has been in Government.

Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of good news I would not expect to hear from the Member for Flin Flon in his twisted view of reality.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, with his final supplementary question.

Mr. Storle: The members of the public do not want to hear fabricated good news. They want this Minister and this Government to deal with the actual news.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister again. Given the 36 percent increase in the trade deficit in manufacturing, will the Minister now tell the House what he intends to do with the increasing trade deficit in the area of retail and wholesale trade, which has declined 47 percent, '88 over '89?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, these are not fabricated, good-news announcements I am making. These are Statistics Canada information that we are presenting—25,000 more people employed in this province today than when we took Government in April of 1988.

During the period of time in which he was in Government, his NDP administration lost 10,000 manufacturing jobs between 1981 and 1987. Those are facts.

We continue to work with the people of this province to build a better economic environment, and I invite the Member for Flin Flon to join with us in repealing final offer selection to get a better

business climate in this province, to ensure that there is opportunity for investment, job creation and growth.

An Honourable Member: I would just like to table the -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An Honourable Member: . . . Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, September—

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, tabling a document.

Goods and Services Tax Impact Education

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

In light of the concerns expressed by various school boards and school divisions that the effect of the GST will impact at least 2 percent on the expenditures of school boards and school divisions in the Province of Manitoba next year, what steps if any is this Government taking to alleviate that tax grab on the backs of school divisions, school boards and ultimately the taxpayer of Manitoba?

* (1400)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Minister of Education): Mr. Speaker, we will take the specifics of the question as notice. I want to assure this Member and all Members of the House that this Government has been very adamant in its discussions with the federal Government that the impact on school divisions and hospitals and universities indeed be totally negated, that in essence there be neutral tax effect before and after the goods and services tax.

Mr. Chomiak: In light of the comments of the Minister, could he please table in the House any reports or any information or any discussions that the Government has had with school divisions and individuals to indicate that in fact the tax will be revenue neutral?

Mr. Manness: I am not here to defend whether that tax is neutral or not. It is not my tax. The Member fully well knows that it is not our tax, so let him not stand in his place and try to paint that picture.

I said, on behalf of the school divisions and universities and hospitals and municipalities, we have made strong representation to the federal Government that the imposition of the goods and

services tax be neutral to school divisions and all of the other public institutions in this province.

Mr. Chomiak: My final supplementary is to the Minister. In light of the fact that an official in the Department of Education has indicated that the school tax will be revenue neutral, will the Minister undertake to confirm to this House in any reports or tables or studies or representations that indicate that?

Mr. Manness: I will have to take that question as notice. To me it was repetitive; it was very similar to the very first question. We will endeavour to respond more fully tomorrow.

Farming Industry Interest Rate Relief Program

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Minister of Agriculture. This Government announced its interest relief program in May with some great fanfare and talked about the \$24 million that would be made available to farmers and during the campaign bragged about this program, but now the Minister of Agriculture will not tell us how much has been forwarded to the banks in order to cover the interest relief program for the farmers. Will he today give us that information?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, we did introduce a \$24 million program. The federal Government has put a high interest policy upon us, and the farmers have a hard time paying those sorts of interest rates. We reduced the interest rates by 7 percent and put enough money in the budget to be introduced this week for all farmers to participate fully.

Naturally, we suspected the farmers that did not have an operating loan would not participate in the program. We do not know to the extent to which they did not, but that means the uptake in the program will be undoubtedly a little bit less than \$24 million. We made it available to all farmers to the tune of 7 percent, and the banks co-operated very well in terms of absorbing all the administrative costs of running the program, and their running of the program created no slippage in it at all.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, we do not have the answer to the question.

Will the Minister tell us why he will not tell this House how much money has been forwarded to the banks on behalf of this Interest Relief Program?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Speaker, the program is over on January 31 of 1991. The budget has not been introduced yet, and we are going into Estimates. She will have a chance then to ask those questions, but the program is not complete until January 31, 1991. At that time, the figures will be available.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, Mr. Speaker, a payment has been made to the banks. The question is very simple. How much was the payment?

Point of Order

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) has given a full response to the second question. Three questions were the same. I would ask for you to call the Member for River Heights to order and ask her not to continue to repeat the same question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On the point of order raised, the Government House Leader is quite correct. The Honourable Member's question is repetitive.

The Honourable Member kindly rephrase her question, please.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, there is only one reason for him not giving the information, and that is the program has been a failure.

Can the Minister of Agriculture tell us why the farmers of this province did not require the money which they continually bragged about?

Mr. Findlay: -(inaudible)- standing up in this House and said the program is a failure when we reduce the interest rate of farmers by 7 percent to allow them to put their crop in. She has no respect for the farm community in this province at all.

I can guarantee to her that all farmers who needed operating loan interest relief participated in the program very willingly and thankfully respected the program as doing an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, I also respect the farmers who did not have an operating loan respected the program by not abusing it, so the farmers were right on both accounts. She is insulting every farmer in the Province of Manitoba today by saying what she said in this House.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Goods and Services Tax Impact Cultural Industries

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Wolseley has the floor.

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

It seems every week that Canadians are subject to conflicting information on the so-called virtues of the GST. This is in spite of the million dollar flier we all received last week and the so-called hot line.

It seems that some fund-raising agencies have been told that all funds raised over \$30,000 are subject to the GST, but when I contacted the so-called hot line I was told that this was not accurate. I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the effect of this conflict of information on arts and cultural agencies.

I would like to ask the Minister what steps she has taken to inform arts and cultural organizations of their responsibilities in this matter.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the greatest area of concern and confusion with respect to the imposition of the Goods and Services Tax is definitely within the area of the non-profit groups and primarily within the cultural activities section, because there are numerous rules and application as we understand it. We are trying our hardest as the Department of Finance to get greater clarity with respect to the imposition of the GST within the area of concern to the Member.

Goods and Services Tax Impact Cultural Industries

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): I would like to thank the Minister for that reply, but to turn back to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, I would like to ask her, if given the current economic conditions in this country and province and the impact of the GST on fund raising of all kinds, what provisions has the Minister of Culture and Heritage made to increase provincial support for the arts community, particularly in light of her own report, the

DeFehr Report, which supported greatly increased funding for all arts organizations?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): Within a couple of days time we will have the budget at long last for the Province of Manitoba for the last fiscal year, and there is an estimate process which will deal with all of those questions in great detail.

Ms. Friesen: My final supplementary to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation is: What measures has the Minister taken to assist with the administrative costs for arts organizations who will be forced to pay and collect the GST once the Bill has passed the Senate?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Speaker, I guess I should probably repeat the answer that I just gave, that the Estimate process will be available to the Members opposite shortly after the budget is introduced, and we will be able to deal with those types of questions in detail at that time.

Crystal Casino Strike Mediator Appointment

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): My question is to the Minister responsible for the Lotteries Foundation. The casino strike is now in day 52 without any sign that this Minister is concerned or attempting to seriously negotiate a settlement. On Thursday the Government in fact did not even respond to a new offer from the union. Considering the fact that this Government took just two days to appoint a mediator in the doctors strike, will this Minister now appoint a mediator to deal with this eight-week-old strike at the casino?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Lotteries Foundation Act): Mr. Speaker, we have at all times tried to negotiate a fair settlement with the casino workers, taking into consideration our responsibility to the taxpayers of Manitoba. I do want to indicate that there is a conciliation process in place, and we invite the casino workers to get back to the table and to negotiate within the 3 percent offer that we have made to them.

Mr. Dewar: So far the strike has cost the health system over \$1.4 million. How much more will it cost before the Minister does appoint a mediator?

* (1410)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Speaker, I reject that statement unequivocally, and I do want to indicate

that there is a lot of false information out there in the general public. Rather than public comments by the MGEA that the average salary for a casino worker is \$18,000, I want to indicate to the House today that the average salary for casino workers is \$20,700 before you take into account the tipping policy, which gives them an average salary of \$23,600 per year. The information that is floating around there is somewhat inaccurate. The casino workers received an average of a 9 percent increase just less than a year ago when the casino was moved from the Convention Centre to the Fort Garry Hotel, so there is inaccurate information. We are trying at this point in time to establish a fair settlement for casino workers in the province.

Government Action

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): If the Minister is not prepared to appoint a mediator to settle the strike, what action is she prepared to take to end the impasse?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Lotteries Foundation Act): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the casino workers to come back to the negotiating table and work within the 3 percent that we have offered to those workers for a fair settlement.

Bill C-21 Cost to Manitoba

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Family Services. Today the Senate is passing Bill C-21, the Bill cutting UIC benefits, eliminating federal contributions to UIC and increasing waiting periods for claimants. For two years the previous Minister refused to take a stand on the Bill and said she was studying the effects. Has this Minister determined what the costs of the Bill are to Manitoba in dollars?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, over the last two years this Government has provided substantial funding for this particular department as well as other departments which serve individuals in our province. Later this week the budget will be tabled and shortly thereafter we will be going into the Estimates process, and we will have a chance to look at the details of the budget at that time.

Unemployed Help Centre Funding

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): A supplementary question to the same Minister. Since this Bill will deny Manitobans at least \$30 million and, more likely, as much as \$65 million per year, what actions is this Minister taking to assist the unemployed who will be hurt by this Bill in particular, and will the Minister restore funding to the Community Unemployed Help Centre which in 1989 cost the province some \$60,000, and returned to the province something like \$100,000?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, this department deals with somewhere between 130,000 and 150,000 Manitobans in the course of a year, and we are very concerned that the services that this department has provided in the past will be continued. Given the state of the economy, certainly we are concerned about any new expenditures.

Food Banks Minister Visit Request

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): A final supplementary to the same Minister. Since food banks and consultants advising firms how to close plants are the major growth industries in this province, will the Minister commit himself to visiting food banks of which there are 175 outlets in Winnipeg and the Unemployed Help Centre in the immediate future and increase welfare rates to help cut the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question has been put. The Honourable Minister of Family Services.

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the short time that I have been Minister, I have taken the opportunity to visit a number of agencies in the city and in the rest of Manitoba, and I would hope that in the near future I will be able to continue that policy.

Environment Department Staffing

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): My question is for the Minister of the Environment. As the Minister is aware, there is continuing need for strong legislation to protect the environment. However, even with good legislation, there is also the need for people to monitor and enforce the law to ensure that there is public safety and environmental protection.

Can the Minister of the Environment tell this House whether his department has hired the additional 14 staff that were promised two years ago to help enforce environmental laws in Manitoba?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): I believe the vacancy rate in my department is extremely low now and so I am sure all those positions are filled.

Ms. Cerilli: My supplementary question is: Will the Minister confirm that none of these positions have been filled and that in fact the enforcement branch has yet to see any position increases?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, there is a very low vacancy rate in my department today, and any positions that we have available to fill we are filling.

Ms. Cerilli: My final supplementary question to the Minister is: Will the Minister undertake to fulfill his commitment made more than two years ago, to have at least 14 new positions created in the Department of the Environment to enforce environmental law?

Mr. Cummings: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Treasury Board will confirm that I have made kind of a nuisance of myself the last while working towards the upcoming Estimates, and I would invite the Member to review these questions at Estimate time and I will have further answers.

Health Care Surgery Delays

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). Due to the delay in many surgical procedures, line-ups are becoming an unacceptable way of life. Patients are being forced to seek treatment in the U.S.A., and a two-tier system is being forced on the public by this administration. Can the Minister of Health tell us what specific measures his department has taken to ease the shortage of the delay in the surgical procedures in Manitoba?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I want, with all the kindness I can confer on my honourable friend, to reject his allegation that this province is moving toward a two-tier surgical system. -(interjection)- My honourable friend the good doctor says, we already have one. Maybe he is participating in a two-tier system in his practice, but I am not aware of that.

Out-patient Clinics

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): This Minister of Health has never learned and he will never learn his job. We have a two-tier system. We have five medical clinics in Manitoba where you can get the surgical procedure for \$800, Mr. Speaker, if you have the money. The system is one for the rich and one for the poor. Can he tell us when he is going to initiate the out-patient clinics not only to save money, but also to serve the people of Manitoba?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): My honourable friend in his first question, and I thought he was going to clarify his role in the medical system when he got up the second time and did not. My honourable friend points out the fact that we undertake certain medical procedures out of province. Yes, we do. Where that service is not available in the Province of Manitoba, we make referral, for instance, for heart transplantation, primarily to London, Ontario. We used to refer bone marrow transplant patients to Vancouver, but now that program is being undertaken in the Province of Manitoba. We do make referrals upon occasion to some U.S. facilities for such things as imaging and other areas where we do not have the service—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Out-of-Province Treatment

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Can the Minister of Health tell us how many patients are applying by months to the Health Services Commission to go to the U.S. to seek treatment?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): I can provide my honourable friend with the current statistics on the number of patients who are referred out of province for medical services. That information can be made quite readily available to my honourable friend, because some procedures, as I had explained in my previous answer, we simply do not undertake in the Province of Manitoba, do refer them out-of-province and pay the entire costs, regardless of whether that procedure takes place in London, Ontario or Houston, Texas.

Palliser Furniture Emission Levels

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): In the central southeast portion of my constituency of Transcona, there are a large number of residents who have been adversely affected by the emissions from the

nearby Palliser Furniture Manufacturing plant. While work is progressing on the plant site to contain dust and wood particles another problem, namely, toxic fume emissions, is creating havoc for the residents.

My question is for the Minister of Environment. What testing has his department or other Government departments undertaken to determine the levels of emissions from the Palliser plant and the work site?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Minister of Environment): I believe any emissions would be under licence or under control by my department, Workplace Safety and Health, but if there is something occurring that the Member is referring to which might perchance be outside of a licence or a permit, I will be glad to take notice and make sure that any information is brought forward.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) for an Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in answer to his speech at the opening of the Session, the Honourable Member for St. James has 20 minutes remaining.

* (1420)

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): When I left off last day, I had discussed some of my concerns in the Department of Justice. As I had indicated to Members, I have been honoured to have been given additional critic responsibilities. The major other responsibility has come up in the Department of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, we have already seen, in my brief tenure as the Environment Critic, a virtual environmental crisis in this province and in this country in the Rafferty-Alameda situation. Despite two court orders, despite over four years of wrangling, both involving the New Democratic Government as well as this Government, in which nobody had the ability or the fortitude to come up with sufficient environmental reviews to pass court muster, we still have a dam, which will affect Manitoba's water quality and quantity, 95 percent complete, if not totally completed.

We have the other dam, the Alameda portion,

which started on Friday. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that despite court orders from the federal court of Canada and despite the spoken commitments of three levels of Government, the Saskatchewan Government, the Manitoba Government and the Canadian Government, not to mention the United States Government, and I will leave them out of this for now, but despite those commitments from those three that, yes, we are doing a full environmental assessment; yes, this was environmentally sound; despite the assurances that the panels had done their work; that everything was A-OK, and Manitoba was going to be well-served.

Two courts, on separate occasions, saw fit to strike down this dam, and yet today we know that one of those dams was built illegally, Mr. Speaker. It is enough I think to make even the most jaundiced citizen a little more than depressed about the state of environmental protection in this country and indeed in this province. There are perhaps some explanations.

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

I draw to Members' attention that the three Governments involved are Conservative Governments. That may or may not mean anything, but the fact is they are Conservative Governments. We know of agreements that have been signed over the course of that four-year period.

I do not want to draw too much into the actual partisan nature of it, because we know that the New Democratic Party here in Manitoba played a very large hand in the Rafferty dam getting built without the approval of the courts. We know that full well.

In fact Mr. Blaikie put it far more articulately than I could. -(interjection)- Yes, he is the Member of Parliament, Madam Deputy Speaker, for part of this city. I really appreciate it, and I must congratulate him on his forthrightness. That is a rare quality when a Member can get up and roundly criticize his own Party and his own colleagues in the provincial Legislature. Mr. Blaikie did that and he has risen in my estimation, because of that. I appreciated his comments.

He put the facts on the record and the facts were that from 1986 to 1988, through that period of time, the New Democratic Government was hand in hand with the Government of Saskatchewan in getting that Rafferty dam built.

They got to this House in Opposition status, and all of a sudden decided that they were concerned for the welfare of the environment in the part of the province affected.

Madam Deputy Speaker, with respect to the various agreements, which have been negotiated and entered into by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada, I am not privy to those agreements. What I would like to know from this Government, and what I will be asking for, is what did this Government know about those agreements? Was this Government involved in the discussions which led to the agreement with the United States, which the United States is now saying we are bound to? That agreement specifically isolates Manitoba and talks about the amount of water that we will get in this province. Were we privy to that agreement? That is a question which I think needs answering.

The other thing which occurs to me, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the agreement which has most recently been alleged by Premier Devine and denied by Mr. de Cotret. That agreement as well had profound implications for this province. I find it hard to believe that when Saskatchewan and Ottawa were sitting down talking about this dam going ahead, they did not at some point pick up the phone and at least advise the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) for Manitoba that these discussions were going on and that the whole environmental process mandated by the court was about to be by-passed.

That is a question which has not been answered by this Government. I think there is a little more in the closet than comes to the eye on this, because I find it very hard to believe that two Conservative Governments sit down to discuss a very serious issue for the third Conservative Government in this country and do not let them know.

However we warned—in this Party, the former MLA for Wolseley, my colleague, Mr. Taylor, warned the present administration on May 11 of this year that what Saskatchewan was really doing was going ahead full steam building the Rafferty dam. Did they listen?—no. They said, we trust Mr. Devine, we trust Saskatchewan. He said he is improving the safety.

Who are we to say he is incorrect? Not to mention the farmers in the area, the environmental groups, the Wildlife Federation, the people who were

actually there were all telling us, look this dam is going ahead full speed.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we get to today—a week ago, lo and behold, the dam is completed, surprise, surprise. This Government turned a blind eye for at least the last four, five months if not for the last two years on this issue. They new full well that this required a full environmental assessment. They refused to participate with the Wildlife Federation in taking that to the courts. When the courts did impose a court order they refused to vigilantly ensure that the Province of Saskatchewan abided by that court order.

As I have said I find it very depressing. I think all Manitobans should find it depressing that despite all the fine words from three Governments, despite two court orders from our federal court, this dam has been built. It is finished. It is going into operation. It is going to potentially affect our water quality and quantity.

That goes against everything everybody said. That goes against our court system. What can you do, Madam Deputy Speaker? What else is left? The integrity of the entire environmental review process has been seriously eroded by this. The Conservative Governments in this country, namely, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Canada, must take responsibility for that decrease in integrity in the environmental process in our country.

With respect to environmental issues, there will be many in the coming Session and indeed in the coming term of this Government. The public is increasingly aware that politicians have given lip service to the issues which come up in this area and are increasingly intolerant of that lip service. They are starting to make this, I believe, an issue of such importance that they will vote on this issue. I welcome that.

I think it is high time we understood that the environmental desecration that we are perpetrating now is the legacy to our children, and it is not a legacy we want to leave. We have an obligation to preserve, to be stewards of this world and what we have.

* (1430)

I think sometimes you look around the world at all of the other nations that pollute and the Brazilian rain forest disappearing and it is easy to become a bit despondent, but we have in this province an

enormous tract of land and water. It is our duty, as this corner of the world, to do what we can do.

It is no excuse to say we are not going to solve all the problems. We have the power and we have the obligation today in this corner of the world. We must act now. We must look for co-operation from our brethren across this country and around the world. That is no excuse if they refuse to participate, we must act now.

The City of Winnipeg in particular and the waterways in this city are of great concern to me and my constituents. We know that the Red River and the Assiniboine River continue to be abused within our city limits and outside of them.

Just last year we know that Headingley jail, rather than spend the \$25,000 or \$30,000 which it was estimated to take to ship thousands of gallons of raw sewage to a treatment plant because their own treatment plant had broken, instead of doing that this Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings) made the decision for the quick and easy solution. They just dumped it into the Assiniboine River. That is the type of activity that simply will not do, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I think the Government will get away with those types of abuses on many occasions if they perpetrate them. They will get away with them. We will not catch all of them. The environmental groups will never catch all of the desecration which may occur secretly, but we have an obligation. This Government has an obligation to do what they can to preserve the environment and to not make those crass decisions, which serve the immediate need but seriously undercut the long-term sustainability of our environment.

I reiterate for all Members the four Rs, which I have called on my colleagues in my caucus, and I ask others to call on their colleagues, not just in their caucuses, but in their families and in their communities—the four Rs, which are to reduce first, then to reuse, then to recycle, and finally to recover. That is a good and, I think, an effective way to remember our obligation as we go on into the 21st Century, Madam Deputy Speaker, with a world which is increasingly short on pristine, natural environments, natural resources and increasingly filled with larger numbers of people and larger numbers of elements in society which are willing to desecrate our environment freely.

Another of my critic roles, Madam Deputy

Speaker, is Native Affairs. This is one that I am particularly pleased to have taken over from my colleague, the former Member for Niakwa, who did an outstanding job in this House in raising the issues of concern to Natives and had a deep and abiding interest and concern for those people in our society.

I want to start by welcoming the members of the aboriginal community who have joined us in this House in this term, and despite our partisan differences I do welcome the increased voice of that community in this Legislature. I look forward to their comments and their concerns and their suggestions for how we go forward with respect to the relationship with our aboriginal community.

We have, of course, in the near future the expectation of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry report. We all know the travails that our entire province went through in the production of that report, and how difficult it was for many of us to face what was coming out and to come to grips with the embedded racism in our system as it pertains to aboriginal people, no more so perhaps than in the justice system, Madam Deputy Speaker. When we get the report, it is my intention and that of our Party to take it very seriously, to consider carefully the recommendations which are made, and to go forward hand in hand with the aboriginal community. We cannot afford to make unilateral decisions any longer. We must include those who are most pivotal in the growth of the aboriginal community as a force in our society, as an equal force.

The message which came to me, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I suspect to many of us as we went door to door in this campaign, was not one of intolerance towards Native people; rather, it was one of wanting to deal with the issues. People said to me, we acknowledge that aboriginal people have been hard done by in our society. We acknowledge the real lives that they live in this province, and the statistics are glaring. They are glaring in the area of corrections, in the area of drug abuse, in the area of family violence, in the area of poverty, malnutrition. We do not have a particularly stellar record in this province and indeed in this country in dealing with our aboriginal peoples. You cannot deny this real situation that they live in today; however, people were wanting to deal with the issues and deal with the grievances and stop pushing this off. If Native people have some solutions that they are putting forward to us, if they have a rebirth of pride in their culture, in their traditions, we should welcome that,

and I do welcome that because it will allow us to go forward in a cooperative manner.

There will be the confrontations which we saw this summer. There will be those continuing even in this province, but as long as we have a proud Native community in this province we will have the potential, and only then will we have the potential, for a future society in which they are equal partners with us. I welcome the rebirth frankly of Native pride and vigilance in the protection of their traditions, their languages and their culture.

With respect to the other critic portfolio, which I have picked up, that of Natural Resources, Madam Deputy Speaker—

An Honourable Member: Great department.

Mr. Edwards: I hear the Minister saying, it is a great department. I am not in a position, at this point early on in the term, to contradict him on that, but I simply say to him that as time goes on, and as we go through the Estimates process, which I intend to concentrate on to educate myself more fully than I am today with respect to that department, I very much look forward to working with him when the opportunity avails itself.

Of course the issues in that department do coincide with some of the ones which no doubt will come up for me in the areas of Native Affairs and indeed the Environment and so I look forward to learning that whole area of issues and I look forward to pursuing those issues on behalf of Manitobans in this House.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to talk briefly about where I see our Party as providing a message in the service to Manitobans in the coming term. We must acknowledge of course that our Party would have hoped much better than we had in this election. We went from official Opposition status to third Party status and every Party in this House I might add has experienced similar deflations. It is part of being in politics, and part of any Party, and those are the facts.

* (1440)

Madam Deputy Speaker, we are of course hopeful that in future elections gains which we have lost in the last election will be regained and even further gains will be made. Every Party in this House of course takes that partisan position, but with respect to the message of the Liberal Party, which we are afforded the opportunity to bring to Manitobans through representation in this House,

albeit seven Members, or however many Members in our Party are in this House, with respect to that message, I do believe that we are the Party, and the only Party, which can illustrate to Manitobans the need for a balance in Government.

We know the Conservative Government has long ago sold its soul to the business interests of this province and this country. We know that the Chamber of Commerce says, jump, and they say, how high?

We do not just speculate about that. We have seen that in the brief tenure even in a minority situation when you would not think they would be so brazen, they were. The Chamber of Commerce wrote a report, back in early 1989, at the request of the Government, saying, yes, we would like to see carcinogen levels in the workplace reduced. We do not like being held to the lowest detectable level standard. They also, in a very forthright manner, acknowledged that they had not had time to do a full report.

Yet, based on that, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Government unilaterally went ahead and reduced the standards. Thankfully, through our political process, it showed up in the Gazette and all members of the public were quickly apprised that this had occurred. When we brought it to the Government's attention, they were sufficiently embarrassed and humiliated that they agreed to put the standards back.

That was in September of 1989. The standards did not come back for some eight or nine months after that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I see my light blinking here. Does that mean something? Two minutes.

Let me conclude by pointing out to the New Democratic Party, they also have sold their souls long ago, and we have seen that in this House in the last two years. They say they represent the little person in this province. Give me strength. It is hard to believe that someone could be so brazen as to make that comment. Madam Deputy Speaker, who exactly are they kidding?

They come to the election trail and they say, we are not going to raise taxes for 10 years. In their tenure, they raised and created new taxes 36 times, that is worse than the Conservatives and they say, we are not raising taxes. They say, we like pay equity, why are you not doing more about pay equity? Who put the cap on pay equity payments?

Who put it on? Who wrote the legislation that said you cannot spend more than a certain percentage of your overall budget? -(interjection)- Good point.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I am at the end of my time, regrettably. I noticed my friends in the New Democratic Party applauding that I am at the end. I have no doubt that they are applauding. I had a whole waft of notes here which would concentrate on them.

Let me say in conclusion, and I had left it out at the beginning of my comments, that I understand that three of the Pages which will be serving us in this present Legislature are from the area of St. James. I want to congratulate them on their appointments, and I want to thank them for the contribution they have and will continue to make to this House.

Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): Through you to the Speaker, Madam Deputy Speaker, please let me join with my many other Members of this Chamber who congratulate you and express to you their support in being chosen for this most prestigious office. It is very apparent that you enjoy the confidence of Members of both sides of this House and is no doubt due to the fair manner in which you have dealt with matters concerning this Legislature. Many speak highly of your abilities, and I look forward to your guidance in the future.

I would also like to congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on being selected as Deputy Speaker, and to all Members for their success during the recent election.

Also, to the new Pages, I extend my congratulations on your selection to serve this Chamber.

Before I start to give you a brief profile of my constituency of Transcona, I would first like to express my deep appreciation to the people of Transcona who voted for me and who have given me the opportunity and the honour to represent them in this historic Chamber. It is an honour that few will ever know in their lifetimes.

I would also like to thank the many, many people who have always been committed to the principles of the New Democratic Party and whose efforts were very instrumental in returning the constituency of Transcona to NDP representation.

Transcona has a long and proud tradition of

electing New Democrats to this Legislature. I would like to pay tribute to those before me. Leaders, such as George Olive, Russ Paulley and Wilson Parasiuk, have ably represented the community and the province over many decades. Each in their own way made Manitoba a better place to live.

Transcona is also a very prolific community in that it produces politicians for many areas of the province. Here in this House, we have three sitting Members who were raised in Transcona. The Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans), the second longest sitting Member of this Chamber, grew up in Transcona, as did the Honourable Member for the Interlake (Mr. Cliff Evans), and myself. I think that is an impressive percentage out of 57 seats.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Transcona is a community of approximately 30,000 people and consists of nearly every nationality. The community is working-family orientated, and we pride ourselves in being able to have our seniors remain in Transcona close to their families and friends.

Transcona started at the turn of the century as a railway town. Grand Trunk Railways, later known as CN Rail, established a major repair facility in Transcona in 1909. The rail presence remains in the community to this day.

Over the years other industries have established in our community. Today we have major employers such as Griffin Steel, New Flyer Industries, Palliser Furniture, as well as CN Rail. There are also numerous small businesses operating in the community.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Transcona is not a community without its needs or concerns. Several of these became very evident during the recent provincial election as many residents expressed their strong feelings. One very large concern expressed was the unfair tax burden placed upon those in our society such as seniors, single-parent families and working families in general.

The people of Transcona believe, as do I, that the level of taxation should be based on the principle of one's ability to pay and that those now not paying or deferring tax should contribute equally to the operation and maintenance of our province and country. There is a strong feeling in my constituency that the wealth of this province and the country in general is shifting away from the majority into the

hands of a few. This will only lead to a two-class system comprised of the very rich and the very poor.

Also discussions with owners of small businesses in my constituency, these entrepreneurs expressed their complete disdain for the proposed goods and service tax. These small business people, usually family operations who now put in long hours for their business, are distressed that this tax will add up to four more hours per day and will drive customers away from their business.

This GST may be the cause of their now successful business's failure. It is not just the seniors and the working families that recognize the negative impact of the GST but small business as well.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the people of Transcona are concerned with the threats to our health care system in this province. Above all other social programs they view this the most sacred. I see this program as the fundamental difference between ourselves and our U.S. neighbours to the south. This I believe to be true, because like most Manitobans we view ourselves as caring, compassionate people who are concerned for the well being of others less fortunate than ourselves.

I would now like to tell you of some of the other needs or concerns for my constituency. There are many seniors in Transcona who wish to remain in their homes. Due to lack of funding for home support services these seniors are forced to seek a residence in seniors complexes.

Senior support programs should be enhanced to encourage our seniors to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. For those unable to remain in their own homes and unable to care for themselves there is also a need for personal care homes.

As an environmentally conscious community the residents of Transcona want very much to take part in curbside recycling programs. There is also a need to see the eastern portion of the Perimeter Highway completed to redirect the heavy traffic flows away from internal Transcona streets and thereby improve the neighbourhood street safety in our community.

Madam Deputy Speaker, since Transcona is a working community it is only natural that the residents be concerned for the prospects of their jobs. In these times of massive layoffs, high unemployment and high interest rates, the control

of our economy now in the hands of those market-orientated, profit-driven few, it is no wonder the working families fear for their future.

* (1450)

Manitoba needs a Government which shows concern and action on issues which protect and ensure equal opportunity for all, a Government which protects tenants' rights, believes in the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in all sectors of the work force, the health and safety of its working people and the protection of our environment, including long-term permanent recycling programs.

We as a people must also concern ourselves with the opportunities for education and retraining of people in our society. Our young people must be given every opportunity to achieve higher levels of education and to gain new skills. This must be done while bearing in mind the limited resources available for these youths to finance their own way. It must be viewed by Government as an investment in people for the future. Our youth represent the future. Whatever we invest now will determine the rewards down the road.

As we have seen, the large numbers of people laid off, Government should play an improved role to encourage and assist the unemployed to retrain. This will enable them to seek new employment opportunities.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would now like to tell you of the few of the many people in my constituency who come to mind. One particular woman, a widow in her mid-fifties, was struggling to make ends meet working for a non-union hardware retail outlet for a little over \$5 an hour.

The single-parent families, and yes there were many of them, who were barely existing on service-sector wages, when one views these personal lives first-hand it becomes natural to want to help these people in need. These people want to work and be productive.

I think that as Government we owe it to these people to ensure that they earn a livable wage. That is why it is important for us, as legislators, to recognize the need and increase the minimum wage in this province to a decent level and then fix its rate to the cost of living. While the minimum wage is very important, good quality jobs are also important.

With the advent of deregulation and the free trade environment we have witnessed the decline of the

transportation industry in this country. The freight and passenger railways have seen massive layoffs in all employee categories. In 1988, the M.P. for Winnipeg-Transcona released a document showing that CN was going to cut 17,000 jobs by the early 1990s. We hoped it was not true, but unfortunately it was.

Just as recent as last week, CN announced another 1,500 employees would be losing their employment and then after that another 1,500 more. Where does it end?

In October '89, just one year ago, VIA slashed 27,000 people from its employee levels and half its service to Canadians. Just last week, Air Canada laid off 2,900 employees. Just months before, Canadian Airlines swallowed up Wardair causing the loss of hundreds of jobs.

The trucking industry, with nine of 14 Canadian companies headquartered in Winnipeg, is now looking south to the United States for possible headquarter's operations. This is a result of the invasion into the Canadian market of U.S. based truck industry brought about by free trade and deregulation. With the massive number of jobs lost in transportation, good quality jobs, one has to wonder where this decimation will end.

In this province and this country we need a strategy, an integrated action plan, to co-ordinate what is left of the transportation industry.

Madam Deputy Speaker, at a recent hearing in Quebec by the Royal Commission on national passenger transportation, members of the Quebec community talked about the need for a Government-financed, privately-operated, high-speed rail line to run in the Quebec City-Windsor corridor. While it appears that the concept of high-speed ground transportation of passengers has come front and centre, we as a Government should be reminding other Canadians that this country consists of much more than the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence population region.

I believe that we need to seriously consider the utilization of intermodal passenger transportation terminals to co-ordinate travel and make it as convenient as possible for the travelling public. This would also necessitate the use of rapid transit in major urban centres. I believe with such a system, we would see a move away from the private automobile and, to a degree, reduce our costs for

road and highway maintenance, not to mention the environmental benefits.

Rapid transit, rail transportation and public ground transportation should move in the direction of electrification, not only because this country has untapped hydro-electric generation capacity, but because we must develop ways to lessen our huge appetite for expensive polluting fossil fuels. One only needs to look at what is happening to fuel costs, supposedly as the result of the Gulf crisis.

Railways yearly apply to the NTA for branch line abandonment. While the large scale of twinning of highways in the southern portion of Manitoba is important to the people and communities and economies of our communities affected, I believe that the remote and isolated areas of this province, particularly the north central and northern regions, should be consulted to determine their needs, and if required, link up those communities with the outside communities on an equal priority with southern regions. I believe that where remote communities are involved, a moratorium should be placed on rail line abandonment until alternate use studies can be conducted for either roadbeds or for flexible commuter lines. We must not focus solely on core networks. This country and this province would not exist today if that had been the attitude 100 years ago.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as is the custom for new Members of this Legislature, I would like to speak briefly on my heritage and my family. At the conclusion of World War I, my paternal grandparents immigrated to Canada from Scotland. Job opportunities were scarce in the old country, so in 1920 like many of their time and with the lure of greater opportunities, my newly married grandparents moved to Canada.

With the prospect of employment on the railway in Winnipeg, Transcona—the location of the newly constructed railway overhaul and maintenance shops—became our home. This was the beginning of what is now three generations as a railroad family. Collectively, my family has nearly 150 years of railroad experience. Horticultural activities were the hobby of my grandparents, and to this day one can travel through the community and view many of the mature trees which were planted by my grandfather. In fact, in east Transcona there is a well-treed park, complete with a children's play area, which bears the family's name.

Madam Deputy Speaker, my maternal grandparents moved to Manitoba around the turn of the century. During their youth, they lived in Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, and before that they and their ancestors had moved to Saskatchewan from the Province of Quebec where many generations of my maternal grandfather had resided. My recollection of my maternal grandparents has faded, as they passed away before I had an opportunity to really know them. I was born, raised, educated and subsequently employed in Transcona. I think it is an excellent community in which to live, work and raise a family. That is why my wife and I chose many years ago to remain in Transcona and raise our family.

Families play a very significant role in the decision for each Member of this House in determining whether or not to seek public office. Without the support of our spouse and our family, we would not be able to be involved in activities for the betterment of our communities. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Sheila, our three sons, my parents, brothers, sister and many other members of my family for their support in making it easier to enter public life, so that I may serve the community of Transcona.

* (1500)

I have found that once in public life, one's family becomes significantly larger and that the responsibilities multiply. I welcome the challenge, and I dedicate my energies to working with and for the people of Transcona. Thank you.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Madam Deputy Speaker, first of all let me express my best wishes to you, and through you to Mr. Speaker who has done an excellent job in the previous Session. He has gone through some of the tough decisions, and it is clear that his reappointment is a testimony to his work in the last Assembly.

Madam Deputy Speaker, also my best wishes to the new Members on both sides of the House, because it is very important that their dreams come true and I sincerely hope that. It is a very tough profession, and we have all chosen this profession by choice. At times, we have no control in this House and we have no control what happens outside this House. That is what happened that many Members were not able to come, not that they did not perform very well, it is the circumstances. This is one of the rare professions where you have no control.

I sincerely hope that the Members -(interjection)-no, we do not have any control. We try to perform our best, but the judges are sitting outside this House and they make the decision. I think, based on their decision, we should continue to work hard.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to my old constituents, the constituency of Kildonan, who gave me the opportunity in 1988 to serve them. As their constituency grew very rapidly, the new constituency of The Maples was created. A new constituency, which is very unique. Like many other constituencies, it has a new Canadian, constituency and has old Canadian, the balance between many communities.

Also if you just go on one street, you will be able to see at least 10 to 15 different nationalities. That is very rare, in this country, on one street.

It was a very enlightening experience for me for the last two and a half years. I saw during the campaign that if you work hard, if you are honest, most likely the chances are that you will come back, and I thank my constituents for showing their confidence and sending me back in this House.

Madam Deputy Speaker, let me touch base on the campaign. The campaign was very tough. At times there were many events of which the candidates have no control. I think at times the underhanded approach by some people was not very well respected by the communities at large. I think we have to be very careful that it does not matter what the outcome, you must be honest in your campaign and not try to derail other people for something of which they have no control. I will run again on my character and my work, and I do not have to defend anything else.

It is very difficult when you are a new Canadian and running for public office. Many questions are asked on the doorsteps. Anyway, if you keep on working hard and try to be part of the whole community, I think it works in the long run, but there are always some individuals who will try to take the advantage and try to fight the definition of who is a real Canadian and who is not a real Canadian. It is very, very dangerous and should never be repeated in any constituency.

Let me talk about my role in this House. For the last two and a half years, the responsibility was given to me as the Critic for the Department of Health. I did try my best to bring the criticism and also make

some suggestions during the two and a half years of Session.

I want to express my sincere thanks to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). I do not agree with him most of the time; but it is very clear that he has worked very hard, and he has made some changes which are very, very positive.

I want to express my thanks to the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), who was also the NDP Health Critic. We all worked together, and one of the achievements made was the improvement in the area of mental health work. I think we should follow that example.

During this term, we will do everything possible to give positive suggestions to this Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and make sure that some changes are definitely made. Some of the issues should not be based on political affiliation only. Health care is a very important issue, and when we see all the changes that are being made, sometimes the Minister of Health or the other Members have no control. There are a lot of things happening outside this House and it has become a very, very difficult job. I sincerely wish the Minister of Health good luck and the new Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis), who is the opposition Health Critic. I will try to do my best.

My other role as the Labour Critic, which is very unusual, I am still learning about that critic role, and the Workers Compensation Board, as well as the Civil Service Commission. I think in due course of time I shall try to do my best on those areas also. That ends one of the parts of my speech. I just want to outline some of the issues in the health care system.

As we see, and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has pointed out many times, the health care costs continue to grow at a very tremendous rate. We have seen that for the last 10 years, it has grown up more than 180 percent. We are spending about \$1.7 billion on 1.1 million population. That is about \$1,600 per person in Manitoba, and I think that is a lot of money.

Even after spending all that amount, there are still a lot of problems in the system. Those problems did not come for the last two, three, or four years. They have been developing over a period of a number of years, and they will continue to grow if we do not try to address them and move in a new direction. The new direction has to be the new ways of providing

for the health care system. Those new ways are not going to come very easy because if you start any new programs, it is going to have some negative impacts in the short term but would benefit us in the long run.

One of the examples of those programs is in the area of preventative health where you have to put money up front, and the beneficial effects may not come for 10 years or so. I think the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) should move in that direction.

The other area for major concern is where we see the line-ups for the surgical procedures and for many health services continuing to grow. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) today said that we do not have a two-tier system. Actually, we do have the two-tier system right now, because you have certain people who can afford to pay \$800 to go to a surgical clinic, and get a cataract operation done; but for someone who does not have \$800, they cannot go and they have to wait. What does that mean? It is a two-tier system.

Plus, now we have a third part of the system which is a profit-based U.S. health care system where many people are going. Some of them on their own, some of them they cannot get services here and so they are forced to go to the U.S. and seek treatment. Even though some of the money is being reimbursed, they are still spending their own money. When they go to the U.S., they are also spending some extra money there anyway. So it is not good economically for Manitoba to drain some amount from this province to go to the U.S.A.

Those things will not change unless services are improved, because you have to improve services. We know that the instant answers are not there. It is not going to be very easy to go the next day and get your surgical procedures.

For some of the life-threatening situations where you need treatment say in two to three months time, or you need treatment for cancer, you need a heart by-pass, you need a C.T. Scan or you need a different kind of scan, you should not be waiting more than a few months, because in a way when you delay service you are cutting the services and it will cost you more in the long run to serve those individuals. We may be delaying for a short time, but we are costing the Province of Manitoba more money than it would cost otherwise.

The other issue here is the long-term facilities and the services for the elderly in Manitoba. As we all

know the population of Manitoba is growing above the age of 65 at a very rapid rate. Now we have about 13 percent of the population in Manitoba who are above the age of 65 and in some parts of Manitoba even more than 17 or 18 percent, most specifically in the western part of Manitoba. So the services for that population must be focused right now, because their population does use the services to a greater extent than the normal population.

* (1510)

The number of hospital beds in Winnipeg and in other hospitals that are being occupied by chronic care patients or a patient who should be in a personal care home, it is a very, very expensive way of providing a health care system. That is not being done, even though in the last provincial budget there was \$240 million. Out of that a significant amount was spent to develop the personal care homes, but that is still not adequate.

I am not saying that the money is right there available so we have to spend right away, but the plan has to be there because ultimately in four years time this Minister of Health will be blamed if we do not have the right system.

That can be done in different ways. One of them is personal care homes, secondly it is by the long-term facilities—and we have seen one facility, the Deer Lodge Hospital which has been vacant for a number of months, and is still vacant. Not that we do not have beds there, but one report was missing—actually it was only missing from the Minister's point of view. The report has been there as of January of this year. The report clearly outlined that facility could be used in a different way, for the long-term care patients, for rehabilitation purposes, for the brain injury patients. We heard that announcement made by the Minister only a few weeks prior to election. Now we are told that the beds will not be open until the spring of next year.

I think in a way the money is being wasted, because you have patients in hospitals who are occupying expensive beds, and you have empty beds which are less expensive and they are still not being used.

The other area where the money can be saved is by the day hospitals. Day hospitals are an excellent example of how the patients could come during the daytime and get the services, go back to their homes, because most of them would like to be in

their homes, and families are willing to help to some extent.

Then the third part of the triangle is the home care services. Even though in the last provincial budget some money was underspent the Minister of Health had made some statements that people are more healthy, they are not making the best use of the home care services. If you talk to the people who need those services it is not the case, because if you provide them with home care services you will save the money in the long run.

So three parts of this system could be used very effectively. It will save us money in the long run.

The other area where I still have to see some progress is in the area of out-patient clinics. If the number of patients who are waiting for many surgical procedures have to wait for hospital beds, it may take a long time. If you have the out-patient surgical clinics, people could probably spend a few hours, and that is being done at Seven Oaks Hospital. Cataract surgery can be done in a few hours and the patient can come back. It is the very, very least expensive way, and it could be expanded in some other hospitals, but for that, the capital expenditure has to come. We sincerely hope in this week's budget we may see some momentum in that regard.

If we do not have the Government-funded out-patient clinics, we will have the private-funded clinics. Right now we have two clinics, one in Brandon and one in Winnipeg. Those clinics are providing some of the services. If you have as I said earlier \$800 extra and you can get the out-patient surgical appointment and get your surgery done, and if you do not have \$800, good luck to you.

The same way is done in Brandon, and it was very clear this morning from the newspaper, *Free Press*, on the second page that one of the surgeons at Brandon General Hospital is thinking of establishing the same kind of clinics on the basis that he cannot get OR time in the Brandon General Hospital. So he has to establish and make use of this kind of clinic.

In a way if we do not make progress in the out-patient surgical clinics, upgraded by this Government, then we will be creating a new system and it will be dangerous. It will not be very healthy, because once you start one, two and three, and as long as they fulfill the requirements by the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Government cannot stop them. I know that, but if you have

services available for the general public to use, then the people will not go to the profit-making clinics.

I was just listening to the Minister of Natural Resources' (Mr. Enns) speech. It was very well said, and he said that we should probably work very hard on some of the issues and make sure that the people of Manitoba would benefit from some of the services. He gave a very good example of Meech Lake, but I am not an expert on those issues.

There is something that can be done in the area of health care, because it really matters to all of us. We may just have a different approach in certain circumstances but still have the same goal to provide the best possible services. That is why I said from the beginning that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has worked very hard, and probably is one of the few Ministers who has done a very good job in the area of health care, in some aspects, and I have no hesitation of saying that. I know that he will lead that back to me, but that is fine, I will accept that.

I think that within four years, if we all work together on some of the areas of health care, I think we can make progress, and certainly from my point of view, especially when my own professional career is suffering to a greater extent, I want to be helpful and be productive in whatever I can.

So my approach during this Session and the next three years will be a little bit different than last time. I want to reassure the Minister of Health, and I have brought to his attention some of the issues which could be one day wonder news, but it could have a harmful effect on the services. I think we have to be very, very careful to bring those issues to this House, because we could wait for about a thirty-second clip, I think we may end up harming a lot of people, so we have to be very careful.

I think I should go back to my previous part. I was thinking about the issues with the seniors, and the one area is in mental health, and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has done an extremely good job in that respect, but we have to move faster on that area. I did table one of the reports which is available to the Minister of Health, and it is for western Manitoba. It is a very expensive report.

It is going to cost \$16 million to upgrade all those facilities, and we know that is not possible overnight, it may take two, three, or four years. Now they have four years' time, I think it could be done. That will establish the new Brandon Mental Health Centre

with a 20-bed—or part of our recommendations that have been made in this report are the children's ward, plus the rehabilitation, plus the psychogeriatric care. All that can be done. We will not be too critical on that issue now, because I think the time is needed to repair some of the system.

We have this shortage of professionals in the area of mental health, and I think some of the other ultimate ways of resources could be used. The mental health care workers, the LPNs, the RNs and social workers could be used in a more effective way, and that should be done.

I do not think the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard)—when anyone should be afraid of saying things when they are right, because if we do not get psychiatrists, we should try to make the best possible use of the other resources.

One of the programs is done out of Seven Oaks Hospital, which is very effective, the family practitioners working along with the psychiatrists. The same I am hopeful will be done at Grace Hospital. I think this program could be expanded throughout Manitoba. That will be very beneficial not only to provide services but save money in the long run.

The other area which still the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has not solved—and I have to be very critical of that one, because we have seen the shortage of many health care professionals, the nurses, the doctors, the physiotherapists, speech pathologists and you name it. All areas of health care professionals are in short supply. This is going to get worse, if solid measures are not put in place. We have given him a good example. I still do not understand why he has a difficulty of following one of the proposals. He has given his reason that there are not many people available, so we cannot use that rural internship program, but that is not the case.

You have about 600 doctors right now in this country, and they are qualified. They have passed all their exams and want simply the need of one year of internship. Now they require two years, because of the change in that regulation by the college. So if you get them two years of training, you will be able to secure doctors. The issue will come that, well, how can you do it? It may be against the Charter of Rights to get somebody to practise in a given area, but if somebody is signing on a voluntary basis, then I do not think we have a difficulty.

* (1520)

I am not saying lower the standard. The standard is there. We should screen them in all the best possible ways, make sure they are qualified, they are competent people, but if we even have the program for two years, we will solve the problem for the shortage for the next five years or 10 years, minimum. It will be very cost effective. It will cost about \$26,000 to \$28,000 to have a rule and have internship. Those interns will serve the teaching hospital, and at the same time, when they are qualified, they will go back to the rural communities and practise.

I think the rural communities must have a say in the selection, and make sure somebody likes Thompson, somebody likes Swan River or Dauphin, because we do not want them to say in two years' time, I did not see the place. They must see those places on their own expense and make sure that they like those places.

That could be done. That area has been ignored, and I think the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) could take a lead in that respect, because we have seen the hunger strikes in Vancouver, we have seen hunger strikes in Montreal. Some progress has been made in some jurisdictions, but in Manitoba I think he has a chance to make good progress on this issue.

The other area of major concern still remains the services in the area of preventative health and some of the year's education program has been a factor, but I think more has to be done to keep up to date with the current information and the current level of services which are required in Manitoba, and I have not heard any new policy initiated for the last few months, because those areas where they are changing at a rapid rate, with the new information coming to the professionals and to the general public, changes have to be made at that time.

One major area of concern is the Health Advisory Network. It was set up two years ago and so far only one report has come out of that health network. Maybe the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has more reports, but we have just seen one. That was on the extended care facilities in Manitoba. The report has been very good in certain areas. In some areas we do not agree with that report, but the Minister has not provided us the update on much of the work they are doing. One of the promises made by him last Session was to set up a committee to look at the delay in the surgical procedures, especially the cardiac surgery, why there is a

difference between St. Boniface and Health Sciences Centre. I have not seen any response from the Minister of Health on what has been achieved in that respect.

It looks like I am making the Minister of Health feel uncomfortable, but it is a legitimate question. It was raised a number of times, and we have not seen any response from him so far. We will give him some time. The Minister of Health has four years to do it and I think four years will be good time, especially when people have given them the mandate. I think we have accepted that mandate. We will see what the majority Government will do. So far things have not changed. We have not seen any major policy announcement from the Minister of Health. It is only one month; we will wait.

I still have not seen any improvement in the speech therapy. The waiting period still remains the same. The Minister has made a very good point, that more people are seeking services, and that is true, but still I think he could make a lot of progress if a few more positions can be allocated to the major health centres, especially the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface. Some progress was made, but still people are waiting for 18 months. It is not very positive, because by the time they get the service it is already too late. So in a way your postponing of that special service is having an impact on the growth of a child. It is very, very dangerous; that has to be corrected.

Madam Deputy Speaker, could you tell me, how much time do I have? Ten minutes?

Madam Deputy Speaker, during the last two and one-half years one area which was very much celebrated and recycled many times was the casino funds, \$10 million of casino funds. An announcement was made three times in this House, twice outside with a Hollywood style sometimes, to make sure that we have \$10 million, and now we see these casino workers for the last two months begging for them to come to the table and they have not shown any action at all. I think it is very, very unfortunate, because the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) could use that \$1.4 million for something very positive. I do not agree with that policy, but when we have the policy let us make the best use of the available funds. I think it would be the best thing for him to sit down with the new Minister of Labour (Mr. Praznik) and come to their terms, because I know that he has a lot of power in that front bench, but we will wait for the action.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think the other area which is of great concern is the shortage of the other health care professionals, and that has to be corrected. Now the settlement with MONA and the other organization is coming, and we will want to see the Minister of Health make good on their promise for pay equity. It is very, very important. They have not made any sincere effort so far, but still they are negotiating. I think we will give them another few weeks to make some positive decisions.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I think I will end my speech here. I want to thank my constituents again, the constituents of The Maples, for giving me a chance to again make their views known in this House and also thank all the Members of this House for letting me participate for the last two and a half years and today again letting me express some of my views. I have been very positive.

I told the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) we will give him a lot of positive suggestions, and I hope that we can achieve positive things for health care in Manitoba. I thank you all.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I know that we are fast moving toward conclusion of debate on the throne speech, and I wanted to make some contribution, first of all, to congratulate you on your reappointment to office and to the Deputy Speaker, congratulations on taking over that very onerous time-consuming role and very important role. I want to formally welcome many of the new colleagues to the House, new colleagues on both sides of the House, and my two new colleagues in Cabinet, the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) and the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik).

* (1530)

Mr. Speaker, since this is the first debate, throne speech debate, of a new Government, a new Session, I want to particularly thank the constituents of Pembina for returning me. That has been my fifth election in my political career. This time around we had some new territory in that the change in boundaries combined the Communities of Winkler and Morden in Pembina constituency. It is now quite a compact constituency.

Mr. Speaker, always one approaches election, even if it is re-election, with some trepidation, because you have new areas to represent. I am pleased to say that the voters in Pembina

constituency chose to support my re-election in very generous terms, and we achieved the largest plurality in the Province of Manitoba. For that I sincerely thank those many people who assisted me during the election campaign and voiced their support in the ballot box.

I also want to thank the constituents that I represented for the past 13 years in areas that are now part of the MLA for Turtle Mountain's constituency and Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Clearwater. In those communities, my honourable friend will find very excellent, very generous constituents, whose needs and concerns he will enjoy meeting and representing in this House.

To my colleague the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), who inherited the longest-standing part of my constituency, welcome to a good part of Manitoba, in communities of Carman and Roland, et cetera, that are very well looked after by the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in this election I found the electorate to be, this being my fifth election, in a very different mood, much different than any of the previous four elections that I asked them for their support. Not only in Pembina constituency did I find this, but throughout the province as I travelled. There is a great deal of cynicism in the political process right now in Manitoba and I think in the nation, wherein the voters I think feel as if they have been abandoned by their elected representatives.

I think it is no small accomplishment to ponder for my honourable friends in this House, particularly in Opposition, that the trend—and it may persist—has been not to re-elect incumbent Governments and in fact in rather uncertain and without questionable terms to turf some out, as happened immediately to the east of us.

The one thing that I have found, as I travelled the province and sought votes in the Pembina constituency, is that there was a genuine recognition that Premier Filmon and the previous Government attempted to deal honestly with the situations and the circumstances that presented themselves to a minority Government. Mr. Speaker, they gave high marks to that effort, and I think that in major part was the reason why we were able to be re-elected, because I can assure you that our federal counterparts in Government were not of assistance in terms of public opinion for quality Government—to put it gently. I think that what

Manitobans expressed was some faith in the process and a recognition that we had tried to bring a good and sincere Government.

Mr. Speaker, I want for a moment to refer to remarks made by the Mover of the throne speech some 10 days ago. The Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose) put on the record some very, very interesting remarks that all of us should contemplate and ponder, in that he urged us to consider very seriously the honesty with which we approach our jobs in here, honesty around a very important issue that when Government provides support, be it a grant or otherwise, to any group, regardless of how worthy the cause is, when we call it simply a grant, we are not being quite honest. It is taxpayers' dollars we are providing to them.

That, Mr. Speaker, was the overriding issue in this election campaign. Manitobans across the length and breadth, whether they be farmers who are very much struggling today with grain prices, production costs, a despair in the farm community that I have never experienced before, or whether they be working people in the north end of Winnipeg or anywhere else in the length and breadth of this province, the clear and unequivocal message that was delivered to us as MLAs is that we have paid quite enough taxes and that we want you, as governors of the province's financial affairs, to get your act together and to make more effective use of the enormous amount of taxpayer dollars that they contribute each and every year for us to spend on programs through various departments and ministries.

I want my honourable friends to reflect on the message that the Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose) put in his seconding of the throne speech. I want to make just two small points to remind my honourable friends of the importance of honesty. We live in a political environment, and I expect upon occasion for honourable friends opposite to try and score political points in the health care system to my disadvantage. I did that when I was Health Critic as well. I want to tell you I thank my honourable friend, the MLA for The Maples (Mr. Cheema). Over the past couple of years we have had our share of fights, but when support was deserved, I could count on him to provide that kind of support. Today he indicated that would be the case again; but I was particularly distressed—and it builds into part of the mood that was there—at the general distrust of what politicians say that was in this last election.

Two points in mind came out during the Leaders' debate, which was televised. One of them was made by the now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), who was then Leader of the third Party, wherein he said that beds at Deer Lodge Hospital had been vacant for 26 months. That is a small point, Mr. Speaker, but it was false information.

I can accept the fact that the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) might unknowingly put incorrect information out to the public, but in this case he knew. He knew those beds were only ready for service at the very earliest some 13 months ago.

One might argue: Okay, well so if it is 13 months or 26 months who is counting, people still could have used those beds. That point is made and I accept that, but that was the whole purpose behind the Health Advisory Network in bringing in expert advice to give us and guide us in the decision-making we made in terms of provision of extended-treatment beds throughout the City of Winnipeg.

As my honourable friend, the Member for Maples (Mr. Cheema), said earlier in his remarks this afternoon, had we followed the interim report that came to the Health Advisory Network in January or February of this year we would have left Concordia and the north-east quadrant of the city completely without facilities, had we followed the Liberal Party's advice of the day, to accept that first interim report *holus-bolus*. We chose not to.

We chose to wait until the final report of the Health Advisory Network, which gives us a balance that I think all observers, who were not maybe of a vested-interest approach—all impartial observers said we made the right kind of decisions in that announcement. That took time, and that took patience. That is why Deer Lodge beds were not commissioned until we had that expert advice, but the dishonesty that was there in the remarks of the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) cheapens the whole political process.

My honourable friend, the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs), during that debate used an example in terms of trying to point out a difficult situation in the health care system. She used, Mr. Speaker, the example of the young man who broke his leg in a hockey accident in the Interlake, was rushed to Winnipeg, was admitted to the Health Sciences Centre and did not receive the surgery for four days.

My honourable friend, the Liberal Leader, used that example trying to say that was crisis and chaos

in the health care system as a result of what this Government had done in terms of its policies and programs and funding over the last two and a half years.

Again that was not accurate. What cheapens the political process is the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) knew that to be false when she said it in the debate, because I commissioned the quick response team to investigate the circumstances around that young man's unfortunate delay in receiving surgery. The conclusion was that had the admitting physician, who could not get that young man in for surgery at the Health Sciences Centre, would have simply phoned two other hospitals that evening—one of them being the Seven Oaks Hospital—that young man would have had his surgery that evening within hours of being admitted, but the physician kept the patient in his hospital so he could do the surgery and it was delayed three days when it could have been done.

* (1540)

Now it is hardly a policy of Government that caused that. That is hardly underfunding, as alleged by the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs), but rather a process of no communication between our hospitals in the City of Winnipeg.

That is one of the primary recommendations that was made by the quick response team in trying to resolve problems like that in the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I say that the electorate were in a different mood this time around as we went and campaigned throughout the length and breadth of this province, they were in a bad mood because they are sick and tired of politicians who will say what is opportune and not necessarily the truth, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) did, as the Leader of the Second Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) did, simply for political advantage. They wish to have policies developed which will work, and Mr. Speaker -(interjection)-

Well, my honourable friend, the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) is one of the ones who is very famous. He is renowned in the press for the 15-32nd clip regardless of truthful content or not. He is the quick-fix artist when it comes to news clips.

I listened to his remarks in the throne speech debate where he identified one thing and one thing only in the health care system and that was the need for reform. He said, we must reform the health care system.

Then my honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), in typical New Democratic Party fashion, offered no solutions, not one single solution. That was typical of the time that he was in Government, and it will be typical of the time that he spends in Opposition until replaced by someone competent in the leadership of the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, I simply want to point out before I close on my remarks that the mood of the people are requiring honesty. They are requiring careful action, and they want their elected Governments to level with them, to tell them what is possible to achieve.

Now what does that mean for a bunch of very new and enthusiastic elected people in the New Democratic Party official Opposition? What does it mean to them? Well they all want to establish a reputation very quickly.

I will share with them some advice I shared with my honourable friend, the Member for Maples (Mr. Cheema), when he first came in as critic for Health in the official Opposition. I tried to follow this advice when I was there. I fell off the wagon upon occasion I will admit, which is part of the political process -(interjection)- well I fell off the ethical wagon was what I meant -(interjection)- but Al Mackling deserved every bit of chewing he got, because nobody but nobody except the New Democratic Government would have the audacity to invest in telephones in Saudi Arabia and oil in southern Manitoba. That was the record of Al Mackling and the NDP and the current Leader of the NDP. That was their record, and Manitobans are \$27 million poorer because of it.

Mr. Speaker, in 1981 the Minister was the Honourable Member for Brandon East. My honourable friend, the New Democratic Party Leader, has tried to make this case time and time again, and again he does himself a disservice in his dishonesty to the people of Manitoba—absolute disservice through his dishonesty again.

I indicated to my honourable friend, the Member for Maples (Mr. Cheema), that there are many, many times when you can bring up individual issues in the health care system, because when you have the universal system—that is to provide universal access and service to a million people—you are always going to have an individual who is disenchanting with his/her service from the system.

If we reduce the health care system, as time to

time upon occasion happened, to bringing individual cases to the floor of the Legislature we do not solve any problems whatsoever we simply create fear, and furthermore you actually demean the people who work very diligently to deliver quality health care 98 percent to 99 percent of the time to all Manitobans without failure, without slip, without mistake. That does a discredit to the way the system does work.

Mr. Speaker, I would challenge my honourable friends in Opposition that when they come forward with suggestions on how the health care system ought to work they better bear two things in mind: can you achieve them should you be in Government; and secondly, be honest enough to tell the people of Manitoba from whence you will take the tax dollars to make those changes, those improvements or those additions to services.

Now the quick and easy answer from both Parties of the left in the House today is take them from the corporations. Well we could debate that during budget time, but that is not an honest answer and my honourable friends know it, not an honest answer at all. If we are going to provide a continuing health care system which provides quality service it take more than mouthing the words of reform, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) did in his speech without offering a single avenue of reform. It takes a substantial amount of consultation, planning and expertise advice. We have begun those processes in the last two years, and they are beginning to bear some reward and some fruit in terms of where the health care system is going, and where we are able to direct it so that it can continue to provide quality service to all Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, I will say unequivocally that no Minister of Health, myself included, and no Government by themselves have all of the answers on how the health care system of 1990 ought to be reformed and what its shape ought to be. Neither do individual professional groups have all of those answers because everyone of them brings to the table a vested interest in which some benefit happens, but it is not the answer for the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, what I am indicating to my honourable friends is I am interested in debating with them in Estimates, in Throne Speech and Budget Debates, initiatives that they believe will benefit the system of health care in Manitoba. We have many initiatives that are under way right now,

which are leading in Canada in terms of their impact upon the future direction of health care delivery in Canada under a Medicare system. Those initiatives will bear fruit. They include analysis and research on what we have done in the past in health care, and how effective it has been in terms of increasing the health of Manitobans. That will guide us to proper policy decisions and funding decisions in the future, and above and beyond all we have initiated a number of health promotion projects and illness promotion projects, and injury prevention projects, not only in the health services development fund, but in the health promotion fund and in direct departmental programming.

Those initiatives, over the long run, will bear very, very good results for the people of Manitoba in encouraging them to take more personal ownership in their well-being, their status of health, so that indeed the health care system will be there when they need it and not only there when they want it. Thank you.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) for relinquishing the floor, so that I can put a few remarks on the record of this debate.

I would like to start, Mr. Speaker, by congratulating you as many others in this House have done, on your return to the Chair. We were a little worried for a while there as it took some time to get the announcement out, but we are pleased nonetheless that you are here, even though you are a rather poor cribbage player.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker (Mrs. Dacquay) on her appointment. She is someone I have known for many years. In fact, we spent time at the same lake together, and I have come to know her and her family quite well. I would also like to congratulate the Chairperson of Committees (Mrs. Dacquay), the new Pages on their appointments here, and most of all I would like to congratulate the Premier (Mr. Filmon). He did win a victory. He does have a mandate to govern this province for a period of time. I think he needs to be given the time to put that mandate into force, and we need to be given the time to examine it and to make some of the comments in, I think, the rightful criticism of the policies of this Government.

* (1550)

Mr. Speaker, I want to start my remarks today by thanking the people of Osborne for continuing to

support me. I said the last time I stood in this House, on my very first throne debate, that they did not make that decision lightly, that the people in Osborne take a long time. They take their politics very seriously, and they consider the issues very carefully.

I had a great many debates as I went around and spoke to them. Not just in the few weeks of the election campaign, but also in the months leading up to the election campaign and in the couple of years prior to the election campaign. I want to share with you today some of the things that they are concerned about, because I think they are the kinds of issues that need to come before this House. I would hope that they are the kinds of things that this Government will be considering as it is looking to implement policy over the next four years.

One of the things that disturbs me, and it is an issue that has been raised with me many times over the last year, is the number of elderly people in my constituency who are in danger of losing their homes because high taxes and inflation are eroding their somewhat limited incomes. They are not going to lose their homes because someone is going to come and take it away, they are going to lose their homes because year after year they simply do not have the resources to make the repairs. They do not have the ability to do the maintenance on their homes. They do not have the wherewithal to, and they cannot do it themselves; they are becoming old and frail.

I have one woman who is some 92 years old, still living on her own, still supporting herself, still playing an active role in the community and still very much wanting to live in her own home.

We know, and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will tell us, that people who remain in their own homes as they get older tend to be healthier, tend to be more active, tend to require less medical care, and yet we have a problem.

I had a man down on Jubilee Avenue, a retired railway employee, who phoned me in tears because he is going to have to give up his house because he is simply on a very limited pension, cannot pay to have the basement replaced. He is going to go into one of these senior citizens homes, and we are going to subsidize his ability to live there. He is going to be unhappy and not able to play the same role in the community he has been able to play for these many years.

I am not going to stand here and suggest that the Government can solve that problem completely. I am not going to suggest that we simply write a cheque, but I think there are things we can do through the Seniors Directorate, asking for co-operation from MSOS and other seniors groups to begin to co-ordinate some services to these people and to begin to help them find ways to access what are relatively small amounts of service that will greatly enhance their quality of life.

My constituency, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is 50 percent new. I only represent 50 percent of those I represented in the last House, 50 percent of the people who currently live in the constituency, and I have picked up an area that is just south of the river, just south of this building, that is the most densely populated area in the City of Winnipeg. Living in that area are an awful lot of people who live in apartment blocks, and a goodly proportion of those people are seniors, again. They are not living in their own homes in the sense of houses in the community; they are living in apartments.

One of the things they raised with me, and one of the things I have seen all too often in the north end of my riding, is the fear that elderly women have walking the streets—just three blocks south of here. They are afraid to go out and walk down to the Osborne Village from Roslyn Road. We need I think to hear that. We need to listen to that concern. I think it is shameful that in 1990 in Winnipeg elderly women are afraid to walk the streets. I do not think that is an issue that we can remain blind to. I think it is something there are ways to deal with, there are ways within the community to bring more activity to the streets, to light them a little better, to see that the police are back walking the streets. We had community police in the streets a year ago; we no longer have them. I think that is an issue that should be raised with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) and with this Government.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency are also concerned about the environment. We had discussions in this House last time about the snow-dumping site down on the river bank, on Churchill Drive, behind Churchill High School. It is interesting how the people in Osborne constituency deal with these things, because when that policy decision was made not to dump snow on that site any more, there was a big party held in my constituency. Surreptitiously, late at night, a large group of people went down to that snow-dumping

site and they planted 300 maple trees all over that site, because they want to own that site. They want that piece of land to come back to the community; they want to play down there; they want to take their kids down there; they want to walk down there. They do not want to have that eyesore there any more. They are not asking Government to do it; they are prepared to do it themselves.

We have a young man in my constituency, Matthew Lawrence, who, all by himself, has started a recycling program that services 1,000 people in my area. Once a month he goes around and picks up all the recyclables and he takes them down to the various depots and drops them off.

So I think when you hear the message from the Government about the need for restraint and the need to cut back and the need to not increase the tax burden on people—that is a message I think we all heard.

The Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) is quite right when he talks about the disgust that some people have with politicians who come to them and promise them anything in order to get their support but never worry about where it is going to come from, because it is indeed coming out of the pockets of a great many people.

Mr. Speaker, there is another issue that came up. It is an issue that we are going to be debating in this House in hopefully the not too distant future. It is the emergence of Bill 13, the new Residential Tenancies Act. I want to just share for a moment a couple of experiences that I had under the existing Act.

There are a great many apartment blocks. More than 50 percent of the people in my riding live in apartments. There was one in particular which was a small block, 12 units, down on Nassau Avenue, where a new landlord bought the block just a year ago and immediately applied for a 26 percent increase in the rents. The department approved it, just like that, without seemingly any consideration. The landlord asked for it and it was given.

The people who lived in that block were understandably shocked at a 25 percent increase in your basic costs. I expect we all would be. -(interjection)-

I can understand the uncomfortability of the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ducharme) on this particular issue, but I really would appreciate it if he

would listen for a second, because there is a serious problem.

This particular landlord, Mr. Speaker, had hired a company to renovate the block. Then that company had billed them, and on the basis of the bills he had gone to the department and said: Okay, now I have to increase my rents because I have these legitimate expenses.

The company he hired was his own company. He hired himself to do the work. He billed his housing company to do the repairs. When we went through it—and the people in the block went through it very carefully—and they looked at how much he charged for the hourly rate for labour. They even went down and priced the hardware that he put on the doors and the wood that he put on the parking lot and they found that he overcharged according to standard wage rates, and the equipment he was purchasing he overcharged by better than 60 percent. They made that case to the Rent Appeals Board.

I went with them to that. I sat and listened with some interest as that case was debated. Despite the fact that there is a provision within the Act that says you must operate at arms length, and despite the fact that the tenants from the building put compelling evidence before the committee, their request was denied. I think there is a flaw.

I learned a lot in that case, because I learned that the guidelines we talk about, in that case a three percent guideline—although I noticed the Government raised it very quickly after the election, it is now a four percent guideline—really amounts to nothing. It is not a restriction on the ability of landlords to raise rents, it is simply a sock I think to the public conscience.

I had another one, down on 300 Roslyn Road. I learned something else about the Act. A landlord went in and made some capital renovations. He replaced fridges and stoves and other things. These were needed, but he was able to amortize the cost of 20-year-old stoves and fridges over six years, and he is able to pay off the cost of that new equipment completely in six years. Then the tenants bear the cost, or they continue to pay him the rent he gets despite the fact that equipment is more than paid for.

* (1600)

I think there needs to be some careful second thought brought to the housing Act. I think there needs to be some thought given to how we allow landlords and tenants to interact in a fair and more

productive manner. The kind of battling that I have witnessed in this last year and the kind of weight that the landlords have in those discussions I think is quite unacceptable in 1990 in Manitoba.

I also have on the east side of Osborne an awful lot of houses that are falling into disrepair, that are being crowded into apartments that formerly housed one person, are now being broken up into units where they are housing two and three and four and five and six people, and they are charging rents that have quadrupled the incomes of the owners of the houses, for much less service. The department seems powerless to act.

We are allowing people to live in housing conditions that are absolutely unacceptable, and we are not doing anything to ask landlords to hold up their end in this contract.

Mr. Speaker, we also have a problem in the housing department with the seniors' housing. I have a number of units in my constituency: 400 Stradbrook, 64 Nassau, 601 Osborne, 285 Pembina Highway. One of the things you notice, particularly with the large subsidized housing projects, is the number of vacancies. In a sense it is a reflection of the success that we have had in the last few years in providing good quality housing for seniors that we started back in the late '60s when many seniors were living in one-room rooming houses without any sort of services, any quality support. When we built them in the early '70s, one-room bachelor apartments, that was quite an acceptable solution, and a lot of people thought that their quality of life was greatly improved to being able to access such housing for only 25 percent of their income.

But times have changed, Mr. Speaker. In a sense, some of the seniors have become wealthier and they are not willing to live in those circumstances and we have vacancy rates. I understand, at 285 Smith, we have a vacancy rate close to 20 percent; we have a vacancy rate of 16 percent at 400 Stradbrook; we have a vacancy rate in the order of 18 percent at 285 Pembina Highway. So we have a lot of unused capacity, housing capacity, that could be better used, that could be used to meet the needs of people. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has talked repeatedly about the need for supported housing and nursing home care and other forms of care for people whose care needs are a little above average, and there is capacity, unused capacity in those residences. I think there needs to be some meeting between the Department of Housing and

the service providers to see if there is not some way to better utilize the capacity that exists there.

Mr. Speaker, a final thought: it is for the Minister of Health. There is one thing that disturbs me about this Speech from the Throne. One thing that I see as missing from the Speech from the Throne, right off the start; there is no mention of the commitment that was made prior to the election about the Municipal Hospital. There is no statement in this that says that they are going to follow through on their pre-election commitment. As I have said before in this House, there are in excess of 200 people who live in that hospital, who live in very substandard conditions, who do not receive a quality of life that I think any of us would want our parents to receive. This Government has known about that since it came to office and they refused—the Minister of Health used to laugh about it. He used to make fun of us when we raised it. Just before the election there was a glimmer of hope. Just before the election the Minister said: No, we are finally recognizing that there is a problem; we agree with you; we are going to act; we are going to replace that hospital. We had an election; we now have the Speech from the Throne; and we have no mention of that promise. It seems to have disappeared.

I hope that it has not; I hope that the Minister will follow through. I will stand and applaud him at the opening ceremonies that will accompany that new building; but, if they have done what they have done so often before—that is, promise something before the election for the optics and not follow through—I think it is something that we have to look on very seriously in this House because this is a Government that governs for image, not for substance. This is a Government that evokes beautiful images about what it is going to do and what is happening in this province, but it does not deliver anything to support those images.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting, as I read this Speech from the Throne, because there are some things in the Speech from the Throne that I like. There are some things in the Speech from the Throne that I think are necessary for this province, but the Premier, or the drafters of this Speech from the Throne, ask a question, or they pose a challenge to us and they say: What we did with our tremendous good fortune, compared to those that have started with so much less. What they are doing in that statement is they are comparing the state of affairs in this province with other parts of the world, and

they are asking the question: What will the youth of this province say about us in the future?

They evoke images, Mr. Speaker, in this Speech from the Throne that I think are beautiful and powerful and exciting images. They talk about Tiananmen Square, and they talk about the Gdansk Shipyards, and they talk about the Berlin Wall. They talk about the excitement of building democracies throughout the world, and they talk about the need to end elite accommodation in this country. They evoke the images that are images of power, of strength, of caring and of concern about people, and then they bring forward a Speech from the Throne that does none of those things. It does nothing to end elite accommodation that panders to one sector of the community while it ignores the rest.

They stand in this House, as the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) has done, and say, I am powerless to do anything. These people can lose their homes. We can just ignore the fact that these kids are abused. It is not my problem. It is the agencies' problem. They simply refuse to see day after day that there is a problem in this province. How many times has the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) or the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) or myself, or others asked the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) about the economic conditions in this province? We had a discussion today and the Premier (Mr. Filmon) stood up and said there have been 25,000 more jobs created in this province since he came to office. Mr. Speaker, the truth is there 9,000 fewer people employed today than there were two years ago, not 25,000 more, 9,000 less.

The Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Ernst) got caught a little bit -(interjection)- That is right. He stood up in the House and he said, free trade has increased our economic activity in this province by \$1 billion. He said it. It is on the record. In his eagerness to defend the Free Trade Agreement, he made a statement that was in error. In fairness to the Minister, he has admitted his error, but the fact is, Mr. Speaker, we are almost \$300 million worse off in our trade with the U.S. at the end of '89 than we were at the end of '88. We have not done better under free trade; we have done worse. There are a few companies that have done better. A few elites in this province are doing better. Mr. Fraser, I am sure, is a happy man, but there are thousands of people who are doing much worse.

Do you know in the first six months of this year we lost another 2,700 people to net migration

interprovincially? Another 2,700 people left this province. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) raises the standard Conservative reaction, well, so what? They left, but somebody else lost more. Well, we live here in Manitoba and I am concerned about the 2,700 who felt they had to leave this province in order to find work. I am concerned about the fact that we have 9,000 fewer jobs. I am concerned about the fact that people cannot find quality work in this province any more. They find part-time jobs and that is it. -(interjection)-

Now, the Member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) spouts another Conservative witticism and factual inaccuracy. He says that it is seniors going south for warmth. Well, we did a study of that because I wondered if it was people moving west to Victoria because of the better climate, but in fact seniors moving out of this province to other provinces account for 5 percent of the migration, just 5 percent. The bulk of it is people in their prime working years who are moving out of this province because they cannot find work here, because we have done nothing in this province in the last two years to stimulate the development of quality jobs in this province.

I was interested in the Speech from the Throne to notice that there are some things that have come forward that talk—you know again you get this sense of powerful images. They talk about investing, making Manitoba strong. They are going to invest in the development of new technologies. They are going to invest in training. Things we talked about in the election campaign and they laughed at, but at least they have heard the message and they are prepared to act. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, it is too little, too late. They needed to act two years ago. We told them that they needed to make some of these investments in this province then to prevent the very problems that we are facing today.

* (1610)

Mr. Speaker, it is getting desperate in this province. Revenues in this province in the first quarter of this year went up two one-hundredths of one percent over the same period in the previous year. That was in the very first quarter of this fiscal year, a time when we were just beginning to slide. We are now getting further and further into trouble, and I suspect on Wednesday we are going to see a very bleak picture from the Minister of Finance (Mr.

Manness). Why he has not been more forthcoming about that to date, I do not know.

I think there is a great deal of foolishness reflected in the actions of the Minister of Finance, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Member for Charleswood (Mr. Ernst) as they stand and talk about how wonderful everything is here. Who do they think they are kidding? They are not fooling the people down the street here on Broadway. They are not fooling the farmers. People know how tough it is in this province right now. Do they think that if they just pretend it is not happening that some mythical person from some other part of the world will come in with a huge amount of money and invest in factories here without bothering to check it out?

Anybody who is going to make an investment in this province is going to look very carefully at the economics, and they are going to want to know that they have a Government that has a handle on what is happening here. They are going to want to know that there is some willingness on the part of the Government to manage what is happening in this province, not to simply let it slide away.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to talk a lot more about the economy in this province and finances in a couple of days, so I want to speak a little bit about some of the responsibilities.

I want to talk a bit about Family Services, because as Members in this House know, I have a background in this area. I have worked most of my life in Family Services. When I first came into the House, I decided that I would not take on responsibility for this portfolio, because I felt that I needed to get some distance from it. So I come back into these responsibilities now with a bit of that distance, a bit of time away from the field and with a great deal of excitement, in a sense, because it is like coming home. It is coming back to those services that I have worked in, coming back to those people whom I have worked with for so many years.

I said to the Minister of Family Services shortly after he was appointed that I congratulated him on his appointment, and I also commiserated with him, as I did with the previous Minister. This is the most difficult department in Government to manage. You know, the Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) at one time in a conversation commented that it was the department of human misery, because it was in fact that department that deals

with those things that are most unfortunate about whom and what we are as people.

It is that department that is responsible for providing some support to women when they are battered, and some protection to women. It is that department that is charged with the responsibility of seeing that children are protected or that handicapped people receive some financial support. It is that department that is charged in some way with providing some leadership to show us that there is another way to manage our affairs in this community.

I must confess, Mr. Speaker, already I am concerned. I am concerned with the actions of the Minister in this last little while. Now, granted he has not been Minister very long. We will have to give him a little more time and see what he learns on the job, but his response thus far has been, Mr. Manness says I cannot. This Minister has followed the lead of Mr. Manness before. I hope that he will not in the future. I hope that he will set a course for his department that allows us, the people in this House, the people in this province, to think about what we do to protect those most vulnerable people in our community.

We had a debate in this House in the last Session about foster parents, and an issue came up last week involving a foster parent. The department has a new proposal forward on the funding of foster parents. I want to talk about that a little bit because it causes me a great deal of concern.

We discovered in the late '70s that we were having a very serious problem accessing foster parents in this province because people were working, families required two incomes and it was easier to generate some financial support. You could no longer to stay at home; you no longer had the luxury of staying home and raising kids; you had to generate some financial support. As a result, we were losing very rapidly the number of foster parents that we had in this province, and particularly we were losing foster parents for older kids or for handicapped kids. We could always find support for cute babies or young latency aged kids, but for the harder-to-manage kids we could not.

So we instituted a policy that provided some income support to foster parents. We asked people to take this on as a profession, providing care for these very difficult to manage kids. In doing that, we recognized that paramount in this service was the

ability to provide some permanency and some stability to kids, because when you take children out of their own homes, when you take them away from the traditional supports that they have had in their family, you cannot move them around. You have to put them into another setting and let them stay there, let them develop some of the same roots and permanence that they have or that we have all had in our own homes.

The department has begun to change that. It started to change that last year. It changes it with the language of responsibility. It changes it with the image of attempting to manage efficiently, but the result is the same result that we have had before.

We take kids from very difficult situations, kids that have been through forms of abuse that I do not think any of us can imagine. We put them into homes with caring people; we allow them to develop a relationship; we encourage them to develop a relationship; we encourage them to develop some sense of ownership of the home; we encourage them to get involved with a school and a community centre and to become part of a neighbourhood; and as soon as they begin to become healthy, emotionally healthy again, as soon as they begin to feel better about themselves, a member of the department walks in and says, oh, well, we have to stop this now because it is costing too much.

So we tear them out of that home and we move them some place else. Then they have a problem again, as you and I might at age 13, 14 to have this happen to us, and so we move them into another home. At age 16 or 17, after they have been through four, or five, or six, or a dozen homes, then we talk about how they have a problem relating to people, and how they do not seem to be able to bond. Well, we add to that problem. We do not create it, but we make it worse.

I think that is an issue this department should confront, and that this department is being very wrong-headed right now. I think it is going in exactly the opposite direction with this proposal to level foster homes; it is a destructive, inhuman policy and one that I hope will be scrapped immediately.

I raised a case with the Minister last week. It was the case of a young man who has multiple sclerosis, who is living in a wheelchair, who has been in a foster home for a year, who has had that kind of stability that I was talking about. He will not be allowed to continue in that home, if you can believe

what is written in the papers, because this Minister is afraid of setting a precedent. Well, that precedent has been set. I think if the Minister were to go back into his files and if he were to ask the department, he would find that there are a dozen such cases right now, two dozen.

In any system that deals with people you cannot build a set of rules that functions for everybody. Because of what we are as people there will always be exceptions, and you have to build a system that embraces the exceptions, that does not allow them to fall between the cracks and simply suffer as a result of our inability to look at them. There is a system for that; it is called ministerial permit.

It is a system that allows the exceptional case to be raised to the Minister for action and places the responsibility squarely on the desk of the Minister. I do not think it is a responsibility that he can hide from by saying, well, Mr. Manness says, I cannot, or by saying, it is the agency's responsibility. It is a responsibility that the Minister has to accept and has to address, and he is faced with that responsibility now.

* (1620)

Now, he did say, when it came to the question of emergency services for the City of Winnipeg, it is not for me to manage. It is the agency's responsibility. I agree with him in that. Actually, I commend him for saying that, because I think that in one way he is quite right. The agencies should be held accountable. One of the reasons why we are in the problem that we are in right now, I believe, is because the agencies have not been held accountable starting back in 1986 and '87.

With the situation that confronts us right now—and let us just look at the situation regarding emergency services in the City of Winnipeg. We have three agencies involved in supporting a service to provide emergency night support to northwest, central and south Winnipeg. South Winnipeg does not provide staff to that service; they make a cash payment of \$52,000 in lieu of staffing. Northwest and Central both contribute staff and money to see that this service is operated. Well, because of Mr. Manness's desire to restrain, South Winnipeg is not able to contribute the \$52,000 that they have in the past. Because of this, the system is under great pressure, a system that is the only protection between 4:30 in the evening and eight

o'clock in the morning and on weekends for children and families in this city.

If you look in your phone book, you ask what is the emergency service for families, you get the number of that service. So while it ostensibly serves just three agencies, it in fact refers for the entire city, and that is the service that we are cutting back. Today, Mr. Speaker, there are studies done that suggest that 50 percent of the children in care come into care between 4:30 in the afternoon and eight o'clock in the morning. That front-line service, at the time when a family is in crisis, is the time to confront it and to deal with the pressures within the family that are creating that crisis. Instead of providing the service then, we provide very small, very limited service that does nothing more than bring children into care, does nothing to keep them out of care.

I am going to raise one other issue that is particularly near to me. I raised it with the previous Minister only to find that no action took place in two years, so I will raise it with this one again. We operate a facility called Seven Oaks Centre for Youth. We spent, I believe, \$1.8 million in the last year on this facility. This facility operates illegally. It incarcerates children who have not committed any crime. Kids are picked up by the police. They are taken, and they are locked up in this facility despite the fact that they have committed no crime other than to be a child.

Every legal opinion we have says that this is not proper and that should it be challenged before the Charter of Rights—and we have been threatened with those challenges—it would not stand up in court. Nonetheless, we continue to do it. We continue to waste \$1.8 million operating a facility that is a detriment to the system and a detriment to children.

An Honourable Member: Why are we doing that?

Mr. Alcock: I think we are doing it because we are completely wrong-headed in how we provide services to children. There is \$1.8 million there that could be better directed towards the services to children and family, and better directed to night services and to emergency services for abused children than simply serving as a receptacle for locking up kids who have committed no crime. If you want to provide treatment for children, provide treatment. Incarceration is not treatment. In Canada, you are entitled to remain free unless you

have done something to deprive yourself of that freedom. So I would ask the Minister to look at that.

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): If there is such a thing as an unmanageable juvenile that simply has to be looked after.

Mr. Alcock: Now the Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) says there is such a thing as an unmanageable juvenile that has to be looked after. Every other province in this country has refused to operate the kind of facility that we operate at Seven Oaks. There are children who break the law; they should go to the Youth Centre. There are children who are mentally ill and a danger to themselves; they should go to the youth facility at the psychiatric facility. What we are doing, spending \$1.8 million to lock up children, is simply a hangover from many decades ago. It is something we should cease doing immediately.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to have to close. I want to end, I think, with just one other comment. I believe this is a time in this province when we are going to have to reconsider a great many of the things that we do, economically, in the management of the public sector, and certainly in the management of our social services.

The family service network—I mean I would like us just to stop for a minute and concentrate on what we are talking about here, because when the Members opposite talk about the need for tax reform, and the need for control over our expenditure, the services to provide protection for children in this province, the services that they attack so willingly, so frequently, account for one half of one percent of our entire expenditure. One half of one percent of the budget is what they are striving so valiantly to cut, but it is that one half of one percent that provides some measure of protection for children who are being abused, or families that are being torn about, or women who are being attacked. I do not think that is too big a price to pay. In fact, we might be a little better off if we were prepared to spend a little more.

We talk in this budget about Tiananmen Square. I know people who have been there. I know people who were there during that demonstration. We talk about Nelson Mandela. We evoke the image of Nelson Mandela. I have black friends from South Africa, and they talk about elite accommodation. They do not talk about a province that celebrates the

fact that the son of some woman in England comes over here, and we spend a lot of time and energy saying how wonderful that is.

They do not start their discussions talking about the rights and responsibilities and privileges that come through birth. They talk about trying to build a community in which people work together and share and are equal because they are people. I think that is the kind of discussion that we should have here. I am delighted to see the images that appear in this budget speech, but I do not see any action to support those images. I do not see this Government doing a single thing that allows them to evoke those images. I am going to stop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Cliff Evans (Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I wish to begin my first speech in this Chamber by congratulating you on your election as Speaker of the Assembly. As a new Member, I know your guidance, wisdom, and assistance will be of great help to me and to the many new Members, especially in our caucus. Your task is a difficult one, as I have witnessed in the last few days, but I am certain your dedication will serve you well, and I look forward to your fairness in the proceedings here.

I congratulate the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) for her appointment as Deputy Speaker, and I look forward to her guidance as well. I would like to congratulate all the newly elected Members, my colleagues, and Members from all Parties, and I offer my congratulations to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey), as Mover of the throne speech, and the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose), as Secunder. I would like to thank the Clerk and his staff for their informative sessions, that they took out time to help the new Members prepare for their new surroundings. I look forward to working with all Members to improve the quality of life for all Manitobans, especially those who are less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, this is a special day for me as a newly elected NDP Member for Interlake, as it gives me the opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, the Honourable Bill Uruski, who decided to retire from this Assembly after serving Interlake and Manitobans in many capacities for 21 years.

For the record, I would like to highlight some of Mr. Uruski's achievements. His role on behalf of rural Manitoba as Minister of Agriculture was instrumental in revamping the Manitoba Agricultural

Credit Corporation's lending policies to better serve the family farm. Just a few years ago, he proposed a guaranteed income plan that is now being discussed to help further our family farms.

* (1630)

Mr. Speaker, his dedication as a New Democrat viewed Government and its role as an instrument of bringing about greater opportunity in our society for those who have less. In his role as Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation in the early '70s, he helped shape this public corporation to become a fundamental part of Manitoba, working for Manitobans, as well as providing Manitobans with the most comprehensive auto insurance in North America.

His fight for better housing, education for our Native people, seniors' housing, home care and personal care, are but a few programs that I will continue to fight for and do my best. Interlakers and Manitobans alike, I am certain, were proud to have had Mr. Uruski as a representative, and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that we here today wish Bill and Elaine and his family the very best.

It is customary for a new Member to describe the constituency that he represents. If ever an area portrayed the multiculturalism of our province, the Interlake does. Our Native brothers and sisters represent more than 20 percent of the people in the Interlake constituency. The east side along Lake Winnipeg, from the south boundary of the RM of Bifrost to Matheson Island is the home of Icelandic settlers, interwoven with a mixture of Polish, Ukrainian, Metis, Scottish, English, and German Mennonites.

The communities of Hnaua, Finns, Arborg, Silver, Rembrandt, Meleb, Fraserwood, Komarno, Pine Dock, Hecla Island, Matheson Island and Riverton, my home community, make up the east, east central and northeast of the riding. Centrolling from Inwood in the south to Jackhead in the north, the Interlake is populated with Scandinavian, British, French, Slavic and German. The communities and district in this area include Inwood, Sandridge, Narcisse, Chatfield, Poplarfield, Broad Valley, Fisher Branch, Hodgson, Peguis, Dallas, Red Rose, Koostatak, Fisher Bay, Lake St. George and Jackhead.

The western part of Interlake includes Dog Creek Reserve and Vogar, with the remainder of Interlake from Highway 68 to the south, to the 53rd parallel

north include the communities of Mulvihill, Camper, Oakview, Narrows, Ashern, Moosehorn, Grahamdale, Faulkner, Steep Rock, Hilbre, Fairford, Little Saskatchewan and Lake St. Martin Reserves, Gypsumville, St. Martin, Pineimuta Place and Dauphin River on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, a large area with many cultures and communities spread throughout the Interlake. Agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining and manufacturing, and tourism, as well as a large service sector, constitute the mainstay of our economy. As our farms and fishing go, so go our small businesses and communities.

Each community has its uniqueness, strengths and needs, and I would like to mention a few issues and needs that will give Members an opportunity to hear once again the problems we face in the Interlake, and that I will certainly raise. Because of the depression in farm incomes, all our area feels the same pressures family farms are facing. High interest rates, brought on by federal Conservatives, are having disastrous effects on all farmers, fishermen, small businesses and home owners.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

What, Mr. Acting Speaker, does this Government propose to do? Very little that I have noticed in the throne speech, and so much for the action and inaction for our farmers, small businessmen, fishermen and families.

Nothing in this throne speech recognizes the recession. No proposals to help workers and their families. No new initiatives in day care. Where does that put the Fisher Branch day care in my constituency which has applied for and waited for nearly two years for funding from this Government and, as of to date, still has not received one red cent?

There is no commitment of funding for shelters or support structures for parent and child centres. Where will that put the Lundar-Eriksdale-Ashern proposal for a resource centre into this Government's priority when the proposals are put forth? Where to, for the same organization, Mr. Acting Speaker, are funds that have been asked for and applied for, for over a year to increase the funding for a necessary crisis centre in Ashern? Where is the Government's priority?

Where, again, will that put Riverton and area survey and proposal for a badly needed personal

care home in Riverton? Where is the Government's priority? Will the Government help? The message I get from the throne speech appears to be deficit reduction and tax breaks as a priority for businesses with services to the people of Manitoba secondary. I believe that the Conservative way of caring is a trickle-down theory in the provision of jobs and services.

Mr. Acting Speaker, where are this Government's commitment and plans to rural diversification? Will there be support and funding for the Washow Bay project? Will the funding be in place to complete some of the work this fall? The Premier (Mr. Filmon) himself indicated he supported the project during the campaign, or was this an election promise?

Also, the municipal members of the Interlake Development Corporation have been working on feasible studies and proposals and have presented them to this Government for an alfalfa processing plant to be built in the Interlake, an opportunity for jobs and an economic boost for my constituency. Will there be Government support for this project?

Mr. Acting Speaker, where do I see a Government commitment to our aboriginal peoples? Where are the aboriginal concerns as they relate to the Constitution, Treaty Land Entitlement, education, housing and justice issues? Not a priority for this Government, not even mentioned in the throne speech.

This Government's support for Mr. Mulroney's free trade deal will cost us dearly in the future as it relates to the crisis of high fuel prices. The free trade deal guarantees a consistent proportion of exports based on the previous three years, so when Manitobans and Canadians experience any future shortfall our neighbours to the south will be guaranteed a consistent supply. Mr. Acting Speaker, my constituents and Manitobans are demanding action in this area.

There are many more issues, Mr. Acting Speaker. Cutbacks in health care, needs for nursing home beds, highway construction and upgrading, and community infrastructure, that I will bring forth to this Government in the future.

I was raised and obtained my education and lived until 1983 in Transcona, now represented by two of my colleagues, the representative for Transcona and the representative for Radisson, where support for New Democrats, such as, the Honourable Russ Paulley, the Honourable Wilson Parasiuk and

federally, the Honourable Bill Blaikie has been long outstanding. Now I live in a constituency and area where there too, the support for the New Democratic Party has been longstanding and will continue to be there, the support for the New Democrats in the Interlake.

Mr. Acting Speaker, for most of the last seven years I have lived in rural Manitoba, making Riverton and the Interlake my home since July of '87. My first few years in Riverton were spent involved with community projects, committees, doing what I could do to work with people and help not only Riverton and area, but as I soon discovered, the whole of the Interlake.

In October '89, I am proud to say that I was elected mayor of Riverton. This position gave me the opportunity to meet not only other municipal officials of the Interlake and Manitoba, but people whose problems and goals were the same for their communities as were mine in my community. This community involvement, in my position as mayor, brought to my attention the needs of the Interlake and made me decide, Mr. Acting Speaker, to announce my candidacy for the September election. I may add that because of time and commitment as mayor of Riverton, I was unable to hit the campaign trail as soon as I wanted to and had only approximately 23 days to do my campaigning.

* (1640)

It shows to me, Mr. Acting Speaker, the support again that I would like to mention for the New Democratic Party. On that note I now want to take this opportunity to thank all the people of the Interlake for their support and confidence on September 11, 1990. It is indeed an honour and a privilege to be shown this confidence. I also want to thank all of those who worked so hard during my campaign. Dedication, great efforts and long hours were a major contribution to my being here before you today.

As you know, Mr. Acting Speaker, and as my elected colleagues know, during election campaigns and during future legislative sessions our families are sometimes left behind to take care of family matters, homes, businesses, our children. I take this opportunity to give special thanks to my wife Linda, my son Tyler and my daughter Kelsey for their support and love during the time that dad and husband were not there. To my constituents, friends and family I pledge to work as diligently as I

can during the next months and years and will work for you to the best of my ability. Your concerns I will raise. Your advice and counsel I look forward to. Mr. Acting Speaker, thank you.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Acting Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the throne speech again on this I believe the ninth occasion, and we have had many excellent throne speeches over the years in this House. However, lately of course they have been deteriorating and I guess the one that we have seen before this House on this particular occasion is one of the poorest ones that we have seen in many years in terms of addressing the problems that Manitobans are facing at this particular time. It is obvious that the Members of the Government are anxious to get in and out of this House as quickly as possible and not have to deal with the real issues facing Manitobans.

I want to take this opportunity first of all to join my congratulations with many others who have spoken before me, as is customary, to congratulate many Members of this Chamber, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for their appointments and I particularly want to congratulate all of the new Members of the Legislature on both sides or all sides of this House, if we can call it that. There are none from the Liberals, I notice, in terms of new Members, so it would really just be both sides of the House that we see new Members to congratulate.

I want to say first of all that I am extremely pleased to see so many Members on our side of the House as official Opposition, new Members who have joined us in this caucus. I can tell you that I also join I am sure with our leader in admiration for the tremendous abilities and talents of the people who have been elected on this side of the House. As a matter of fact we have been very impressed with their involvement during the first month of being elected. Certainly in the Legislature they have been very competent and they bring a wide range of talents and expertise to the Legislature.

On the other side of the House, we see a number of new Members as well and I want to congratulate them. Certainly there have been people elected who will improve the overall status in terms of ability on that side of the House. I think eventually we will have some of those in the Cabinet. I do not think Nathan Nurgitz was talking about the new Members that were elected when he was talking about the yellow dog syndrome that many of the older Members that have been here for some time, the more

experienced Members who have been here for some time, represent or reflect the yellow dog syndrome.

I am sure that we hear the comments coming from those people, including the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) from time to time, when he expounds at great length on all kinds of issues, but never deals with the questions when he is asked a question in this House. He is very proud of that as I am sure many other of those products of that syndrome are. I want to tell you that whenever they do get out of line, I am sure that we can advise them to find a hydrant somewhere as many of them did -(interjection)- well, Mr. Acting Speaker, I just want to say that the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) is taking this very personally -(interjection)- I think it is because the senator, who is in favour of the GST, was also the campaign manager for the Conservatives who brought forward that proposition and talked about this as an issue that he said they could run anyone. It is not me that made this up in the first place. I want the Members of the Conservative Caucus and Members of the Government to know that, that he brought this forward, this proposition.

I do want to also extend a special welcome to the Member for La Verendrye (Mr. Sveinson), who is here. He is a person I have known for many years, since childhood as a matter of fact, and his family. He comes from the same area of the Interlake. Our family is being represented by the Member for Interlake (Mr. Cliff Evans) at this particular time. I do want to just extend a special welcome to him and wish him well in this new endeavour as he goes about representing his constituents.

Ladies and—well, ladies and gentlemen—I am still in my campaign speech mode here. Let me just say that I want to extend a special word of gratitude to my constituents for having faith in me at this particular time again, for their continuing support despite the fact that there was a lot of effort made by Members across the way to actually reverse that. It is a most humbling experience. I do want to extend my sincere thank you and gratitude to the constituents of the Dauphin constituency.

During the time that the election was on, we had the Premier (Mr. Filmon) in Dauphin six times. He came in five weeks, he came six times. I have been here virtually weekly, Filmon said. The reasons I keep coming back is, firstly, because I like Dauphin. Can you believe that? I am very pleased that he said

that, because I am going to be looking forward to seeing him come just as often over the next four years -(interjection)- Well, even if he comes six times over those four years, because he likes Dauphin. I am sure he is not going to stop liking Dauphin now that the election is over, and I would think that he would be back many times.

When he was approached with the proposition that perhaps the Bidzinski campaign cannot win on its own, he said that is ridiculous. He said why do the NDP have Wilf Hudson here if they are not worried? -(interjection)- Yes, that was an excellent comment, because the fact is Wilf Hudson of course is residing in Dauphin and joined the campaign there. I was very pleased that he was able to offer his experience in campaigns there, but it is something that, again, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) of this province was not aware of, just as he was not aware of so many other things.

I wish he would have misjudged the province as badly as he misjudged the Dauphin constituency over the last election, because certainly they would not have this squeaky majority that they have now. They would certainly be in Opposition, or perhaps even the third Party benches in this House, had he misjudged the province as badly as he did in the Dauphin constituency.

* (1650)

I found it rather interesting that the Premier, who does not live in his own constituency, was making quite an issue of the fact that I did not live in my own constituency. I do have a residence in Dauphin, but I was unable to vote in Dauphin because -(interjection)- —well, it really is not that funny. I will tell the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) about this, because the federal Members of Parliament under the Federal Act can, in fact, vote in the constituency where they run. But, provincially, we are not able to do that at the present time, and the Member for Niakwa (Mr. Reimer)—I am pleased to have him as my MLA. I am sure that a number of my friends in the Southdale area worked for the Member for Niakwa. I did not give them the support at that time I have to acknowledge, but I am very pleased that he is here. -(interjection)- A lot of the neighbours did.

The Premier (Mr. Filmon) did say, when he came to Dauphin, that the CBC is making a sequel to the movie, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. It is called, *John Doesn't Live Here Anymore, Either*. The fact is, he mentioned this an awful lot.

As a matter of fact, the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) mentioned it. She said that the MLA should have no problem living in his riding, Carstairs said when she was in Dauphin, Liberal Leader stresses residency of MLA. She said they should have no problem.

Now, it is easy for these urban Members to talk about where rural Members should reside. It is easy for them to say. I can say that at this time, because they have a double standard. In the case of the Premier (Mr. Filmon), he says it is not proper for an MLA not to live in his constituency. As a matter of fact, he made quite an issue of it, and he does not even live in his own constituency. Now what is this, a double standard? And even perhaps the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) from time to time has not lived in her own constituency.

You have a situation where people do not always, and a lot of Members cannot vote for themselves, but this was made as the biggest issue that ever came upon Dauphin. As a matter of fact, it is obvious that the people of Dauphin did not fall for this foolishness, because they understood that it is representation, not where one lives, that is the key consideration when electing a Member to the Legislature, or Parliament.

I am not saying that I have provided only the very best representation. I have done my best, and I think that many Members feel that they have, over the years, done their best in representing the Members. We know that we have not done a perfect job, certainly, but I think that, on balance, people felt that representation was more important, and being there and speaking up on the issues, and delivering for the constituency, as opposed to where you might reside.

They understood for the majority of the time. They understood as well, that it is really the family that you are talking about when you are talking about residency, where your family is going to live. In fact, I do not think that was a fair statement for them to be making in that campaign as well, because really they are not reflecting on where I am living, they are reflecting on where my family is living, and that is reflected in the legislative Act, which says that you must vote where your spouse and infant children reside. That is the way it is defined.

That is something that we should all think about, perhaps in terms of amendments to The Elections Act at some time in the future, because it seems to

me that if high school students who travel to university can vote either in the constituency where they are residing while they are going to university, or where their parents reside, in their home constituency, that MLAs perhaps could also have that option. It is something to consider.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I want to go on to some other matters that relate to my constituency briefly. I want to welcome new areas to the constituency. This election was somewhat different from previous elections in that the Electoral Boundaries Commission had made some changes to the Dauphin constituency as it did to a number of them. In my case, it brought in Grandview and Gilbert Plains; Grandview, the gateway to the Duck Mountains, as they are known locally because of their tremendous tourism potential and awareness; Shortdale; the Valley River Indian Reserve, I want to tell you that I had some excellent visits there, and I want to thank them for the tremendous support they gave me during the election and on election day.

We shared a number of concerns that they have, in depth, at visits and meetings that I had, and I know that I will want to represent some of the concerns that they had in injustices that have existed for years and that they have felt rather helpless in overcoming. They felt, I believe, that there really was not a lot that they could do, but I was shocked at some of the stories they told me about some of the issues that were affecting them.

In one case, for example, they told me about a cottage development at Singush Lake that is being planned where their sacred grounds are the subject of an archeological dig that is taking place at the present time. This is taking place right on their sacred ground where a cottage development could be put in place without their permission. They feel very bad about this. They feel that there should have been consultation. Obviously, they feel the same as we would if people are desecrating our burial grounds or cemeteries as we see quite often at the present time, with cemeteries being the object of vandalism, which I think outrages all of us. I think it is something that we want to deal with in this Legislature in terms of penalties.

Here these people were powerless to stop a dig while archeologists are busy sifting through the ground where many of their ancestors are buried near the Singush Lake. The Minister of Northern and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) should be aware that this is taking place in a proposed cottage

development in the Singush Lake area, and the Valley River Indian Reserve is very concerned about this dig taking place. So he might want to follow that up, and I certainly will be following that up with him and his colleagues.

I also want to welcome Gilbert Plains into the constituency, a beautiful and peaceful community that is suffering like all rural communities are suffering at the present time with the economy as it is and the agricultural economy being at perhaps the lowest ebb in 30 or 40 years, particularly for grain farmers. All of our rural areas are suffering, and certainly Gilbert Plains is one of those. They have a great many needs and expectations and hopes for the future. A lot of it lies with the provincial Government and those elected provincially as well as federally in terms of responding to those concerns. Those are some of the challenges that we face collectively and I as an individual in representing the area.

I also want to mention Ashville and Rorketon to the east, Toutes Aides, Magnet, a number of communities that provided me with a new experience in campaigning there and also tremendous support that I was not certain would be in those communities, having not served in those before. However, I was very pleased with those, and I know the Member for Morris, who is smiling now, is also very pleased. He came out to help me out at Dauphin, I believe, as well, along with 14 colleagues. -(interjection)- Oh, the Member was not there and he cannot take credit for the results.

I want to say that there were 14 Members, as reported in the Free Press, 14 Members, eight Cabinet Ministers and some six other MLAs who blitzed Dauphin and turned a lot of people in Dauphin off. I believe that a lot of those people would have liked to have seen those MLAs in their own constituencies representing their own people, bringing forward the concerns, discussing the campaign with them, rather than traipsing around the province, and I think they resented that.

As a matter of fact, because of the yellow-dog syndrome that exists in southern Manitoba they were able to do that, but in the future we would like to be able to turn that around. I think it will happen, because it happened in Ontario in some of the Tory bastions of power since Confederation where they were reversed. Even though they had voted Tory for a hundred years, they realized finally that they were not getting the representation or results from the

Conservatives that they elected and so they turfed them out. Inevitably, it will happen in this province as well. It will at least be a situation where they will not feel comfortable enough to be traipsing around the province engaging in door-to-door activities in other constituencies and in fact losing more votes for themselves than they are gaining.

Now, Mr. Acting Speaker, we do have tremendous challenges ahead in my constituency, in the Dauphin constituency—day cares that need funding, personal care homes that need to be built, roads, schools to remain open and, with equitable funding from the provincial Government, creation of jobs and economic activity, industrial activity so that there are long-term jobs. There is a tremendous challenge for our rural areas, and that will be the challenge that I face in the next four years in representing the Dauphin constituency.

Now, Mr. Acting Speaker, the throne speech is usually a time where Members can talk about their constituency. I have done that to some extent here, reflected on the beautiful Dauphin constituency, but especially for new Members it is a time to reflect on their constituency. They also—the Members, the backbenchers in many cases this time, the backbenchers on the Government side—did not only talk about their constituency, they also in many cases talked about why they were so proud to be Tories and how awful those NDP were in their years in Government.

* (1700)

I see the brainwashing that has taken place there so quickly, and I find it a little bit humorous. I found the Member for Assiniboia's (Mrs. McIntosh) comments typified the comments of many of the Members on that side of the House. She said with some disdain in her voice—she referred to the deficit legacy and irresponsible fiscal management of the NDP—that it is costing -(interjection)- Right, she has the words just right here. The Member for Morris (Mr. Manness) said he loves this stuff.

The Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) said that the deficit and the irresponsible fiscal management is costing the hard-working men and women of Manitoba \$1.5 million a day. She also said, just because we Conservatives do not want to throw money around like confetti it does not mean we do not care. Now, I sense the same sort of arrogant disdain in those comments. I recognize

that in the new Member, and I do not mean to pick on the Member for Assiniboia.

I am sure that all of the Members have made some of those same statements, but I sensed a lot of the same approach, the same ideas, the same sense of disdain for the Members of the New Democratic Government in the Liberals when they first came into this Legislature in 1988 as they made their first speeches. They were literally bursting with competence, but those of us on this side of the House who were left from the New Democratic Government were just terribly bumbling and incompetent in their eyes. It just was a mess. They had all of the confidence at that time. We see that now too in some of the new Members who are sitting across the way.

I think, Mr. Acting Speaker, the Liberals found out differently, many of them, over that period of time, and perhaps at this time their numbers may reflect the competence that they displayed over those years. I am not saying it did, but I want to tell you that many of us have witnessed the whims of the electorate for many years, and we know that Parties come and go and numbers come and go. I am not going to dwell on that for a long period of time, but I think there is some element of reflection for the Liberals at this particular time because there was no doubt—the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) is commenting on this—that many of his colleagues went on and on to rub our noses in it in 1988, when they got elected, about how bad the previous New Democratic Government was.

Well, I want to tell you that in fact there was a myth that was perpetrated by the Conservatives at that time, along with much of the media at that time. We all have to realize that we are temporary custodians of the public purse, and every politician eventually knows that. I caution the Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh), and all those who feel the same way as her, that no one Party has a monopoly on competence of Members and fiscal responsibility, no one Party in this House has that, and I will illustrate that over the next few moments.

There are no simple answers either, or explanations about what happened at one particular time with one particular Government, as to why actions were taken that were taken at that particular time. I would advise the Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) and others that they would do well to place the rating of the Government at the time in

some context, context of the time that the Government served.

We all have to remember that the Lyon Government induced a recession in this province. That has been a well-known documented fact. In 1980, 1979, well ahead of the rest of the country, they induced recession as a result of acute protracted restraint in this province, and it resulted in a terrible reduction in revenue at that time. That is well known and revenue invariably has the major impact on deficits and we know that this was typical of the times. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) is reflecting on the fact, as I hear it, that the Mulroney Government also ran up a record deficit in this country over that period of time as well. They walked into a major deficit, but they did not bring it down, they have doubled that deficit over those years. Of course, they are Conservatives and here we have the Finance Minister, a Conservative, and all of his backbenchers there as well, who are saying that somehow the Tories are good fiscal managers. Well, look at the tax increases that the Mulroney Government has put in place, some \$1,500 per family over those years. How do you reconcile that? Are they so much different Tories in the federal level than they are here in the Province? They are not different Tories; they are all part of the same Party.

How can we explain that? How can we explain Grant Devine in Saskatchewan squandering the Saskatchewan Heritage Fund and the budget surpluses of Allan Blakeney after he came to Government into record deficits, per capita deficits almost as high as in Manitoba? How do we explain that? He was a Tory. Are they just bad fiscal managers in Saskatchewan and at the national level? What about in Alberta then? Peter Lougheed; he oversaw the greatest deficit in Alberta's history, in Alberta, oil rich Alberta. Was that because they are such good managers? Now come on, this is a real myth and every one of the Members sitting across the way understand that in their heart. They know it is a myth; they are no more good managers, or better managers of the economy than New Democrats are.

I say to the Member for Assiniboia, let not a new Member talk about how fiscally responsible Tories are, and just remember the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), who is so close to us across the way, got off to a running start on deficit reduction and it was based on the revenue side. He will admit that. It was not a number of major slashing and

cutting actions. Those will still come from this majority, although a slim majority, Conservative Government, in the next four years, but they did not reduce the deficit because of major cuts. It was because of revenue; it was on the revenue side, and the Minister of Finance knows that. It is not based on any competence, any myth of competence, for the Tories.

It was based primarily, I would say 100 percent, on Jim Walding good fortune. That is what it was based on—Eugene Kostyra's revenue measures and plan to balance the budget over a couple of years. That was started on a buoyant provincial economy yielding excellent revenue for the Government of that time as a result partially of the New Democratic years in Government, the windfall transfer payments from the federal Government. I am sure the new Members all know about that. So they realized that the reason that the Member for Morris (Mr. Manness), in his capacity of Finance Minister, was able to reduce the deficit primarily because of those roles, those factors.

An Honourable Member: He did not. He left them a surplus. He did not reduce them.

Mr. Plohman: Well, he did not actually. In 1988, the deficit would have been reduced in any event because of these factors that I talked about. He in fact—

An Honourable Member: He left them a surplus.

* (1710)

Mr. Plohman: —was able to take this. My Leader says that the surplus was left for him by the New Democratic Government. He claimed credit for it and put it into the Fiscal Stabilization Fund. So in fact for the new Members then, there was no great management, fiscal good management, by the Tories in the first two and a half years of Government, just like there will not be now.

They are not good managers. We have seen the examples throughout the country that I mentioned. So that is why the Manitoba Conservatives, because of the good fortune that the Minister of Finance walked into and the Government did during its first term, are able to brag about good fiscal management. That is why the Member for Assiniboia (Mrs. McIntosh) fell into the trap of worshipping the present Premier, one that many of the backbenchers fell into, I notice. It was not because he was such a good manager and Leader; no, it was -(interjection)- Well, there is the greatest

backstabber of them all, the Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard), saying yes, he is. Now what a conversion for the Member for Pembina, the Minister of Health. Now there he is, he almost took over the leadership just before -(interjection)- Now, Mr. Acting Speaker, it may be possible that there are some Members in the back bench who would like to have a Cabinet job or looking for a Cabinet job, and so they become worshippers of the Premier, but I want to say the facts are—

An Honourable Member: Did you see his signs? He had a great big Orchard and a little wee Filmon, and everybody else had a great big Filmon and a little wee Orchard.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Acting Speaker, it was rather humorous to see the signs during the last election, and of course the new Filmon Party, and very small mention of the Conservatives. They were trying to distance themselves from the Conservative Party, but I hear that in Pembina in fact it was reversed. The candidate's name was much larger than the Filmon and he had to actually pay a lot of extra dollars to get those limited editions printed.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the facts are that the deficit level is invariably a product of revenue fluctuations. There are many examples of that—the recession in Manitoba in the early '80s, which dropped the revenue; the gas tax removal in Saskatchewan which Devine did to get elected, which cost him the Heritage Fund; and the surpluses that were in place. It was a revenue factor again, revenue factors inevitably. In 1988 revenue factors made an impact, a tremendous impact, nearly 100 percent of the impact on any deficit reduction that took place. So in fact it has been the factor of revenue that has fluctuated the deficits in our province and right across this country.

The Member for Morris (Mr. Manness) knows that as Minister of Finance, and I hope that all Members would fundamentally understand that and put their good-management label in perspective when they talk about it in this House, because it is kind of difficult to take when in fact it is not reflecting accurately the facts, Mr. Acting Speaker.

Now if this Government continues to run lower deficits in the future and not increase taxes at the same time, they will have to employ the Sterling Lyon measures, the acute protracted restraint that took place in 1980 and '81. I do not doubt that they will resort to those tactics, but that is what they will

have to do. They are now going to have to live in the real world. Welcome to the real world in Government. I think now is when we are going to see in fact their true colours over the next three years or so if they last that long with the slim majority they have. I want to tell you that over that period in time, the Minister of Finance's (Mr. Manness) true colours are going to be shown clearly to the people of Manitoba, along with the Premier (Mr. Filmon), whom many of the backbenchers worship in this House.

What this Government has to start realizing is that it is the unfairness of taxation that people want dealt with. People want Governments to deal with unfair taxation. That is what people want Governments to deal with, not just the issue of taxation. You know, the Government, in its throne speech, Mr. Acting Speaker, talked about keeping taxes down. They devoted a whole section to that. But what they did not deal with is fairness of taxation, with the real issue that concerns the people of Manitoba and our country. They want to see fair taxation.

We have an unfair tax system that has been put in place in this country as a result of Conservative and Liberal Governments at the national level. I think it is hardly a coincidence that we have an unfair tax system when we have never had a New Democratic Government at the national level, and that is where the changes must be made, for fairer taxation at the national level.

It is the national Government that can in fact make fundamental changes to the taxation system and reflect the fairness that is not there at the present time. I would not expect there to be a fairness at the present time because in fact it is a product of the Liberal and Conservative Governments that have been in place nationally over those years. We have not had a national New Democratic Government. If we had, and we may be on the brink of having a New Democratic Government nationally. We know there will not be another Conservative one, that is pretty clear. Now when there is, then we will see an opportunity to reform the tax system in a meaningful way that will reflect fairness in taxation. It is something that is very difficult to do at the provincial level.

There are some things that can be done. The health and education levy that was put in place by the former Government was a way to achieve major revenue from large corporations. In fact, that was what happened. As a matter of fact, the previous

Government, when it put that in place, exempted about 90 percent of the small businesses in this province. Now the statistical information that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) throws around says that he exempted all these small businesses, and his Government did. Well, most of them were exempt already. They simply exempted a few, a marginal number more, about 5 percent of all businesses, their increase of the exemption level from some \$150,000 to \$300,000.00. So all it did was exempt a small margin number of small businesses in the province, but the majority of them, the vast majority, some 90 percent were exempt by the previous Government. It was a tax on the larger corporations and larger businesses in this province, and it was a way to get some revenue from those corporations that were not paying their fair share of tax. So that is something that a Government could do at a provincial level to try to bring some fairness to the tax system.

They can also put in place the concept of flat taxes before loopholes. I know some of the Members across the way certainly decry that kind of taxation system, but those -(interjection)- the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) was very pleased that he saw the flat tax in place, Mr. Acting Speaker, because in fact it enabled him to look good -(interjection)-

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laurendeau): Order.

Mr. Plozman:—during his first year in Government. It was not because of his management, as I said earlier.

Tax reform can only take place at the national level and what we have—and I know that everyone's favourite columnist, Frances Russell, has written a great deal about fair taxation recently, and what she said is that, "Between 1986 and 1989 corporate profits rose 34 percent while corporate taxes declined by 20 percent during that same time." Meanwhile, total personal direct taxes went up by more than 32 percent, and if we take in Government subsidies and transfers to businesses the amount collected, Mr. Acting Speaker, from corporations represented only 3.2 percent of the total Government revenue in 1987, which is absolutely outrageous.

People in this province and in this country want fairer taxation. They do not just want this kind of a headline in the throne speech, keeping taxes down. They want to know who is going to pay and how

much. That is the issue of the 1990s, and that is what this Government better start addressing because if they do not then they are going to be on the wrong side of a major issue and public opinion is certainly not going to be with them. I do not believe that they will be able to deal with it because they are not philosophically in tune with that particular concept.

The Members of the Conservative Party would like to say that we are spending too much, that is the problem. It is not fundamentally the problem. The problem is that the taxes are hitting on those who cannot afford to pay any more. We can get the revenue for all of the programs we have. We spend less in social services than most countries in the world, but the fact is it is not distributed properly, not sourced properly—the taxation in this country. I think that is one of the challenges that the Members on the other side should work toward changing.

One of the challenges that they have—as well as the ones that we have on this side and we will deal with in the years ahead—is, who pays, not the level of services. Yes, we want efficiency in Government. It is not hacking and slashing the services that are going to change the deficit picture tremendously in any event, it is the revenue side. The revenue can be received from those who are not paying their share in Canada today.

* (1720)

I say to Members on the opposite side of this House that if they believe that, if they believe the taxes are not there, they should stand up now. Stand up and say that, and do not just sit quietly behind their Government here in this province, sit blindly while the unfair tax system is perpetuated in this country. They have to stand up and say it is wrong. We need fairer taxation, and that is what we are going to work for, but that is enough about taxation at this particular time, Mr. Acting Speaker.

I want to talk a little bit about the ways that this Government is proposing to stimulate the economy and the problems in agriculture.

Now, Mr. Acting Speaker, can you tell me how much time I have left yet?

An Honourable Member: About 30 seconds.

Mr.. Plohma: Oh. -(interjection)- Well, it is under the papers here.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I am obviously going to have to end at what I wanted to be the major part of my speech, and that was agriculture and economic

development in this province. I will get into that in the future weeks in great detail because I am very disturbed with the way this Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) is endorsing the federal Government's policies in the same disastrous vein that they went with free trade, now with the GATT talks. We will indeed address those issues in this House.

Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker.

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker, for the opportunity to put a few remarks on the record regarding the throne speech.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Before I start I would like to add my congratulations to Mr. Speaker, on your reappointment as the Speaker of this Assembly. Your re-election speaks well of the confidence this Assembly has in your abilities.

I would also like to add my congratulations to the Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay). I am sure she will serve this Assembly well.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the recently elected Members and to those of us who are returning for another term.

I would also like to pay special tribute to our colleagues of the last Session who are not with us this Session, in particular Gerrie Hammond, the former Minister of Labour, and also the former Minister of Family Services, Charlotte Oleson, and also our friend from Swan River, Parker Burrell, and my predecessor as Caucus Chairman, Helmut Pankratz. These people will certainly be missed in this House.

In addition I pay tribute to my former colleagues from across the way who also did not return to this House, in particular the former Member for Interlake, Mr. Bill Uruski, and to all of the former Members I offer thanks for their service to Manitoba and this Assembly. I wish them well in their retirement.

We live in a world of change. Governments change, prices change, countries change and times change. While most aspects of change include an air of excitement, change also makes us stop and think about the constants in this world. One of the constants I am thankful for is my family. I am thankful for the unending love and support I have received through the years from my family, my wife of 25 years and my three daughters. I realize that public life means not only sacrifices for us, but also

sacrifices for our families. I want to thank my family for making these sacrifices with understanding.

It is the people who have placed us in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and I would also like to thank the people of the Gimli constituency for electing me to another term of office. I first made the decision to run for a seat in the Legislature in 1986. The winter campaign was a difficult one that year in many ways. We fought a good fight, but came up several hundred votes short. That campaign in 1986 strengthened my resolve and in the spring of 1988 I along with my team rose to the challenge. In all ways the people were more receptive to the spring campaign and I was elected as their representative in this Legislature.

During the next two years I gained experience and worked hard on behalf of the people I was elected to serve. The people of the Gimli constituency sent a loud and clear message last month when I was returned by a very favourable margin. Even though the campaign fell within the harvest season we knew no shortage of volunteer help or support. I again thank my constituents and assure them that I will never forget that I am their servant. I also thank my team of workers who volunteered their time and effort to work towards my re-election.

I would also like to tell you a little bit about my constituency of Gimli. It was changed somewhat through redistribution. The area east of the river which is the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, which I represented in 1988, became parts of two other constituencies. The northern portion of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements became the constituency of Lac du Bonnet represented by my colleague, the Minister of Labour, the Honourable Darren Praznik, and the southern portion of St. Clements became part of the Springfield constituency represented by my colleague, the Agriculture Minister, the Honourable Glen Findlay. So I am confident that these Honourable Members will serve my former constituents well.

Also, as a result of redistribution the Gimli constituency gained part of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood which includes the towns of Stonewall and Stony Mountain and the communities of Argyle and Grosse Isle. The area was formally represented by my colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Harry Enns, as part of the Lakeside constituency before distribution. He served that area very well. I am very much looking forward to representing these people in the Legislature.

There have also been changes in the northern parts of the Gimli constituency, and I am proud to see the growth in the Arnes-Camp Morton area. Since the last election, there are many people added to the voters' lists in that area. I am excited to see the seasonal cottagers become full-time residents of this beautiful area between Camp Morton, Arnes and Gimli. I was pleased to welcome these new residents to the area and look forward to meeting with them and talking with them in the months to come.

I look forward to seeing even more people choose this area as their home, Mr. Speaker. I would like to invite all Honourable Members to make a point of, over the next year or two, to take a short drive into my constituency and see this beautiful part of Manitoba. I am indeed proud to represent this area and these people.

Because of the close proximity to Winnipeg, the Gimli constituency enjoys a thriving tourism trade. I am proud to say that this tourism trade is founded upon the entrepreneurial spirit. Private business people had the vision to create services and businesses that would assist in the attraction and the repeat traffic of tourists to our area. Yes, we are blessed by Mother Nature with a beautiful area and an abundance of fresh water, but there are other areas in the province with similar geographic features, yet they do not have the mature, developed and refined tourist trade that Gimli enjoys.

* (1730)

Mr. Speaker, I salute the entrepreneurs of my area and all of Manitoba for seizing the moment, for taking the risk, and for making it happen. It is through their hard work and determination that we have so much in this province, for it is the small businessmen and women in this province that employ the most people. Small business, particularly in rural areas of Manitoba, the framework that many towns and villages have built around.

So I am proud of our record as a Government, Mr. Speaker, in assisting small businesses to grow and prosper. We have removed the burden -(interjection)- right. We have removed the burden of the payroll tax from more and more businesses. We have worked to provide incentives for business people to invest in Manitoba businesses, not the disincentives the former Government shackled upon us within the past. They have already indicated

that if they had the opportunity they would do it again.

Our Government has continued in its commitment to the growth of Manitoba. In the throne speech we have set out a very clear message, a very clear framework to a plan that will see us continue to work toward building a positive economic climate to attract more investment, develop more markets and develop regional and sectorial strategies to encourage continued growth.

We have stated that we will continue to help farmers both directly and by working toward making Ottawa recognize and fulfill its responsibilities to our farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Manitobans enjoy a high quality of life. It is true that whenever there is a problem, large or small within the system, it makes for big media coverage and often harsh words from the Members opposite.

It is a fact that more tax dollars go to health care now than any other aspect of public funds. I cannot remember the last time I picked up the paper or tuned in the news to see information on the number of lives saved in our hospitals or the very positive impact the drug program had on young persons. Far too often we fail to hear the good news. I salute our health care professionals for the super job they are doing. I also salute the Honourable Minister of Health, Don Orchard, for the fine job he has done for all Manitobans.

During the election campaign Manitobans heard how the Filmon Government will work to protect families, protect seniors and protect our environment. I look forward to the upcoming legislation that will fulfill these commitments just as we fulfilled our commitments to Manitobans in the past.

I am extremely proud of this Government's record. I am also very happy for the developments I was able to be a part of in the Gimli constituency. We are proud of the new Betel Home in Gimli, a \$6 million personal care home -(interjection)- \$6 million. This will serve our seniors for many years to come. I might add that I had the pleasure of attending the 100th birthday of Eirikur Einarson at Betel Home just this past Saturday. Both the staff and the residents continue to indicate to me how pleased they are with this new facility. It is a great asset to the future, community and to the whole Interlake.

I am also pleased to see new business

construction in Gimli and area, including the new hotel being built by Country Inns. I see that construction is progressing very nicely and they should be open by next summer, just another great asset to the tourism trade in our region.

Gimli has also seen improvements to our highways and streets through some Government programs, in particular the sidewalk and street improvement to the town of Gimli. This program is in addition to the landscaping that will enhance the main street area.

The village of Teulon has also seen improvements over these past few years, in particular the construction of a new co-op housing. This 31-suite facility is a much valued asset to the community of Teulon.

The community of Stonewall, which I now represent, is seeing much growth. I am proud to say that Stonewall is one of the fastest growing communities in Manitoba. New housing starts continue to spring up and the south Interlake planning district continues to set new records for building permits issued in Stonewall and the Rural Municipality of Rockwood I think they are just doing a fine job.

Communities such as Stonewall are seeing a resurgence in their appeal to urban dwellers as an escape from the constant fast pace. They can work in the city, but relax in a more rural setting and raise their families away from some of the problems experienced in a large city. We welcome these people to our area and encourage them to take advantage of our lower land costs and build their own homes in our communities. I am also happy to see these people get involved in their newly-chosen communities. Their desire to live and truly become a part of the community makes our area more than just a bedroom community.

Along with the expansion of communities such as Stonewall comes the opportunity for new business growth. -(interjection)- Right. I know that a strong, healthy community has a far greater chance of attracting new business either from within or from outside the area. I look forward to the continued economic development in this area and will continue to work to encourage that development.

I would also like to tell you a little about the community of Stony Mountain. This is a new community of mine in my constituency, so I am pleased that we will soon see the improvement of

sewer and water installation in this community. Just recently the Department of Rural Development, Water Services Board, approved the \$5.1 million project. Projects such as this encourage development in rural Manitoba.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the councillor there, Clay McMurrin, and Hal Ryckman and the Sewer and Water Committee in Stony Mountain, for the excellent job they did on this project—there yet another example of Manitobans giving of themselves for the betterment of their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to sum up by saying that this Government has done more than just paying lip service about how it cares for Manitobans. We have demonstrated through a strong track record of accomplishments, our caring commitment to Manitobans. We have demonstrated through the throne speech ways in which we will continue to serve Manitobans in a caring way through fiscally responsible actions.

I look forward to the future of this province, Mr. Speaker, and with full confidence I can say that I know it will be a brighter future through the efforts and leadership of the Filmon Government. Thank you.

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): I would like to rise for a few moments and put a few comments on the record. First I would like to start by welcoming everybody back to the Legislature, those who have been here before and a special welcome to all the new ones. Mr. Speaker, a special congratulations to you in terms of your return to the Legislature and to that Chair which you hold with a lot of dignity. We wish you well in your guiding us in the future years.

* (1740)

I would also like to thank all the Members who retired from the Legislature after the 1988 election, certainly, the Members on our side, Mrs. Hammond from Kirkfield Park who is replaced by the very good new Member; Charlotte Oleson the previous Member from Gladstone which the Speaker is now representing; Helmut Pankratz from Steinbach; certainly, now represented by the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger); and Parker Burrell from Swan River who unfortunately was not able to return to the Legislature.

I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new Members in the back bench

here in our side of the Party who are going to contribute very significantly to the process in the Legislature in the years to come.

What I really want to say, Mr. Speaker, when I have these few minutes is to take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Virden riding who supported me in the past. Certainly, as you all know, I no longer represent any of those constituents any more. They supported me very well over the last four years, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to be here and represent their thinking.

I also want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Members of my new constituency in Springfield who came forward and supported myself and my wife to an extent beyond my fondest imagination.

The constituency of Springfield is a very diverse constituency in terms of the kind of people who live there. It is basically a rural constituency in terms of the geography. It has a fair number of farmers there, but the vast majority of people are people that live in that part of the province but work in the city. I guess they could sometimes be called rurbanites, but it was certainly a very interesting experience to have an opportunity to meet them, hear their concerns and really hear how they enjoy the opportunity to live outside the city and live in a sort of a rural environment where they have the space and the freedom to raise their children.

I really want at this time, Mr. Speaker, to pay tribute to my wife who worked so hard over the five weeks of the election to help get me elected, along with tens and tens, and I would have to say, probably over a hundred people in the constituency, people who never really knew us before the election to any great extent, who came forward and supported myself because I was part of the Filmon team, because we represented the kind of philosophical thinking that the people in that constituency want to see in Government.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of my residents are small business people, professional people who realize that controlling the expenditures of Government is a priority that is very important to them. They also recognize that we have the responsibility of having to deliver the essential services, health education and essential social services, within the context of our revenues coming into Government. They are going to applaud us when we bring in the kind of budget we brought in the last two years and which

we will bring in the next four years in our term in Government.

Mr. Speaker, at another point in time, I want to talk to some extent about the agriculture industry. We all know of the kind of condition it is in, and the basic condition is just simply lack of sufficient revenue coming in the door to pay the costs of running the business. That applies, particularly, to the grain farms which are the majority of the farm income of southern Manitoba. The issue there is international trade war and the resolution that we have to achieve in the GATT process.

It certainly bothers me when my critic sort of laughs at the process, that we are not negotiating in good faith at the table. I would have to tell you, it is going to be a very difficult process, negotiating at the GATT table, but the future of Manitoba, in terms of being able to export the quality and quantity of

grain that we have become accustomed to exporting is certainly the issue that is on the table in the GATT round of discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a few minutes to thank my old constituents for their support over the past few years and certainly pledge myself to work very hard on behalf of all my new constituents in Springfield who have worked hard to get me to this position. I commit myself to them. Thank you very much.

An Honourable Member: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Six o'clock? Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? Agreed. The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the Rules, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 p.m.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Monday, October 22, 1990

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