

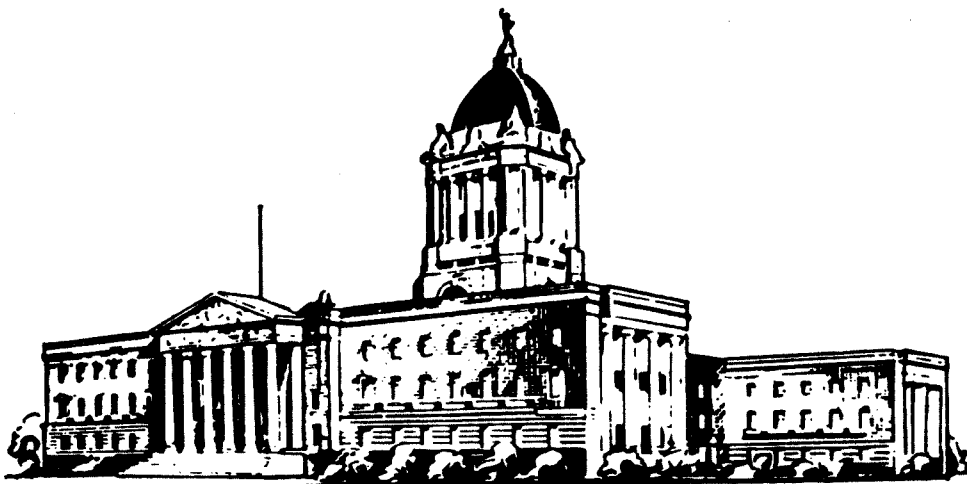


Second Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

40 Elizabeth II

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The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, March 11, 1991

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns): Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the petition of Mount Carmel Clinic, praying for the passing of An Act to amend the Mount Carmel Clinic Act.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Annual Report of The Co-operative Loans and Loans Guarantee Board.

Hon. Darren Praznik (Minister responsible for The Civil Service Act): Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to table the 1989-90 Annual Report of the Civil Service Commission.

Hon. James McCrae (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1990, the 18th Annual Report of Legal Aid Manitoba. This report was distributed to members on January 9.

I am also pleased to table, pursuant to The Regulations Act, a copy of each regulation filed with the Registrar of Regulations since the regulations were tabled in this House in October of last year.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report of the Department of Finance.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us this afternoon from the Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate thirty-five Grade 11 students. They are under the direction of Linda Connox. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis).

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

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Economic Growth Government Initiatives

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, over the weekend we heard a tremendous concern from people in this province about the continuing rise in the unemployment rate. We are hearing from workers and families across this province who are worried about their jobs and their future, and they hear a lot of words from this Premier about what he will not do, but they do not hear anything about what he will do. There are 12,000 more people unemployed in the manufacturing sector now than there was when he was elected Premier. We have an unemployment rate now in Winnipeg of 10.1 percent and I guess the question Manitobans are asking: Do not tell us what you are not going to do; tell us what you are going to do. What is the Premier going to do about this situation in terms of Manitoba's place in this recession and the impact on people?

* (1335)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, while he was in Montreal on the weekend, might have perhaps found out there that there is a recession on in this country. He might also have found out that the recession is impacting dramatically, negatively on people right across this country. Although we believe that the unemployment rate unfortunately is too high in our province, it remains overall the third lowest in the country, and in fact for youth unemployment the rate is the second lowest in the country.

The reality is that we have very difficult times ahead of us in the short term. We have been letting the public know; we have been letting the opposition know, this government has been more open than any previous government in projecting ahead—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Filmon: The year prior to the election we projected one year ahead as to what the prospects

were for the budget the following year. After the election we projected ahead two more years so that members opposite could know and understand what the economic consequences were ahead of us in this country and in this province. Under those circumstances we have indicated that we have to work together, that we have to ensure that we keep the costs of government down, that we choose our priorities carefully and wisely to preserve our health care, to preserve our social services, to preserve our education.

In so doing, we have to suggest to everyone that it is our collective problem and that particularly, some will have to take a little less in order to get us through this difficult time. But we will not do, as the opposition, the NDP, when they were in government did, which was to put out hundreds of millions of dollars on short-term make-work jobs that left behind a lasting legacy of green and white signs and debt, debt that is costing us close to \$600 million a year in interest that prevents us from providing many of the things that we would like to do in the government context, Mr. Speaker.

Job Creation Strategy

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the projections and statements made by the Premier three or four months ago, and by his Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) have turned out to be false. The Premier said we would weather the recession, and I quote from the budget: We would weather the recession better than any other province. Well, the Conference Board of Canada is now saying you are 10 out of 10, last place, in terms of coming out the recession. This government and this Premier have to develop an economic strategy for the working people of this province who have been laid off and the thousands of youths—the Premier mentioned youth—there is 14.9 percent unemployment in youth and he finds that satisfactory.

My question to the Premier is: What are you going to do to develop the job opportunities in this province? You supported Brian Mulroney on free trade; you are supporting the deindustrialization of our province through free trade. What are you going to do for the thousands of Manitobans, the workers of Paulin's and other places that have been laid off as a result of the inaction of this government policy?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, let the Leader of the Opposition not misrepresent the comments that I made just moments ago when I said that the unemployment rate was too high, that we were not satisfied with it. Put that on a comparative basis, it still was the third lowest in the country, and that is not good enough. We want to do better. The fact of the matter is that we have been working very, very diligently with areas that we have targeted to try and bring in new jobs, and even during the course of a couple of weeks leading up to the beginning of the session.

There was the announcement of a transfer of head office facilities by MacLeod Stedman to Winnipeg. There was the announcement of the setting up a new manufacturing facility by Western Glove Works, some 300 additional jobs, good paying jobs I might say, in the manufacturing distribution sector and head office sector which the Leader of Opposition cast off as being "Mc-jobs." He tried to ridicule those jobs.

We had the announcement of new long-term jobs in the aerospace sector by G.E., Mr. Speaker. We had the announcement of new jobs with respect to Fiat industries manufacturing some shower stalls and equipment at Brandon. All of those things were things we were doing to work with employers to get investment in this economy. We will continue to do that because we believe that attracting investment is the best thing we can be doing, attracting new job creation. In order to do that—we have a legacy of debt and some of the highest taxes anywhere in the country left to us by the NDP that are very, very difficult to overcome. So we will work with the opposition parties to keep taxes down and to keep the deficit down so that we can indeed be an attractive climate in which to have investment and job creation in future.

* (1340)

Social Program Cuts

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, for every example the member mentions, we have unfortunately and tragically hundreds of others as examples of people who have lost their jobs.

The real issue here is that the government had an assumption that they would be weathering the recession better than other provinces, three months

ago. That has been proven to be wrong by the Conference Board—10 out of 10, Mr. Speaker.

We ask this government to stop telling us what they are not going to do and start telling those people what they are going to do for that situation.

I have a further question to the Premier. We have obtained, and the public has obtained documents out of Family Services indicating radical potential cuts in job opportunity services, STEP programs, CareerStarts, Northern Youth Corps, Regional Employment programs.

My question to the Premier, who is now leading a government that is last out of last in the province, 10 out of 10, is: As head of Treasury Board, while he is responsible for an economy that is last coming out of the recession, unfortunately, is he also going to cut the needed social programs for Manitobans who need programs to get them stabilized in our work force and get them employment in the future? Is he also going to cut those programs?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, not that it should make us feel good about the difficult times in which we are, because indeed none of us feel good about it. None of us want to have the kind of job loss that we are having because of the adjustments that are taking place due to recession.

I suggest to him that he might want to talk with his colleague, the Premier of Ontario, who can tell him about 140,000 jobs being lost in that province, who can tell him about a 4.5 percent negative growth projected for this year in that province, Mr. Speaker—4.5 percent loss in their whole economy. That is the kind of thing he ought to be talking about if he wants to make those comparisons.

Those comparisons, in my judgment, we do not want to have to make them, because we would rather have good times than that, but that is the recession that the entire country is in.

With respect to the question he has asked about the difficult choices that are going to have to be made in every single area of government, I suggest to him that as a responsible government we are looking at every single area in which we spend money, every program, every area of government, every function of government. It is the responsible thing to do because we just simply do not have more money to throw at programs. We have to preserve our health care. We have to preserve our social services, and we have to preserve our education.

So there are difficult choices that have to be made. We are taking those difficult choices; we are taking the responsibility, Mr. Speaker, unlike the Leader of the Opposition who has the ability to say one thing when he is in government and one thing when he meets privately with people and another thing publicly when he thinks it is going to be worth some cheap politics to him.

Economic Growth Government Initiatives

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, almost every day we get reports of a weakening Manitoba economy, yet the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) refuses to take any action to offset the current recession. Instead he tells us that his policies will result in more private investment and more economic growth, but we have had three years of this minister's policies, three years of private investment in this province declining. In 1989, a decline of 2.7 of private investment; 1990, a decline of 1.3—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member will kindly put his question now, please.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Mr. Speaker, as part of my preamble, I am pointing out that we have had three years of decline of private investment. Will this minister now admit that his economic policies have been an abject and dismal failure?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I find it strange that this member, of all members from the opposition, would stand in his place and berate this government for the performance of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, this government in its short period in office has not had the luxury that the NDP government did through the '70s and through a good part of the '80s, and run up the debt of the nation in support of public investment at the rate of billions and billions and billions of dollars. They did have the luxury at that time, not having to take out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund \$600 million as the first item of expenditure before they looked at any of the other expenditures. That is what we face today.

* (1345)

The member can recite all the statistics he wishes. All that we know is that in a structural sense the economy of Manitoba as reflected in employment statistics, as reflected in unemployment statistics, as reflected in sales tax

revenue, is holding in. We would much rather it be more robust, but it is holding in. As far as his statistics that he wants to throw, I say to him he should know better.

Provincial Comparisons

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, will this Minister of Finance explain to the House why private investment has increased in both Saskatchewan and Alberta—agricultural-oriented provinces—in 1990, and is expected to increase in Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1991, while Manitoba has been declining and is forecast to decline again for 1991? Why do we compare so poorly with these provinces?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I am glad the member asked that question. Mr. Speaker, I know what is happening in Alberta. I know that in Alberta the provincial government there, at our expense as a province, is putting an awful lot of money into private sector and in joint affairs. I think of the money that is going into the packing-house industry.

In Saskatchewan, I know the government there is going into partnership with friends of the NDP, Cargill Grain, with respect to a major development in the fertilizer industry. Mr. Speaker, those provinces do not have the level of debt that this province does and, consequently, may have greater opportunity to enter into joint agreements in the private sector field and the investment within those areas.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said over and over again, this province is not afforded the opportunity to go out and borrow yet hundreds of millions of dollars to enter in joint agreement with private sector investment.

Government Initiatives

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, are we in this House and are the people of Manitoba to conclude that this government absolutely will take no initiative whatsoever to offset our weakening economy? I remind him that private investment in Manitoba in this year is lower than it was in 1987 before you became government.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think maybe finally the member understands the legacy of debt and the impact it has on government, ultimately on taxation rates, and

ultimately how important it is. That was the appeal that I made to members of this House on January 21. I asked them to come across with better alternatives, any alternatives, as to how we can reduce this debt load, reduce taxation so that capitalists, those who want to invest money, those entrepreneurs who want to take a chance in Manitoba will come forth and risk their capital to create jobs. That is in essence, that is the orthodox view, that is the understanding of members opposite who have studied economics. The member knows that is the way, the only solution to the problem we have now.

Education System Funding Responsibility

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. -(interjection)- Absolutely, they voted for me. -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, -(interjection)- They would never tell you the truth, Mr. Connery. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) asked the Premier (Mr. Filmon) for a solution. Well, the Premier has offered a solution. The Premier of this province has said that it is okay for the municipalities to increase property taxes by the rate of inflation, some 6.8 percent, so that they can pay for education while at the same time this government is only prepared to give 2.1 percent for education. Will the Premier tell us how he justifies passing on the burden of taxation to the municipalities of this province like his federal cousin has done to him?

*(1350)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, last year when our revenues increased at something under two and a half percent we cushioned the blow to the school boards by passing along some four and a half percent increase. -(interjection)- Well, we did not do it with the help of the Liberals who voted against everything that we did in a budgetary fashion—did not help us one little bit.

This year, when our revenues are absolutely flat, zero percent increase, we are still passing along 2.1 percent to the school boards and about 2 percent over what they actually spent at—the revenues were to City Council, Mr. Speaker. So under those circumstances we are indeed attempting to treat them better than we are being treated by the federal

government. We are getting zero increase in revenues and we are still passing along increases to those authorities.

We are suggesting to them that they are going to have to examine each and every area of their spending. They are going to have to examine every single line, every single function, every single program that they have within their jurisdiction, and under those circumstances they will have to make difficult choices. Under those circumstances I would hope that they could keep their spending increases down so that they do not have to pass along major increases in taxes. That is what we expect of them to do, Mr. Speaker. I do not think it is unreasonable, given the circumstances we are in where we are getting zero increase in revenues and passing along increases to them.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, that is the most blatantly hypocritical statement I have ever heard from this Premier. The only way the municipalities can get increased revenues is if they increase taxes. He is saying to the municipalities: Do what I am not willing to do under any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, I want the Premier to tell those who have recently become unemployed who are homeowners, who have mortgages to pay, how he expects them to pay massive increases in property taxes, because he will not accept his responsibility to them.

Mr. Filmon: The principle of representative government is you take responsibility for the dollars you spend. Mr. Speaker, the people who are spending those dollars, who decide on what services to provide at the municipal level, who decide on what services to provide at the school board are the people who take the responsibility, because they are being given increases by us as a government. They may not be as much as they want, but they are being given increases.

Now they have to take this increased revenue and decide how they are going to apportion it. They have the same opportunity that we do with many government departments to in fact reduce the expenditures within those areas and in some cases reduce them substantially in order to try and make ends meet.

We are getting zero percent increase in revenues and passing along approximately a 2 percent increase to the municipal level and the school board level. They have the responsibility then to decide

what they are going to do with the money they get and how they are going to control their expenditures.

I wish the Leader of the third party would try and show some responsibility and recognize that people who are elected have to take the responsibility for the spending decisions that they make.

Program Cuts

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish the Premier would take some responsibility for the children of this province.

Can the Premier of this province tell the House today—since his Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) cannot—what frills, what excesses there are in the school division that he would recommend they cut, because that is what he is saying—cut, cut, cut. Just what are they supposed to cut?

* (1355)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We are passing along an increase to the school boards of 2 percent, Mr. Speaker. If the Leader of the third party would take a look at what has happened over the course of the last two decades in this province, public school funding has continued to go up and up and up while the numbers of students are going down and down and down.

At some point those who take the responsibility for public school education in this province, those at the school board level who make the spending decisions, are going to have to examine each and every line, each and every function, each and every program.

I would prefer, Mr. Speaker, to give them all the money possible. The reality is we are getting zero percent increase in our revenues, and we are still passing along a 2 percent increase. We are saying these are difficult times. Please work with us to try and make ends meet during these difficult times.

GRIP Program Clarification

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, adding to the deepening economic crisis that exists in rural Manitoba in agriculture today, at the present time, and the general feeling of despair that rural people are feeling because of the lack of action by this government, certainly as revealed in the throne speech, adding to all of that is the growing confusion

around the government's program, GRIP, that was announced recently, growing confusion over what the costs will be for the individual producers if they sign up and what the benefits, if any, will be under this program.

I ask the minister if he can today clear up that confusion and clarify precisely what the costs to the producers of that program will be and what the benefits will be under that program if a farmer signs up, as he is being asked to do at the present time?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the member is certainly misrepresenting what is going on in rural Manitoba with regard to explanation of the GRIP program. The GRIP program, as even the Liberals have identified at their annual convention this past weekend—at least their federal members—is a good program that is going to address some of the hurt that the farmers are experiencing. There is no question that no government program can offset the entire hurt that is happening because of the low grain prices.

The member talks about despair and confusion. That is only perpetrated by himself. We are holding meetings across rural Manitoba, in excess of 125 meetings, with 100, 200 and 250 farmers showing up. We are explaining to them as much as we can that is available at this point in time as the program development is coming together across the three prairie provinces.

I am pleased to report that we have a uniform program across western Canada so that we will be on a level playing field. With regard to the benefits, they are well known in the farm community, they know now, the prices per bushel, that the support is going to be there. They know what their long-term average is, at least in the risk area averages, and they know where they can fit into that scenario. The premiums, which everybody wants, are presently being finalized and will be available very shortly. When they are available the farmer will know his cost and be able to compare them with his ultimate benefits.

I have talked with many farmers, and they clearly understand that it may not answer all their ills, but it is a very good program that will help them identify the changes they need to do to their farm program so that they can survive on into the next decade.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, the minister should attend some of the so-called informational meetings across the province where the confusion is evident

among his staff as well as the farmers and people attending those meetings.

* (1400)

I ask the minister, in view of the fact that the federal minister is insisting that in order to qualify for the transitional program or deficiency payment this spring, farmers must sign up for GRIP, will this minister now disassociate himself with that proposition because there is that confusion, because farmers are being asked to sign up with a blindfold on, will he now disassociate himself and reject that position, and inform the federal minister that is the case?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Speaker, there has been discussion about when the money from GRIP will flow, and it really will not flow until some time in 1992. There is a cash shortfall throughout the spring, in particular of 1991. The federal minister has indicated he is prepared to put some ad hoc money in place, but the overlying principle of GRIP is that we have to get away from ad hoc programs. Farmers have to enroll in programs to try to help themselves, and that is why there is some requirement that as much as possible farmers be required to enroll in GRIP to receive the full benefits of the ad hoc program.

I might remind the member that farmers are on the ad hoc committee that is making those kind of recommendations. They see the necessity of using public money in the most responsible way so the farmers are seen to be helping themselves with the unfortunate circumstance that they are presently in.

Mr. Plohman: I find it, Mr. Speaker, incredible that this minister supports that position that farmers must sign up for this program blindly without knowing exactly what the benefits will be, if any, under this program.

I ask this minister, in view of the fact that there are several deficiencies under this program, one being the formula, which is a rolling average, which will roll right out of existence and is not based on the cost of production, will this minister now call for an immediate payment and go back to the drawing board on the costs and the basis for this program basing it on cost of production, and develop a program that will ensure farmers can make money, not lose money under the program that is in place now?

Mr. Findlay: Mr. Speaker, I find this most incredible that there has been an open public process in place

for over a year with a task force consisting of 19 farmers out of the 33 members who have gone through a very elaborate process of, as I say, open public process, and he has never advocated this principle. He waits until a program is on the books that the farmers support and then he stands up and he says go back to the drawing boards. He has never put any constructive proposition on the table at any point in time, and the farmers support this principle because they know in the long term they must be economically competitive in terms of what they produce for the world market.

Western Canada Lotteries Foundation Marketing Relocation

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier (Mr. Filmon). Has he told Premier Don Getty that the moving of 52 jobs in the marketing division of the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation to Stettler, Alberta, is not acceptable since there is not even an office building or any accommodations there?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister charged with the administration of The Manitoba Lotteries Foundation Act): Mr. Speaker, if I can go back to the history of the move of marketing from the Western Canada Lottery Corporation to Alberta, it was the only choice we had to keep most of the head office operations here in the province of Manitoba. We made the decision as three provinces, but we in Manitoba had no say over the location in Alberta and where marketing would be moved. That was a decision that was made completely by the government of Alberta, and they are going to have to take responsibility for that decision.

Mr. Dewar: I was wondering if the minister could tell us how many more jobs will be lost, how many more jobs will Alberta be allowed to take from us over the next three years?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Speaker, we are not anticipating that there will be any other jobs moved to Alberta over the next three years.

Employment Services Northern Manitoba

Mr. Gregory Dewar (Selkirk): My final question is for the Premier.

How many jobs will be lost in rural Manitoba with the new policy of centralization of employment

services, housing authorities, and the closure of employment offices in rural and northern Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, as representative of a party that opposes decentralization of government jobs in Manitoba, I think that the member for Selkirk ought to be embarrassed to ask that question. All he has to do is look at the record of his own government when they were in government—the NDP—of all of the jobs that they put in rural Manitoba, which was zero.

Mental Health Facility - Winnipeg Program Planning

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier.

The psychiatry building at Health Sciences Centre is a typical example of his Minister of Health's mismanagement. Mr. Speaker, when cabinet approved this project in 1989, only the physical structure was approved. This government gave no consideration to the programs to be provided by this facility. Anyone would know that the programs cost money and require advance planning.

This government operates at two extremes. Either they study things to death and no action, or they act prematurely as they have acted in this instance. Can the Premier tell us, after two years since his cabinet approved this project, have the programs at this facility been finalized, and if they have, what are those programs?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), I will take that question as notice.

Operating Budget

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, the Premier has said in this House a number of times that money is scarce and that this is one way of saving money by community-based health care. His Minister of Health has totally ignored his own council's recommendation.

My question is: Can this Premier tell this House, roughly what is the operating budget for this building which is \$43 million just by the project? Can he tell us how they are going to fund the program when the staffing cost alone will be increased by 110 percent? Mr. Speaker, they should know the only way to save money is by the cost-effective community—

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

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), I will take that question as notice.

Mental Health Services Service Duplication

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Mr. Speaker, can the Premier tell this House how his cabinet approved 20 beds for forensic psychiatry at Health Sciences Centre when the average occupancy is not more than seven beds at any given time? They are also making recommendations to improve those beds at Selkirk Hospital too.

Can the Premier tell us how much this duplication of services will cost taxpayers of Manitoba?

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

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, without accepting any of the preamble which I am not certain is based on any fact, I will take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister of Health.

Decentralization Swan River

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): Mr. Speaker, for the past year this government has been boasting about its decentralization plan. Hundreds of jobs were supposed to be moving to rural Manitoba to stimulate the economy. Swan River was only promised five jobs because Repap was going to create 250 jobs.

Last week the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) admitted that he is not prepared to push Repap to fulfill those jobs through the Swan River Valley. Swan River does not have Repap jobs, no decentralization jobs, and in fact just recently we learned that two provincial jobs have been moved out of Swan River, rather than jobs coming in. Will the minister responsible for decentralization explain why Swan River is losing jobs, rather than gaining?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, let me again put more of a complete story on the record. The member wants to talk about jobs that may or may not have left Swan River. I cannot verify that information at this particular time, but she is not saying about the jobs that CEDF are providing, plus the fact that I

think there are some, in excess of 60 jobs that are currently there as a result of Repap and, because we have committed to do the proper environmental hearings, it is difficult to expand the job opportunities when the NDP—as we have said we would do, protect the environmental concerns of that area. You cannot have it both ways.

Status Report

Ms. Rosann Wowchuk (Swan River): I would like to ask the same minister how soon he can table a report that was promised in the last session, a report on decentralization, indicating which jobs have been moved, which jobs have not, and which promises will not be kept?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, again we have to take into consideration the economic situation in which we were left by the previous administration and the constraints which a \$600 million interest charge places upon the backs of the taxpayers. But let me say, in this fiscal year I believe there are something like 150 government jobs already positioned outside of the city of Winnipeg, plus 100 of the Crown corporations that were part of that commitment, so there has been major progress made in this area.

Ms. Wowchuk: Will the minister admit that this government has betrayed rural Manitoba? Jobs have not been decentralized and in fact we are seeing much centralization through the housing authorities, which will result in more job losses in rural Manitoba. Will the minister tell this House when we can expect more jobs, rather than job cuts in rural Manitoba?

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, as I have clearly indicated, there has been good progress made as it relates to the whole question of decentralization. There have been and will be decisions as it relates to the economic conditions of this province that may—and I make no apologies for this—may have to be made that would delay some of the positions moved. -(interjection)- Yes, I think it is the responsible thing to do. However, the commitment was made and over a period of time will be lived up to.

Employment Services Northern Manitoba

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, in view of the extensive layoffs at Repap, the phasing out of

the Human Resources Opportunity Centres, the Northern Youth Corps, the northern employment services, the housing authorities, would the minister reconsider these cutbacks and tell the people in the north, in The Pas, that given their dire economic situation and the fact that they are in the north and therefore warrant some special consideration, will the First Minister give them some hope now and tell them that special consideration will be given in view of the economic situation that is up there now?

* (1410)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, we as a government have made a major commitment to attempt to ensure that we do have jobs and economic investment and growth in the north.

We sold Manfor to Repap, and they still have a proposal of \$1 billion investment centred in The Pas, which will add a considerable number of jobs, overall, I believe, close to 400 additional jobs in that whole area of northwestern Manitoba. Under those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, we feel optimistic that there will be tremendous economic benefit. There has been an announcement on the part of Inco to add some, I believe it is, \$230 million of investment. -(interjection)- closer to \$300 million, my Minister of Northern Affairs informs me—major, major. Conawapa, the transmission lines, \$5.5 billion worth of investment, with thousands of jobs involved, Mr. Speaker. Those are the kinds of long-term job opportunities that we want to see in the north for the people of the north.

Northern Education Satellite Programs

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): My supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Education.

Can the minister reassure the House that the satellite programs that Northerners depend on so heavily be left intact, the KCC, in order that Northerners are afforded the same ability to make choices, instead of telling them to go on welfare?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Interesting that this question comes from the member for The Pas, because it was he who, during our negotiations to get the Bachelor of Nursing program going in The Pas, criticized his party, who were then in government, about their inability to deliver any programming in the north. Mr. Speaker, I almost find it strange that he sits on that

side of the House now after the criticism he levelled at that party when he was the person in charge of the program for negotiating the Bachelor of Nursing program in the north.

Mr. Speaker, not only did we put in place the Bachelor of Nursing program for the benefit of people in northern Manitoba, but indeed I can assure him that we intend to continue the first year of distance education university programming throughout Manitoba.

Funding

Mr. Oscar Lathlin (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the same Minister of Education.

How can the minister justify a 1.3 percent increase to the Kelsey School Division in The Pas when he knows full well that the cost of living in The Pas is higher? The Kelsey School Division is laying off 18 teachers. Can the minister justify, if he can, the 1.3 percent increase to the school division?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, as the member has heard on many, many occasions in the House that the provincial government, in terms of its revenue, is receiving zero percent. At the same time, we are able to pass on an increase of 2 percent to most of our schools in this province, and indeed there are many school divisions in this province who are receiving less than 1 percent. I would say that a 1.3 percent increase to Kelsey School Division is above the average operating revenues that will be received by some of the school divisions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Time for Oral Questions has expired.

Messages

Mr. Speaker: Prior to going into Orders of the Day, I have a message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The Commonwealth Day Message 1991, from Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth.

Each year, the Commonwealth Day celebrations draw attention to the multination, multirace and multifaith nature of this unique organization, but we should also be looking at ways to make practical use of these advantages. I therefore welcome the idea that this year the theme of the celebrations should be "Science in the Commonwealth."

The laws of nature, which have been uncovered by scientists of all nations, are valid everywhere on earth. They are not affected by political, religious or racial differences. Scientific discoveries affect all our lives, and they already have an important influence on the natural world.

With scientific progress, as we climb one hill another has a way of coming into view. For example, medical science has made it possible for more children to survive and for more adults to live healthier and longer lives. This is the positive achievement, but it has also resulted in an alarming growth in the world's human population. Agricultural science has made it possible to produce more food, and industrial science has brought a higher standard of living to many people. But the processes of agricultural and industrial production are using up more and more of the world's limited natural resources. We are now looking for ways of using science to protect our natural environment and not destroy it. If we succeed, we can be sure that there will be another hill to climb.

Science therefore poses a serious dilemma. In itself, it is neither good nor bad; the problems are only created by the way it is used. The challenge to scientists today is to bring benefits of science to the less prosperous communities whilst at the same time safeguarding the natural world. To do this successfully our scientists will need understanding and encouragement of the population as a whole.

The Commonwealth, with its many well tried channels of communication and consultation, is uniquely placed not only to enable member countries to keep abreast of scientific advances, but also to help them benefit from their practical applications. I believe that the Commonwealth tradition of quiet co-operation and its advantage of common language can make a special contribution to the practical application of science wherever it is most needed for the sake of human welfare as well as for the long-term health of our planet.

Signed the 11th day of March 1991, by Her Royal Majesty.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the honourable member for St. Vital (Mrs. Render), for an address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor

in answer to his speech at the opening of the session, standing in the name of the honourable member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie).

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I would ask the House for leave to let the speech still remain standing in the member for Flin Flon's name.

Mr. Speaker: Is there leave to allow the motion to stand in the name of the honourable member for Flin Flon? Agreed? (Agreed)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, I believe—first of all I would like to thank the House for that indulgence on the House's behalf for our speaking time today. In the Speech from the Throne that was issued by the government last week, there is a statement in there I believe that reads to the effect that now is the time of decision, now is the time of decision.

Well, Mr. Speaker, New Democrats believe it is indeed the time of decision because we believe the people, under the Filmon government, under the Conservative government of the day, have been betrayed by this government and betrayed in terms of the quality of life and quality of opportunity that people in this province have.

So it is indeed a time of decision because, Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth opportunity that we have had a chance to respond to a Speech from the Throne from this government while they have been in government. We have seen a radical change in the direction of government and the priorities of government in the last five or six months, and a radical change in the priorities, and a radical right ideology that is being perpetrated on the people of Manitoba with disastrous consequences, so now is a time of decision.

* (1420)

Reflect back to the period of time six months ago, Mr. Speaker. We were told that this province is strong, and now we find out we are weak. We were told that this government would be fair for all people, and now we find it is just the party of the Conservatives, just for the elites, not for all people in this province, Mr. Speaker, and not a very fair party at all.

We were told that we would weather the recession better than any other province, and now we find that this province is indeed predicted to be 10 out of 10 in terms of the economic performance—last, dead last.

We were told that we would have and build a partnership with people. Come on along and join me were the words of the Conservatives. It does not matter how you voted before; we are really a party of all the people was the statement we had. Since that time of promises of partnership, we have had a government of confrontation, a government that has picked fights with every person in our society except a few of their business elite friends. It is not a party of partnership, Mr. Speaker; it is a government of confrontation.

We were told that this would be a different party than the old Progressive Conservative party of the federal government. In fact, they even hid the fact that they changed their name, remember that? That should have tipped us off that we were dealing with a pretty fraudulent kind of promise for the people of Manitoba.

We found out the party had changed their name from senior citizens that were going to the advance polls, not from the Conservative party of Manitoba in an up-front announcement, that should have tipped us off. We were told they were different than Mulroney. They had a different ideology. They were here to govern for all people, Mr. Speaker, and we have found that it is the same corporate agenda of Brian Mulroney, the same extreme right-wing ideology of the Conservative party, the same agenda. It is an ideologically extreme agenda from a very extreme group of people.

We should not be surprised because primarily it is a cabinet that has been bequeathed by Sterling Lyon. Many of the members opposite sat in the benches with Sterling Lyon. It is the same ideology of Sterling Lyon, so we should not be surprised that we now have a government for the elites of this province, not for the people of this province.

At a time more than ever before when the public of this province was looking for a Speech from the Throne of hope, a strategy of hope, a strategy of optimism, a strategy of strength, we saw finger pointing, we saw blaming in the Speech from the Throne, we saw people blaming other people, we saw a government of despair, Mr. Speaker, and we promised the people of Manitoba that we will be an opposition of hope, not like the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at the budget speech some three or four months ago. The Premier (Mr. Filmon) says in at least 25 questions in this

Chamber that we will have the best economy in Canada bar none in 1991.

We have looked through Hansard, and the Premier time and time again said that Manitoba will have the strongest economy. It will have the lowest unemployment rate; it will have the most private sector investment; it will have the greatest job creation record of any other province; it will have the best performance of any other province. Then I quote from the budget: Manitoba can expect to weather the downturn relatively well. Some have suggested that Manitoba will be at near or at the lead in economic growth in Canada in this year. Overall—this is the 1990 budget presented in October—would the -(interjection)- Premier please read. He projected two, three months ago, Mr. Speaker, that we will have the overall growth which will be double the national average.

Now I can understand why the Premier is getting a little—well, I can understand why the Premier is starting to heckle from his seat. I can understand why he is getting a little agitated, because he has had three years of blaming this person, blaming that person, blaming somebody else, the federal government, the provincial government. You know he blamed the municipalities, he has blamed the people, he has blamed labour, and now we have the Economic Council of Canada coming in with the report that many of us unfortunately predicted two years ago, and a year ago, and last fall that this government could not sit back and let the economy just go where it might, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba needed a government that used the private and public sector in a creative and proactive way to create opportunities. It did not need a government that just sat back in its cabinet room and waited for the next layoff to take place. It needed a government that went out and prevented layoffs and created opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, we have now the Conference Board of Canada. The Conference Board is predicting that this year we will have the worst performance in this country. It will have the most negative economic growth of any of the 10 provinces. They will have a declining manufacturing sector. It should be no surprise. Since this Premier (Mr. Filmon) has been in government, he has lost 12,000 manufacturing jobs in a short three years. That is 4,000 jobs per year—4,000 jobs per year.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario is predicted to have a much better economic performance next year.

-(interjection)- I know the Premier is a little edgy because he does not like responsibility. He does not like accountability. He does not like being accountable for anything, but he cannot hide the facts. The chickens are coming home to roost, and they are not very pleasant in terms of the economic performance in this province.

We are going to be below all the western provinces. We are going to be below all the central Canadian provinces. We are going to be below all the Atlantic Canada provinces. We are going to be below every province in Canada, and our manufacturing sector is going to go down, our agricultural sector is going to go down. We are going to continue to have a decline in our service sector. Our retail sales are going down. We are going down in every area. Our housing starts are going down, Mr. Speaker, and what is the one area that is going up?

An Honourable Member: Consulting.

Mr. Doer: No, consulting is not going up. Unfortunately, consulting is part of those other macro statistics in the service sector.

On the brighter side, the Conference Board said, the only place of strength that Manitoba will have is the Limestone Generating Station as it gears up to full production and exports of power increases. That is the only positive part of the Conference Board. The next thing you know, we will have the Premier standing out in front of Limestone again and taking credit for that after he condemned it for two or three years. He has already done that with GE. He has already done it with Western Glove. I was the minister responsible for signing that agreement with Western Glove, the initial agreement, under the Core Area Agreement.

The tragedy, of course, is that at the same time he was announcing MacLeod Stedman—which was a positive announcement, although we have not looked at the finances of that agreement yet—the same day MacLeod Stedman was being announced, and I applaud any positive announcement of jobs, Paulin's was being closed down—300 jobs versus 100. That is what happened the same day.

Now, I did not see the Premier out in front of Culinar. I went down and visited Culinar. I am sure the Premier should have gone down and visited Culinar. I do not know whether he did or did not, because this is a very classic case of what is

happening in this economy. There is a company that was making money—Paulin's was making money. It had double shifts and sometimes triple shifts, but let us look at the economic factors involved in this company. It was making money.

Now, the Premier in the summer said, we are going to get jobs from Ontario. We are open for business. Well, where did those jobs go to? They went to Montreal and London, Ontario. The Premier shakes his head. Where did those jobs go to? They went to London, Ontario, and those jobs went to Montreal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us look a little further underneath the economic devastation of those jobs, because it is a very good case. This is a food processing plant making money. This is a plant that takes agricultural products and adds, through manufacturing and food processing, certain products and developments to them. We sell those products in this province and across Canada, Mr. Speaker. -(interjection)- Paulin's.

Mr. Speaker, 10 percent. Well, you laugh. The ministers laugh over there. No wonder we have such a poor performance. Ten percent of Manitoba sugar products went into that plant. So who does that affect? Now we have a shutdown of Manitoba Sugar. Who does that impact upon? It impacts upon sugar beet farmers in Manitoba. So we have people in Manitoba who cannot produce crops to produce sugar that can produce more products and food products in Manitoba.

We have flour that is produced in western Canada that is not -(interjection)- Well, the Premier acknowledges Alberta, and he is correct about the flour. In fact, he is correct about the flour, but it is still produced in western Canada, but the sugar beets, I notice the Premier did not provide any intervention, because he cannot dispute the facts that those agricultural products are produced in Manitoba by farmers and workers at the sugar beet factory.

* (1430)

You can go on to canola. You can go on to other products, Mr. Speaker, but the bottom line is when we lost 300 jobs in the food processing industry, we lost lots of other jobs and economic opportunity in terms of the province of Manitoba.

So when the Premier stands up here and talks about MacLeod Stedman, you will excuse us if we are not a little bit concerned about what this Premier is announcing. When the Premier stands up about

MacLeod Stedman, I do not see anything in the Speech from the Throne that says that Manitoba is last out of last, 10 out of 10 in terms of the Conference Board for economic performance.

Mr. Speaker, I do not see the 300 jobs that have been lost at Interbake. I do not see the 225 layoffs at Repap. I do not see the 195 Bristol Aerospace jobs that are lost. I do not see the 185 Northern Telecom jobs that are lost. I do not see the 1,500 short-term layoffs at Transcona, not counting the long-term layoffs at CN. I do not see the National Truck Sales losses. I do not see the 64 jobs that have been lost at Air Canada. I do not see the Peters Transport company jobs being listed by this Premier. I do not see the 44 jobs lost at Coldstream. I do not see the Selkirk Rolling Mills jobs that are lost, 381 jobs. I do not see the Beaton Industries jobs from this Premier.

I do not see the Campbell Soup jobs, 160 jobs lost by this province. I do not see the 30 jobs lost at Triple E. I do not see the 29 jobs lost at the Royal Canadian Mint. I do not see the Indal Wall Systems jobs lost of 200 jobs. I do not see the 36 jobs at Great Western Outerwear. I do not see the jobs lost at CBC Winnipeg, 37 jobs lost at CBC Winnipeg. I do not hear the Army Surplus jobs. I do not see the VIA Rail jobs. I do not see the Brandon Today jobs. I do not see the M.S. Selkirk jobs. I do not see the Recovery Institute jobs.

I do not see the thousands and thousands of families that are losing their jobs daily and monthly under a federal Tory government and a provincial Tory franchise of that same Tory government with its right-wing corporate ideology that is ruining this province. We do not see that in this here. Mr. Speaker, what does the Premier say? Oh, he says I cannot have an all-party committee because, you know, we might really discuss the problem.

I can have an all-party committee discussing public accounts. I can have an all-party committee discussing any piece of legislation. We can have an all-party committee studying the Constitution. We can have an all-party committee on numerous other activities, but we have 10,000 people losing their jobs in 12 months, and we cannot have an all-party committee.

What are you afraid of? Why do you not want to debate the issues? You say you do not want to discuss issues in eight-second clips. I agree with the Premier. That is why we are proposing an all-party

committee, because you cannot do it in a 40-second question and a one-minute response. We fully and readily recognize that. We have nothing to be afraid of, of an all-party committee. Why is the Premier afraid of that? Does he actually think we will come up with solutions? Maybe if we do, good. Even the Premier might even get the credit. Instead of being 10 out of 10, Mr. Speaker, he might get the credit, but the Premier says, no, he cannot have an all-party committee.

Okay, we have suggested to the Premier (Mr. Filmon) that he have an economic summit in this province. That is another tangible suggestion we have had. We made that suggestion last September. We were absolutely pleased that two months later the Economic Council of Canada made that recommendation to the federal government, and I would suggest by extension, it makes a lot of sense for the provincial governments.

When times are tough, Mr. Speaker, we do have to walk arm in arm in arm. I absolutely agree with the Premier, but he only walks with one arm. He is only walking with a few of his business friends. Last Friday, in an answer to a question, he said, even labour. I mean, the tone of contempt was dripping off his words. That is one of the roots of the problem. There are working people who have some answers. Even Winnipeg 2000, that had some wrong statistics, is trying to take a progressive approach by having—

An Honourable Member: Even in Winnipeg 2000 .

..

Mr. Doer: I am not saying that—

An Honourable Member: . . . is dripping off your words.

Mr. Doer: There is no contempt in my words. We have been in three meetings with Winnipeg 2000, Mr. Speaker, and they are having a tripartite approach to the problems, but the Premier (Mr. Filmon) refuses to have an economic summit. He refuses to have an economic summit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has told us what he is not going to do. He said, I cannot do this; I cannot have an economic summit; I cannot have an all-party committee; I cannot stimulate the economy; I cannot do this; I cannot do that, but the Premier has never once said what he is going to do.

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

The Premier likes to use the word "hypocrisy." He likes to use that word a lot, and he may want to—
-(interjection)-

The Premier, I know he is a little rattled because of his economic performance as 10 in the country, but we did not heckle him in that dismal Speech from the Throne. I would suggest he show a little courtesy in this Chamber, a little dignity, and start to take the high road.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there is nothing I can do, was the answer of the Premier here on Friday—nothing I can do. In the Speech from the Throne the Premier again said, we cannot do anything about the recession, while he sounds like R.B. Bennett and Sterling Lyon rolled up into one, and you are going to go the same way of both those political figures in Canada, because Manitoba will not tolerate that 1930 philosophy.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is surprising to us as well that the Liberal Party of Manitoba, when announcing its priorities for the 1991 session, did not mention the economy.

An Honourable Member: There we go.

Mr. Doer: Well, the member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr) mentions, there we go. Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would be very embarrassed if I was the member for Crescentwood as well, when I had a press release that went out before the session started that did not even mention the economy. I imagine the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Stefanson)—the new minister—was rubbing his hands together in anticipation of the first jobs question from the Liberal Party, because he will just pull out their press release and say, the economy is not a priority.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Liberals have a little strategy going in this session. They are going to try to portray this debate in terms of ideological terms and try to claim that they are in the middle.

I am going to suggest to the Liberal Party that you are not even on the same planet as this debate. You are not on the same planet as this debate when you do not understand that the recession is really devastating families. Go to the coffee shops. Go to the plants. Go to the farm gates. Go to the north. Listen to people, Madam Deputy Speaker. They are very scared about what is going on in our economy. They are very scared what is going on in our province.

We would ask the Liberal Party to revise their priorities for this session and join with the New Democratic Party in taking on the economic disaster of the Conservative government and the economic disaster that is being perpetrated on the people of Manitoba.

Madam Deputy Speaker, when the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) stops laughing about the economy in this province, and the Premier stops laughing, you may not be feeling this situation in River Heights and Tuxedo, but I can tell you in Transcona, in the north, in the inner city, in the north end they are hurting. I really, really resent—I really think it is cavalier of both the old Lyon parties to be laughing at the economic plight of Manitobans in this Chamber, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The cavalier attitude of these two old Lyon parties is just there for everybody to see, Madam Deputy Speaker. They do not care about the working people of this province. They think it is funny.

We believe that the government must come up with a new strategy in terms of the economy. The government must come up with a strategy to develop opportunities in this province. It must come up with a strategy to deal with the tremendous impact on people who are losing their jobs.

* (1440)

You had an assumption last year, Madam Deputy Speaker. You said you would come out better than other provinces. You told us that at the end of October. Madam Deputy Speaker, you are wrong. The Conference Board of Canada is saying you are dead last. This government, this Premier, this front bench, this government caucus is going to come out of the recession last. Your growth will be lower than any other province. You cannot blame that on the federal government. You cannot blame that on somebody else. You have to start taking responsibility yourself.

So when you come to the Speech From the Throne, Madam Deputy Speaker, when in the Speech from the Throne you placed the same clip-and-cut statements from the October budget in the Speech from the Throne, you are failing the people of this province and you are failing the job opportunities and economic opportunities of all of our province, Madam Deputy Speaker, all of our province.

Our critic today raised the question of agriculture. We do not know where we are going in terms of

agricultural support, Madam Deputy Speaker, because this government was sitting on a Friday afternoon when the federal government announced the program and did not have any details at all. This government is so bad at dealing with the federal government that they were not even aware of what the federal government was going to announce when they announced it. Then they did not even know what would be in it. Then they did not know whether they would be part of it, or did not know whether they would be separate from it. Then they did not know whether they would have the five-year plan or the three-year plan. They did not know whether they would be part of the cap or not part of the cap. All they knew was the federal government has shafted the Manitoba Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) and the Manitoba Premier (Mr. Filmon) again. That is the only thing they knew.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this is why we have chaos in agricultural areas across the province. People do not know how much it is going to cost them. People do not know whether this government is in for the long haul. People do not know whether it is cost effective to be there. People do not know, based on the Minister of Agriculture's statements on CBC Radio the other day, of whether the short-term program will be tied to the long-term program. They do not know that, Madam Deputy Speaker.

How many weeks away from seeding are we? People do not know what the basic assumptions are going to be. What ever happened to leadership on this issue? What ever happened to being frank with the farmers and agricultural community in this province? There is absolute chaos in terms of what the bottom lines are out there. This government has to again accept responsibility, not only for the chaos that is in the agricultural community, but also for the absolute chaos, I believe, of the negotiating position of our federal government in dealing with the GATT negotiations and other free trade negotiations with our American counterpart.

Madam Deputy Speaker, then we go to the whole issue of trade. Premier Filmon campaigned community to community, plant to plant, Chamber of Commerce to Chamber of Commerce, more Chambers of Commerce than plants. He campaigned across this province right with Brian Mulroney, supporting the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. He supported it, and his whole front bench supported the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we have lost 12,000 manufacturing jobs, and we have a 10.1 percent unemployment rate in the city of Winnipeg. It is growing every day. It is growing every day and all they do is to fingerprint at other governments and other areas.

Well, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), you know, he damage-controls with all his charts and figures, but the Auditor said last time, \$55 million surplus inherited by this government. We will see very soon—if they last that long—where that money has gone.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I asked this Premier when we were running in the election, and this is where we come back to the ideology of this government. We asked the Premier in the debate—the all-party debate—in the provincial election: What was his position on free trade with Mexico? In that debate, the Premier said that he was opposed to the free trade agreement with Mexico. Then, after the election, we asked the Premier, and he said he was very concerned about it.

I wonder if there is shred of evidence that he went to the Prime Minister and said Manitoba is against the free trade proposed negotiations with Mexico, because Madam Deputy Speaker, this Premier is part of the same ideology as the federal government. It is a corporate strategy in North America that will allow a situation with free trade with Mexico where in a continental trade agreement Canada will have to provide the resources, Mexico will provide the labour, and the United States will provide the market.

Now if he could tell me, and he could tell the people of this province, where that is going to help the quality of life and the quality of life for Manitobans, we would like to know, but now the government is going to monitor the free trade negotiations with Mexico. I do not want to tell you the last person who said he was going to monitor things.

Madam Deputy Speaker, they were going to monitor the free trade negotiations with Mexico and the United States. Well, what is their position? Has the Premier flip-flopped again? Has he changed his position again? Has he gone to a different perspective on this after the election than he did before? Is he doing what he did under the economy, gone from strong to weak before and after the election, gone from fair to unfair in terms of social

services, gone from decentralization to centralization and then back to decentralization like he is doing in terms of government services? It is like F-Troop. It is all over the map. Has he gone from being a party for all people to a party just for the elites? Has he changed his mind again on free trade with Mexico? I would like him to table his correspondence with the Prime Minister about free trade with Mexico. I would like to see the proof, and we will give the Premier the benefit of the doubt that he indeed has not changed his position on this trade negotiations with Mexico.

So we go on and on, Madam Deputy Speaker, but the accumulative position, the accumulative effect for Manitobans is a dismal economic performance. Yes, they are going to try to introduce all kinds of media manipulation and all kinds of charts. They will have their people in the hallways telling the media this and that about Ontario, and this and that about the federal government, and this and that about the former government, but we were never 10 out of 10 in terms of coming out of the recession. This government is, and as I say it is, a dismal performance on behalf of the people of Manitoba, a deceitful performance.

That leads us, of course, now into education because the government has said, now that their economic performance is so dismal, the government has said that the cupboards are bare. Well, I suggest to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we have the same corporate agenda in education now, after the provincial election, as we have never seen before in this province. The agenda that we saw before was business as usual with our education programs. We are now seeing a corporate privatized agenda for education. We are seeing the priority of private sector training and the decline of public sector education and public sector educational facilities.

I do not know how the members opposite can live with this because even some of their own supporters in rural Manitoba are now coming to us and saying, we cannot support the privatization of education, we cannot support the movement of our dollars from the public education system over the private education facilities, we cannot buy the priorities of our own government, the provincial Tories, in the Province of Manitoba. They are even coming to us now. -(interjection)- It was a very good college, Madam Deputy Speaker. -(interjection)- You had better look at the funding formulas, my friend, because that is

where governments make decisions, in their funding formulas.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

* (1450)

Mr. Doer: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Let us look at the record. We have a government that is now declining the actual dollars and support that is going into ACCESS programs in this province. They are renegeing on commitments in ACCESS and one of the finest programs for inner city, northern and immigrant children that has a record of teaching and training doctors and nurses and teachers and social workers.

A program that was established by the New Democratic Party is told that it cannot get its school in the inner city. It is told that it cannot get a commitment from this government. It is told that it cannot get any funding from this government past what the federal government is going to do. It is told that it is not a priority from this government, and yet last year we had \$7 million moved from the public sector, in terms of tax breaks, over to private sector corporations. -(interjection)- Madam Deputy Speaker, well, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) says not one dollar has flowed. I am only referring to his budget—

An Honourable Member: Not one dollar.

Mr. Doer: Well, that is good. So I asked on Friday -(interjection)- Is the Premier finished so we can get on with the debate? Madam Deputy Speaker, we asked the Premier -(interjection)- Well, the Minister of Finance -(interjection)- Oh, well, there is the first time we have had that, we are glad you are starting to retreat on this. -(interjection)- Well, if the Premier would stop heckling, we could get on with this debate.

Madam Deputy Speaker, \$7 million was committed in the last budget to corporate tax breaks. I asked the Premier on Friday -(interjection)- Well, the Premier had a chance to answer the question Friday. He did not answer it Friday, so maybe he could be quiet for a minute. The Premier was asked the question Friday; he did not answer the question. We then told the Premier that we were aware that not one dollar had flowed yet and asked the Premier, as head of Treasury Board, to reallocate the money that his Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) had placed in his budget for the corporate sector—we asked the Premier to reallocate that money to the

ACCESS programs and to special needs. Madam Deputy Speaker, a very simple request.

We got the Premier going out into the hallway saying there are no corporate tax breaks, there is no \$7 million. So we asked the question: Is the corporate tax training grant a like-to-have or a need-to-have, and are special needs and ACCESS programs in this province a like-to-have or a need-to-have? The government has challenged us to look at those criteria; we will respond. We would suggest, we have recommended to this government to take that \$7 million and put it into special needs and take that \$7 million and put it into ACCESS, and let us do it today.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, let us talk about workers. One of the finest programs for working people, and one of the highest success rates again, is our community colleges. We happen to know this government is trickling down major changes in our community colleges, major proposed cutbacks in our community colleges. When you contrast that with zero percent funding last year to our community colleges, and a negative funding for ACCESS programs and New Careers, and you look at the money to the corporate sector, again in their last year's budget, it is truly an ideological privatization of our education programs in this province. The only way to reverse that is to reverse their position and reverse their priorities and take that money and put it back into our public ACCESS education program and put that money back.

Well, you know, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), we take his budget seriously. When he says he is going to put \$7 million into something, we read it and we believe him, so if he is going to change his mind could he please be forthright and do it today. If you are going to put it somewhere else, tell us. -(interjection)- Now he is saying something else. Is it going to go to the private sector, as we have said? Madam Deputy Speaker, so again we have a privatization.

We have not heard of the university grant programs yet; we have not yet heard about the commitment to universities. We know now the commitment to our public school system. We have talked to parents and children and teachers all across this province, and they are being devastated, Madam Deputy Speaker. They are being devastated with the announcements of this government. The inflation rate in Winnipeg now is 6.8 percent. Madam Deputy Speaker, we know that

our increases were—over the period of time we were in office, our increases to education were above the rate of inflation. You are giving a 6.8 percent cut to the Winnipeg School Division; that is Tory fairness. Those who can afford to be hit the least are the ones that are hit the hardest with the Tories every time.

Again we know that the Liberals will express emotion about this issue, but we warned the Liberals a couple of years ago we cannot afford to get rid of the health and post-secondary tax at \$200 million.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Speaker, we warned that we could not provide 80 percent funding to the private school system, and now they are talking about looking at the boundaries as a solution to our education problem. The whole situation really is that we have to have a fair funding for education.

We have to have a fair revenue base, and a fair revenue base comes from a couple of places. One is fair taxation and the other place is for a strategy that deals with our economy so the revenues are growing rather than contracting as they are under the Tories. Changing the boundaries is helpful, maybe, but that will not solve a 6.8 percent cut to the Winnipeg School Division. That will not solve the problems in terms of ACCESS education; that will not solve the problems in the school divisions of the Parkland; that will not solve the problems in the Kelsey School Division; that will not solve the problems in the Thompson School Division. It will not solve the problems for parents and teachers across this province, Mr. Speaker, and look at the fairness of the situation.

We did not start the bidding war on private schools, but how can you justify a zero percent funding for the Winnipeg School Division and 11 percent funding for the private schools? How can you justify that? I cannot justify it, and I did go to a private school. I went to St. Paul's for four years; it was a good school. That does not mean to say that I believe that we should go to 80 percent for that school; 80 percent funding is not defensible.

The Liberals started this bidding and the Tories went from 50 percent in the '88 campaign under their Leader to 80 percent under the proposal from the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) in terms of funding for private schools. Well, Mr. Speaker, you know it is not working. It is not fair. It is not responsible. It is not a symbol of what the people

need in terms of what you would like to do or what you have to do in your own budget. In terms of your own Speech from the Throne, it does not even meet your own test.

* (1500)

Mr. Speaker, it is a terrible precedent, and we are going to see the effect of that when we see the budgets being announced of the many school divisions. We have seen cutbacks in the Fort Garry School Division; I do not know what the member for Fort Garry (Mrs. Vodrey) feels like in terms of those cutbacks. We are going to see more cutbacks in St. Vital. We are going to see cutbacks in rural Manitoba. We are going to see schools close in some of your own constituencies. Some of your own supporters are now coming to the NDP because they cannot stomach 11 percent funding for private schools and zero percent for their own school divisions.

Mr. Speaker, we are getting lots of Tories now coming to us about the funding inequities in our system. The Manitoba municipalities met with your cabinet last week and talked about this issue, and I suggest to you that Tory times are very tough and unfair times in terms of the education system.

We go from there to the English as a Second Language, ESL. You know, what a shame that our critic, the member for Kildonan (Mr. Chomiak), has to identify the English as a Second Language cutbacks in terms of the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, the Education critic has to raise this issue, because the government has not been forthright enough to identify the fact that this program is going to be cut because they cannot again negotiate with their cousins in Ottawa—another bungled set of negotiations by the Minister responsible for Federal/Provincial Relations (Mr. Filmon). That is about 20 of them he has bungled and failed to get our basic commitments in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, now we have seen a situation where this program is being moved for the Education department over to cultural programs and development. It is going to be in a competitive grant system rather than in a long-term education program. Instead of having standards and quality of education for the teachers and the school system, we are having a system where the government has moved that over to the cultural affairs department and over to a competitive grant system. They cannot

even give us a reply about whether this will be a priority after June.

The Premier said to the people of this province that he would use the Fiscal Stabilization Fund to protect Manitobans against the offloading from the federal government. We would suggest to the Premier of this province that if he is unable to negotiate an agreement on English as a Second Language that he reprioritize some of that money under the Fiscal Stabilization Program, consistent with his promises of using that fund for health and education.

Mr. Speaker, the end result of their programs is that we have a government that has inner city students suffering, aboriginal students suffering. We have a situation where northern students are suffering, ACCESS students are suffering. We do not know what is going to happen with post-secondary education. We have a very, very unfair government. We saw that in tangible terms when thousands of Manitobans, parents, teachers, students, marched on this Legislature on a Saturday to give this government the direct message that they are failing with a big "F" in terms of the education system in this province.

The medicare system has probably been the biggest recipient of the deceit of the Conservative government in Ottawa and the deceit of the provincial government in this province.

The federal government said, pre-1984, that they in fact felt that medicare was a sacred trust. In fact, it was in the Peter Pan room, I think, of the Tinkerbell hotel in New Brunswick where Brian Mulroney promised that medicare would be a sacred trust in terms of the country of Canada. Then he continued to cut back the same way as Trudeau cut back, year after year after year.

In fact, it was so bad in 1984 that Brian Ransom joined the NDP in 1984 and '85. As the Finance critic for the Conservative Party, he did go arm in arm with the Minister of Finance, Vic Schroeder, to Ottawa, publicly to stand up for Manitoba's medicare.

Mr. Speaker, shortly thereafter we had a change in the Finance critic of this province and in the strategy of the provincial government, because rather than standing up for this province and standing up for our medical system the Premier adopted a strategy and his Minister of Finance, who was then the Finance critic, to support the Mulroney government in its cutbacks. They came to this

House in 1986 and refused to get involved in an all-party committee to fight health and post-secondary education.

I still remember Clayton Manness saying that it was defensible that the federal government would cut back on medicare 2 percent per year and they would not join with the NDP to fight back on medicare and post-secondary education in 1986. He said that publicly in the committee, Mr. Speaker.

Then, of course, in 1988 the Premier of this province went with Brian Mulroney again seeking re-election and campaigned across this province for Brian Mulroney to be the Prime Minister of this country. It was not the NDP that campaigned with Brian Mulroney. It was not the Liberals that campaigned with Brian Mulroney. It was this Premier and that caucus over there that campaigned with Brian Mulroney. The Deputy Premier is already saying they are going to campaign again, and the Conservatives—God forbid—are going to win another government in Ottawa. He said that, but in 1988 this Premier campaigned as Premier with the Prime Minister of the country. He spoke at the Fort Garry Hotel, he spoke at the Convention Centre, he stood in front of Western Grove, he went to different other communities and he supported the Prime Minister and his insidious campaign against human services in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we got the result of his campaigning. We got the bill from the Premier's campaigning in 1989 with the Prime Minister's budget—\$102 million cut out of health and post-secondary education. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and the Premier did not even raise their voice; in fact, the NDP had to release the statistics showing the \$102 million and, as I recall, the Minister of Finance said: Well, we cannot quarrel with their numbers. We did not see a press conference complaining about it. We had to ferret out the numbers over a couple of days and show the fact that we were being cut by \$102 million in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, so they did not raise their voice one little bit—\$102 million being cut. Then a week before the First Ministers' meeting in November of 1989, we asked this Premier: We have heard that the federal government is going to engage in another campaign against health and post-secondary education. Will he make sure that in his statement to the First Ministers' meeting he will make sure that health and education is raised, and raised in terms

of our cutbacks and raised in terms of the need for a national program in health and post-secondary education at that First Ministers' meeting in 1989?

The Premier, in his cavalier way and his finger-pointing way, says, oh, he does not need the advice from the opposition, he has everything in good hand, he has everything under control, his negotiations are going well. He brushed us aside like we were a foreign object in a salad and said, do not worry, everything is going to be okay. Worse than that, Mr. Speaker, he then went and put in his statement, after we warned him, he went further—because I want to make this point—in his statement to the Prime Minister at the First Ministers' meeting he said, on national television, for all Manitobans, oh, we would like to thank the federal government for their positive first steps in co-operation with us on health and post-secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, it is in his speech. He said, on national television, we would like to thank you. Now what kind of negotiator is this person? He thanks them for cutting \$102 million. He does not take that paragraph out when he is warned in this Legislature, and then he wonders why \$400 million is cut out of health and post-secondary education two months later. It is unbelievable. I have never seen a First Minister of this province, whether it is Sterling Lyon, as bad as he was in cutbacks, or Ed Schreyer, or Duff Roblin, or Howard Pawley who has got such a dismal record in negotiating with the federal government.

* (1510)

Mr. Speaker, he has the worst record of any Premier. He is the only Premier who congratulates somebody for cutting \$102 million, and then his damage control media people, when they realize that there is \$400 million cut out of health and post-secondary education, what do they do? Oh, oh! The Leader of the Liberal Party, then Leader of the Opposition, the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs), and the NDP go out there and say: We warned you, you are being cut again. Hello! Where are you? Also the media manipulators huddled together, the five of them, and decided, oh, oh, we had better flip-flop again. We can no longer congratulate the federal government. You have to change your position again. You cannot congratulate them anymore.

So they got up there with their little presidential lectern and the two of them, the dynamic duo who just lost us \$102 million and then lost another \$400 million, the two who supported Mulroney all along, the dynamic duo, got up there at the press conference and said, oh, we are not going to take it anymore. We are not going to take it anymore. We are going to hit you over the head with a wet press release. We are real tough with our federal counterparts. That was the flip-flop from this Premier. (interjection)-

Well, you know, we will look at this minister's record of negotiating with the RCMP in a minute. So I would be pretty quiet if I were you. I would be pretty quiet if I was the member for Brandon West (Mr. McCrae).

Mr. Speaker, so this is the record of federal-provincial relations. This is one story. This is just one little story in the 8 million stories in the Tory city of dealing with the federal government.

So now they have got \$400 million cut out. So they get their damage control people together again, and they get them together—God forbid—with the damage control people in B.C., and the damage control people in Saskatchewan, and the damage control people, the media spin-people in Alberta, and they come together under, quote, new realities in Lloydminster.

Mr. Speaker, they get these people spinning around. They tell all the media what a great job we are going to do out there in Lloydminster. We are going to go there and put a western face on this situation in the middle of July. Fair enough.

So what do they come back with? They come back with a press release with new realities, new realities. (interjection)- Yes, well new jobs, yes, greater co-operation—moving jobs to Stettler, as the member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) pointed out.

So they come back with this new reality press release, a lot of love, trust and pixie dust in it, a lot of nice words and stuff. It takes a Free Press leak, I admit, it takes a Free Press leak, to find out what those new realities are after the election. Those new realities were not out before the people of Manitoba. We did not go to an election with these new realities. We did not have that agenda out before the people. We found out the Ministers of Finance were really meeting on the new realities. The new realities was a new buzz word, you know, disentanglement.

I love the Conservative words that we get, right. You are not laid off, you are rationalized. Your plant does not close, it is downsized. (interjection)-

I never use the word unfunded liability, never understood it. I always thought a liability was a liability.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad you are amused about it. Then we got the document, the disentanglement document. (interjection)- Tell the Leader, the member for Tuxedo, the Premier, (Mr. Filmon), to relax a bit. We will get on to it. One time he complained about eight-second clips. The next time he complained about dealing with these issues. (interjection)- Relax, relax, relax. It is not easy being No. 10. I know it is not easy to be No. 10, but last place, Mr. Speaker.

An Honourable Member: How long did it take you to get your canoe—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, then we saw—we are dealing with medicare, and we happen to believe this is a very important issue. We happen to believe this is one (interjection)- It is not the end. I do not want to tell you that, but it is not the end.

Mr. Speaker, we got the disentanglement document that was correctly placed on the front page of our paper. What we saw we could not believe, because Manitoba for the first time in the history of the province was going to act like Alberta and British Columbia. I guess the Premier of this province wanted to be one of the boys. He wanted to be accepted as one of the western leaders. He proposed, along with his Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), and they signed a document of principles that Manitoba disentangle themselves from medicare. What did they propose? They proposed that Manitoba withdraw from EPF funding, health and post-secondary education and that we rely on equalization.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can understand why Alberta and British Columbia, with Conservative governments, would try to propose that, because they do not believe in medicare, believe and also know that they put more money into equalization than they get out. But how can a Premier of this province ever be naive—and I would use other language, but it would not be parliamentary—how could a Premier of this province be that naive to come back with that document, with a signature, saying that we support what B.C. and Alberta does.

I cannot believe it. Sterling Lyon would not even sign a document. You cut like Sterling Lyon, and you negotiate like Bill Vander Zalm. It is a disastrous combination for this province because
 -(interjection)-

Well, I think all of us came back with a positive recommendation of Meech Lake. Maybe we all better remember what we came back with, but Elijah is the only one who can take credit for that one.
 -(interjection)- I am sorry. He is a statesperson across this country. He is the member for Rupertsland, and I quite agree.

Mr. Speaker, this is example of "you have to know where you are going" in terms of negotiations with the federal government, and then in the Speech from the Throne we see the same language. Does the Province of Manitoba say it is going to fight for medicare from coast to coast to coast? No. Does the Province of Manitoba say it is going to fight for universal health care? No. Does the Province of Manitoba say it is going to fight to protect Manitobans against user fees? No. Does the Province of Manitoba say it is going to fight for EPF in health and post-secondary education? No. They went back to the new realities of Lloydminster and slipped a little clause in there—fully funded equalization. The same naive Premier, with the same naive government that is going to give us the same disastrous results in terms of the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, medicare is one example. The government wonders why it has no money, and it goes around to everybody saying our cupboards are bare. Well, the government does not go around to everybody telling them why the cupboards are bare. You have received an offloaded agreement on agriculture, which we have mentioned already. You have been wiped out for \$400 million on health care. You have had post-secondary education reduced. You have had ESL, English as a Second Language, eroded. You do not know where you are going in terms of a Core Area Agreement. You have no strategy there—\$7 million lost from the federal government a year. You have no new agreement on ACCESS programs. You have no new agreement on cultural agreements. You are going to get one-sixth of what we got on tourism agreements. You have no new ERDA agreements. You do not know where you are going on the RCMP. One minute you want to establish our own police force, which is going to cost us more money, and the next

minute you say you are going to fight, but you do not raise your voice at all except for one open-line show.

Mr. Speaker, on and on and on. Our Crown corporations are being cut: CN, Air Canada, post offices. Federal employees, we are now 10 out of 10 even. The Chamber of Commerce is complaining about the 5,000 jobs the Premier has lost, and all we get from this Premier is petulant, petty answers, blaming somebody else in this House. Who is the minister responsible for federal-provincial relations? Who? It is the Premier. So what does he do about it? Well, first of all, he tells us all he has to do is pick up the phone. Remember that one? Oh, I just have to pick up the phone and Brian will give us all this money. Have you picked up the phone on the RCMP? Have you picked up the phone on the \$50 million we lost in agriculture? Have you picked up the phone on the ERDA agreements, the cultural agreements, the tourism agreements, the ACCESS agreements? Is there anybody at the other end? I do not even think he picks up the phone.
 -(interjection)-

Well, we will see your agreement. We will see what you signed. We will see what the member for Brandon West (Mr. McCrae) does. Mr. Speaker, we advised this Premier before the '88 election when he was doling out money at Lloydminster for heavy oil, and the pipeline to British Columbia, and the St. Lawrence cleanup in Quebec, and the highway program in Quebec, and the St. John's Hibernia project, and the Nova Scotia program.

We said to the Premier, get in the game, hello, get in the game, and we asked him to get involved in the negotiations because you had to get these agreements before the federal election. He stood up and said, oh, my ministers are really, really doing a good job on this. We have a comprehensive strategy, and we do not need any advice from the NDP. We are going to get more money, and so we did not, of course, because he never negotiated a thing before the federal election. Do you not understand the word "leverage"? You know it is a nice little word: you got a little bit of power before an election with the federal government; you have no power after one. Hello, leverage to the Premier.

You know we are losing thousands and thousands of jobs, and we are losing thousands and thousands of economic opportunity. This is a serious issue, and so what did the Premier do in '88? Well, he established an embassy. We established an embassy in Ottawa, and no disrespect to the

people in the organization, but let us face it, would you prefer a Premier using leverage, or an embassy in Ottawa after the election? I am going to tell you, I prefer a Premier using some leverage.

An Honourable Member: This is a results base government.

* (1520)

Mr. Doer: Yes, the results base government, as our critic says. So they create an embassy, so how well has that worked? Well, we lost another 5,000 federal jobs. We lost a lot more in Crown corporations. We lost more in—we lost two bases instead of everybody else's one base across the country. I mean, you go on and on, another \$4 million of medicare, and so now we have a new strategy.

We got a new strategy, we are going to create—get this—this will really keep them awake in Ottawa, this will really keep Brian Mulroney awake in Ottawa. I will bet you his ministers cannot sleep at night. We are going to establish a committee; we are going to establish a cabinet committee. Is the cabinet committee going to have—who chairs the cabinet committee? Is it the Minister responsible for Federal/Provincial Relations (Mr. Filmon)? No, it is not the Minister responsible for Federal/Provincial Relations. It is not the Premier.

Well, what do you do all day? I do not know what is going on; maybe we just go around with lecterns and press releases, but you know this is very serious. We are losing thousands of jobs, and the Premier of this province is traditionally the Minister responsible for Federal/Provincial Relations. You know why, because it allows him to co-ordinate the efforts of his cabinet, to have an early warning system to anticipate, to have leverage, to decide what issues you are going to disagree on, to decide what issues you are going to agree on, and to have an overall strategy.

I mean, it is terrible in this House when our Transportation critic has to ask you about your policies on open skies, and you do not have one, and then we have to tell the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Driedger) how many jobs they are going to lose on the railways because he does not know. Who is running this operation in terms of the government and the people of Manitoba?

You know sooner or later that pointing fingers and standing up at lecterns and all these other kinds of strategies to manipulate the message to the public are going to run out because the public knows what

is going on. They know in their coffee shops, and their plants, and their farms that this is all damage control and spin and all these other kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, -(interjection)- no, I have not and that is probably pretty obvious to the member. That is right, thanks. Now the cupboard is bare. There is no revenue coming in from the federal government. The private sector investment is going down under this government. We are last out of the recession. We do not have any money going at all, and this Premier goes around telling everybody the cupboards are bare. He does not say that he was the one who loaded out the opportunities out of the cupboards. Now he is talking about a zero percent increase for Family Services in the middle of the worst recession in years. He is taking on the most vulnerable—zero percent increase for Family Services.

They are talking and rationalizing away the employment programs for youth. They are going to look at taking away the preventative programs out in the communities, Mr. Speaker, because they do not believe in people. They believe in a two-tier system of our society. They do not believe in a community-based system with volunteers. They never did. They always objected to that system, Mr. Speaker, and now they are going to kill it softly with their funding policies.

Mr. Speaker, this is again amplified and reflected in the Housing announcement from this government. You know, as F-Troop goes one way on decentralization, F-Troop goes another way on Housing. It is more consistent with their ideology that says, we do not believe in community participation; we do not believe in involvement.

Mr. Speaker, the centralization of Housing is the biggest blow to people living outside of the city of Winnipeg, because the people of Winnipeg have the Department of Housing here. We will lose 50, 60 agencies outside of the city of Winnipeg and that will be a total disenfranchisement of the voluntary sector and the community-based sector of the housing projects in this province.

Look at their housing policy to begin with. We had the negative growth in January. The average growth in housing was 4 percent, I believe, in January of 1991, and of course consistent with this government's worst performance, we are down near the last in terms of housing starts, et cetera.

Of course, this government is going to take hundreds of people out of the province, and it is going to take hundreds of people back into Winnipeg, and the net result was it will not make any sense at all.

Mr. Speaker, this brings us to another decision of this government in the Speech from the Throne. I want to be very thorough in our comments, because this is a very thorough point in our history. As the Premier has said, this is a point of decision.

Look at the whole issue of the boundaries and the city of Winnipeg. It is also consistent with disenfranchising people out of their representation -(interjection)- and the Liberals are saying, oh, oh. I will talk about the Liberals in a minute, because I sat with the member for Crescentwood when he was from Fort Rouge, on this policy.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege and honour of bringing in the Independent Boundaries Commission suggestion into this Legislature and passing it through this Chamber. That boundary commission in 1987 was supported by all members of this Legislature, including 29 ward boundaries which were supported by the single Liberal, the Tories and the Conservatives. In fact, the member from River Heights supported it, and so did the member from Charleswood support the idea of 29 boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, in 1988 the Liberals and the NDP defeated a reduction in the size of City Council from 29 to 24. We talked about the right of citizens to have their own representative. We talked about the lack of planning that was contained in the minister's bill.

Mr. Speaker, when we had the walk down Main Street of the Liberals and the Conservatives -(interjection)- relax. Mr. Speaker, in 1990 the Liberals flip-flopped and joined the Conservatives in terms of promising to reduce the size of City Council. It was not popular, but we stuck to our principles. We are a party of principles. Now the Liberals want to go back again and try to find a way to disagree with it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, we will be an opposition of hope -(interjection)- well, we did not vote one way in '87 on the boundaries like the Premier (Mr. Filmon) did and another way in 1988 when he proposed 24 and another way in 1990, so you check the record, Mr. Speaker. You check the record. -(interjection)-

Well, you had better look at the record, my friend, because you did not. Twenty-nine in 1987.

I could go on and on and on about the flip-flop policies of the Tories and the flip-flop opposition of the Liberals, but the bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, we are at a serious point of decision. We could talk about the environment. We could talk about aboriginal people and the lack of justice for aboriginal people. We could go on and on and on in terms of the neglect of this government in dealing with Manitobans.

We believe that the last six months have been a disaster for this province. This province has gone from an illusion of strength to a reality of weakness. We are last in the province in terms of economic performance. The government is using their own lack of economic performance to cut back on social programs in this province and cut back on the people who need it the most.

This is an ideological right-wing government. We have always said that we would approach you on the basis of principle and conscience and, Mr. Speaker, our conscience no longer can support a government that is 10 out of 10. The Premier's (Mr. Filmon) performance is dismal in terms of it being last in this country in terms of protecting people, and I regret but I will move with pride in terms of New Democratic Party an amendment to the Speech from the Throne and I will move—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* (1530)

Mr. Doer: Since this government, in the throne speech, put forward no initiative to stop Manitoba's grave economic situation, I move, seconded by the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylcyia-Leis),

THAT the motion be amended with the following words:

This House regrets that:

- (1) this government has refused to take leadership to stimulate economic growth in this province when it is most needed, which will result in Manitoba being the last Canadian province to come out of the recession;
- (2) this government has failed to take any action to protect and create jobs in Manitoba;

- (3) this government has not taken any initiatives to guarantee that farmers receive the real cost of production and has instead supported inadequate farm programs which continue to force producers off their land;
- (4) this government has instituted a series of initiatives to radically erode the quality of health care, education and family services, claiming that no resources exist to finance these vital programs while refusing to take steps through the implementation of a fair tax system that would properly finance them;
- (5) this government has failed to take any steps to place justice for northern and aboriginal people at the top of this province's agenda;
- (6) this government has failed to have any environmental strategy in place to protect the quality of water and quantity of downstream water in this province; and finally

this province has thereby lost the trust and confidence of the people of Manitoba.

Thank you very much.

Motion presented.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, the honourable member's amendment is in order.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise and speak to the amendment that has been proposed in the Speech from the Throne.

Let me begin by saying that it is good to be back in the House and to have the communication and contact with you again this year, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome back all of the colleagues in this House, on all sides of the House, and, I must say, particularly the member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux); I wish for him and for all members of this House continued good health, although, in the case of the member for Inkster, it will be a few days, maybe a few weeks, before he is back to full duties in this House.

I was pleased, I must suggest, at a comment apparently made by the member for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Rose). He had said that I seem to have gotten 10 years younger since we were here in the last session. I would suggest to him that it is amazing

what a little bit of sleep will do between December and March. I would recommend that he too take some time to throw that rock and that he also find the time to read a little book here and there, because we all need that. We need to be more dimensional than just the activities which take place in this particular Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to seriously look at the affairs and conditions of this province. I regret to say that I do not believe that the Tory Government has had any discernible policies or strategies to deal with the current economic malaise and fails yet once again to show any direction, any innovation, any creativity in this, its Speech from the Throne.

Their response is to stand passively by while more Manitobans are unemployed, as more of our children are forced to leave Manitoba to seek jobs elsewhere and as consumers and corporations declare bankruptcy in record numbers. Between last October and this past February, the unemployment rate in Manitoba jumped from 6.1 percent to an incredible 9.5 percent, and it is forecast to increase.

In addition to this increase in the unemployment rate, we saw 2,144 people leave this province in the third quarter of 1990 as they sought better opportunities outside of the province.

Personal bankruptcies are 65 percent higher now than they were during the depths of the recession in the early 1980s. Last year, Manitoba suffered 417 business, and personal bankruptcies were 1,890. In the height of the recession in 1982, the numbers were 370 and 1,114 personal or consumer bankruptcies.

The numbers have risen dramatically. Yet, with this throne speech we still see no pro-active policies to deal with the recession or its effects, no kick-start programs to stimulate economic activity in sectors which need it, no job training, no industrial strategies of any kind, no commitment to research and development.

The government is poised, and we have been warned over and over and over again by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) to take haphazard cut-and-slash measures to reduce costs any way they can. That is their answer to the recession and the deficit, cut and slash in the most knee-jerk, ill-considered fashion possible. This government, it would seem, prefers to see businesses fail according to the vagaries of the market and people pushed onto social programs, which they also

intend to underfund, rather than helping them stay employed in the first place and allowing businesses to grow in viable sectors.

The greatest transgression of the Manitoba government is not only its failure to develop policies to deal effectively with this recession, but that they failed to develop policies over the past few years that would help us avoid it, a serious recession, and even more importantly, institute the kinds of structural changes to the economy that would help us deal with economic hardship. I am speaking of labour market strategies such as skills training and retraining so necessary if we are to adjust to the Mulroney Free Trade Agreement. Economic diversification. These are strategies which are necessary for us if we are to be competitive in the 1990s and beyond.

I see nothing in the throne speech to indicate that the government is taking steps to institute such long-term structural change. The Manitoba Tories continue to play a shell game between ministries, fobbing off the responsibilities for skills training and a labour adjustment strategy like a hot potato. We watched one day in the Legislature as it went from the Minister of Labour to the Minister of Community Services to the Minister of Education back to the Ministry of Labour, and nobody had any suggestions as to how they were going to help those people desperately in need of skills training.

The real effects are felt at shutdowns and layoffs like the one at the Paulin Chambers plant, where 290 people lost their livelihood, or the Burns closing in Brandon, which threw 145 people out of work. As of January 1, we have had the Campbell Soup closure in Portage la Prairie, forcing out another 167 workers and having a serious impact on related industries and revenues in that community.

* (1540)

In addition, just this year, again since January, we have seen 225 layoffs at Repap in The Pas, the loss of 45 jobs at E.H. Price, 25 very high-skill jobs at the Rh Institute—an institute that we were told, because they were getting government funding, would not have to lay off a single employee—and the layoff of 30 workers presently from Triple E Canada in Winkler, who received a very large grant from the Western Diversification Fund, again with the promise that they were going to create jobs, not lay off people.

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

The inaction of the provincial government has already taken its toll, and it appears we are going to see Tories' inaction again. After two years of modest gains in Manitoba's GDP, many economic analysts are now downgrading their earlier forecasts for Manitoba in 1991. The Royal Bank, which put the most positive forecast, was 0.3 percent, is now saying economic growth in Manitoba will be limited to a meagre 0.1 percent. The Toronto Dominion Bank, which in October predicted growth of 0.8 percent, is now forecasting a shrinkage of minus 0.5 percent. The government's policy intentions will ensure that these grim predictions will be accurate, if not generous.

Despite a serious recession with zero or negative growth, the blight of accelerating inflation has yet to be checked in Manitoba. It appears that in this province inflation has begun to accelerate alarmingly. The latter part of 1990 showed rates of inflation for the city of Winnipeg increasing from 3.8 percent in July to 6.8 percent in January, according to the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics. Coupled with this slowdown or shrinkage in the GDP, it would seem that we are heading, if we have not already arrived at, a classic case of stagflation.

Meanwhile and most important of all, the human cost continues to tally, with Winnipeg rolls on welfare swelling to 8,509 in November, a 10.8 percent increase from the previous November. One would expect an increase, Mr. Acting Speaker, in welfare rolls during a recession, but the situation was that we were not considered to be in a recession in November in this province. God help us when the statistics come out for January and February of this year.

In addition, the situation has been seriously improved and enhanced by federal cutbacks to unemployment insurance. The benefit period for UIC has been reduced, the waiting period prolonged, and an overall benefit package cut. Those who would turn to UIC will now find that the benefits are not there for them, and so our welfare rates and rolls will continue to grow.

Federal finance minister Michael Wilson announced in his February 26 budget that \$100 million is to be cut from the funding of job training. He also stated that unemployment insurance premiums will be increased by 22 percent for

employees, and he had the gall to say with a straight face he had not increased taxes. The effect has been to push more people, especially members of the working poor, who are most susceptible to periods of unemployment, onto welfare.

The welfare programs themselves are woefully inadequate. The average family receiving Income Security in Manitoba receives about \$16,000 in benefits, while the poverty line only starts at \$26,000. That means they are asked to make do with 38.5 percent less than the poverty line.

While the provincial government cannot be blamed for federal policies, they have done nothing to mitigate the effects on the poor, and there is nothing in this throne speech to indicate that they are planning to offer any help any time soon. The throne speech refers to yet another cabinet committee for federal-provincial economic relations and the pursuit of legal remedies in an attempt to reverse federal decisions to cut transfer payments. This is clearly, Mr. Acting Speaker, too little a little too late, as is so characteristic of this government. We have been calling in our party for action since 1986.

Federal policies in other areas are also having a hard impact on Manitoba. Cuts to the Canada Assistance Plan and EPF have offloaded onto the provinces more of the financial burdens in the areas of welfare, health care and education. The government's policies will do little to mitigate the impact of these hardships.

Liberals have proposed approaches to stimulate the economy, including focusing on long-term strategies for research and development and supporting homegrown business. We have long said that the creation and maintenance of permanent jobs is essential for the financial and emotional well-being of Manitobans. Investments in Manitoba must be actively promoted. The animosity unfortunately created by the NDP between labour and management must be resolved.

While the NDP is prepared to use rhetoric to encourage this animosity to serve their own political interests, this is not in the best interests of the people, as it is only through co-operation and joint problem solving, an approach the member for Concordia asks for. He asks for a joint approach, but then he himself, with his rhetoric, in fact puts wedges between the groups that must participate together in order to solve the problem.

Liberals have proposed joint projects and efforts to further job protection and creation. We have also been calling for a job adjustment strategy. Liberals proposed a council represented by all interested groups to develop such strategy. Quite frankly, we are not surprised that the government of the day does not wish to give the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) a platform for grandstanding. That is why we have not suggested that it be part of this House, but we have suggested that it be outside of this House and that labour and management, business groups, labour groups must work together. If Manitoba is to attract job investors, if it is to provide a climate to lure business, it must have the pool of skilled workers, skilled in the new technologies.

The throne speech speaks of health and aerospace technology, of telecommunications and information industries as focus areas for development, but this focus requires skills training, as we, as Liberals, have been asking for over and over. We proposed that the existing resources, both in the educational and private sectors, be used to provide relevant training, but the throne speech offers no hope that we will see such action.

Indeed, Mr. Acting Speaker, we saw nothing in the Speech from the Throne that would help Manitoba address the terrible statistics for this province that have recently come out in a profile on higher education in Canada. The latest participation rate of 18- to 24-year-olds, in full-time post-secondary education in Canada and for the provinces and territories shows that the Canadian national average is 21.1 percent.

Quebec leads it, but that is a little deceiving because those of you in the House who know the Quebec education system know that they finish school after Grade XI and then they go to a CEGEP system, which takes them through the equivalent of the Ontario Grade XII and Grade XIII. So they lead at 26.1.

Ontario is 22.5, but Nova Scotia, a province much more disadvantaged than ours, is at 20.7. New Brunswick is at 18.2; Prince Edward Island is at 17.8; and Manitoba is 10 out of 10 at 14.7. It is a shame, and we are seeing nothing to address the much-needed skills growth of our population in this budget, but, Mr. Acting Speaker, that does not surprise me because education for this government is a very low priority. If it was not such a low priority, they could not possibly justify a 2.1 percent increase in funding with 1 percent for operating costs.

*(1550)

Today, in Question Period, the Premier of the province says, well, the school divisions have to make those decisions. The school divisions have in the past received 80 percent of their funding from the provincial government. That has eroded; that is down considerably. It is the Department of Education that mandates the programs; they tell them what they have to teach.

Just the other day, the Minister of Education in a comment said, well, you know, they could cut home economics and industrial arts. Well, he should read his own regulations, because they do not permit school divisions to cut it in Grade 7 and Grade 8. They are mandated programs.

What they are doing is offloading their responsibilities onto the municipal taxpayer, who is the same taxpayer, so it gives a lie to the argument that they are not increasing taxes. Of course, they increase taxes. They are increasing taxes because they are passing their burden onto a level of taxation, to a level of government, that has a very limited base, the property tax base.

Anyone who understands property taxes knows that property taxes are one of the most inequitable forms of tax, inequitable because it is not based on an ability to pay. The senior citizen who lives in a house that may have acquired value over a number of decades does not have the money. That same senior citizen may be living on a fixed income. That senior citizen stretches each and every year on a fixed income that may well not be indexed, to try and pay the increasing burden of property taxes.

The First Minister says we have among the highest taxes in Canada. He is right, but nowhere are they higher than the property taxes that we pay. Yet when he offloads, he offloads to that very form of taxation. What will it mean, Mr. Acting Speaker? It will mean that the quality of programming offered in our province will deteriorate.

When Fort Garry School Division announces that it will cut 18.4 senior high school teachers from two collegiates, then the range of programming offered in that school will be diminished. Class size will be enhanced, and we will find young people trying to take English 300, trying to make it into universities in classes with 35, 36, 37, 38 students.

Kelsey Trail School Division has announced it is going to cut 18 teachers, and we are just beginning to hear as the budgets come down what a lack of

funding at the provincial level does to each an individual school division. Nowhere is this harder felt than in the Winnipeg School Division which gets the least amount of its overall budget from the Department of Education and the rural school divisions.

I have asked now for two days for this government to come up with a single example of a frill or an excess in education, they who are supposed to fund 80 percent of the cost. They have not been able to give the school divisions one example, not one can they tell us of how the school divisions are to find those economies. If they find the economies, they will find them by cutting the quality of the educational services available to our young people.

The government has said through their Minister of Education that they are not to endanger special needs students. Well, it is special needs students that create our so-called 16 to one pupil-teacher ratio, because we have mainstreamed. Do not look to regular programs, because there are no regular programs with 16 children to one teacher except in rare schools, very rare schools.

The result is that we will, indeed, see a decrease in programming for special needs. So we will see, in essence, the removal of programming but no mandate to remove that programming.

Mr. Acting Speaker, the government in its wisdom has announced this year a policy with regard to private schools. Now philosophically we are not in agreement with the New Democratic Party, although I must say I was somewhat surprised to hear the critic for Education for Kildonan indicate that he thought there might be a very good legal case for 100 percent of Catholic school funding. He said that in a public platform and, of course, I agree with the government of the day that there is indeed a very good legal case for 100 percent government funding.

That is exactly why we have agreed to come up with a solution because I grew up in a Catholic school that was publicly funded. I grew up in a school which said that the Constitution of Canada recognized Catholic schools at the time of Confederation and for Manitoba in 1870—for me it was Nova Scotia. As a Catholic, I have always had great difficulties in saying my religion is special, my religion deserves to be funded. How can I honestly say that to Jewish children, and Mennonite children, and Christian children? I am afraid I do not have the

gall in a multicultural society to say my religion is more important than anybody else's.

So there is a set of schools known as Christian schools, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) knows, but, Mr. Acting Speaker, I have spoken to a number of people in the private school system, none of them I will admit on the executive of the Manitoba Independent School Federation -(interjection)-

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laurendeau): Order, please; order, please.

Mrs. Carstairs: I have spoken to individual members of that federation, and while they are anxious to see the formula grow, they too wonder why it grew by 5 percent this year, leading to an 11 percent increase in dollars. That is why the Liberal Party said: If there is only 2.1 percent for funding of the public school system then the formula to private schools should only also be increased this year by 2.1 percent. I would ask the Government to consider that, to look at the formula until we reach a position when we are not in a recession, and then we can be more generous. The agreement is that we will get to 80 percent by 1998.

This year -(interjection)- no, the funding formula, Mr. Premier, this year went from 54.5 to 59.5 towards the 80 percent. We are suggesting it go from 54.5 to 56.6 this year because of the recession. Of course, you will eventually get to the 80 percent and you can do that in a period of time when we are not hurt by the recession which is impacting so badly upon us at this time.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I am very concerned also, not just at our public schools programming, but at our private training programs going on in this province. I would like to quote from a document I received over the weekend from a program which is being offered in Brandon. It is training teacher aides. Most of the people in that program will have anywhere from a Grade 6 to less than a high school education. The proposal that was submitted to the government reads like a second year psychology manual.

These teacher aides, who have less than a high school education, are going to be told, according to the document, and it is going to be discussed with them, the various theories of development as evidenced by the writings of Sigmund Freud, Erik Erikson, B.F. Skinner, Dollard and Miller, Arnold Gessell, Jean Piaget and Carl Rogers. They are going to have to describe Freud's theory on personality structure, discuss the four stages of

Erikson's theory on social, emotional and moral development. They are going to be explained B.F. Skinner's theory of operant conditioning, state the beliefs of Dollard and Miller as they relate to drive, cue, response and reward, so forth and so on.

* (1600)

I notice some smiles from the member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli), both of whom of course have education degrees and who know that this kind of material is not dealt with anywhere before the second year level, and often at the third and the fourth year level. I mean it is sham. There is no way that you are going to have that kind of learning going on in the preparation of a teacher aide, but somebody bought it and somebody has been given money for this program, which you know is not going to be taught, because it cannot be taught to people in any reasonable way who do not even have a high school education.

Mr. Acting Speaker, and so we look also at the tragedy of what has been happening in adult ESL. I asked the Minister of Citizenship (Mrs. Mitchelson) on Friday for a written commitment. She says we have given a commitment in the newspapers, but the bottom line is that Winnipeg School Division No. 1 will not rescind those layoff notices for those teachers. They will not rescind them because the last time they entered an agreement with the province for ESL, it cost them \$70,000 when they were not supposed to have to pay anything. With the greatest respect to the government, they do not quite trust them, and they will not rescind those layoff notices until the minister signs the agreement. The minister has told her own constituents that she cannot sign the agreement, she cannot sign it until the budget. Well, the budget will not come in probably until mid- or late April. Meanwhile, those teachers will be laid off on March 31. It is simply not good enough.

What of our problems in our community colleges and in our universities? We know the record of community colleges in this province is woefully inadequate. We are not training nearly the number of students. There are not enough placements in any of the community colleges, and yet we have heard nothing about what grants they will get. I think even the community colleges believe that they will be lucky if they get zero percent.

When I asked in the last set of Estimates of the Department of Education what the Minister of Education was doing about the quality issue at our universities, he told me boldly that not a single president of a university in this province had raised the issue of quality. I was so shocked I wrote to every single one of the presidents, and every one of them presented me with documented evidence of when they had let this minister know that they had raised the issue of quality education with him, every single one of them.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

That is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, not only unparliamentary, to say in Estimates that nobody has raised the issue with you when every single one of them had raised the issue with the minister, but it is an indication of the absolute lack of leadership that comes from the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), a lack of leadership that, quite frankly, should have resulted in his removal from the cabinet. Well, quite frankly, if the Minister of Education was given to the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connerly), it could not be any worse than it is at the present time.

As our economic base is threatened and when Manitobans are losing their livelihood in record numbers, when our social services are most needed, they too are placed under attack. I am scared to death for the future of health care in this province and in this country. Universal medicare is one of those things in which I think every person in this room would agree, no matter what our political philosophy, it is one of those magic things in Canada that exists because all of us have the will. We want to see it happen. It sets us apart. It has become a real symbol, but all of us who are concerned about it know that the very foundations of our medicare system—universality, portability, accessibility—are all in danger.

When I hear the doomsday reports issued on medicare and the unfortunate direction it seems to be taking—and it is ironic that, while the Canadian medicare system is eroding to become more like the system in the United States, there is a strong movement in the United States to adopt our system. I think we are supposed to be going forward, but instead we are creeping dangerously backward. When I consider the downward spiral our system is in, I cannot help but recall all of the horror stories that, not only have I read about in the United States, but I have experienced—not personally, but I lived

in the United States for three years. I had an aunt whom I watched dying of cancer. I watched the family disintegrate because of the economic stress, and I watched aunts and uncles in this country sending cheques to help pay for her care in the United States, because it was the only way she was going to maintain her bed in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, we have watched those in the United States denied health care and ultimately life, because they cannot pay the price. We have seen families and seniors buried under insurmountable debt due to an illness that sapped their lifeblood and their savings. We have seen a system in which medicare becomes a privilege and not a right, and we reject that as Canadians.

I used to look to the future in medicare with hope, but I am not so sure any more. The loss of universal health care is not the legacy I want to leave to Cathi and Jennie, and I know that no one in this room wants that. I cannot reconcile the loss of one of our most sacred institutions. That is why we in this province and in this Legislature must work together to come up with solutions to assist this government, decisions that are made for today and action that is taken now and not two years from now.

Action must be taken to ensure that seniors on fixed income will still be able to receive quality care, that they will not be denied certain procedures due to their age, which is happening in Great Britain, to ensure that pregnant women have access to prenatal and postnatal care and a place to deliver their child, that the working poor can still walk into a doctor's office or hospital and know that they will be given the highest quality of health care available.

* (1610)

There are solutions and while there is not one bright shining solution, not just one simple solution, there are a number of initiatives that this government can take to relieve some of the financial pressure being placed on our province. Manitoba desperately needs a strategy for implementing cost efficient health care that will allow us to provide the high quality continuum care Manitobans have enjoyed, while reducing costs both in the long and the short term. The importance of health promotion and prevention programs must become more than just rhetoric.

In 1988 the government promised the women of Manitoba a breast screening program and three years later, when statistics tell us that one out of nine

women contract breast cancer, Manitoba women are still waiting. Breast screening programs not only save lives, but ultimately reduce costs, and we cannot afford to keep Manitoba women waiting any longer.

The auditing procedures for labs are ineffective as was demonstrated by the Assiniboine lab scandal which cost Manitobans \$1 million, and despite their promises this government has taken no action to ensure that tax dollars cannot be abused in this way again. That is why the Liberal Party will be introducing legislation in this session to improve auditing procedures to ensure proper use of taxpayers' dollars.

I hope all members of this House who are serious about reducing inefficiency and waste will support our initiative. Community-based outpatient clinics must be established to provide a more cost efficient health care delivery system instead of focusing on costly institutional settings. For two years the member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema) has been urging this government to adopt a community-based care option program. I was glad that the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) has come on side on this very important issue because her government did not move on it.

The member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) pointed out many of the shortcomings of this Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). We have the NDP, who say they stand up for the workers, introduce pay equity and intentionally exclude thousands of Manitoba nurses from receiving the salary they deserve. We have the honourable member for Concordia criticizing the government's wage negotiations with nurses when the government of which he was a part gave nurses a zero percent increase in two separate contract years. It was an NDP government that kept nurses wages low and precipitated the strike. It was an NDP government that froze hospital budgets. The only government in Manitoba history that permanently closed hospital beds was the NDP. It was an NDP government whose poor management and lack of innovation put Manitoba's health care system in jeopardy. Let me say this to the NDP, "Let thee who is without sin cast the first stone."

I read with interest the Letter to the Editor in the Free Press by the honourable member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis). She wrote and I quote, "Already some provinces are talking about a provincial takeover of health care funding and hinting at user fees, extra billing and privatization."

She goes on to say that "unless effectively opposed, Conservative policies will mean the end of medicare as we know it today."

I agree with the member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) that the Conservative policies are destroying our medicare system, but what she failed to mention was that among the provinces seriously considering user fees and extra billing is the NDP in Ontario. It is the NDP in Ontario that is seriously considering implementing Quebec's health plan, which calls for user fees for emergency services, taxes on medication for the elderly and for prostheses. That is the kind of commitment the NDP has to medicare.

It is time for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) to come out from behind the shields he has created. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health keeps putting up those wonderfully impenetrable shields to protect himself. Let us talk about that for a minute. The Health Advisory Network, the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower—it would appear that the only doctors this minister is attracting is the spin doctors—(interjection)—Spin doctors, you know, the ones who gather out in the halls—the Task Force on Drug Abuse, and show some leadership.

The reports are filled with ideas, they are filled with options, they are filled with recommendation. They require some leadership from the minister, but he never escapes from his shield in order to provide the leadership. So we have the NDP talking out of both sides of their mouth, as usual, and a Minister of Health whose accomplishments are so miniscule that he desperately tries to take credit for the CT Scanner at the Victoria Hospital.

This government did not have anything to do with that CT Scanner. They provided not one cent of funding for it. It was obtained by the Victoria Hospital, and it was obtained without the government's permission and without, I might add, the previous government's permission.

Our health care system is under siege, abdicated by our federal Tory government. It has been abandoned to our finance minister, the Honourable Clayton Manness—Mr. Scissorhands, I think, is an appropriate term—who has demonstrated that rather than protect the sick, the vulnerable in society, he is going to target them to further disadvantage those the government is designed to protect.

Mr. Speaker, we have become accustomed to this government's unwillingness to either recognize or address the needs which face the citizens of our province. In fact, I am sometimes given to periods of remorse for having to repeatedly show Manitobans how ineffective, stagnant and lethargic this government really is.

Yet the Tory condition of being congenitally inert must be commented upon, because it has a disastrous effect on the lives of the people of this province.

Perhaps the most reprehensible feature of this government's refusal to act on behalf of Manitobans is its callous disregard for senior citizens. These are people who bequeathed to us our suffrage, bequeathed to us the programs that have served us so well. They laboured so that we might gain, but this government refuses to hear the voices of our seniors. To the Conservatives, our seniors are an expense and a burden, and they do not need any help if you listen to the member from Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld). Their policy is to ignore, delay and hide their heads in the sand which, of course, is where he always likes to be in the wintertime.

How else does one account for this government's refusal to spend over \$8 million on community health services and programs that ultimately affect seniors, money budgeted and not spent? Is this government committed to extracting every bit of economic usefulness out of its citizens and then shunting those people to the fringes of society when they are finished with them?

For once, it is time for this government to set aside its ideological disregard for seniors. It is time for this government to emerge from the warm mud of its slough and demonstrate to us that its moral responsibilities have not permanently atrophied. For example, it is time that this government lurched to its feet and declared that the elder abuse paper will be released and, more importantly, that its recommendations will be acted upon.

Mr. Speaker, when this Premier (Mr. Filmon) was in opposition, he made loud and sustained noises about the lack of government action regarding elder abuse. He introduced a resolution. He sanctimoniously wailed that the government of day was ignoring seniors and that an elder abuse paper must be initiated, completed and released, but after nine years and a \$16,000 political fine-tuning this paper has still not materialized. Well, our Premier is

now strangely quiet on the issue of elder abuse. One of his ministers even promised that a white abuse paper would be available last October, but that minister had to backtrack.

* (1620)

Why does this Premier (Mr. Filmon) not wish the paper to be released? Is there something the Premier knows that the citizens of this province should also know? This senseless game of hide-and-seek must end. It is appalling that this government should play games with matters of such importance, and yes, Mr. Speaker, this government took care to ensure that the federal Drug Patent Act was passed without opposition from this government. No representation was made to our Premier's friend, the Prime Minister. To our Premier it is but a small matter that seniors should be afraid of high drug prices. It is too insignificant an issue to cause our government to stir from its mud bath. The government would much prefer to have the federal government slash valuable programs because it can later blame program cuts on its federal mentor, and so it resisted the calls of the Liberal Party to support the action taken by the Manitoba Society of Seniors.

It is sad that Manitoba's government will raise nothing but bleary eyes above the stagnant waters of pleasant torpidity. Instead, our government prefers to burble about information lines, lines that in fact duplicate what the Citizens' Inquiry Service already provides. Certainly we must give credit to a government that can initiate such highly visible programs without the mess and fuss of action, thought or evaluation.

The future of seniors' programs under this government is quite alarming. We have come to expect nebulous and vacuous commitments to address seniors' issues in Manitoba, but in this throne speech, we have not even the slender stock to grasp. Instead, we look into the toothless and gaping maw of an animal that responds to nothing but sustained and vociferous protest.

The people of this province must labour diligently to even have this government react, much less initiate anything of worth, and it is people like our seniors, Mr. Speaker, who consistently seem to pay the highest price for such an action. Take, for example, the Pharmacare card that we introduced several sessions ago. We have tried to persuade the government to initiate it. It is a simple system. Pay

the seniors up-front. Let the dispensaries collect directly from the government. Allow the seniors to have the money in their pockets to buy their food and pay for their shelter, and yet we cannot get this government to act on it. The Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) says he wants to wait until the national symposium on personal health care card terminology.

Mr. Speaker, we have to start somewhere. The techniques are already in place, Saskatchewan has it, it is not new. Why can we not adopt it in this province, and why is it that we cannot get them to come up with new ideas for seniors? But maybe they are learning their lessons from the NDP who also did not come up with any programs for the seniors. Oh, yes, they latched onto our good idea about the Pharmacare card—and we are pleased with that—and I fear that the NDP suffers from an acute case of multiple personality disorder, claiming sometimes to be the only voice of social conscience in society, and then when they have the opportunity underspending, just like the Tories, in their health care budgets.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, there is not much to choose from Gary Crusoe and his man, Gary Friday. For the seniors of this province, it is a long and unhappy record of ineptitude, hypocrisy and manipulation. Now this government continues to wallow about in the swamp of contentment. To them, the issue as it concerns seniors, are patiently flicked away and they bask in the warmth of electoral victory and self-congratulation.

What of the protection of the environment? I was amazed today that the NDP spent so very little time on the environment; in fact, I think it got one word. This government's commitment to the environment, which was marginally better than the NDP, marginally, has been almost nonexistent. When faced with the decision with environmental ramifications, the Tories' first instinct is to neglect the environment. They always choose the bottom line to try and please their Tory cousins in neighbouring jurisdictions, or their friends in the business community.

The ramming through of changes to The Environment Act in the previous session demonstrated their callous disregard for our environment. Not only did this bill allow the government to turn over responsibility for conducting environmental assessments to other jurisdictions, but it weakened existing Manitoba

standards. The Premier promised that the highest standards would be protected in joint assessments, but what do the regulations give us? Well, when it comes to panel selection, the federal standards are stricter in determining technical competence than our standards, but we are using our standards instead of the stronger ones.

Setting the terms of reference to the committee was another area in which the government sought the lowest possible denominator. The provincial standards were tougher than the federal standards, but this time we went for the federal standards, again weakening the legislation.

The failure to live up to stated environmental commitments was also evident in how this government dealt with environmental groups. Before Christmas, when the government wanted to end the session quickly, oh, they were prepared to work with the environmental groups, but I want to know why it was acceptable for those changes in December, but not acceptable for those changes a month later, in January. -(interjection)- Well, only to Conservatives, Mr. Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns), other people have integrity. When they make a commitment to a community, they honour that commitment and they do not change it one month later.

The Tories' environmental philosophy appears to be, say the right things and foster an image of being green and then hope that nobody recognizes what goes on in the regulations. They have adopted the NDP style of environmental politics.

You know, it was amusing to watch the member for Radisson (Ms. Cerilli) in the last session jump up, of course, on her feet one day and talk about the need for worker protection for environmental spills. Gee, I thought it was a wonderful idea, mainly because I had suggested it to the NDP Minister of Environment when they brought down their environment bill. You know what? They refused to put it in the bill. So, the member for Radisson, you are right. You are absolutely right, and you would have been right then too, but, unfortunately, your party was wrong, absolutely wrong.

When in Manitoba -(interjection)- I will put my thought processes up against the member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) any day of the week.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) is also sending mixed messages on the security of Winnipeg's water supply. It is a very critical issue to

some 600,000 Manitobans. When in Manitoba, he says very carefully that we will not accept any mining development on Shoal Lake on the Ontario side, but when he goes to the Premier of Ontario, he says, well, we might agree to mining development provided it passes an EA.

* (1630)

Well, you know, that is a characteristic of his cousin in Ottawa that we hope the Premier will not adopt, saying one thing in one jurisdiction and another thing in another jurisdiction. The Prime Minister of this nation actually has the ability to say two different things in two different languages when he talks about this nation. I hope that the Premier's skills have not become so good in French, although I commend him in trying to acquire them, that he also does not pick up that very nasty trick of the Prime Minister of this nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is very, very critical—very critical—that we have a Premier who says exactly the same thing no matter where he is. It is also critical that we put on the line in this province what our commitments are to Shoal Lake. It is all very well for our government to go hat in hand to the Ontario government, in whose province lies the greatest chunk of Shoal Lake, and say to them, we do not want mining development and we do not particularly want forestry and we do not particularly want cottage development, if we are not prepared to say the same thing on the Manitoba side of Shoal Lake.

We must lead by example if we expect to get from the government of Ontario any co-operation about our water supply. We have to be fair, and fairness comes by our willingness to put on the line our position about Shoal Lake, the Shoal Lake that we control, because without that commitment I am afraid that the Premier of the Province of Ontario and his cabinet are going to say, you do not have any credibility, government. Do not come to us and ask for things that you are not prepared to do yourself. The consequences for us if our water supply is damaged are something that none of us in this Chamber want to face.

Mr. Speaker, this government told us in its last Speech from the Throne that it would work "to secure sustainable economic growth." That is the commitment. Well, we do not have economic growth. Indeed we are watching Manitoba go backwards. We have the rhetoric, we have the promises, but we do not have any action. The

people of this province were assured that I, T and T would foster steady, stable growth and an economic structure in keeping with employment, but I think it is time to say to this government very clearly, talk will not get economic growth. Talk may fit your budgetary mandate because it is very cheap, but it will not secure economic growth for the province of Manitoba. -(interjection)-

Well, I think it is time to take a little trip, Mr. Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns). I think we should perhaps go through the thorns and brambles of Tory bluster and just find out where the talk has gotten us to date.

In the last Speech from the Throne, the government told us it would search. They told us it would search for the task force which would re-establish the dynamic capital market of Manitoba. Well, you know, we went on a search in the Liberal caucus for this dynamic capital market. We could not find anybody in I, T and T who knew anything about it. We finally found one civil servant who knew a little bit about it, but we could not find anybody in the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce who knew anything about it. We could not find anybody in the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce who knew anything about it. We could not find anybody in the Manitoba Federation of Labour who knew anything about it, so it is a very well-kept secret.

One person in the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism knows something about it, no one else. Maybe the minister knows something about it. Maybe he is going to make it appear by magic someday, but if he does so, it is not going to be with consultation of any of the players who would be essential to establishing that kind of strategy for all Manitobans.

The Premier (Mr. Filmon) has thumped his chest, and he has talked about an import profile and an industrial capabilities registry. So we went on a search for that too, but you know, Mr. Speaker, we could not find it. We cannot find any such listing. It does not exist, but the centrepiece of this display of horticulture, if you will, is the so-called Manitoba Innovations Council. Now, this was supposed to replace the Manitoba Research Council, and it was supposed to receive \$10 million of funding from the sale of the Manitoba Data Services, but you know, we cannot find that either. Again, our search found us in the brambles and the thorns, but we could not find anything.

You know, we have to say that the seeds just do not seem to have been scattered very well, because they certainly have not taken growth, but we have seen some negative actions. In the last budget, Manitoba's Tory leaders made cuts in the Department of Industry and Trade, especially those that were going to affect the climate of research and development, programs that provide financial support to companies involved in manufacturing, in research for commercial development. They were all cut by 9.8 percent. We saw health industry, which they talked about in the throne speech. They said this is a really vital industry for Manitoba. It was so vital that in the last budget they cut it by 10.8 percent. They said that they were going to create Manitoba employment opportunities, but they cut that by 4 percent.

Then they said they were going to encourage industrial technology, so they cut that by 2.6 percent. In total, we watched some \$985,000 that had been committed to economic growth removed from the economic growth budget.

Well, Mr. Speaker, taking a million dollars out of this budget is not very visionary and it is not very forward thinking and it is not very innovative, but there is not much point looking to the NDP for that kind of innovation either because they spent even less than the Tories did on innovation and creativity and stimulation of the economic community within the province of Manitoba.

You know it is interesting that the rhetoric in opposition certainly does not match the performance in government, but this is not simply a numbers game. We are talking about people. We are talking about people who are going bankrupt, personally and in small business. We are talking about people who have found themselves unemployed because of these bankruptcies. We have watched the jobless figures rise. We have watched employers and employees who now have no wages, no vocation, but they also have no programs to turn to.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party in Manitoba tried to convince this government to provide an economic climate in which industries flourish and research and development must be a priority, but they chose not to listen. So we continue to see a lack of vision, myopia and, unfortunately, no action for the people of the province of Manitoba.

Let us not forget as this rural government has, and I call it a rural government because they have a great many members from rural Manitoba, but they have less in Cabinet as my friend, the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Connery) says. More importantly, because of those two missing voices, there is also going to be even less attention paid to rural problems; and if Manitobans as a whole are suffering, rural Manitobans are suffering more so.

I am very disappointed in you, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay); Manitoba farmers and organizations that represent them are also very disappointed in the Minister of Agriculture. My office has been besieged with calls and visits from farmers throughout the province saying, and I want to quote because I got this over and over again: "I thought the Minister of Agriculture was supposed to be sticking up for Manitoba farmers... I thought he was supposed to be on our side."

Mr. Speaker, they do not understand why the interim assistance for 1991 is tied to their participation in GRIP, and I do not understand it either. You are asking them to get money by bribery, by intimidation. He is saying, if you do not sign up for GRIP, even though GRIP has absolutely nothing to do with last year's crop year, you will not get any help for 1991. Well, that is not fair.

An Honourable Member: That is not fair; I agree openly.

* (1640)

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, thank you, Mr. Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) and would you please take that message very clearly to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) that it is simply not fair? -(interjection)- That is right, and it should not be tied, and I expect you to vote with us when we oppose this particular amendment.

You know Don Mazankowski is really saying to the farmers: Give me your premiums up-front this spring and I will take those premiums and then I will give you some relief, but if you do not give me the premium, then I am not going to give you any relief. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not fair. It is not fair that our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) says it is fair, and yet that is what he is saying. It is very unfortunate that prairie farmers have become wary of a federal government that says, the cheque is in the mail, because they know all too often that it is not in the mail and that they are not going to receive it.

The Liberal Party is very much in favour of the GRIP program, very much in favour. We believe it is a good program. We believe it could be enhanced. We believe it should be based on individual yields and not averages. We believe that the federal government has offloaded some of its responsibility yet once again onto the provinces and has offloaded yet again onto the farmers, expecting them to pay too high a premium, but the concept of the program is good and is necessary and is essential for our farmers, but the farmers should not be bribed or coerced into making a decision that will affect their operations so completely. They must be free to make this management decision without undue pressure from federal and provincial governments.

GRIP was designed to stabilize farm incomes, to enable long-term planning and to provide universal coverage across Canada so that all farmers would compete on a level playing field. For once I am thankful this government did bow to federal pressure when this minister decided that he had to offer the same program to this province's farmers as was being offered in Saskatchewan and Alberta. That was not his original commitment. He wanted a separate program, a different program for our farmers, and that was not equitable and it was not fair.

I am glad that he has changed his mind and he has seen the light of day, because you cannot expect to change the rules as he wanted to do in midstream. He wanted the farmers to pay the premium, and then somewhere in the middle he would decide what the payout was going to be. Can you imagine buying insurance on your life for \$100,000 and then having your spouse discover that somewhere in between your death and the payment they decided to make it \$75,000 instead? That is what the minister was proposing to do.

Do you know what I did find when I examined the government's record on agriculture, however? By the end of December 1990, since they took office on May 9, 1988, they had underspent in agriculture by \$47 million—\$47 million in agriculture. That was the commitment of this government. Well, the government is honing to a near perfect skill undercutting the agricultural community of this province.

Despite increased American encroachment on traditional Canadian agricultural markets and surplus grain farmers, this government withheld, and listen to it, Mr. Minister of Natural Resources

(Mr. Enns), because it affects your farm operation, over \$330,000 intended for marketing your product, Mr. Minister of Natural Resources. -(interjection)- This government—yes, we are coming to that—implemented the Livestock Development Program without including hogs, much to our regret, because they certainly had it in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and then they cancelled it just as the beef industry was beginning to turn around.

Where is the beef, Mr. Findlay? Well, it is going down the road. It is going off to Alberta. It is going south to the United States. Unfortunately, it is not staying here in the province of Manitoba, and that is part of the reason why we watched Burns Meats close in Brandon. It is why we watched East-West Packers close in this community. Of course, if the NDP had had a proper strategy when they were in government, then you would not have been left with the legacy that you had to react to.

Well, Mr. Speaker, while Manitoba farmers may hold the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Findlay) totally responsible, I want to quote from the Premier (Mr. Filmon) today. I was disappointed that the member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), the Leader of the Opposition, did not have this quote today in the House. I almost gave it to him, because on December 21, 1990, he said, and I quote the Premier: I am personally involved with every decision that is made and every policy judgment that is taken in this province. I take responsibility for all things that are happening—unquote. Now, of course, when the member for The Maples (Mr. Cheema) got up and asked some questions about health care, he took them as notice because he obviously does not consider himself responsible for any decisions made in Health, even when it is the construction of a hospital which seems to be built without adequate funding for staffing, without adequate programming and without adequate responsibility.

As usual, when agriculture is concerned, I am afraid this government is very long on fertilizer but rather short on yield. After three years of Tory rule, we have yet to see any innovative programs or policies introduced, other than GRIP which comes from the federal Government. We have seen no forward thinking, no initiatives, and unfortunately, we continue to see the devastation in our rural economy. Part of that rural economy devastation is the abysmal record, unfortunately, in the area of decentralization.

I want to make it very clear that the former Minister of Rural Development was not responsible for decentralization. He should have been, because he had some very good ideas, but they gave it to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) instead. Now, of course, he still has it in his new responsibilities for Rural Development in addition to all of his others, which I think is quite tragic because it is going to mean that the time and attention which the former Minister of Rural Development gave to rural issues is not going to be able to be given. He is going to have to spread himself among a number of other ministries.

Let us talk about decentralization, Mr. Speaker. Well, true to my predictions, they have managed to take an excellent idea and they botched it. They have turned it into chaos. They were heavy-handed with government employees, and then the organization was so atrocious that they have accomplished a very small part of what they did or what they hoped to do. They sent one part of a couple to one part of a province and the other part of a couple to the other end of the province. They have given up leases on buildings, but they have not opened the leases in a new building. They have discovered that they cannot move the people to Winkler. They do not have a building to put them in but, meanwhile as of May, these people do not have a building because they have given up the lease.

Now the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Downey) says, well, you know, we may have to delay. We may not be able to do what we thought we should do. I make the suggestion to the minister at this time, whatever they do, they think it through instead of announcing a program leading to high expectations only to have those expectations absolutely demolished by the government of the day.

In the meantime, rural schools are being threatened because they are being told to trim the fat. Well, I know there are rural members in this House who know that there is not any fat in many of the rural school divisions, if any, of the rural school divisions. Special programs in some divisions cannot be cut, Mr. Speaker, because they do not exist. You cannot cut a program that is not there in the first place. You cannot cut biology in Morris School because it is not offered. How many other programs are not already offered, and how many others programs will be cut?

* (1650)

Mr. Premier, he is unfortunately paying lip service to environmental issues, and that is all he is paying to the issues of rural development. Mr. Speaker, when someone asks me what this government is doing to encourage economic diversification and development in rural Manitoba, I tell them, well, they have set up another committee. No one is better than the Tories at setting up committees. They have a maze of them, and, unfortunately, rural Manitobans do not take kindly to that. They want some action. They do not want promises anymore. They want results, and to date they have not had any results.

While rural Manitoba is being ignored, the attention given by this government to urban affairs has its only goal to curry political favour. Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal party are glad to see that the government has adopted our policy of reducing the size of council to a realistic, not a cosmetic, number, but as usual they did not get it quite right. Their desire for pie-shaped wards will do a great disservice to the inner city, and I am appalled that they would come out with that recommendation before they had even consulted with the people of this province and with this city.

What is the point of having a task force, asking people questions, if you have already made up your mind how you are going to do it? That is the tragedy. It has nothing to do with the commitment. The government of this day did not commit any election campaign to pie-shaped wards. They committed to a system that would reduce the number of city councillors and with that we are in agreement. Let us let the citizens of this city decide the shape of the wards and, above all, let us let the boundary commission determine where those wards will be.

The City of Winnipeg Act has a function. It gives to a nonpolitical body the right to draw the boundaries of this city. It does not give it to a defeated Tory candidate, to the spouse of another defeated candidate for the Tories, and to someone with so-called relationship in party politics to the same government of the day. The minister in his seat, the former Minister of Urban Development, says we would not accept it. We accepted it when the Boundaries Commission, an independent boundaries commission, drew the boundaries for the province. -(interjection)- Excuse me, we came up with an independent boundary commission. An independent boundaries commission set forth the boundaries of 57 constituencies, and every one of

us in this House accepted that independent committee's report. That is exactly what we would do if we got an independent committee's report.

If the President of the University of Winnipeg and the electoral officer of the city and a judge—

An Honourable Member: Chief Justice.

Mrs. Carstairs:—Chief Justice presented to us a boundary commission report, we would accept it. Believe it or not, if one believes his colleague, who usually sits to the right of him, then he would too, because he said the statutory nature of the Boundaries Commission as well I think will serve the city well. It will take it out of the hands presumably of the body politic in terms of reviewing that particular situation.

Mr. Speaker, when you appoint the Chief Justice of Manitoba, the president of the University of Winnipeg, and the Chief Returning Officer for the City of Winnipeg, then I think it takes it out of those hands and puts it in the hands of a statutory body, a body that will in membership change from time to time, but will not be appointed on the basis of political decision.

That is what the Minister of Urban Development said. That is what he said. What did he do as his first action? He took this wonderful independent boundary commission, and he ripped it up. He threw it into the political arena. -(interjection)- Yes, he did, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, I do not really understand why the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) is not a Liberal. He keeps agreeing with us today. He is so right. He is so right and that, of course, was why when he was not in the cabinet we urged the Premier to put him in the cabinet, because we wanted a good liberal voice at that table. Now, we are not altogether happy about some of the things he does in his own constituency, mind you, but never mind.

The extension of the Core Area Agreement for one year is good news, but it falls short of what it should be doing. Mr. Speaker, the Core Area Agreement is something that is very important. It is important mostly again to the disadvantaged, to low-income earners, to the Native population of our community. The Liberal Party has been calling for renegotiation for over a year, but the Tories ignored the issue. Now there is no new guarantee of new money to finish the Core renewal. The Core needs continued investment at a time when suburban development has driven up property taxes to a point

where there is no money left in the city treasury or the taxpayers' pockets to finance the renewal. This government has failed to set its priorities on urban issues, particularly urban-Native issues. This throne speech reflects the government's paucity of ideas for the city of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude today, there is one other issue that I wish to address and that is the issue of our aboriginal community. I commend the government, because in its Speech from the Throne it said that it would support the recommendations made by the aboriginal justice inquiry when they are tabled later this year, and that they would implement them. I think that all of us in this House hope that, in fact, is government policy, and that indeed is what will happen when those recommendations come down, but I have some concern.

I have some concern, Mr. Speaker, because we keep hearing over and over and over again that there is an urban-Native strategy, but we cannot find it. It is caught in the thorns and the brambles once again, and that is simply not good enough for our aboriginal community. My caucus was deeply disturbed this weekend to read of a court decision taken in British Columbia, a court judgment that I think sets back the cause of our aboriginal peoples in a rather major way.

* (1700)

There was only one ray of hope in that judgment, and it is a small ray, and that is that the judge did say that this was not a decision that should be made by the courts, that decisions about our aboriginal peoples had to be made by politicians. So he has handed the torch on to us, not just in British Columbia, but in every province and in Canada as a whole. He has passed it on to us. We have to take it. That is the only ray that we can accept, that we will pick up that torch, and we will run with it, because it is time that all of us as Canadians recognized our responsibilities to our aboriginal peoples, that we no longer pay lip service to the injustice done to them. Lip service is not good enough, and we must give them back what has been for too long denied to them.

I hope that in the deliberations of the committee, aboriginal issues are first and foremost. I hope that we will not get bogged down because of the Conservatives' inability to want to support a concept of self-government because they cannot define it. No, we cannot, Mr. Speaker. Let us go on to define

it with our aboriginal peoples, but let us recognize it and enshrine it, because it is essential for them to live in dignity.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal caucus was extremely disappointed with the Speech from the Throne, but we were also disappointed with the amendment of the New Democratic Party, because we do not think it addressed nearly all of the issues critically facing Manitobans, although we commend them on many of the things that are contained therein.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr),

THAT the motion to amend the Speech from the Throne be amended by adding thereto the following words:

And this House further regrets that:

- (a) this government is jeopardizing the educational system by arbitrarily restricting funding, failing to prioritize programs, and limiting access to post-secondary education by failing to adequately support colleges and universities as well as requiring these institutions to increase tuition fees;
- (b) this government is undermining the health care system by failing to implement cost-effective community-based and prevention-oriented care;
- (c) this government is failing to address the needs of rural Manitobans by threatening to cut programs to Manitoba farmers, including participation in the Gross Revenue Insurance Program, by supporting the federal government's decision to tie interim assistance to participation in GRIP, and by failing to present any action plans to diversify rural economies;
- (d) this government is failing to safeguard children and families who are vulnerable by failing to maintain, let alone enhance essential services to Manitoba families;
- (e) this government is allowing environmental standards to be eroded, thereby jeopardizing our natural heritage to be left to future generations of Manitobans.

Motion presented.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, the subamendment is in order.

Mr. Jack Reimer (Niakwa): -(inaudible)- as we begin our second session of the Thirty-fifth Legislature. Since I last had occasion to rise and speak to our government's previous Throne Speech, many changes have taken place. I would like to take this opportunity to accent some of the changes and initiatives which are of particular interest to me in my constituency of Niakwa.

At present we are faced with a fiscal challenge of such magnitude that it threatens the economic future of our province. In order to survive the current economic times, we must make difficult decisions which will serve to make Manitoba strong for future generations.

As outlined in the throne speech, our government's efforts will be focused toward security, a stronger Manitoba aimed at building a strong economy that will provide jobs and economic opportunities -(inaudible)-

Since the beginning of the last session, our government has taken significant steps toward the preservation of essential services while enhancing the viability of small business operations. Despite the fact that the federal government has reduced cash transfers for health care, vital services have been maintained. Health care remains a priority of this government.

Funding in the amount of over \$898,000 has been provided for renovations to replace the special procedure room for cardiology and angiography at the Health Sciences Centre. Also, programs such as the Smoke-Free Grad 2000 have been extended to include Grades 2 to 4. More than 40,000 children are expected to take part. Preventative health measures such as this can help to ensure that every tax dollar is used to its greatest effect.

At a time when we as a government must distinguish between services we would like to provide and those we must provide, we have shown that financial pressures will not jeopardize those services most needed by Manitobans. Social allowance benefits, for example, were increased by 4.5 percent effective January 1, 1991. In addition, the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) announced that the GST credit will not be considered as income for those individuals who are clients of the government's provincial Social Allowances Program. Two family services agencies, Northwest Child and Family and Family

Services of Eastern Manitoba, have received deficit relief funding totalling \$785,000.

* (1710)

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

We have strengthened the commitment to abused women and their children by increasing funding available to wife abuse shelters by \$600,000. Our government recognized the efforts of these agencies as essential and therefore will strive to maintain adequate funding.

The funding for vital health and social services can only be available through a foundation of a strong economic base. A healthy economic community creates jobs, which generates taxes which in turn pay for the benefits and services that we all enjoy.

Our government is committed to taking an active role working with Manitoba businesses in order to strengthen our economic base through initiatives aimed at expanding markets and promoting the development of small- to medium-sized businesses.

For example, the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism recently announced its Export Development Training Program. This is a series of two-day seminars covering a range of export-related topics ranging from market demographics to pricing and transportation. Programs such as this will aid in educating the business community on the specifics and importance of exports in our economy.

A similar initiative involved a group of Manitoba manufacturers interested in developing new trade opportunities in the United States, conducting a two-day promotion in Duluth, Minnesota in association with the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. More than a dozen firms took part by exhibiting their products. Manitoba businesses realized that the only way to compete in today's market is through the active pursuit of expanded markets. Through the broadening of our export market, we can increase our tax base without increasing the tax burden. The Manitoba government continues to be committed to restraining the increase in taxes while strengthening the economic base.

In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to meet with my constituents in Niakwa to discuss issues that are of concern to them. The Niakwa constituency, with the exception of the Mint, Unisys, and the federal Health Protection Branch, is a

predominantly residential area spattered with many small businesses. As a result, many of my constituents are concerned with programs and initiatives aimed at small- to medium-sized businesses.

As we all know, it is the small business in Manitoba which motivates the economy. As the owner of a number of small businesses over the years, I can identify with the concerns and difficulties these businesses must address in order to provide the many services that they do.

I am pleased that our government has recognized the importance of small business in Manitoba through initiatives such as the Manitoba new small business tax reduction. This plan, first introduced in the August 1988 budget, provides income tax relief to new small business corporations for the first five taxation years. The relief originally applied to corporations incorporated under The Corporation Act, The Co-operatives Acts, or The Credit Unions and Caisse Populaire Act from August 8, 1988, to December 31, 1990. However, in the last budget presented to this House, our government extended this program by one year to offer this incentive to new business incorporated from January 1, 1991, to December 31, 1991. This program recognizes the significance of entrepreneurship in Manitoba and the difficulties encountered in launching and maintaining new small businesses.

Our government recognizes the great potential the business community can offer regarding the provision of services. The October 11, 1990, Speech from the Throne, announced a new skills training strategy called Workforce 2000 plan to improve the basic skills and education of Manitobans. The comprehensive program consists of training advisory and human resource planning services, private sector training incentives to encourage private business, to increase their investment in training, and industry-wide planning and training initiative to assess skills and training needs and province-wide special curricular courses.

As part of this initiative, Manitoba firms will be eligible for a maximum of 0.3 percent payroll tax credit to offset training and development costs. This initiative illustrates how our business communities can be assessed as an avenue to provide essential services such as education and training.

Furthermore, Unisys Canada Incorporated, the Winnipeg plant located in Niakwa which produces

computer peripheral equipment for sale world wide, is supported by the province of Manitoba feasibility studies program in its bid to obtain international standards organization certification. This certification is necessary in order to meet standards which come into effect within the united European trading community in 1992. The province will contribute up to a maximum of \$20,000 towards the cost of the \$152,000 project. The federal government will also provide funding in the amount of \$20,000 through its department of western economic diversification.

Supports of this kind prove to be invaluable to our communities and, indeed, our province, as they provide the kind of assistance necessary to maintain the employment of more than 400 people at this particular plant in my constituency of Niakwa. Although my constituents in Niakwa are glad to see that our government is doing its best to spend our hard-earned tax dollars to best effect, they do have concerns in some specific areas. As I met with individuals in groups from my constituency, I heard concerns about their French Immersion Program. Within Niakwa, there was a strong support for the maintenance of this and other programs aimed at preserving and cultivating the French language.

Our government is committed to the preservation of French language services, not only within the constituency of Niakwa, but also throughout the province. Our government has signed along with the federal government, a general agreement providing for expanded co-operation in the promotion of official languages. The agreement covers a five-year period to March 31, 1995, and it was renewable for a further five years.

The agreement states the principles, the objectives, and the mechanism for the co-operation between the provinces and the federal government and provides for the regular consultation with Manitoba's French-speaking community by both governments. On a more local level, a study prepared by Maurice Gauthier on French language services and health care facilities has recently been released. Our government agrees with the principles inherent in the report's recommendations.

Premier Filmon has announced that an advisory committee on French language services in the field of health care will be established in the near future to advise the government on the implementation of the recommendations. The report contains 29 recommendations, including a list of 20 health care

facilities which should be in a position to offer various levels of French language services within a four-year period. Also proposed is the creation of two new French language service co-ordination positions such as the one already in existence at St. Boniface Hospital.

Initiatives such as these help to ensure that the French language and the culture are preserved and the specific needs of the French-speaking community are met.

As the MLA for Niakwa, I will continue to represent the interests of not only the French community, but all the diverse communities within my constituency.

* (1720)

On a more personal note, I would like to thank the Premier for appointing me legislative assistant to the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship and also the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism (Mrs. Mitchelson). The opportunity to work with the honourable minister and to attend events on her behalf has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have especially enjoyed the chance to explore the cultural diversity of this great province of ours. I encourage all Manitobans to take some time to enjoy the richness the different cultures and heritage add to our province.

I am reminded that as a Manitoban we are truly fortunate. We are fortunate that our cultural diversity is a strength for us as a province and a source of pride for us as a people. I am proud that all Manitobans, regardless of race, culture or religion, have the benefit of equal access to opportunity and participation in all aspects of our society while at the same time having the confidence that their own cultural values will be respected.

In Manitoba, we have learned over time that the opportunities of a multicultural society are best realized through partnerships within the communities and with government. Mr. Acting Speaker, I have learned that the image of this province is of many people with many differences but many contributions; many variations in views, but a single common desire to live in harmony and to benefit from the opportunities which this offers. In accepting difference, we find our oneness. We find our togetherness in accepting each other's right to be different.

Madam Minister, I applaud you for the leading role you take in meeting these challenges, and I thank you for this opportunity for this exposure.

In closing, I would like to say what a great pleasure it is to serve the constituents in Niakwa in the past few months and tell you how much I look forward to serving them in the future.

Thank you very much.

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to take a look at the throne speech in a slightly different context than my leader has done this afternoon and that the other members of the official opposition will be in the next eight days.

I would like to look at this throne speech—I think it is important to see that this throne speech not be seen in isolation. It is a reflection I believe of a Conservative philosophy that has its image reflected in many or several Conservative countries across the Western Hemisphere. I would like to look and see how it fits in with the Conservative vision as it is played out in Great Britain, the United States, the federal government in Canada, the Conservative philosophy, economic, social and political.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

I would also like to look at it in a general context of how this throne speech and the philosophy that it, I think quite clearly, represents, the impact that the throne speech and the current Manitoba government have on the family.

Basically, I think at least some of the elements of the Conservative philosophy, and I use the term "Conservative" in its broadest context to include not only Progressive Conservative Social Credit governments but also Liberal governments, certainly here in Canada. Less government is the best government. A belief that the private sector, particularly large corporations and businesses, are the best and really the only way to engender wealth which is known in circles as the trickle-down effect. A belief in high interest rates and tight monetary policy is the way to control inflation and to engender a good economic system.

Just briefly, I will outline some of their philosophies in a general way and in the context of the family. I believe it is shown in the last Speech from the Throne, in the budget, in the comments made in this House by the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and his ministers and in this Speech from the Throne that families are still believed, in the Conservative philosophy, as being made up of two loving, caring parents with adequate social, financial and

emotional supports for not only themselves but their children. Following along from that, and the concept that the less government is the best government, that services to families and individuals when they do have problems, which is not very often, can be provided by volunteers, family members and other local community groups alongside, and in many cases instead of trained professionals.

I believe that these ideals have shown themselves to be the case in this particular government as well. Now, I think we have three very good examples of laboratories of Conservative thinking, currently or in the last decade in our western economies, Great Britain, the United States and Canada. I would briefly like to talk a bit about the three of them, and why I believe they showcase the Conservative ideology.

Margaret Thatcher said in a recent interview, which I believe was her first interview since being asked to leave as Prime Minister of Great Britain, when asked how she would like to be remembered, she said that she would like to be remembered as having strengthened Great Britain. I must admit to being a bit taken back by that because I assume that she feels that she will be remembered in that context.

Just a couple of things that I think give the lie to that kind of thinking and the history will show, No. 1 is the poll tax that Mrs. Thatcher brought in and that directly led to her downfall, although it was not the only thing that caused problems. This is a tax that no government in the Western Hemisphere of whatever political stripe has had anything to do with since the 1300s. Six hundred years of governments, which have throughout that period needed to find ways and more creative ways and new and innovative ways of raising money from their citizens, not one of them since the 1300s has used the poll tax, with the exception of Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government in Great Britain. The riots that this engendered, the by-election defeats, the actual loss of the Prime Ministership by Mrs. Thatcher I think show how out of touch this kind of a concept is.

As well, I think there are many statistics that could be shown about the social and economic conditions in Great Britain under the Thatcher years. I think one of the most telling is that child poverty doubled during the 11 years she was Prime Minister. As we have said in this House before, a good indicator, one of the best indicators of how a government cares for

its people, is how it handles the people least able to take care of themselves, and that is the children of the country—a doubling of child poverty during her 11 years.

The gap between the rich and poor in Great Britain expanded as well. The infrastructure—Great Britain was one of the first western democracies to put in place the concept of universal accessible health care. That system is breaking down. The unemployment is rising. The services for people who are unemployed and in trouble are decreasing.

* (1730)

Then in the mid-'80s when things started to get bad for her at home politically, domestically her polls were down, she was not doing very well, people were starting to wonder very seriously and legitimately about her ability to govern, what did she do? She went to the Falklands. Let us have a nice, tidy war many, many thousands of miles away from Great Britain, absolutely no strategic or economic value to Great Britain, but there was a lot of political mileage that was made out of that. She got a lot of political mileage out of that war and nothing else.

About the same amount of time there has been a conservative government in the United States as there has in Great Britain, with Ronald Reagan and George Bush. In 1980, when Ronald Reagan became President of the United States, the United States was the largest creditor nation in the world. When George Bush took over from Ronald Reagan in 1988, the United States was the largest debtor nation in the whole world—in one eight-year period, from the largest creditor nation to the largest debtor nation.

Not only that, we will not even talk about their lack of social programs, their lack of compassion and caring for poor people in the United States. We all know about the health care system in that country. We have heard in this House about some of the problems in the health care system, supports to families that are breaking down.

The savings and loan crisis that country has been going through over the last few years, I believe when history is written, will be seen to be one of the largest stains on any democratic government in the history of western civilization. The total response from the conservative concept of deregulation: let the savings and loan people go and do whatever they wanted to do, loan money to whomever they wanted

to loan it to with absolutely no sense of accountability.

They are currently in a major banking crisis. The banking system in the United States is running a very severe threat of falling apart completely in a way that it has not done since the 1930s, with an enormous impact that that would have on western economies. Again, as in Great Britain, the gap between the rich and the poor is crumbling, it is widening. The entire social infrastructure of that country is crumbling. The problems of the poor, problems of social justice are increasing every day.

Again, as in Great Britain, recently we have seen a case where the President of the United States was in trouble locally, in trouble domestically, having no concept, no idea of any kind of strategy to deal with the enormous problems facing that country, and what did he do? -(interjection)- Yes, and what did he do? He went to war just like Mrs. Thatcher went to war. He went to war for oil. He went to war, and now -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The honourable member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) has the floor. The honourable minister will have an opportunity.

Ms. Barrett: I am not for one moment suggesting and no one in my party is suggesting that Saddam Hussein did not need to be controlled and things were not bad in Iraq. There were ways up until three days before the U.S.-controlled United Nations resolution went forward. The United States, through its diplomatic channels, was saying, we do not care what you are doing in Kuwait. That is a border dispute. We do not care. Then all of the sudden the politicians took over; the political stuff took over. They said, we are in trouble domestically; let us take people's minds off what is going on domestically and go to war, with ecological, environmental, social and political results in the whole Middle East and western democracies that we will be paying. We will be paying for this war for generations to come, in every element—we will.

Okay, let us talk about Canada. What has Canada done? What has Canada done in the last six years? -(interjection)- Then do not listen to it.

I would like now to talk about the Canadian experience. The Canadian experience in the last 15 years has been to tag along with its American partners. I am talking in the conservative context of not only Conservative federal governments, but Liberal federal governments. The Free Trade

Agreement began with the Liberals. The Liberals first discussed -(interjection)- The Free Trade Agreement first began with the Liberals. Taxbreaks for large corporations began with Liberal governments. Tight money policy is not just a Conservative kind of effect, so what I am saying is that the Conservative ideology crosses both old-line parties.

Our presence in Iraq has—as stated by columnists in *The Globe and Mail*, legitimate, very respected people—caused Canada potential damage in our role as a mediator and as a peace-keeping force in the world, which we have, with a great deal of pride and legitimately, spent a hundred years cultivating. We run the risk of selling that down. We spent, while we were involved in the Persian Gulf, \$3 million a day on the forces that were in the Persian Gulf. That is compared to \$2 million a month that Minister Perrin Beatty's announcement about additional funding for services for women and children in crisis. Three million a day, no problem for the government to find that kind of money, but we cannot have a national child care policy. We cannot have new funds for services for families. We cannot have legitimate farm policies because there is not enough money.

Well, the priorities were there. The priorities were certainly there. When George Bush rang his bell, like Pavlov's dog, Brian Mulroney followed.

I would like to talk about the impact of Conservative thinking as practised by both Liberals and Conservatives over the last decade. Some statistics. Maybe I will get boring and things will calm down a bit. There are currently 240 food banks in Canada. Six hundred thousand Canadians use food banks. That is a rise of 54 percent in the use of food banks in Canada since 1989. Children are twice as likely as adults to use food banks, and 70 percent of the people who do use food banks are on social assistance which tells something about our social network.

The fastest growing group of poverty in Canada is not single women. It is not elderly women, although they are growing fast as well, it is the working poor families, the people who this government talks about in its throne speech as being the backbone of Canada and the backbone of Manitoba. They are the people who are the fastest growing group of poverty-stricken people in Canada.

Women—44 percent of the work force in Canada is women, which is a 10 percent increase since 1970. I think a good increase, that the work force is becoming more gender neutral. Currently still, as has happened for 20 years, women earn 67 percent of what men doing the same jobs earn. Eighty-four percent of women work in service areas, the areas of this economy that are the most vulnerable to cutbacks. Net wages for women decreased 10 percent from the years of 1981 to 1987 in Canada—Conservative years and Liberal years. The number of men in poverty increased from 1971 to 1986 by 24 percent. Not a very good ratio. However, the number of women in poverty over that 15-year period increased by 110 percent, four times as much. Almost all the new jobs created in the 1980s were in the low-paying, part-time, temporary sector in industries that have been massively affected by the Free Trade Agreement, such as textiles.

* (1740)

Plant Closures—up until fairly recently plant closures and job losses have largely been in industries where women are the most concentrated. Now we are seeing, with the problems in southern Ontario, that those job losses are now going into male-dominated industries as well.

Frances Russell in the *Free Press* of October 1990, when she was writing a column about the last Filmon budget said, and I quote: Tight money, high interest rates, which are Tory federal policies, are redrawing the national economic pie. Wealth is going from debtors to creditors, from the least affluent to the most affluent, from families in small businesses to investors and speculators, from the middle class to big financial institutions. The redistribution of money is upwards, so much for the trickle-down effect, and there is decreased government activity.

Michael Valpy, in the *Globe and Mail*, a newspaper that is not noted for its support of New Democratic Party policies, has stated recently that the working poor, single parent families, women and children are all becoming, quote, the cannon-fodder victims of the economic adjustment policies of the industrialized world, and I might add, the largely Conservative industrialized world.

I would like to speak now about the throne speech and specifically how it deals on families. On page 2 of the throne speech, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) talks

about the people of Manitoba, how there has always been a balance between individual effort and community involvement, individual effort that began the process and strong tradition of community involvement. I find it is interesting that the only expression of community involvement and I quote, as expressed through barn raisings and quilting bees, pools and co-ops, socials and fowl suppers. Those are all excellent examples of community involvement. They are also largely rural.

The face of Manitoba is largely urban. Not only do more than 60 percent of its people live in Winnipeg, but even when you add into the urban centres of Portage, Brandon, Thompson and Dauphin, and the smaller urban centres such as Steinbach and Swan River, you have an increasingly urban focus of Manitoba people. The problems of the city are not addressed. The problems of urban centres, no matter what size, are not addressed in this throne speech. I am sure other members of the caucus will go into more detail on why that is the case. The centres of our cities are rotting. We are not servicing the people who live in our urban centres.

Again, the concept of families I find interesting. I think that, as I have said earlier, my sense of what a Conservative idea of a family is a mother and a father, a single parent, the father is working, the mother is at home, children are in school, and if they have any problems, they are able to deal with it in their network, their local network. The reality bears no resemblance to that at all. Today, there are almost as many female-headed, single-parent families as there are families where the man supports the wife and children, so there are as many people who do not fall into that traditional view as there are those who do. Where are the supports for this new reality of what families are? They are nowhere to be found in this Tory throne speech. They were nowhere to be found in the last one.

Services are being cut back. They are not being supported. Federally, and again, federal Conservative and Liberal governments, there are 450,000 more preschool children of working women who have no licensed day care available than there were in 1979. With an increase in mothers in two-parent families who work, there is half a million fewer children in licensed day care. Where, I ask you, is the federal government's vaunted national day care policy? It is on the shelf waiting for the next pre-election.

In 1987, only 8 percent of children of working women were in licensed day cares. Where is the provincial day care policy in Manitoba? In Manitoba, our day care policy was—and I use the word "was" deliberately—the best in North America. People from all over North America looked at our day care policy and how we were implementing it. It is now being decimated; it is being cut back; it is being cut to death. We are downscaling our supports for families in this province, we are polarizing income, we are polarizing services.

The supposed commitment that the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has talked about in this throne speech, in the last throne speech to education and family services, we have already seen what commitment means to Conservatives when it comes to education. We do not need to have it stated yet again. The dreadful record that this current government is showing us in its commitment to education, to public, accessible education, not only for children of the affluent, but children who have special needs, children who need nursery care, who need child care, who need to have one-on-one assistance so that they can learn and grow to become productive, happy members of this society, those services are the ones that are being cut back. They are being cut back as a direct result of the monetary, economic and social policies of Conservative ideology as seen in the federal, provincial and, yes, the city governments.

We have had a glimpse of this new reality on families in trouble when it comes to some of the planning documents we have received from the Family Services department. These plans would eliminate services for the most needy members of our society—people in the rural and northern areas, people on social assistance, single parents, children with special needs, children with troubled families, troubled families themselves, older children. All of these services are most likely going to be frozen or cut back in this next budget.

Even the Free Press, again not noted for its support of New Democrat ideas, has been castigating this government over its lack of commitments to children and families. Two editorials actually within a week and a half of each other in February, talking particularly about the Ministers of Education and the Ministers of Family Services, and I quote: "Neglected and abused children are bearing more than their share of the Filmon government's spending restraints. Cabinet

ministers probably did not mean to pick on children, but unless they take corrective action, that is what they will wind up doing."

The editorial goes on to talk about the Education minister (Mr. Derkach) putting most of his money into private schools and selected public school divisions, with a freeze on money to Winnipeg School Division No. 1 with a vast majority of special-needs children in it so that the targets for cuts in that division are social work and psychological services of the Child Guidance Clinic and teachers aides. These services benefit abused and neglected children.

The Family Services minister (Mr. Gilleshammer) has frozen funding for Child and Family Services agencies which in effect means a major cutback in service delivery from those organizations. "The victims," as the Free Press says and I quote, "obviously, will be the people served by these agencies—in the main, abused and neglected children."

* (1750)

Mr. Gilleshammer's theory is that someone else should do the work that the child welfare agencies have been attempting to do. He wants other departments and even more other areas of society to pick up the slack that his government is unwilling to carry on, and Mr. Derkach is saying Family Services should do it. The Minister of Education—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I remind the honourable member that we refer to honourable members referring to their constituency or the ministry which they represent.

Ms. Barrett: I apologize. The Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) is saying that the Department of Family Services should be taking on these roles and responsibilities or community services.

The federal government has made commitment, albeit we will watch very carefully, it is the impact of this commitment for services for abused children, for health care for children and for support of the UN charter for the rights of children. The end of this editorial says and I quote: "Neither Mr. Beatty nor Mr. Mulroney nor the entire United Nations, however, can protect abused Manitoba children from the indifference of their own provincial government. Mr. Filmon can." Quote, Mr. Filmon, the Premier, can, end quote. Will the Premier

choose to do so? I do not see any evidence of that in his throne speech.

Again from the Free Press of February 20 and I quote: "If Mr. Filmon's plan is to withhold service from abused and neglected children, he should let us know. He should also prepare to hear his own speeches quoted back at him. All through the years when Muriel Smith was minister of community services in the Pawley government, Mr. Filmon regularly lashed himself into a fury against her for leaving children in the care of abusive or neglectful parents.

"Mrs. Smith at least stated her policy, a single policy, and defended it. Mr. Filmon's ministers point vaguely down the hall. That is not policy, that is evasion." End quote.

I am quoting the Free Press who states that Muriel Smith, the then minister of Community Services, had a vision and defended it. This government has a vision. It is indefensible. This government has no action plan. It has six or seven, depending on how you count it, task forces' studies. There is talk; there are studies, and the end result is the poor are going to pay.

Premier Filmon talks tough when it comes to federal cutbacks in the 1991 Speech from the Throne, but as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer) stated earlier, in November 1989, he told Brian Mulroney, and I quote: Your government has taken some promising steps on health services and health care financing, and we want to work with you to make them as effective as possible. Well, I would suggest that he has been working with his federal cousins, and the Filmon government is making that Conservative agenda a reality every single day, with disentanglement, caps on transfer payments, absolutely no plan to talk to the federal government, to tell the federal government what this government and these people of Manitoba demand.

Governments make choices and decisions. Even by not acting you are making a choice and a decision when you are in government. Throughout the 1980s, Conservative governments in Great Britain, United States, Canada, the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and now Manitoba have consistently made choices and decisions that benefit the wealthy, powerful and corporate interests. Nothing that the Filmon government has done or, more importantly, has not done in the past three years and three budgets

changes that view. This is a Conservative government, a Conservative leadership, a Conservative throne speech, and it will be a Conservative budget benefitting the few at the expense of the many.

When Mr. Wilson, the federal Finance minister, the Premier of the province, Mr. Filmon, and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Manness, say that all Canadians and all Manitobans have to reduce their standard of living, I will tell you that we on this side of the House had to take a second look at what we were seeing and hearing. I would suggest to you that their definition of all having to tighten their belts and live less luxuriously excludes those same wealthy, powerful and corporate interests that they so competently have represented over the last decades. It does not include, however, the poor, the weak, the vulnerable, the elderly women, the single-parent families, people with mental and physical disabilities, exceptional children, people in rural and northern communities, farmers.

As a matter of fact, it does not represent the vast number of Manitobans and Canadians, and I think that the people of Manitoba and Canada are beginning to realize that.

The Bank of Canada government, John Crow, several days ago, on March 9, defended his continuation of the tight money policy that the federal government has been undertaking for the past seven years with such dreadful results, quote: This is a middle-distance race. You pace yourself, and you have to have the stamina for it. I think we do. End quote. This is from the same Bank of Canada governor who the day before had given himself and his employees in his division a salary increase of 4.2 percent after the Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, told all public service employees that they would have to take a zero percent increase. Of course, they have the stamina for it. They are cosseted. They are privileged, and they do not understand what is going on in the real world.

The Premier (Mr. Filmon) today, in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr.

Doer), stated that our economic troubles are our collective problem and that some will have to take less. I would suggest to you today that the some who will have to take less will be the many in Manitoba who have been forced to take less because of federal Conservative, provincial Conservative and civic Conservative ideology.

We in this House are going to spend our time criticizing and making constructive alternative suggestions for the lack of long-term policies that deal with the real issues of the 1990s and do not reflect merely the view of the world which did not even exist in the 1950s but is being played out by this government and other Conservative governments.

As I said before, we at this side of the House will spend our time continuing to bring to the people of Manitoba, if not to the government benches, our view of the world, our view of what the problems are, our view of what should be done to help the people of Manitoba and Canada to be able to really work together and co-operate. We would certainly be delighted to co-operate with the government if we had any sense at all that they were willing to do so.

I think this throne speech says that that is not the case. They are following a Conservative agenda. They will follow a Conservative agenda until the people of Manitoba, as they will, tell them that the Conservative agenda of the 1950s and the 1960s has no relationship to the reality of Manitoba and Canada and the western world in the 1990s and into the 21st Century. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Government Services): Call it six, Mr. Speaker?

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

Some Honourable Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 6 p.m., in accordance with the rules, I am leaving the Chair and will return at 8 p.m., at which time the honourable Minister of Government Services will have 40 minutes remaining.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Friday, March 11, 1991

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