

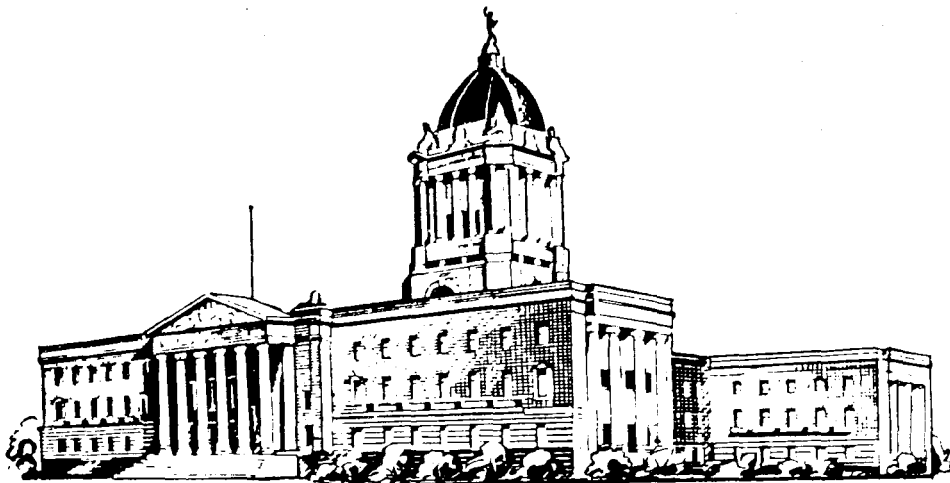


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 p.m., Monday, February 16, 1976

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to my gallery, on my left, where we are delighted to have as our guests Members of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick: The Honourable W.J. Woodroffe, Speaker, Mr. J. Tucker, Mr. J.Z. Daigle, Mr. L.N. Theriault, Mr. C.B. Lynch, and Mrs. H. Robideaux.

We also have in the loge to my right, the pleasure of the Honourable Gordon Snyder, Minister of Labour, Minister of Government Services from the Province of Saskatchewan.

On behalf of the Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you here today.

There are also visiting 40 students of Grade 11 standing of the St. Norbert Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Sister Pat and Sister Simone. This school is located in the Constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. Welcome.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable First Minister.

TABLING OF REPORTS

HON EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I do have certain reports to table pursuant to various Acts of this Assembly. The first is to provide for the Table of the House the Public Accounts, Main and Supplementary, of the last fiscal year; also a Return under Section 114 of The Insurance Act, and under Section 30 of The Law Society Act; a Report under Section 22 of The Legislative Assembly Act; a Report of the Public Trustee, Province of Manitoba; a Report pursuant to Section 20 of The Public Officers' Act and a Report under Section 13 of The Special Municipal Loan and General Emergency Fund Act; the Report of the Provincial Auditor to the Assembly and finally copies for the Clerk of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board, 24th Annual Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any other Tabling of Reports? Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Questions. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

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MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable Attorney-General and I'd like to ask the Minister if he's in a position to advise the House whether the investigation carried out by his department into the Judge Pilutik affair has revealed that there has been any miscarriage of justice or any improper interference with the conduct of cases tried in his court?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Attorney-General) (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the question and the concern of the honourable member. I will be issuing a statement within the next few days, a more comprehensive statement, that I trust will put to rest legitimate concerns.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q.C. (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. I wonder if he can indicate whether any municipal or city government has requested the Provincial Government to enter into an agreement under which the province would act as an agent to collect special municipal growth taxes?

MR. SPEAKER: The First Minister.

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MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions at the time of the meetings with the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and discussions with representatives of the City of Winnipeg, but nothing that would purport to be a formal request of a very specific nature.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, another question to the First Minister. I wonder then if he can indicate why the income tax form to be completed by the Federal Government designates under Manitoba 42.5 per cent for taxation purposes of which provincial purposes are listed as 40.5 and the municipal purposes 2 per cent.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that was indicated to this House last April 24th, I believe.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, I wonder then whether the First Minister could indicate why the Federal Department Taxation Form for corporation tax does not list as well what was indicated in the Budget, that one per cent would be designated for special municipal tax purposes.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, that in fact was the understanding and the last information which I was given on the matter. I thank the honourable member for raising that because that may well prove to be requiring some revision.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: I have a question then for the Attorney-General. I wonder if he can indicate under what legislative authority the Province has abated two points of its income tax for municipal purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Asking for a legal expression. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. --(Interjection)-- The honourable member rephrase his question.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, because it involves the question of the taxpayers in this province who are going to be requested to pay 42.5 per cent on their taxation form. Under what authority has the government abated its two points and why will a taxpayer have to pay 42.5 and not 40.5?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it was indicated in the budget last year that there would be allocated two points of income and one point of corporation tax to the municipalities by way of growth taxes. I gather that budget was approved last year and that is the basis of the authority.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia. --(Interjection)-- The Honourable Member.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I wonder if the Attorney-General can indicate: Is he suggesting then that the passing of the budget in itself without legislative authority was all that was required.

MR. SPEAKER: Again asking for legal opinion. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I've a question for the Honourable Minister of Labour. I wonder if the Minister has any report to the House, any progress report on the two strikes: the transit strike and the strike at the Health Sciences Centre.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, that's a rather peculiar way of asking a question, progress insofar as strikes are concerned. I don't know whether it's real progress or not. However, I would indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I was involved as indeed the conciliation officer for the Department of Labour. We were involved all over the weekend with consultations going on at the Health Sciences Centre and we're hopeful that a resolution of this dispute may come about before too long. There are differences of opinion, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that you and honourable members will appreciate; but I say to my honourable friend, the Member for Assiniboia and all other members, we are doing our utmost to resolve this situation as quickly as possible.

So far as the transit strike is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I note according to the press media that a meeting of the transit workers was held at that very elaborate establishment called the International Inn over the weekend. I was not present at that

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) meeting but I have received reports that it seems that the stalemate between the transit workers and the City of Winnipeg is continuing. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that I am giving serious consideration to the establishment of an Industrial Inquiry Commission under Part I, 112, subsection 2 of The Labour Relations Act. I'm sorry I cannot give any more definitive answer to my honourable friend except to indicate to him and to the Members of the Assembly that we are not unmindful of the turbulence that is prevalent today.

MR. PATRICK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister or the Government considering legislation to end the strikes in both places?

MR. PAULLEY: Being supporters of democracy in its true sense, Mr. Speaker, my answer to my honourable friend: We are not at this time considering compulsory legislation.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. In view of the difficulties that some provincial employees have at the present time getting to work, is the Minister or has the Minister made any arrangements or is he considering any arrangements to be made for car pools and someone to get the provincial employees so that they can get to work?

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Civil Service Commission, I have received no complaints of absenteeism insofar as provincial employees are concerned; they're in the same ball game as the rest of the citizens of Greater Winnipeg.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN (Rhineland): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. Can the Minister tell this House whether the employees who were involved in the recent wage dispute at the Misericordia are back at work?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Health and Social Development) (St. Boniface): Yes. There has never been a strike at Misericordia. That strike was at the Health Science Centre. They reached an agreement before the deadline for the strike.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General. Sorry, Order. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: My question is to the same Minister. Can the Minister tell this House whether the patients that were removed from the hospital because of the wage dispute have been returned?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, they're not all returned and I hope that they will not be returned at this time. I think it wouldn't be to the advantage of the citizens of Manitoba. My understanding is that the Administrator and the people responsible at Misericordia will take back the emergencies, and I think this is the best way until you have the situation at the Health Science Centre decided or settled.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in reflection I would like to refer back to the question asked of me by the Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell. I think it deserves an answer now so that until such time as I've given a more complete response, there isn't any misunderstanding develop by a lack of response.

There is no evidence, Mr. Speaker, that was presented to the Judicial Council or that we had accumulated to indicate that any conduct on the part of Judge Pilutik would have influenced improperly, would have influenced any cases decided up until the time of the referral.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. Can the Minister indicate to the House when his government plans to sign the agreement on wage and price guidelines with the Federal Administration or the Federal Anti-Inflation Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

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MR. SCHREYER: Soon, Mr. Speaker. In fact I can advise the honourable member that a certain communication has been exchanged with respect to the preparation of the necessary documentation and accordingly the answer is "soon".

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate or can he verify that negotiators for the Manitoba Hydro employees have indicated that they will not negotiate according to those guidelines because there is not an agreement signed at the present time?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend's information from whatever source must be erroneous because I'm advised that negotiations in fact are current.

MR. AXWORTHY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In those negotiations has it been indicated by representatives of the Provincial Government through Manitoba Hydro that in fact they would have the guidelines directly applying to the employees of Manitoba Hydro?

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, it's, I think, not desirable to engage in specifics relative to negotiations that are current.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Development and it rises out of the question and answer between him and the Member for Rhineland, Sir. Can the Minister of Health and Social Development confirm that the operating engineers, the maintenance people at Misericordia Hospital are in fact at work?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, unless my honourable friend has information that hasn't reached my desk yet, they've never left. --(Interjection)-- That's quite clear. We're talking about Misericordia.

MR. SHERMAN: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Health received any communication to the effect that the maintenance staff at Misericordia does not intend to fulfill its duties until the negotiations involving their colleagues at the Health Sciences Centre are concluded successfully?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister for Consumer Affairs. I see he is not in his seat. Perhaps I can place the question to the First Minister. Has the Government examined the findings of the Food Prices Review Board as it applies to Manitoba - in the supermarket area?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I should think so. I'll take the question as notice though.

MR. PATRICK: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The First Minister can take that as well. I wonder if the Government or the Minister for Consumer Affairs had any consultation with the Minister responsible for the Food Prices Review Board in Ottawa. If he agrees with the findings of that Review Board, will he be taking any actions as recommended in that Review Board concerning the supermarkets and no competition within the supermarket area?

MR. SPEAKER: The last part is hypothetical. The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. SPIVAK: Mr. Speaker, my question is then to the Attorney-General. I wonder if he can indicate - well possibly the First Minister rather than the Attorney-General - I wonder if he can indicate whether the province will be prepared to rebate the two points of income tax paid by taxpayers if in fact the province did not have the legislative authority for the actions taken?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: If it will satisfy my honourable friend, we're quite prepared to look at what he appears to find to be a formidable legal point of some kind. I merely indicate to him, however, that the budget proposals adopted by this Legislature - and they were adopted, Sir - constitute a plenitude of authority. If it's not in the form which my honourable friend likes, no doubt we can make some adjustment in that regard.

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(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) But insofar as the dollars are concerned, and that's what's important in the final analysis, the dollars can be transferred by means of the old format or by means of the new intent. One way or the other we intend to provide greater financial support to municipalities than my honourable friend seems inclined to support.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Northern Affairs. In his position as speaking for the Churchill Prefab Housing Limited, with respect to the \$681,000 deficit in 1976, could the Minister inform the House as to whether or not Churchill Prefab Housing won their contracts under the tender system?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister for Northern Affairs.

HON. RONALD McBRYDE (Minister of Northern Affairs) (The Pas): Mr. Speaker, there were a number of contracts and agreements that the Churchill Prefab had and I'd have to check as to exactly how each one was arrived at.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Wellington for the Address to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The Honourable Member for Riel, the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Leader of the Official Opposition) (Riel):

Mr. Speaker: As you will see, Sir, I've changed my seat in this House and with the change comes the responsibility of serving as the Acting Leader of my party in its activities in this Chamber. In this capacity I will endeavour to assist you to fulfill your own heavy responsibilities for preserving the order, impartiality and effectiveness of our deliberations here.

I would also commend to you, Sir, my colleagues, the Members for Wolseley and for Crescentwood, who have been elected to sit with us in this past recess. I know that they and the rest of my party join me in wishing you well as we commence our deliberations in this Session. I know that all members in the House will join me in regretting the illness of the Honourable Member for Souris-Killarney and his absence from the Chamber. We are confident that he will soon rejoin us here.

Speaking now for my Leader and for all the members of my party we will offer an extra degree of courtesy and patience to the First Minister and his colleagues as they make the sweeping and dramatic adjustment that they have promised in this Throne Speech. They have promised to become a government of restraint.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. CRAIK: They have promised this House "stringent limits" on government spending. They have promised us that all expenditures will be "efficiently managed". Sir, that change in direction and intent of this government makes whatever changes that may have occurred within our group seem relatively insignificant. But my friend the First Minister is nothing if not a realist, Mr. Speaker, in politics. If he is sometimes chastised by members of his own party for that realism, he will in this case receive no chastisement from our party. The people of Manitoba want common sense restraint in government today. The voters of Wolseley and Crescentwood sent that message very clearly to the government earlier in 1975. The messengers they chose are here and will happily repeat it whenever there are signs of it being forgotten.

Manitobans have had enough of this government's loose stewardship and naive assumption that the more government spends the better things will get. Too many Manitobans with medium and low incomes are finding the tax levels this government has visited upon them too burdensome to believe any longer that somehow the NDP-Socialists can give you things for nothing, like taxing only the other guy.

Mr. Speaker, I have not been given in the past to referring to this government, the party in power, the NDP, as the socialists. But, Mr. Speaker, having sat in the last year through several items that were of particular significance to the New Democratic Party and watched on television their National Convention, it must have been

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) clear to all Manitobans and to all Canadians that the word "socialism" is openly coveted by at least the national group to a much greater extent than it ever was before.

Mr. Speaker, you can't also help but, perusing through the resolutions that are presented more locally at the Manitoba convention of the NDP, can't help but arrive at the same conclusion: that the open coveting of the term "socialism" now is much more of an accepted thing that it ever was in the past for the NDP. Whereas in the past they were sensitive about being referred to as socialists, that's no longer true. I don't wish to play them down or insult them by not giving them their full true credit in now saying that they do adopt openly, for the people of Canada and for the people of Manitoba, the term "socialist". So Manitobans, Mr. Speaker - to return to my text - want a government capable of restraint and common sense. But as to whether or not the voters of Manitoba will believe that they can elect the same old people but get this totally new approach, well it would suggest to the First Minister that he may well speak to the Member for Wellington who has in this Chamber used as a text for his own comments in the Chamber a reference to a biblical quotation.

Mr. Speaker, I'm always intrigued when I find a member or the government or its representative using biblical quotations, such as the Deputy Minister of Agriculture did last year in the debate we had in this House on the interpretation of the quotation from Leviticus. Mr. Speaker, I would recommend to the First Minister that he ask the Member for Wellington to read from the portion of the Bible in St. Matthews - and I'll give him the exact quotation - it's Chapter 9, verses 16 and 17, and I think the words that you'll find there are instructive. Mr. Speaker, I think that you will indeed find that they are prophetic as well.

A MEMBER: Read them out.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, if you . . .

A MEMBER: Get it on the record.

MR. CRAIK: In case the Member for Wellington - and I must admit that I can't accommodate the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources by quoting from the Old Testament in this particular case, but I think that he'll accept the fact that it could easily have been in the Old Testament as well.

It says in 16, "And no one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment for the patch tears away from the garment and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins and so both are preserved." Mr. Speaker, when this government tries to practice restraint I refer them to this quotation that I think is apt on this particular occasion.

But the government in this Throne Speech has promised us restraint. The promise is rather more qualified than we'd like but it's there. They haven't promised us very much else in the Throne Speech. But at least it's consistent because it's difficult for a government to spend less and to do more.

So on that point they are consistent in the Throne Speech. So I'll not take up the time of this House by proposing multi-million dollar programs. I'm sure the First Minister will get quite enough of that from his own colleagues in Cabinet. Neither will I use my time in the debate with a long rehearsal of the past differences that have divided us in this House. This is not the most useful purpose this debate can serve either in this Chamber or in Manitoba at large. But the Throne Speech is a general statement of the intentions and if one looks hard enough at the philosophy of the governing party, I would propose to answer it almost as generally, spelling out in a way that I hope will be fair our alternative philosophy and something of the intentions we would bring to a government.

We all know that there will be a general election in Manitoba before too many months elapse. I hope that we can use this debate to help make sure that the people of Manitoba know clearly what our two parties stand for. Now I hope we can do this in a way that does not plunge this House into the kind of acrimony that has too often marred the proceedings here over the past years. We have political differences. I can say to members opposite, your idea of the kind of society you want for yourselves and for your children is very different from ours and it's true.

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

We are divided, too, by questions of judgment. We believe that in many instances the judgment of this government has been flawed to the detriment of every man, woman and child in Manitoba. We believe that too often these errors in judgment have been made worse by a lack of complete frankness. We would hope for a little more common sense and a little more straight talk from the Government. We would hope that we would not too often be asked to listen to statements like this one from the Throne Speech, and I quote: "My Ministers inform me that the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation continues to operate without the necessity of public subsidy." (Applause) Mr. Speaker, call it a subsidy, call it what you will, but the fact that the two cents tax on gasoline affects the prices of everything that is shipped by road . . . (Hear, Hear) (Applause) whether the person who buys it owns a car or not. If I do not own a car, but you in effect tax the quart of milk I buy and take the yield from that to tax and protect those who do own cars, then Mr. Speaker, we can legitimately say, "That is a subsidy." That's the kind of lack of frankness that has obscured political debate in Manitoba throughout the life of this Government. I say to my friends opposite, don't play at semantics. If you think it is a good and justifiable thing to tax gasoline and in effect to tax everything that is shipped by road in order to help pay for automobile insurance, then say so and say so clearly and let the people decide.

If there is a major criticism that can be made of this entire Throne Speech that we're dealing with, it is that it is lacking in straight talk. It is lacking in the kind of clear statements of attitude and intention that the voter can pass judgment on.

I asked my friend, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, if prior to his entry into government, in his practice as a labour lawyer, perhaps even a hard-nosed labour lawyer, if he had heard any government make the following statement, and I quote: "In implementing new programs my Government is ever mindful of the dual requirements of restraint and the replacement of inadequate market forces by the planned application of human values".

Mr. Speaker, we know that the conventions and Throne Speeches allow for language that is formidable, but what is the Government trying to say? Why can't they say it clearly and who are they talking to? In this House we are considering matters that affect the lives and welfare of men, women, children all across Manitoba in a very direct way. So let's make an effort to deal frankly with the issues in front of us.

We can begin on the first page of the Throne Speech. There is a passing reference there to the performance of the Manitoba economy over the past year. There is a promise that the Government will be bringing forth more information in the near future. Last year's economic performance is described with lukewarm enthusiasm. But the First Minister himself was far franker and more forthcoming in an interview with a Toronto newspaper than he has seen fit to be in the Throne Speech. In that interview he said that a relatively tough year was in store for our economy in 1976. He said he believed his Government would be undertaking more Public Works spending to combat unemployment. He apparently felt bound to speak of these things more frankly and clearly to a Toronto reporter than to the Members of this House and to the people of Manitoba.

We're not asking for a detailed breakdown of all his government's economic forecasts. We are suggesting that the simple statement in the Throne Speech that would go something like: "Next year it will be tougher. We intend to spend more on Public Works if there's an increase in unemployment," belong more properly in this speech than they do in Eastern newspapers. One of the responsibilities of this House is to inform the people of Manitoba of the state of their affairs, so let's begin to meet that responsibility in layman's terms.

Then we come to the government's promise of restraints. As I said, it's curiously qualified. We are told that every expenditure is in accordance with government policies. That offers scant comfort, Mr. Speaker, to the people of Manitoba who have watched government policies drive public spending soaring past the one billion dollar mark in just six short years. The policy of this government has been to spend money: Saunders Aircraft, Flyer Coach, a hundred thousand acres of farm land, fifty per cent

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) more civil servants than when they took over. All these expenditures are "in accordance with government policies." We can have precious little hope of restraint from this government if all they do is follow the same old policies.

Here I think we are encountering a major philosophical difference between our party and theirs, that of the government. They believe that the ability of government to tax and to spend is unlimited. They have little faith in the free and random decisions of the marketplace. Instead, they prefer the planned and controlled decisions of the state. They believe that the government can better dispose of money than the men and women who work to earn it. And of course we disagree. We believe that the individual Manitoban is a better and more prudent manager of his or her decisions, responsibilities and incomes than any government can ever be. We believe that the private enterprise system works, that it has made us among the best clothed, best housed and best fed people in the history of civilization. And we believe finally in the words of Arthur Meighen that: "Politicians and bureaucrats do not create wealth. They divide, they distribute and redistribute but they do not add to the total wealth or to the necessities of life."

We can all agree that government has a responsibility to redistribute income within a society so that all should be able to live in dignity and with a degree of security. That is why no member of our party objects to paying taxes to help to provide the income supplement to senior citizens or to support the Pharmacare Program. But redistribution of income has an objective. It is to assure every citizen of an acceptable minimum level of income and security. It is not to remove all the differences between people. It is to provide a degree of equality of opportunity. It is not to enforce a total and blind equality on all people in all things.

We believe in the kind of society where hard work and ability are rewarded. (Applause) We believe very frankly, that extra work and extra ability should receive extra rewards. (Applause) We believe that the productive members of our society, those who through their efforts and sacrifice, add to our total wealth, have a claim to a greater share of the total wealth we produce. Where a group of people have special needs or face special problems, then we agree that government has an obligation to help meet those needs and solve those problems. Government may legitimately tax the incomes of other citizens for that purpose.

But what social needs and problems were solved by Saunders Aircraft? What special hardships are being avoided by the purchase of little electric cars, and what greater social justice flowed from Autopac? The answer of course is that these things have nothing to do with social justice.

You see, Mr. Speaker, the differences on social issues, the real issues between our party and the First Minister's party are really not that great. We believe that his government has, through lax administration, squandered a great deal of money in the social policy area. We believe that by pretending that government can make any social problem go away simply by throwing taxpayers' dollars at it, his government has squandered a great deal of money in that social policy area. We believe that his government has shown too little respect for those Manitobans who work hard, meet their own responsibilities and create the wealth that his government has squandered.

But we don't, on our own part, predict and advocate that we would want to barge like some wrecking crew through the structure of social services that have grown up in this province, services that meet real human needs and that people have come to rely on.

We would diminish the numbers of unproductive bureaucrats. We would dismantle some of the wilder experiments. We would save a great deal of money without eliminating worthwhile services. But the major framework of the present social programs of Manitoba was built by our party in government. (Hear, hear) (Applause) We would preserve it and we would run it better. (Applause) We would not, however, as this government does, attempt to use the rhetoric of social justice to justify government excesses that bear no relationship to the real social problems of Manitobans.

The Throne Speech talks of replacing inadequate market forces by the planned application of human values. Now, this is a very good example of the kind of misuse of

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) social rhetoric that this government has indulged in, Trudeau . . . type rhetoric as well, Mr. Speaker. What does the statement mean? Well it means that the government does not think that there will be enough economic activity in the private sector to provide the goods and the employment that people will need; so they intend to continue to step in and spend the taxpayers' dollars to take up the slack.

But why will there be insufficient private economic activity in Manitoba? Let's look at what has been happening here. For instance, the resource industry that used to play such an important part in our economic growth has been under constant attack by this government. They have been threatened with confiscatory levels of taxation, with expropriation without compensation, and so not surprisingly the level of exploration and expansion in those industries has declined drastically. For example, in the mining industry alone, the diamond drilling program in the last year has gone down more than 50 per cent on exploration. Does that mean there is a need for government to take up the slack? Or does it mean that government should cease its attack upon industry so that they can once again grow and contribute to our general prosperity? No one is suggesting that the resource industry should be permitted to return to low tax levels of an earlier day; no one is suggesting that the government should not negotiate the best deal it can for Manitobans on their resources - but to deliberately disrupt the market, to drive investment out of Manitoba, and then to have to tax Manitobans to try and fill the vacuum this creates, and then to describe the whole process as the planned application of human values, is simply doctrinaire socialist concept.

And don't let the government try and say that the slowdown in the economic activity in the mining industry is because of taxation alone, Mr. Speaker. It's the undercurrent of uneasiness about the whole industry, vindicated and backed up by the actions in Saskatchewan with the industries there in the resource field, it's the uneasiness on their part to make any sort of long term commitment towards exploration. It has nothing to do either, Mr. Speaker, with human values; it has nothing to do with social justice; it is nothing more than a mindless expansion of government control of our incomes and our economy. And the demonstrable fact is that government cannot efficiently take up the slack, government is simply not very good at running enterprises. I know that my friend the First Minister claims to believe that government can run businesses as well as the private sector can. I can only ask him, what post office have you been using lately, where have you been buying your automobile insurance? The intention of that coy line in the speech about planned application of human values is very clear. It is the planned expansion of government interference in the economy, and that is in direct conflict, Mr. Speaker, in direct conflict with the government's other stated intention which is the promise to apply restraint to its own spending.

But here again, Mr. Speaker, we have a fundamental philosophical disagreement with the government. We believe in the private enterprise system, the private initiative, private ownership, and a health mixed economy. Principally, Mr. Speaker, we believe that their intentions are for government control of the economy and for further state ownership, but I'm sure that they will tell us that their way means that the people of Manitoba will all get to share in the profits of these enterprises, the way they've shared in the profits of Saunders, and of Flyer, and of Autopac. We will not persuade members opposite that our view is right in this, and they won't persuade us, but let us all at least state our views clearly so that the people can make the decision when we next go to the poles.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech the government announced that its intention, with intention of sorts - I don't think that I can capture the real sense of what they do intend here without reading it, and I quote. It says, "Its intent to attempt to cooperate with" the Federal Government's anti-inflation program. Now that's not exactly whole hearted support. But I suppose better this excessive caution than another encounter between the First Minister and his handful of colleagues from the Manitoba Federation of Labour in the rotunda of this building.

There is much about the Federal program that causes deep concern on this side of the House, too, but we believe something, however imperfect, is better than

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) nothing, and we are concerned that this very tentative acceptance of the program by the Provincial Government here, the vague references to "sufficient evidence" of its effectiveness within a reasonable time period will make it less effective in Manitoba than it ought to have been or has to be. Now let the government spell out clearly the basis on which it will evaluate the program, and let it make it clear to all of Manitoba that it has the determination to carry through with the agreement it will reach with the Federal Government. Without that kind of clear undertaking, the government is in effect inviting confrontation from any group that comes along that disagrees with the government's action, and the government displays a weak resolve to stand behind the program. We believe even less than our friends opposite do, that the government controls really offer any long term solution to the problems of inflation, but the purpose that they can serve in restoring order and predictability to the marketplace on the short term depends on their being firmly adhered to.

And controlling of the private sector of wages, of prices, of professional fees, will not in itself defeat inflation. We also need tough control of government spending . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: Hear, hear.

MR. CRAIK: . . . for the restraint this Throne Speech promises us, that kind of restraint. But defeating inflation calls as well for tough monetary restraint by the Federal government and the halting of the printing of new money to pay for needless deficits. And when may I ask, did this government last demand such fiscal and monetary restraint from their friends in the Trudeau government at Ottawa. I know that here again we are approaching an area of basic disagreement that divides us from the NDP. We believe, and most economists will agree with us, that excessive government spending, excessive taxes, and incompetent monetary expansion are the largest causes of inflation in Canada today. In the past, we have grown used to statements from the government telling Manitobans to take comfort from the fact that inflation was not as bad here as it was in other parts of Canada. We see no mention of that in this year's speech, Mr. Speaker. The fact is though, that in the nine months ending in September last, inflation in Winnipeg for example, was worse than in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, or Edmonton, worse than in any other major Canadian city.

MR. ENNS: Right.

MR. CRAIK: The NDP would like to explain that away: something like, it's the fault of business and profits, they'll say; or it's the fault of professional fees and executive pensions - but the fact is, Canada's and Manitoba's very bad record in fighting inflation is a direct result of the loose fiscal monetary policies at the federal level and excessive government spending at the federal and provincial levels. The NDP will agree with the Federal Government to control the private sector, but who will control the government . . .

MR. MCKENZIE: Hear, Hear.

MR. CRAIK: . . . and without effective restraint on government spending, there will be no victory over inflation.

As I say, this is another area, for I know that we will not persuade our friends across the House, and they will not persuade us, and so it is another area where I believe we should state our positions clearly. We think it's a matter of common sense. In Canada today, about 45 cents out of every dollar that people work to earn is spent by the three levels of government, only about 55 cents is spent by individuals and companies. We are saying, it doesn't make sense to pretend you're fighting inflation by controlling only the 55 cents. Almost half of the money spent is spent by governments. You have to control the 45 cents too, and I think that should be just plain common sense, but the NDP will disagree. The government spending is somehow different, they will tell us; government must spend to shield people from the effects of inflation, they will say, but Flyer Coach and Saunders Aircraft and the little electric cars, and expensive buildings to house their 4,000 new civil servants have nothing to do with shielding people from the effects of inflation. Poor administration has nothing to do . . .

MR. SCHREYER: Cadillacs and Buicks, is that what you want?

MR. CRAIK: Cadillacs . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess we'd be happy to have

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) the First Minister name the people that drove the Cadillacs, I don't recall any, but he perhaps does.

Poor administration has nothing to do with protecting people from the effects of inflation. Buying farm land has nothing to do with protecting people from the effects of inflation. Building whey plants has nothing to do with protecting people from the effects of inflation. The NDP use the rhetoric of social justice to defend their excessive spending even in areas that have nothing to do with social problems. They would like to excuse the waste and mismanagement that has marked too much of their tenure in office by pretending that anyone who questions it, anyone who says it, is adding to inflation, is an enemy of the poor and an enemy of the working man. Well, most of the money the NDP is wasting comes from taxes on the working man, and the inflation this wasteful spending has been feeding attacks the working man, the aged, the disabled, those on fixed incomes, all those who are weakest in our society. In the interests of all the people of Manitoba, we hope that the government's weak promise of restraint will be lived up to; without it, there can be no hope for an end to inflation.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech also promises us fair and equitable measures to reduce excessive increases in rent for shelter. All we can say is, bring in your legislation. We agree that in today's climate, there is little alternative to some mechanism of rent control or rent review, especially when the federal program is controlling so many other aspects of the economy. But of course the government knows that wherever rent controls have been attempted as a long term policy - and I reiterate that, Mr. Speaker, a long term policy, they have failed and failed disastrously. The literature, including most recently, and probably most pointedly from our own purposes here in Manitoba - and I refer to the Nichol and Gillies Report - is unanimous in its opposition as a short term measure designed to deal with the very real dilemma that governments all across Canada are facing with regard to soaring rental costs. We are prepared to deal with any sensible measure the government brings forward and deal with it on its merits, but we agree with the government that an expanded housing supply is essential to ensuring some measure of price stability in the housing market. That is an important part in the solution to the problems we face in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret, it's an open fact that anywhere that rent controls do go into effect that you are inviting a disaster for those people who do not presently have residences, or any other type of rental accommodation on the case of rent control, unless you are prepared to mount a very substantive government sponsored rental accommodation program. It's known throughout history, and that is one of the very bad parts of entering the program on rent control. You clearly do a short term favour to those that are lucky enough to have good rental accommodation, you invite a disaster for those unfortunate young people and others coming along who wish to find that accommodation, because you will get no private initiative in comparison to what you will have in the absence of rent control and other financial incentives. And here, despite the proud claims of record levels in public housing starts in 1975, the picture in Manitoba is not that good. Public sector housing reached a record in 1975, but in the first nine months of the year, total housing starts in Manitoba declined by 31 per cent. Now that's compared to an average decline in Canada of only 11.5 per cent. In effect then, what the government has succeeded in doing with the millions and tens of millions they have spent on public housing so far, is not to replace fully the fall-off in private investment, not to add to the normal growth of our housing stock, but merely to slow the decline in the growth of Manitoba's total housing stock.

Of course, we support the so-called sweat equity program, or do-it-yourself program. Of course we agree that rental units and co-operative housing should be among the options available to people, but we continue to believe that our society can afford also to have the option of single family owner-occupied housing. It can be provided by government, or in our view it can be provided more effectively by the private sector. More effectively, Mr. Speaker, and at a lower cost to the taxpayer and the homeowner. But what has happened realistically, our total housing starts have declined 31 per cent in the last year, and a record portion of those housing

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) starts were government rental units. And where does it end? Does it end when everyone in Manitoba rents their homes from the government, or does it end now, as the government begins to understand that its responsibility is not merely to throw up more rental housing, but to exert itself to restore the range of options in housing that we can afford and that the people of Manitoba want. Now of course, there is no magic answers to a housing problem, Mr. Speaker, and it is true that as long as we are faced with the levels of inflation that have become commonplace in Canada today, the ability of people across Manitoba to afford the kind of housing they want will continue to be steadily eroded; and as long as the huge borrowing requirements of profligate governments continue to bid up interest rates, mortgage funds will be too costly.

But even within this inflationary environment, we agree that government has a role to play. That role should not be to build rental units exclusively, especially since the government is already the biggest landlord in Manitoba. We were told that this year we will be asked to approve funds for the largest program every undertaken by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I question that somewhat, because \$70 million today is less than \$50 million was in 1970, and I doubt that when the government's finished that it will have built any more than it has in some of its other years. However, they can make comment on that. Let that program involve an effort to provide the kind of housing people want, not the kind the government thinks they ought to have. If the former should be the case, Mr. Speaker, I can promise the government our support. You see, Sir, we are not preaching the virtues of a government that is inactive, the job of government is to govern. What we are saying is that it requires an effort to meet the legitimate needs and expectations of our people, in terms of income security for those who need it, in terms of housing options for all, and we are saying that we do not believe that Saunders and Flyer and Autopac and so on have anything to do with that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I come to what I think is the most delightful single line in the entire Throne Speech, and it goes as follows: "Energy development remains of concern to my government." Energy development remains of concern to my government, and all I can say is, it's no wonder. Because here we are not speaking of differences in philosophy though, Mr. Speaker, here we are not speaking of mere errors in judgment. Here we are speaking of the cynical and blundering waste of one of the most precious resources of the people of this province have ever had, is hydro electric potential. Much has been said on this before in this House, Mr. Speaker, much more will be said, and I'm not going to recite the story again of the First Minister and his disastrous adviser, Mr. Cass-Beggs. But here too I would suggest that people across Manitoba can see a clear example, not merely of the lack of frankness that too often marks this government, but of a complete lack of candid. The government has lost, and lost irretrievably \$400 million worth of our hydro resource and the First Minister will protest that everything has been done out in the open, that everything has been done that should be done. During the last election, Mr. Speaker, he did say though that he would welcome an inquiry into Hydro's affairs, and to that we say "Amen". We too would welcome it and we are still waiting for it.

Even in this speech itself we see the lack of candor that has marked this government's dealings with Hydro, and again I want to quote for you where it says the government says the Nelson Development is: "Proceeding as planned with the Missi Falls and the Notigi control structures already in place." Is there further information the Ministers would like to add? Would they like to tell us about a small detail, the insignificant fact that construction of the ditch that connects the lake to the Rat River, the ditch without which these structures are useless, is a full year behind the NDP's distorted schedule? Would they like to perhaps explain that that delay of one year on the investment to date on that project is going to cost the hydro users \$10 million alone of interest charges, just for one year, when it stands useless? Is this what the government means when they talk of expenditures being efficiently managed?

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

Mr. Speaker, we've learned that it is no use questioning the government on Hydro. We've learned that we cannot expect them to be forthcoming. But why, if they have confidence in the people of Manitoba, did they not put in the Throne Speech something like the following, which would have been more accurate: "Although we have" and I quote, Mr. Speaker, for a recommendation - "Although we have finished construction of the Missi Falls and the Notigi control structures delays that were unavoidable in the construction of the ditch to link the lake and the river and make these structures effective mean that they will be useless for at least a year. We will of course be paying interest charges during that year and we agree that the reasons for this should be made clear. The delays in construction were caused by" - and let's have the explanation. Why did it not say that? Why this self-serving paucity of information?

Is it too much to ask that government now, that the government now, even at this late date, begin to admit frankly the problems they are encountering. Is it too much to ask that the Manitoba Energy Council, for instance, created by this government, add to the one brief survey of our energy history that it has so far published with an analysis of our current situation.

Why are we so concerned? Why should Hydro occupy this important place in our discussions and in the economy of Manitoba? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's worth noting that in 1975, last year, according to Manitoba's own figures more than one third, 33.4 per cent of all investment in Manitoba, private and public, were made by the utilities and principally Manitoba Hydro. Mr. Speaker, let me repeat that: that almost a third of the investment made in this province of a private and public nature was done by Manitoba Hydro, by these structures that are being built in the north. But, some of these structures which add up to hundreds of millions of dollars, like the Missi and the Notigi structures referred to by the Government in their Throne Speech, that are a year late because of a mistake, because of an error, a year late by their schedule and four years late by the original schedule, 33.4 per cent, Mr. Speaker, 33.4 per cent investment in those things compared to a seven per cent investment in manufacturing facilities in this province, the reverse of what you will see in the industrialized provinces of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, we're living in a self-induced economy with the magnitude and size of this Hydro project. We are so dependent on this one project for the well-being of our industrial construction economy that I don't think anybody really realizes it. Mr. Speaker, the costs that are being accumulated and mounted here all go onto our Hydro bill.

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. CRAIK: I want to refer later, Mr. Speaker - well perhaps I will now - that in Friday's paper there is an indication there that our Hydro rates would go up by 20 per cent. Mr. Speaker, if you calculate it out the Hydro rate in the information given in last Friday's paper is not 20 per cent, it's 28.5 per cent for the average person using electric heat in his home and, Mr. Speaker, the big costs on this project haven't hit us yet.

A MEMBER: Right.

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

The things are all in place that have to be built that are still not paying for themselves. The carrying charges are accumulating. There is work already under construction. The government knows what the costs are and what they're going to be because those carrying charges far outweigh everything else that happens in the rest of the system in southern Manitoba, but they refuse to tell the people accurately what these increased costs are going to be.

Mr. Speaker, that brings to a total, since this government took power, if that report of last Friday reflects an actual decision by Hydro, if it does, this means that the increase in hydro costs alone will have gone up over 60 per cent since this government took office.

A MEMBER: Unbelievable.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, they coasted for the first few years on the good work that had been done by Manitoba Hydro historically and only the effects of the decisions that were made by this government are now starting to show up. So let the government announce what the future increases are. I regret, Mr. Speaker, very much that I, in bringing all this forward, I also admit that it's going to be impossible, impossible to undo what has been done. What has been done is irretrievable and we ask the government to speak frankly on it, although we know that that's impossible as well.

The Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, does acknowledge that there is more to energy than Hydro. It claims that the government has a policy to reduce Manitoba's dependence on non-renewable fossil fuels. I know that the members of this House would like to hear just what that is. Perhaps that's what the little electric cars are about; maybe that's also why the First Minister is given to public musings about wind-mills. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier talks about his little electric car. I spent the last three days around this building and I've noticed it was plugged in all the time I was here. I don't know what he was driving but I know he wasn't in the building.

Let's get down to earth, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about what this government's really going to do in this energy business. Let's use for an example that right at the present time there are at least a dozen major commercial building projects on the drawing boards in the City of Winnipeg, for instance. Almost all of these will probably end up using oil as their energy source. Only one of those is considering the installation of a heat pump to substantially reduce its total energy consumption. Where is the government's policy? Does it provide incentives for mechanisms like heat pumps, mechanisms that are expensive to install but that provide long term energy savings? It would seem unlikely, Mr. Speaker, since only last year the government refused to accept a resolution in this House that would have removed the sales tax from this kind of equipment. Does it provide inducements towards renewable energy use in stationary building applications? Does it even make an effort to promote a greater energy consciousness in design?

A MEMBER: No.

MR. CRAIK: We look forward to hearing this policy spelled out in detail by the government. We look forward to hearing from the government about the specific steps that they propose to take in this important area. While the government is concerning itself with energy it might be wise for them to consider that their crude oil production taxation policy is making it economically difficult for the oil wells of the Virden area to use proven water flooding methods to recover oil. This can cut the productivity of Manitoba's only oil field by as much as a half.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, when we speak of energy matters the areas of disagreement between my party and the government are not philosophical. We believe that they have administered Hydro in a wanton and negligent manner. It's ironic but when the NDP first took office here, they pointed to Manitoba Hydro to prove that government could run a big complex enterprise efficiently. After only six short years in office, by their political interference with this utility, they've made sure that no one will point to Hydro again to support that side of the argument for a long long time to come. (Hear hear)

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)

But I think now we come to an area where our disagreement with the Government is philosophical. I think it is an area where we can see quite clearly the important contrast between our understanding of the way society works and the NDP's, and I'm speaking here of labour legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech the government announces that it will be recommending improvements in this important legislation. To be acceptable to my party and to be acceptable to the people of Manitoba at large, these improvements must include a clear and uncompromising ban on strikes in vital services. They must include a prohibition of strikes in health care and in police protection as a bare minimum. Our reasoning in making this demand is simple common sense. The right of Manitobans to life, to proper health care and to the protection of their lives and property is more important than the right of any group to strike.

Why does this government resist that common sense proposition? Surely the events at the Misericordia and Health Sciences Centre demonstrate that this is no more intellectual curiosity. Well, I believe the First Minister and his friends resist this kind of common sense change because as they see our society, it would be an infringement on the rights of workers. I believe that that was the reason the government earlier in its life gave our police force the right to strike. But can't the government see that? When strikes prevent our health care system from functioning, the lives that are endangered include the lives of working people, low income people and people from all walks of life.

I know that the handful of leaders at the Manitoba Federation of Labour would seem to wield such curiously uneven influence in the deliberation of this government and would oppose any move to restrict any group's right to strike. But I know that the vast majority of trade union members in Manitoba would agree with us. They would say that their health and safety and the health and safety of their families and neighbors and friends are simply too important to be reduced to bargaining counters in labour management negotiations.

We are not suggesting that any group of workers should be prevented from bargaining to get the best wages and working conditions they can. We are not suggesting that any employer should be excused from the obligation of bargaining in good faith. We are saying, quite simply, that in these vital services the strike weapon cannot be tolerated. We have to find a better way. The strike weapon is merely a mechanism, there is nothing holy about it. Where it attacks the public interest in this direct way it must be prohibited.

Our reason here will escape the First Minister and his colleagues. They believe in the kind of conflict and confrontation and strife that leads to strikes and lock-outs, that it's a normal and healthy part of our society. In the final analysis they believe that our society only works through conflict. Mr. Speaker, we believe it shows up in a great number of their policies, in their enjoyment of this business of conflict. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister of Labour would like me to read something. I notice that in the second document I have here . . .

A MEMBER: He wrote that.

MR. CRAIK: The third document, I guess. To be geared for the Minister of Labour I brought along his major document he adheres to, which is the Convention Proceedings of the New Democratic Party.

A MEMBER: He wrote it.

MR. CRAIK: I thought that if anybody questioned some of these statements, I would make - there is a blanket one here which I notice isn't open to controversy of debate at their convention - but does as an opening statement say: "We reconfirm the basic principles of the NDP as stated in the Regina Manifesto."

A MEMBER: That's progress.

MR. CRAIK: Well, what we are saying, Mr. Speaker, is that confrontation is not normal or healthy. We're saying that conflict will sometimes be necessary, but rarely. We are saying it is possible to find a better way and I believe we are saying something more than that, Mr. Speaker. We're saying that when the activities of any group - be it organized labour or big business or small business, be it political friend

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd)or political foe - attack the public interest then the duty of government is clear. Government's sole and only obligation is to protect the public interest. There is no other responsible course open to this government or to any other. Mr. Speaker, if this government fails to protect that public interest it's our duty to make our point as strong as possible to make sure that it is.

Mr. Speaker, we come now to the part on education. The NDP have achieved an alarming thing in this field. Through the years the financing of education, for instance, has always been politically difficult. There were huge amounts of money involved and in an effort to build a system that the province could afford but that would still offer access to quality education to every child in Manitoba, it was advisable to consolidate our school system. When school taxes were going up, when it was necessary to impose a sales tax to help pay for the cost of education, when it was necessary to close some schools because they simply couldn't function effectively, then there was controversy. Always, Mr. Speaker, there's controversy in that sphere of the education debate.

But until this government came to office there was no real controversy in Manitoba about the purposes of education. Although we could argue about the costs and about where the schools and colleges ought to be located, there was no argument, there was no argument about the importance of education. We understand that education by providing our young people with the basic skills and knowledge they would need to cope with life later, the skills and knowledge they would need to be able to build any kind of lives for themselves, was the key to the kinds of opportunity we all wanted for our children. But today, Mr. Speaker, there is growing concern across Manitoba that under this government our education system is abandoning our children. That concern is shared by parents, teachers, employers and a growing number of young people in Manitoba.

We are not succeeding as well as we should in our responsibilities of teaching the basic skills: the ability to read, the ability to express oneself in writing, the ability to do simple mathematical operations with ease and accuracy. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that there is precious little comfort to the parents and teachers of Manitoba to hear the Deputy Minister of Education say that nobody really needs basic mathematical skills now that the pocket calculator has arrived. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that that's a little like saying that since the automobile has been invented we don't need feet. (Applause)

In the last issue of Education Manitoba, which was the regular publication of the Department of Education, Robert O'Kell of the Department of English at the University of Manitoba wrote an essay that he called "The Politics of Illiteracy." He points out that the consequence of the diminishing emphasis on teaching basic skills that has overtaken education systems all across North America has been that increasing numbers of young people are functionally illiterate. They cannot read with understanding, write with clarity or figure with any degree of accuracy. The thrust of his essay is to plead for an abandonment of the policies that are leading to the lessened emphasis on basic skills.

We've all read the disturbing reports of functional illiteracy from the United States. They have already followed the road the Deputy Minister of Education would like to take us down.

A MEMBER: Right.

MR. CRAIK: Now they're seeking desperately for remedial action. We have always in Canada tended to emulate some U.S. educational developments but surely, Mr. Speaker, we do not need to emulate their tragic failures too. But anything that sounds progressive seems to be so seductive to this government that they appear determined to follow even the discredited theories of the early sixties if only they're expressed in good, solid, socialist rhetoric.

We won't, Mr. Speaker, go over the controversy surrounding the appointment of this particular Deputy. We will not recount all of the dismay that this appointment aroused among the educators in Manitoba. There need be no pretence that he was chosen because of his standing in the education field. His was a political appointment. (Applause) And that, Mr. Speaker, is how this government believes the Public Service

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) should be selected. But we still have a Minister of Education, we have still the First Minister to appeal to. I ask them: Do you believe that acquiring the basic skills needed to compete in this society is really secondary? Is that what you want for your own children? It is not what we want for ours. Parents across Manitoba want their children to acquire the skills they will need to make their own livings and build their own lives and the more basic these are the better. We want our children to have the knowledge they will need to find for themselves satisfaction and self-fulfillment. We want them to be able to enjoy and to benefit from our cultural heritage. Illiterates cannot do that.

There is no sense talking about equality of opportunity if our education system abdicates its basic responsibilities. Yet under this government a small group of doctrinaire NDP ideologues are being permitted to have their way with our educational system. They are being permitted to interfere with capable teachers, with proven programs; they are being permitted to treat our classrooms as laboratories, our children as raw material for experiments, experiments that have been tried and in many cases have failed disastrously in other jurisdictions.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I believe the government should make its position clear. Let it state clearly what kind of education it wants in Manitoba and then the people can decide. Our position is clear. We believe in change and progress in education but the primary responsibility of our education system is to teach our children the basic skills they will need to build their own lives, to find jobs, to find self-fulfillment, to be able to compete in our economy, Mr. Speaker, and in our society. We do not believe it is possible to replace these intellectual resources with pocket calculators. We do not want our children's ability to cope with the demands of this society to be dependent on the strength of their penlight batteries.

But what is the government's position. The Minister of Education says his Deputy Minister speaks for him, and the Deputy Minister dismisses concern with the three R's as being old fashioned. He shrugs off the basic responsibilities of our education system to the children of Manitoba. For the last six and a half years this government has practiced a frantic kind of crisis administration with a patchwork program here and a reorganization of a Branch there, and with no direction and no leadership at the ministerial level and morale shattered throughout the department. It has failed to update the grant system in any significant or comprehensive way since it took office.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the differences between our party and the government are clear on this issue, and in a few months time when the voters of Manitoba choose between our two parties, I predict that the decision the people make then will prove conclusively that Manitobans are not prepared to abandon the traditional purposes of education in this province.

Mr. Speaker, since the government has promised this restraint and the press suggests its spending may increase by \$125 million, or about \$125 for every man, woman and child in Manitoba, I'd like to speak briefly about the Public Service of this province. I would like to begin by quoting a well known Manitoba political figure who, when interviewed in 1969 and asked if he had any designs on the Civil Service replied as follows: "As a young MLA I thought Manitoba had a good Civil Service; as an MP in Ottawa through the grapevine and corridor gossip, I heard more than once that Manitoba had a good Civil Service. So I would hope that there's no need for any kind of designs. We would hope to bring in a few people from outside if only to bring in some new blood and some new ideas. We hope to do this in a way that will be compatible with the existing Civil Service and the administrative executive people." Mr. Speaker, that's what the First Minister said in 1969 as he began his first term of office. But I have to tell him that the corridor gossip about our Public Service these days would say that the Manitoba Public Service has been politicized at many levels, that political loyalty is a criteria for employment and promotion and he would hear that the quality of the Public Service has suffered as a result. I believe the record of this government proves that political loyalty is no substitute for competence, ability and understanding in the Public Service. I know that the First Minister's party sees nothing wrong in practicing this kind of political

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) discrimination in employment in the Public Service. The resolutions routinely passed at his party's convention make this more than clear. We believe they are tragically wrong in this. The Progressive Conservative Party believes in the merit system in the Public Service. We believe the Public Service should be politically neutral.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

A MEMBER: We did say merit I think.

MR. CRAIK: We believe the Public Service should be politically neutral, that it should have the competence and the integrity to serve any elected government well. Mr. Speaker, since 1969 when the First Minister began his first term of office, our population has increased by four percent, not all his fault. Since that time the size of our Civil Service has increased by about 50 percent.

A MEMBER: Unbelievable.

MR. CRAIK: Since that time government spending has tripled. Now we are promised restraint. I said when I began the government will find the Progressive Conservative Party receptive and helpful in any efforts to convert that promise into action. We would hope that this restraint might take the form of real controls on the growth of the Public Service, the army of extra bureaucrats the people of Manitoba are being taxed to support - taxed more heavily than any other people in Canada - is already too large.

In replying to a Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, as in making one, it's not possible to deal with all the matters that will concern this House or that affects the interests of Manitobans. I haven't talked today in detail of such things as Autopac, of its financial difficulties that plague that unnecessary monument to the urge for government power that the First Minister and his friends have visited upon us. I haven't spoken of agriculture or the continued efforts of the government to enforce supply-management upon our farmers without their consent or support, or of the continuing efforts of the government to acquire ownership of farm land that should be owned and worked by Manitoba farmers. My colleagues will deal with those matters later in this debate.

I've not spoken of Unicity, of the administrative morass the government has forced upon Winnipeg, of its growing deficits or of the financial plight of municipalities and school divisions as they struggle to provide the most basic and necessary of government services. Once again my colleagues will deal with that.

I have not spoken of this government's wrong-headed policies in Northern Manitoba, policies that have attacked the industrial base of the north and that have failed to offer real opportunities to our native citizens; spawning instead a continued and growing dependence on the state. We will return to those questions later in this session.

Instead what I have tried to do is to begin the process of spelling out clearly where my party and where the NDP stand on some of the crucial issues facing Manitobans today. I believe that this kind of statement of position has been lacking from our political discourse. I believe it is necessary to the effective functioning of this House and of our electoral system. Many of our disagreements are based on our contrasting philosophies, on our differing ideas of the kind of societies we want for ourselves and for our children. Where our disagreements are philosophical, I believe we have an obligation to the people of Manitoba to state our positions clearly so that they may decide.

I tried even to refrain from caricaturing the positions of the NDP. I've tried to state them fairly and clearly although I will not pretend that I have made any attempt to not be critical. I would hope that when the First Minister ends this debate he will correct those obvious errors that he will see in my perception of his beliefs and those of his government. I would hope too that in this House we can disagree without personal acrimony.

An election here is probably no more than 18 months away. I believe that when that election comes the First Minister and his colleagues will find that Manitobans have had enough of them; and I believe that many of the issues that I have touched on today will play a major part in their defeat. I believe that all of us can learn from the experience of British Columbia where members of the First Minister's party took office inheriting a sound administration and a one billion dollar surplus and in three and a half

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(MR. CRAIK cont'd) short years created administrative chaos and a one billion dollar deficit.

A MEMBER: And the same financial advisers too.

MR. CRAIK: The people will not be deceived by frantic and profligate efforts to regain a waning political popularity. In Manitoba we need restraint, we need common sense and plain talk. In this Chamber we need to deal seriously with our responsibilities, frankly with our problems, and gently with the public interest and the rights of Manitobans. Our two parties can disagree on many matters, but within this Chamber we can both serve the public interest as we perceive it, without rancour and without fostering.

I say to the First Minister then, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, bring forward your legislative program, we're ready to go to work. But I say too, Mr. Speaker, that much of the work this House should be undertaking should be the work of repair, repair of the damage that the First Minister and his colleagues have, through their accesses, already done to Manitoba.

And therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Lakeside, that the motion be amended by adding to it the following words:

That this House regrets that the government, by its negligent administration and mismanagement, wasteful spending, poor husbandry of our natural resource heritage, hostility to private ownership, and by its continuing commitment to outdated and unworkable socialist doctrines, has caused serious prejudice to the stability of the social and economic order of Manitoba and its people . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. CRAIK: . . . and thereby to the public interest." (Hear hear)

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Fort Garry, that debate be adjourned.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (St. Johns): I wonder if the Honourable Member would care to hold back on his motion to give others of us an opportunity to speak.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I've had a fairly relaxing few months preceding this day and I must say that I'm happy to be back and have an opportunity to exchange opinions and interests with all members of the Legislature.

I welcome you back in your Chair. I suppose I will try, and I promise to try as I've done in other years and probably failed, to follow your directions and to assist you as much as possible in making the debates and the proceedings of this House operate well.

I want to also at this opportunity, which probably was the last one at which we heard the Lieutenant-Governor present the Speech from the Throne, to just comment in passing that I believe that he has served his position well in his years of tenure; it's not an easy job; it's not one I envy; nor is it one that I personally particularly think of very great value, nevertheless the job being given to him and being accepted by him, I believe has been done extremely well and I think he has served Manitoba well, and to that extent I think he deserves commendation.

I'd like to welcome the two new members to the House, Members from Wolseley and from Crescentwood and I hope and trust that they will make positive contributions to the debate that will proceed during this session and the next and the next, and whatever session takes place until the next election.

I do want just to say how much I regret the absence of the smiling countenance of the Member for Souris-Killarney. I think we all would like him to be here as quickly as possible; I think we would all wish that he recovers and is able to return to lend to us his counsel with the same vigour as he has always done in the past. He is one who has never needed these microphones to make sure that we can hear what his opinions were.

In a different vein I also want to note the absence of a face up above us, that of Stuart Anderson, who I miss very much and I believe that almost all of us do - actually all of us who knew him - who saw the contribution he made as a public service to Manitobans, to know that he has now earned the right to serve Manitobans in a different capacity but without the strain and responsibility that he has carried for so long and so capably in the past. He, too, has been a great adornment to Manitoba.

Having mentioned a civil servant I wish to pass on to mention, briefly, another public servant, and that is the Auditor-General of this Province. I want to just refer again to the fact that just recently there have been demands for independent audits made by irresponsible people and people who obviously either do not know the function, the authority and the responsibility, and the independence of Mr. Ziprick, or if they do, deliberately choose to mislead the people of Manitoba. That latest reference dealt with some difference of opinion between a reporter for some newspaper as to the financing of Autopac and that of the Minister of Finance and of the Provincial Auditor. It is a disservice to the system of government we have, and to the legislation we have on our books, to constantly make it appear that Mr. Ziprick is a servant of government. Indeed, if he were then I think many differences of opinion would be much more easily resolved and that would not be of benefit to government. I just want to refer again to the fact that anyone who attacks his independence, attacks his own personal integrity.

Mr. Speaker, I pause just to comment about changes that have taken place. I have, since I have come into this Legislature, seen various leaders of various parties come and go. I have seen my former leader move over both from one side of the House to the other and into a front bench to fight vigorously for those issues which are important to him, to make sure that his experience was available to all of us members on both sides of the House and to continue vigorously to fight that battle which he started so many years ago.

I did see a former Leader of the Liberal Party who seemed to leave this Chamber and disappear from sight as far as I could tell, having been elevated to some Chamber whence one hears little of a positive nature, and I do regret that Gil Molgat is not with us in Manitoba or indeed in this House, because the contributions he made here I believe

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) far surpassed what he is able to do in the other domain to which he retired. (Hear hear)

Of course, I barely saw Bobby Bend as he passed in the wind through the Province of Manitoba, so I can't really speak much about what he did do and less about what he could have done except that he accomplished a change, I believe, in the political history of Manitoba. But then he was followed by a young, intelligent, energetic leader who first had to lead from elsewhere in this Chamber and then came down to give us his advice, and now he has left as his heritage another person who may be in this Chamber but is not in a seat from which he may speak and, of course, that makes him work under a tremendous disability.

As far as another party is concerned, I have seen Duff Roblin in action and I am pleased to hear that he is back in Manitoba, having returned to the province where he spent much of his time.--(Interjection)--Yes, he's in the security business now - I mean the personal security, I suppose, or security of material things; also Walter Weir, I understand, is back in the province and I welcome him back.--(Interjection)--I'm not sure. He too, I think, is involved in security. Obviously they were not deterred by the income tax structure or the elimination of the medicare premium taxes or any other thing in this province for which their colleagues have fought and which they fought so vigorously.

The former Leader of the Opposition is still with us and we have received an assurance that he will continue to participate in debate. Albeit he will have to watch much more carefully the way his party operates to make sure that it is on the right track. I think that I am not misquoting the essence of what he has said publicly about his role. It was something for us to see on this side when we could see so often - or get the impression - that when he was making speeches as Leader of the Opposition the majority of the members of his party did not appear to be in accord with what he was telling us. I don't think I for - oh, the Member for Crescentwood, I believe is already making a contribution.--(Interjection)--Oh, Wolseley, I'm sorry - yes, Wolseley, I'm sorry, I must apologize to the Member for Crescentwood, I don't want to attribute to him anything that he did not say. But the Member for Wolseley has made his first contribution that I've heard in the debate, and he said that what I was stating was not true.--(Interjection)--Yes, he says "we're already starting" on that side.

Mr. Speaker, it was important, I think, for students of political science in this province to see what did develop within the Conservative Party. The fact that the vast majority of the public representatives of the Conservative Party rejected their Leader of the Opposition for philosophic differences - at least that's the way I understood it - for leadership qualities, and then replaced him with a person they felt was much more reflective of their point of view. I don't mean that they alone replaced him. They got a fairly good assistance from the members of the party - or the temporary members of the party - I think that there were more Conservatives, card carrying Conservatives created during that campaign for leadership than may have existed in the entire history of the Conservative Party. But be that as it may, they will no doubt learn to live with their colleagues in the Conservative Party, being capable, I believe, of adapting readily to political expediency, which of course brings me to one of the last things that the Member for Riel, whom I'm not sure whether he's the Acting Leader of the Opposition or the Leader of the Opposition pro tem, or--(Interjection)--the Member for Riel in any event suggested that we could all learn from the experience of British Columbia, and I would suggest that one of the experiences that we learned was that Liberals and Conservatives can easily move from side to side of any bed that seems to be accommodating to them.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to lose the opportunity to mention two passing matters which happened between the Sessions. One was a statement made by our Minister of Public Works, which I understood to say that he was in favour of capital punishment; I want to disassociate my opinion with the expressed opinion which he stated. It is not a matter that normally appears before the House; if it did I would of course look forward to debating it at much greater length. I do not believe that he expressed the opinion of many of us present, or of many of us in our party, although I don't recall that this matter has been dealt with in any great detail at conventions.--(Interjection)--On what? I'll be

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) glad to visit with the Honourable Member from Lakeside when, as, and if we are able both to examine any part of this building, and comment on it when I see it.

One other comment was mention made by the Minister for Education dealing with a course in Planned Parenthood, I think he went somewhat overboard. I think what he said was, if a joke, then in bad taste, and if not a joke, then I disagree with his approach to that issue. And again, as being my first opportunity to speak after having heard his comment, I want to state that I believe that family planning is an important part of the up-bringing of any person, child and adult.

Mr. Speaker, I would like more to deal with some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, and I use that in its collective term because I assume that one Leader read the words of another Leader and therefore we are able to deal with what was said by both of them.

Firstly, the comments made on the educational system and the suggestion that when we were in Opposition we were in complete accord with the educational system that then existed. Mr. Speaker, I remember that time after time we debated that it was necessary to accept a more positive attitude to assist young people at school, not to prepare them to become engineers and lawyers and doctors, not to prepare them to get their academic attainment at the post university graduate level, but rather deal with the children of people who are the majority in this province; people who will never go beyond a high school education; people, many of whom dropped out of school at an earlier age than high school; and we felt all along that the system that was designed to bring up people to be able to measure up to university entrance standards was not a system which would serve the people of Manitoba. And let me say - and not unkindly, Mr. Speaker, not unkindly - let me say, that there are many people who are leaders in the life of this province, including people in this very Chamber whose grammar may be rather deplorable, who have not really retained what they may have learned from the three R's, but who are nevertheless not only making their contribution to the province, but also having the recognition of their electorates that they are capable of doing so. I may not agree with some things they say, I may agree with that of others but, Mr. Speaker, it is so backward to talk about the basic skills of the three R's and to suggest that that is what is needed in our educational system.

The Member for Riel said we must teach our children the basic skills they will need to build their own lives, to find jobs, to find self-fulfillment. The three R's are not going to provide self-fulfillment nor the opportunity to carry out their fullest employment capability in this province. It is much more that is needed. And although I didn't hear the speech made by the Deputy Minister for Education, I've been around long enough that I'm surprised that the Member for Riel or his Leader have not been around long enough to know that what is reported in the newspaper is not necessarily - and less than often - a full report of what had been said.--(Interjection)--Excerpts, yes, but the full content, no, and I think that the Deputy Minister of Education, the person who has academic and educational achievement recognized, not in this province alone but in many places in the educational circles in this province, has to suffer from the fact that he has, on occasion, participated in policy formulation of the New Democratic Party. Let me tell Honourable Members if they don't know it, and they seem to know everything or pretend to, that the Deputy Minister of Education has often and publicly disagreed with policies of this government, and that I believe is healthy, and I believe it is important that we have that kind of contribution.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Riel and the person who wrote the speech, assuming that that was the real Leader of the Conservative Party, professed not to understand the sentence in the Throne Speech about the importance to measure, to have a balance in the implementation of new programs. These are people who not only were taught the three R's, who not only went to the educational system of their choosing, but even attained degrees at the University level, and they pretend not to understand it. Let me ask their colleagues on that side to read what else was said in the speech and to realize that they did know what was said in this sentence, because they then went on to talk about the need

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) to practice restraints - and they're great supporters of that - and then they talked about market forces, the market struggle that takes place that creates to them a good environment for trade, and they talked about planning on the part of our Party, the planned application of human values. They claim they don't understand it but they certainly do because they don't believe in it and have said so.

Mr. Speaker, there were various points raised by the honourable member that I would like to mention. He and his Leader, his Leader - was it Saturday night, or whenever it was that he spoke on TV, and he in this speech that he read to us today, talked about the need to - I'm not sure that I know the correct term to use when a person is denied the right to withdraw his services from occupation when he feels that he is not being properly recompensed for that work. Slave labour was one suggestion, forced labour - forced labour. I think probably forced labour is a non-pejorative term. I believe that no one can object to the fact that if you deny a person the right to strike, i.e. deny him to withhold his services and say to him, "You must go back to work," you are saying, "We force you to go back to work," therefore it has to be clear that forced labour is what we have in mind.

The only thing that interests me is that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Sterling Lyon, has clearly included doctors in that group. I don't recall that when there were threats of doctors to strike that members of the Opposition were clammering for legislation to force doctors to stay at work; I just don't recall it. And, yet, I read from words spoken by Sterling Lyon who states that the right to life and right to continuing health care are more important than the right of any group whether doctors, nurses, or hospital workers to withdraw their vital services. Remember that gentlemen. Your leader has made it clear to me anyway that any suggestion that doctors should strike or hospital workers should strike or nurses should strike, is not acceptable, remember that, gentlemen of the Opposition. Because when you say, as you do, and as the Member for Riel said, that what we are saying to them is, confrontation is not normal or healthy, we're saying, that conflict will sometimes be necessary but rarely. We are saying it is possible to find a better way.

The Members of the Opposition owe it to us to define that "better way." The Members of the Opposition have to tell us just what they mean, how they can force somebody to work and have a better way to have free and open negotiation in good faith. They have to make us understand how it is that an employer knowing that his employees cannot have the right to withdraw services, that that employer knowing that will not use it to his advantage.

Let me point out to the Honourable Member for Riel. Clamping down on strikers may be very good in the short term but in the long term you cannot keep people working at a job which is badly paid, nor should you want to. And if the members of the Conservative Party of Manitoba are prepared to bring in legislation now preventing strikes, then let me remind them that their colleagues in Ontario, who have the responsibility of government as compared with members opposite, didn't move very quickly to stop the Toronto teachers' strike. They waited many weeks and they anguished out loud, and they apparently tried to give the collective bargaining system a reasonable chance, and then when they legislated they expressed serious regret in doing so.--(Interjection)--Well those reactions in any event are not different from those expressed by our Minister of Labour, our Minister of Health, our Premier, in speaking in terms of not wanting to legislate people back to work. I'm not saying that this is a healthy thing to have strikes; I am not saying that it is something that we wish to see happen in our society where people's lives are endangered, be they by doctors or be they by the sweepers and caretakers in hospitals, we don't like to see it, but there are principles involved which I don't think should be easily brushed aside. And I am not saying that there does not come a time when you do have to legislate some form of arbitration, I'm not saying that; I am not even saying - and there I don't know that I have complete accord with members of my own party - I am not saying that there aren't times when one sees to it that there is an opportunity given to other people to take on work during a strike and maybe they would be called scabs, but maybe on the other hand a time comes to show the striker that he is

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) not necessarily right, that he may have been asking too much, and that there might be the need to make it possible for others to replace him.

But, Mr. Speaker, when we talk in these times, in times of heavy inflation, in times of rising prices, the easiest thing which the Conservatives bought, holus-bolus, is to say, "We'll control wages, we will make sure that people in the work force cannot get an increase, but when it comes to prices we say go easy." Why even in this very speech they're talking about incentives to industry, they're talking about economic climate, be nice, be nice to the masters of the economy. Maybe that's the way they feel about it; maybe they recognize that the people up to now who have controlled the economy of our province and of our country are people who have nothing but the profit motive in mind and they say to them, "Well the only way we can see your contribution being made to society is by increasing your profits, by making your business more attractive, by making you more comfortable to earn a better living by reducing your taxes, and meanwhile by some of the measures we propose, we will see to it that the people who work for you will be kept in line."

And that is the expression of concern that we have been showing to the Federal Government all along. We have felt that unless it could be shown that something is being done about prices, about costs to the working person, that he should not be made to feel that he is the only one who is being attacked. And that is not entirely the case but we want to see to what extent the Federal Government really means it when they say it, but the Conservative Party don't really worry that much, they say, "Let's buy it, it may not be that good but let's buy it." Let me tell him that it was the Conservatives, I believe, in the other provinces where they govern who were quick to sign the agreement and did not raise that many of the questions that we are still raising, expressing our concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just mention about Autopac rates having gone up. The fact is that Autopac is still in a break even situation, or working in that vein, it is not looking for profits which it can pass on to its shareholders. Its shareholders being the Manitobans it is more concerned with maintaining a decent and fair premium to the users, rather the consumers of insurance, rather than the owners of the industry.

But, you know, coming from persons and a party who claim that premiums were not taxes, that it is not taxing a person to have a compulsory premium imposed on him, for them when they were defending their medicare premiums, say, "Well that's not taxes, that's a premium," for them now to say, "Well a tax is a tax and is therefore a subsidy," is kind of peculiar. Nevertheless, they'll keep saying it and we'll keep responding that the two cents that are being raised, that go into the total income of Autopac, are being used for the benefit of the consumers of the insurance industry.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Riel mentioned that Manitoba has a rapid rate of inflation. Let me point out to him that it is still amongst the lowest in Canada for price levels. I quote from the Financial Times which recently, on December 29th, reported on a survey of the cost of food, housing, clothing, transportation, health, personal care, tobacco, alcohol, reading and recreation for 10 cities, placed Winnipeg second behind Regina as the city with the lowest living costs. And let us not attempt to confuse the people of Manitoba who are knowledgeable of rising costs, to make them feel that their costs here are greater than that in other cities. It is not true; it is false to attempt to make that appear so.

I want to deal very briefly with the question of taxation. Conservatives notably talk about taxes being too high. Of course it was the Member for Riel and his predecessor who were part of the government that brought in sales taxes and who brought in punitive medicare premiums. The Member for Lakeside agreed with my first statement but not the second, although I know that intellectually, or probably technically, he would agree that medicare premiums were brought in by the Conservative Party; although he may not think they were punitive, the people of Manitoba obviously thought so because they made sure that the government who brought in the medicare premiums would not have the right to continue in government.

I want to refer to the fact that our government has not raised the income tax rate since 1970 and, as was brought out earlier today in the Question Period, has now

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) allocated two points of personal tax and one point of corporation tax to the municipal taxpayers, and we have not changed the five per cent sales tax, and at the same time we ended medicare premiums, and we introduced tax credits. So what can one expect of a Conservative Government to do? Well, in Ontario they went back to a seven per cent sales tax on January 1st, having cut it back to Manitoba's level for the election last year. They're still holding their medicare premiums at \$264.00 a year.

A MEMBER: How much?

MR. CHERNIACK: \$264.00 a year per family is the medicare premium.

--(Interjection)--I find that certain members of the House don't seem to hear well. The Ontario Government is still charging a \$264.00 a year family premium for medicare, and they're now talking about an increase, and they are talking about introducing deterrent fees.--(Interjection)--Newfoundland? I forget for the moment - oh yes, they're a Conservative Government. They just raised the sales tax to 10 per cent, the income tax to 42 per cent. New Brunswick, a Conservative Government, sales tax, 8 per cent, basic income tax 41.5 percent, and there they have a nuance of a reduction there. And in Alberta - in Alberta, the rich province of Alberta - they still have high medicare premiums, and they're talking about raising them; and the biggest tax cut was a reduction in the general income tax rates, which we know benefits the rich rather than the poor. That is an indication of where we stand and where we continue to stand.

On the other hand we know, it was repeated to us today, that the Conservative Party is the one which is prepared to continue to support industry, to subsidize industry, to see to it that there's an economic climate which suits the people that they seem to favour - they're the ones that . . . incidentally, it was the Member for Riel, it was Sterling Lyon, both formerly Ministers of Mines and Resources, who participated in the contractual relations dealing with the CFI proposal. And I want to make sure, I am now not referring to the way there was dishonest operations in regard to it; I'm talking about the surface, the giving away of acreage - was it a quarter of the Province of Manitoba? - the giving away by way of reduced timber royalties half price, the guaranteeing, the fire fighting equipment, so many items, which were give-aways, which they defended. That is the careful administration to which those two gentlemen participated. The low mining royalties, which the Member for Riel now seems to admit were ridiculous because he did say something - I don't remember the exact words - but of course we will not return to the ridiculously low royalties that were charged in the past - of course he means which he charged and which his colleagues charged in the past.

But during all this sell-out they're the ones who, doing nothing for the North, were still able to stand here - of course most of the gentlemen there were not present during the regime of the Conservative Party - and are able to say why the administration of the present government is not adequate.

And in Ontario our neighbours, the rich province of Ontario, what do we find, a huge deficit; a deficit that is so large, which those who read the newspapers must know, put in some danger, or at least got them into some potential trouble when they were about to float a U.S. bond issue. Just shortly after that this Province of Manitoba, one of the smaller provinces, obtained a credit rating raised to a double A standard with a commendation for sound financial and economic management, made by U.S. experts in that field.

And we must constantly look to our neighbours. Let us look to what's happening elsewhere. In Ontario what are they doing to hospitals now, closing down hospitals. They're seriously considering a report by that great economist Max Henderson calling for a reduction in other public services, the application of regressive user charges across the board; they are fighting inflation on the backs of the poor and of the working . . .

Mr. Speaker, I do not pretend that all that we have done in our years in government have been successful in all respects. I think that we made mistakes of which we have learned. I think that we are benefitting from that, but in the main we have a record which to us is one of pride and commitment to the people of Manitoba. It is one which makes me feel that as a member of this party and of this government I am able to achieve a great deal of self-fulfillment; I am able to feel that I am making a contribution along

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) with my colleagues that is one that will be long remembered as being a tremendous stride forward in the growth and development of this province, not for the people that seems to be the main concern of the Members of the Conservative Party, but for the people who have been depressed for much too long in their opportunities and in their aspirations for a better life. And that is why it is to me ludicrous to listen to an amendment to the Speech from the Throne talking about negligent administration and mismanagement, wasteful spending, poor husbandry of natural resource heritage - they call it heritage and they're the ones that kept selling out our heritage. And then what do they do, they file back on a tried and failing supposition, that is, that by calling somebody names they'll make progress. The Member for Riel said, "Why in the past I haven't used the word 'socialist' very much." Of course he hasn't. He used to write his own speeches. But the person who does it now has been using that word socialist for a number of years, when he thinks that by saying "You're a Socialist," means that everybody will immediately believe that you're a "bad man."

Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Riel, if the Member for Sturgeon Creek would only tell us what they believed was a definition of "socialist", then we could debate it. But you know, to them it's such a red baiting term that they would be only too happy to attack it. So they talk about unworkable socialist doctrines - Mr. Speaker, there is so much of what we have done that even the person who knows least about socialism would not call "socialism," then I suggest to the Members of the Opposition, be careful that you don't keep walking into a very foolish position of constantly using scare tactics, scare terms, they won't work.--(Interjection)--Yes, the people in public housing are the ones who are going to say, "Oh, we're living in a Socialist environment now, there's a Socialist group over our heads." Or the people who get tax rebates will say, "Oh, we've got to watch ourselves, these are Socialist tax rebates." Or the people who are getting their doctors and hospitals paid for through our medicare system are saying, "Oh, that's dangerous, that's a Socialist doctrine." Gentlemen, it is you who are being fooled; you are not able to fool the people of Manitoba. (Applause)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all acknowledge the courtesy of the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie in allowing the debate to continue at this time, allowing those of us who wish to participate at this point, and having the debate stand in his name.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by paying respects to you, Sir, but I find it difficult after the presentation of the Honourable Member for St. Johns - who I hope is coming back into the Chamber - to allow my mind and my attention to be diverted from the kinds of nonsense that he was spouting for the last 25 minutes in this Chamber, to take the position that I wish to take with respect to you and your office, sir. But I will divert myself from that few moments with some difficulty and express my respects to you, Sir, and my thanks for the job that you do for me as a member of this Chamber. I wish you good fortune, Sir, in the session ahead.

I also want to extend my welcome for the record to my two new colleagues who have been welcomed into our caucus, of course, on earlier occasions, the Honourable Member for Crescentwood and the Honourable Member for Wolseley. We certainly are looking forward to the kinds of strength and talent that they will bring to our position and to our debates in this Chamber.

I would also take a moment to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address and Reply, Mr. Speaker. I found the remarks of both honourable members extremely interesting and valuable, and particularly in the case of the Honourable Member for Churchill, who seconded the motion, extremely educational and informative.

It's also nice to see the Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker of the House back in the position that we've grown used to seeing him in, Sir, and I extend my recognition to him at the beginning of this new session.

Well, Sir, we now find ourselves faced with an even more difficult task, on this side of the House, at this stage in the session, than we faced at this time last year when we began the debate on the Address and on the Speech from the Throne itself, because if

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) there was a lackluster Throne Speech and a lackluster concept of a government program ever presented in this province we saw evidence of that last year, and I think the record will show and record the fact that we had considerable to say in the nature of disappointment and dismay with respect to the Throne Speech last year, and the kind of elimination and the kind of lack of any kind of energy or drive or concept or imagination in that document, but that, Sir, has been superseded, if that was possible, by the Throne Speech this year. What we have seen to date from the government in terms of proposals for a program this year are even more disappointing than that which confronted us at this stage of the session last year.

So it's going to be difficult for us to develop an imaginative kind of an attack or an imaginative kind of a critique on the Throne Speech, and to come to grips at this stage of the session, with the government that sits opposite and with the government programs, policies and philosophies. They're not articulated, they're not explained or expressed for Manitobans in that document to a degree that permits us to tackle them on behalf of our constituents and on behalf of Manitobans in our role as the Official Opposition. So, we'll have to make do with what has been presented us, Mr. Speaker, and do the best we can in trying to call the government to account, not only for its stewardship to date but for some of the things which it has in mind for Manitobans this year but has failed to spell out, and perhaps hopefully persuade them to a position to accept some of the proposals, some of the suggestions, that we, no doubt, in our usual constructive fashion in this House, will be introducing from time to time in various debates, Sir.

Sir, before I look at the Throne Speech and the things that I want to say in support of the amendment moved by my Acting Leader, I must say that the Honourable Member for St. Johns has done it again. He's made the same mistake again. He did this last year; he got up in the wake of a vacuous, vapid, nothing Throne Speech last year and attempted to divert attention and divert focus from the remarks that were coming from my Leader at that time. This year he's done the same thing in response to the remarks that have been placed on the record by my Leader. The Member for St. Johns has hurled himself again into the debate like some cardboard caricature out of a high school operetta. He does it every year, Mr. Speaker; it seems he's now established a precedent in this Chamber. I don't know whether the Member for St. Johns ever was in any high school operettas but I suggest that he has taken on the cast of the Man of La Mancha and is conducting himself with respect to debates here in much the same manner. Remember the Man of La Mancha spoke about reaching the unreachable star and dreaming the impossible dream. Well, here we've got the modern day Man of La Mancha from St. Johns continually defending the indefensible. He stood up last year to defend an indefensible Throne Speech; he's done it again this year, Sir. He's becoming a caricature of himself in that role. He has found it most possible and practical to defend by obscuring, by attacking without much substance or veracity, I must suggest, some of the positions that the Conservative Party, federally and provincially, has taken on issue of the day, and as a consequence it has left him in a position that I think is open for considerably more criticism than any he could be directing at our benches, and indeed, perhaps more criticism than the First Minister exposed his colleagues to in the Throne Speech under question.

Well pursuing all the kind of illusive goals and objectives that the Member for St. Johns is doing, and has done again this year, he is continually tilting, and once again in the manner of that same musical comedy character, Sir, tilting at windmills, and that's a not inexact or not inaccurate description of the position that most of his colleagues on the benches opposite are taking with respect to the affairs of the people of the Province of Manitoba today.

Sir, the Member for Wolseley, the Honourable Member for Wolseley, reacted to a statement, or to an allegation, made a few moments ago by the Member for St. Johns by saying something to the effect that that's not true, and the Member for St. Johns was somewhat dismayed by that accusation. Well, I say to my colleague the Honourable Member for Wolseley that where the Honourable Member for St. Johns is concerned, Sir, he'll probably get used to that kind of a position because the Member for St. Johns has a

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) tendency to avoid the truth to a certain extent in the total of what he is saying on a given point. I think that many of his remarks, many of his allegations directed at the Conservative Party has only a miniscule association with the total truth of the matter, so, I'm not surprised that the Member for Wolseley reacted in the manner that he did. For example, the Member for St. Johns, the Member for St. Johns, has recited, after giving us his opinion on some of the more recent events and activities of the Progressive Conservative Party, has given us his opinion of where we stand on wage and price controls in this country. I suggest to you and to the Member for St. Johns, Sir, that he is not correct when he says that we reacted to wage and price controls in the manner that he did, to wit, reacted by saying let's buy it, let's buy it; we don't know really what it entails; we're not familiar with all the consequences and ramifications, but it's wage and price controls, let's buy it. I ask the Member for St. Johns: who in the Progressive Conservative Party said, let's buy it, or let's buy them! If he had even a passing knowledge of public affairs in this country outside of those personal pursuits of his own - which he seems to be preoccupied with to the extent that it affects his judgment on public affairs, provincial and federal - he would know, Sir, he would know, Sir, that the Conservative Party of this country fought the wage and price control legislation and accepted it only with great reluctance in the House of Commons and voted against it on third reading, making it very clear that we don't stand with socialists or anybody else for curtailing and restricting the economy and the economic life of this nation. (Applause)

Surely he reads the papers and reads sufficient commentaries and columnists to be aware of that, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps all he reads is the NDP Newsletter, but if he did have the interest to expose himself to some other reports coming out of some other political councils, he would know that what he said about the Conservative Party and where it stands on wage and price controls is not true, and that is why the Member for Wolseley said it is not true and that is why I said to the Member for Wolseley, "you'll get used to it."

Mr. Speaker, another example of that kind of flirtation with the truth came in the member's convoluted handling of the cost of living statistics reported for Winnipeg and Manitoba in recent months. He suggests that despite what we may have been told in statistics from the Federal capital and from federal agencies that we are not here in Winnipeg exposed or suffering under the highest current increase in food costs, the highest current increase in overall living costs among the ten or twelve major cities in this nation. Well, I suggest to the Member for St. Johns, Sir, that he tell that to the consumers of Manitoba and to the citizens of Winnipeg, because they know to what extent costs have gone up here virtually unattended in terms of effort by this provincial government. It's only in the last four to six months that we've had a measurable commitment from the government of this province to do anything about the cost of living assailing people in the City of Winnipeg and in the Province of Manitoba. We've talked for four sessions in here about the need and the responsibility and the onus on a provincial government to fight the narrow confines of its area of authority, to take a lead, to take some initiatives, to play a role, to participate in fighting against inflation, in fighting against the economic burdens being carried by the people of Canada. We were told at virtually every turn that these were federal issues and federal problems, and if they didn't start in Ottawa they started in Washington, and if they didn't start in Washington they started in Paris, and that a provincial government could do very little about this sort of thing.

Well I think that lately, and thankfully - but I emphasize lately - the provincial government has come to the reluctant conclusion that maybe it can do some things about the economic burden assailing the country and about inflation. And I think that some initiatives have been forced upon it and it has been dragged reluctantly kicking and screaming into an appreciation of a role and an onus in that area. Now we are glad to see it. It may be too little, it may be too late but it is at least a reflection of the fact that this government like any provincial government can do some things. And if the Member for St. Johns believes that he can get away with saying in the manner that this

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) government said it for three years, that it's not so bad, the statistics that you've read in your report do not reflect the true picture in Winnipeg and in Manitoba, and there is not very much that can be done by a Manitoba Government, then he's not going to have much success outside this Chamber. He's not going to have much success in this Chamber either, trying that argument. But I suggest that where he'll meet the greatest opposition will be among the people of Manitoba, and particularly the citizens of Winnipeg themselves who know, who know, Sir, how those costs and how those prices have risen, and who have been acquainted with the truth of the picture through federal statistical information.

So I just want to recognize for the record the fact that, as I suggested, the Member for St. Johns has done it again, started off again in the same role, Mr. Speaker, and I for one - and I know my colleagues agree with me - would not feel comfortable in terms of our responsibility to the people of this province to allow those remarks of his to go unchallenged.

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I suppose that can be said for the Member for St. Johns, and that is that he does succeed occasionally still in getting our dander up, and many of the members occupying the government benches have lost that once proud talent. I can remember, Sir, - and I hadn't been in this Chamber very long when the sulphurous volcanoes over there on the socialist benches used to thunder forth with noisy, irrational, unreasonable propositions week after week, session after session. We had a great time, tangling with them, taking them on, deflating them, debunking them, showing them up for the nonsense that they were. We don't get that chance any more, Mr. Speaker, except when the man from La Mancha and St. Johns stands up and offers his annual, you know, his annual stigmatized version of what's happening in the Province of Manitoba and the nation of Canada. So I don't really mind. I hope next session that the Member for St. Johns does it again, Mr. Speaker. I hope he does. Because I do feel a twinge of regret when I look at those silent benches over there - they used to be, if not logical, Mr. Speaker, at least exciting.

It's reported, probably in an apocryphal way, that Alexander the Great wept when he discovered that there were no more worlds to conquer. Well I think that some of the leaders, some of the gut fighters, some of the front line troops, some of the little generals of this caucus shed a tear now and then when we have to face the reality of the fact that those worlds that were out there to conquer once have now all been conquered. The fire on the other side is out; the troops over there are spent; the ideas are gone; they're out of socialism and they're out of gas. Mr. Speaker, it's reached such a sorry state - the affairs of that party have reached such a sorry state, that they now want us, the Progressive Conservatives, to define "socialism" for them. They used to know what it was, and we certainly know what it is, but we're not going to tell them. We've had enough of it. We could give them a number of definitions, none of them complimentary or flattering.

The Member for St. Johns stood up and said that the worst accusation or expletive, or pejorative that we could - well he didn't say this, I'm paraphrasing him - that we could hurl in his direction was the term "socialist". And he said socialist doesn't mean you're a bad man. Socialist. Well we know that. Socialism doesn't mean you're a bad man, but it means you're a bad manager. It means you're a bad manager of Manitoba affairs and that's all we've ever said, - with the possible exception, I must confess that my colleague for Sturgeon Creek may have had sort of a stronger view about socialism and the use of the term than I have here expressed, but we do say, Sir, that we can see, or I can see it anyway, that what the Member for St. Johns had to say about the term itself is true, it doesn't mean that the Member for St. Johns is a bad man at all. I don't think that we've ever suggested that he is, but the term socialist as used by my Leader in the Throne reply a few moments ago was simply employed as we often employ it in debate to define a philosophical perspective on a question as opposed to what our opponents opposite would perhaps describe as a capitalistic or free enterprise position. No one is saying that because it was done, it was necessarily bad - it usually turns out to be bad - but it's a philosophical application of the term. So I would hope that the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) Member for St. Johns wouldn't allow himself to become too sensitive on that point.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to turn for a moment to the Throne Speech itself and to our amendment to the Address and Reply, Sir. Sir, my Leader has said, and my colleagues and I believe, that the time has come in this province for, among other things, the clear removal as stated a few moments ago of the strike weapon in certain vital areas of the life of Manitobans. We say no strikes in those fields where the health and safety of Manitobans are at stake. Now the Member for St. Johns took this challenge up a few moments ago and pointed to the fact that the Conservative Government in Ontario was pretty slow to act where "Back to Work" legislation and consideration of same was involved in the Ontario teacher's strike. Well I don't think that that has any bearing on what we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. We're not talking about legislating teachers back to work; we're not--(Interjection)--We are talking about getting down to the nub of the problem of defining vital services where the life and health of Manitobans is concerned, and there are many, many services . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. SHERMAN: . . . Sir, that come into a category that is almost vital. I would even put the Minister of Labour partially up the way, the categorical ladder, to that point. Not too far. You bet your life, Mr. Speaker, not too far. But we're not talking about legislating everybody back to work or legislation against strikes, we're talking about those people of this province, and that includes at the latest census something in the neighbourhood of one million and sixty or eighty thousand who have the right to have their lives and their property safeguarded, and that means police protection, fire protection, and health protection. And in those vital services, yes, we have caucused and considered and studied and come to the conclusion that the time has come in the life and the welfare of this province where the public interest in those areas, that is, health and protection of life and limb and property are concerned, that the strike weapon now has outlived its usefulness and does not do a public service in this province, that it does not perform a public service any longer; it creates more difficulty, more agony, more dislocation than the good that it achieves.

Now we would go on beyond that point to say, Sir, that many persons who, because of their memberships in particular organizations and particular union organizations, are obliged to go out on strike when such stoppages are called, many of those people, I suggest, probably if given the chance to exercise a free and independent opinion on the question would opt not to strike, but because of the leadership to which they are committed, and in some cases unfortunately beholden, they're forced to strike. And it does them no good; it does the people of Manitoba no good.

So we are calling clearly for an examination of that difficulty and of that weapon now in the life of our province and for some initiatives on the part of this government to examine the question and determine, if they can as best they can, how vital services of the kind I've made reference to could best be defined and best be covered under this kind of legislation. That is what my leader has said and that is what our Address and Reply amendment said.

But I go beyond that, Mr. Speaker. I go beyond that to say that even in the general industrial sector - I'm not talking here about vital services - even in the general industrial sector this government has got a clear and urgent responsibility to do something about cooling down the inflamed labour relations' temperature. This government has got a clear responsibility to do an about face in attitude and posture with respect to labour-management confrontation. This government has got a responsibility to try to bring some peace and some stability back to that labour relations sector rather than continually inciting it to greater and greater unattainable ambitions and thus continually leaving the whole sector, and through it the whole society of our province in a continual state of industrial battle. There is an area perhaps where this government has a clearer opportunity for initiative than in the field of vital services because . . . I recognize that it's going to be extremely difficult for us to convince a New Democratic Government to introduce elimination of strike legislation, to eliminate the strike in any field, in any field.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) We're going to have a very difficult battle, and probably that can't be accomplished until the day we turn this government out of office and assume office ourselves. But one thing this government could do, one thing this government and this Labour Minister could do is take an initiative in the industrial sector and try to cool down instead of continually hotting up the temperature in the field that I have referred to, the labour-management field where general industrial activity is concerned.

I've seen no initiatives coming from this government in terms of preventive mediation, although maybe my friend, the Honourable Minister of Labour, conducts all these exercises in total secrecy and finds that it's more valuable to the people of Manitoba to do these things without letting them know about it, but he certainly has not acquainted me or Manitobans generally within my earshot of any initiatives that he has taken in this field. And this is probably the most critical field in our society today. If one looks over the catalogue of difficulties that we had last year - and I can virtually see the Minister of Labour cringe as I mention it, Mr. Speaker - one recalls a pretty excruciating period in the labour relations field. In 1975 - this was the partial catalogue if anybody needs any reminding, Sir - there was the strike at Flyer Industries; there was the nurses' strike; there was the support workers' strike at the University of Manitoba; there was the carpenters' and electricians' strike; there were other strikes in the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, certainly.

MR. PAULLEY: I wonder if my honourable friend would tell me how many nurses went on strike?

MR. SHERMAN: The Minister of Labour is very fortunate, Mr. Speaker, very fortunate indeed that the answer to that question is none actually factually on strike. But he knows what happened in the Health Sciences Centre and in the medical facilities of this province, in the medical facilities of this province and in the lives of patients in this province by the negotiations, by the threat, by the confrontation that existed for some weeks.

Mr. Speaker, there's the carpenters' and electricians' strikes and other strikes in the construction industry. The confrontation and threat of a strike in the Manitoba Government Employees' Association in the Public Service, Sir. There was the threat of a police strike. There was the threat of a doctors' strike. I say, Mr. Speaker, that looking at the kinds of dislocations and difficulties that emanate from those threat situations and those confrontation situations that Manitobans don't need another 12 months like that. They don't need another period like that. I wonder whether this government and this Minister are taking initiatives to redress the kind of imbalance that they've developed in recent legislation, in recent policies over the past six years which now, which now I suggest often incite confrontation and difficulty in that sector by encouraging both rank and file members of the movement and leaders of the movement to goals, to objectives, to expectations that are not attainable and that are not reasonable and are not practical. And the time has come, Sir, for this Minister and his colleagues to address themselves to that phase of our lives as one of the most crucial top priority ones, if this province is to enjoy stability and progress and the opportunity for people to enjoy the best working conditions that we can provide for them.

Sir, this is not only of concern to Manitobans, it's of course concern to all Canadians, this problem that faces us in the Industrial Relations sector. But we have here a Minister who has spent a lifetime in the labour and labour relations' field, and I would hope that we will see from him this session some initiatives aimed at rectifying the difficulty, and cooling down the tensions and redressing that imbalance. He promised us things last year which we never got. Well, we all understand that he had some difficulties and some health problems last year that rendered him unable to operate at peak efficiency part of the time. And then there was difficulty with the Manitoba Government Employees Association, and at that time he was not able to accept the kinds of propositions that were being made to them in view of what had been done with the Manitoba Medical Association and he found it impossible to continue in those negotiations. But he now has a new lease on life, I would hope, he now has a new session and a new

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) year in front of him. We're still waiting for proposals that . . .

MR. PAULLEY: You've got them, you've got them.

MR. SHERMAN: . . . well we've got them in white paper form. We've got them in white paper form.

A MEMBER: He never called the committee.

MR. SHERMAN: We've got them in white paper form. The Minister says I've got them. I've got them in white paper form, they've never gone before the Industrial Relations Committee. I presume they will come into this House in the form of formalized proposals for amendments.

MR. PAULLEY: They will not.

MR. SHERMAN: Oh, they will not. Well I'm glad to hear that, because that enables me to pass over that part of my remarks where I was going to ask the Minister whether he was going to be bringing in proposals in strict legislative form for presentation in this Chamber, or sticking to his original commitment to go to the Industrial Relations Committee.

MR. PAULLEY: I made a promise.

MR. SHERMAN: Well we'll look forward to having them come to the Industrial Relations Committee, but we need them, and we need them without too much more delay, Mr. Speaker. The problems have been allowed to multiply upon themselves in the industrial sector for two years, and I just emphasize that the Minister of Labour is on the platform and on the firing line as far as I am concerned and as far as many Manitobans, I believe, are concerned, for initiatives in this area.

Mr. Speaker, while we're looking at labour legislation, I wonder what the Minister of Labour is prepared to do in the area of the individual's rights within a union itself and within the labour union as an institution. We've had an interesting experience in recent months when the House was not in session, having to do with the so-called conscience clause, when we saw, Mr. Speaker, that what many of us believed about conscience and the conscience clause, came to be a position that was supported by certain members of the judiciary in this province. It was not necessarily the position that the Minister of Labour or his colleagues had in mind when they drafted that legislation, but we have seen--(Interjection)--Well, we have seen that the position of individuals - and it was expressed by us in debate at the time - has been vindicated by a judicial decision. And I ask the Minister how far is he prepared to go now on the basis of that kind of judgment in trying to ensure that individuals within unions have their own rights protected, that they are not merely made to conform to a mold and to a machine, but that the movement itself which has done so much for workers in a collective position, be held responsible to do things for them in an individual position and respect their individual rights too.

There are many enemies of freedom in North America today, and they're not all to be found where my friends opposite have been looking since time immemorial for them, that is, in the kind of society and the kind of philosophy of values that we free enterprisers represent. They're not all to be found there, many of them are to be found in the kind of uneven influences which have developed in recent years through big labour, and the uneven influences that big labour and union leadership can have on governments, on individuals, within unions, and through those institutions on individual and innocent people on the street who become dislocated, disadvantaged, frustrated, and in many cases threatened by the actions that unions take. And I suggest before anybody on the back benches of the government side of the House scoffs too loudly, Mr. Speaker, that they need only look back as far as the 44-day postal strike in this country last year, and they might not have any knowledge of what dislocation, what impact a postal strike can have on the economy of this country; but I'll tell you that there are 23 of us on this side of the House who have knowledge of it, and that kind of strike is extremely damaging to the gross national product, to the livelihood of all Canadians, the impact of that kind of a strike. It's not good enough that power hungry labour union leaders who are seeking to protect their own positions, are allowed to disrupt the economy, the businesses, the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) livelihoods, the welfare and the jobs, yes, the worker jobs of millions of Canadians.

So, Mr. Speaker, I recognize I only have one minute left, and in concluding, Sir, I want to urge the Minister of Labour once again to have the courage to take some initiatives in that field. I have no hesitation in charging him and this government with failure in that field to date, Mr. Speaker, and I have no hesitation in supporting the amendment moved by my Leader to the Speech from the Throne.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Assiniboia, that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN, Q.C. (Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Minister for Urban Affairs, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried.

The House is accordingly adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. (Tuesday)