

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I requested somewhat an early adjournment for the supper hour, I thought perhaps the Opposition would find their dinners more palatable than my remarks. I hope, Mr. Chairman, after I am through that they will be able to stomach what I have to say. On occasion I have been known to cause quite a cackle from the other side

Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise at this time and take part in the debates on the Throne Speech. I am particularly pleased to talk on the Throne Speech because members have wide latitude and have a greater opportunity to speak on different topics and particularly, they can address themselves to their constituencies. and some of the remarks made by the Opposition. Before I begin, however, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend to you, Sir, my sincerest congratulations on your once again being Speaker and in charge of proceedings in this Assembly. I know that on some occasions I have perhaps made your responsibilities a little more difficult, but most of the time, Mr. Speaker, if I have perhaps damaged the decorum of our Assembly on many occasions this has been prompted by some remarks made by members opposite, for example, the statement made by the Member for Rock Lake. The Session hadn't been underway more than 15 or 20 minutes during the Question Period when he made one remark in asking a question of one of the Ministers on this side of the House and I quote. "I speak for the farmers of this province." Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of comment that comes from members from time to time that will create some member on the opposite side to rise and react or heckle or do something, and this, I'm sure, creates some problems for you. You know, I'm just wondering when the member stands and makes that kind of a statement, in all due respect to him, I wonder if he believes that he has a halo on his head, and I doubt whether he speaks for all of the farmers in his own constituency, let alone all the farmers of the province.

I would like to compliment my two colleagues, the Member for Logan and also the Member for Emerson, for very excellent speeches, very excellent speeches in moving and seconding the Motion of Acceptance on the Speech from the Throne. I thought that they had done very well and I certainly compliment them for that.

I reluctantly have to welcome and congratulate the new Member for Souris-Killarney, but with great reluctance and I do so only — and I presume the Leader of the Opposition doesn't give a damn whether I congratulate him or not, but I do so in respect to the people of Souris-Killarney, even though I believe them to be somewhat misguided, perhaps uninformed. You know, Mr. Speaker, in the last three years we have seen a relay of leaderships, it's a kind of Olympic thing, they have some kind of races in the Olympics where you go around and grab a stick from the other guy, or something, in a relay race and you keep on going and hand it over to another. and in the last three years we have seen that on both sides, both Opposition parties in this Assembly. We have had three Conservative Leaders and we have had, I believe, three Liberal Leaders as well. This does not denote very stable opposition, far from being stable indeed. — (Interjection) — Yes, Yes, Yes and I presume the Member for, I believe it's Morris that said that. You know, maybe a little bit of stable would have done you some good too. My reason for not being too generous in my comments to the Leader of the Conservative Party, although I believe he's a very intelligent person and I cannot forget, Sir, I cannot forget that that Leader, that Conservative . . .

A MEMBER: That little guy.

MR. ADAM: . . . was one of the — now I must maybe use some of his own comments. He referred yesterday to myself and others on this side of the House as the NDP Socialist bunch. He was one of the Conservative gang who signed the original agreement. The name of Sterling Lyon appears on this document, copy of this Cabinet document . . .

A MEMBER: What year?

MR. ADAM: 1966 — February 25, 1966.

A MEMBER: In what capacity?

MR. ADAM: His name appears amongst others on a

Cabinet document signed in 1966 with a fellow by the name of Oscar Reiser, a document which laid the foundation for fraudulent activities which later occurred with CFI. Mr. Speaker, that man, who is not in his seat right now, appears on this document. They are here, I can name them: Roblin, Evans, McLean, Lyon, Johnston, Carroll, Witney, Hutton, Weir, Baizley, Smelley, Harrison, Steinkopf, they are here. His name is here. I will not forget that, Sir, and he has the unmitigated gall now to come here and aspire to the Premiership of this province.

In my opinion, every Conservative Minister who signed that agreement with Oscar Reiser who represented, I presume, a group of international swindlers, demonstrated gross incompetency and

anyone in that group is unfit to be in public office let alone be a Premier of this province. And he has the audacity to aspire to the Premiership of this province. He does have that aspiration. It goes beyond the norm of political and intellectual decency, Mr. Speaker. I will do everything in my power to see that the people know who that leader is and how incompetent he was when he was in government. The involvement in this history-making and scandalous fiasco known as CFI. That group in my opinion are nothing more than a bunch of quack politicians. This was a very sad era for Manitoba. I leave that for now, Mr. Speaker. I may come back to some of the comments later.

There was an article in the Free Press. I think it was mentioned here today by one of my colleagues. It appeared in the February 18 final edition of the Winnipeg Free Press and it had to do with Manitoba Hydro and the credit rating. It appeared on the front page and it prompts me to at least make a comment.

Now the fact that an untrue or distorted or misleading statement appears in the Free Press comes as no surprise to me, but what I found amazing, Mr. Speaker, is that the article indicates that The Free Press does not rate the intelligence of their readers very high. I'm wondering if the Free Press really think or believe that they can make their readers believe that an organization of the stature of Moody Investment Services of New York would have to come to a rag like the Free Press for its research. That is the part that amazes me the most. Whether the

content was correct or incorrect I'm not debating the point at this particular time, I'm just saying that who do they think they are kidding that Moody would have to come hereto Winnipeg and ask the Free Press for their research.

A MEMBER: Maybe they were only press but not free.

MR. ADAMS ADAM: Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to more progressive topics than the Leader of the Opposition or the Winnipeg Free Press.

One of my colleagues, the Member for Emerson, in his speech last Friday gave this Assembly an illuminating example of the progress that had taken place in his constituency since the election of the NDP Government in this province, back in 1969. He went out to tell this Assembly and hopefully that that message would get back to his constituency and the people would be aware of what had happened in his constituency and you know, Mr. Speaker, people tend to forget very, very easily. That is unfortunate, but it is also very, very true.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe that perhaps every member in this Legislature could stand up and say the very same thing because on both sides of this House, I am sure that in every constituency there has been progress made in the last six or seven years. Many very good and valuable benefits have taken place in many, many constituencies I am sure.

I am sure when the Member for Roblin or the Member for Birtle-Russell were going around and signing up applications for PEP Grants for senior citizens and critical home repair and telling them, "See what I got you." You know, I am sure that those people appreciate those programs even if they don't know really who gave them those programs.

The same success story that happened in Emerson also happened in the constituency of Ste. Rose. Some of the benefits that Ste. Rose has had from the NDP programs and one of the very good programs very early after my election, and I'm not taking all the credit for this but it just so happened that it came in not long after my election. was Rural Water and Sewer Services which assisted thousands of farm families in this province to have modern conveniences in their homes. I don't think that even members of the opposition would criticize this program. which to some extent assisted farm families' and I believe prior to that program there were probably about sixty-five percent of the farm families who had no water and sewer on their farms. And I believe this has been a very worthwhile program. This has also happened in many towns and I believe just recently the town that the Member for Morris comes from also had what is it, half a million dollars for extension of water in the Town of Morris. I could be corrected on that but I think that is correct. I think you'll take credit for that eh, Mr. Jorgenson. That has been a very good program and I am glad that it went into your constituency as well as mine.

Mr. Speaker, that wasn't the case prior to 1969, you know. There was priorities into which constituencies benefits would go. I see I'm getting a rise out of them there. But, we have extended water and sewer facilities in the towns in my area, the larger communities, the larger centres, and some of the smaller centres as well. We have just completed pure water, clean water for a little town, little hamlet of Toutes Aides, where I was raised and you know it's almost unbelievable that a small place like that would have at least somewhere to go and get nice clean and filtered water. So I am very proud of that.

We have also expanded the assistance to towns, the larger towns' for paving certain streets in the towns. Many of the towns now have hard-surfacing where they had nothing but dust before. And this is certainly something that is worthwhile and that the townspeople appreciate, that when they walk down town that they are not covered with dust when they get to the other end of the street.

We have also the Member for Emerson that explained that there has been a lot of road work in his constituency. and there has been a considerable amount of road work in mine as well since 1969. —(Interjection)— Well, they might be, well they might be, Mr. Speaker, because prior to 1969 I remember the first Minister of Highways telling me that when the government changed in 1969 that the then representative for the Ste. Rose Constituency, Mr. Molgat, came to his office and almost kneeled down on his knees and said, "Joe please help me, please help me. those fellows have never given me anything." And he saw an opportunity to try and get a few bucks, a few measly bucks, for road work in the Ste. Rose Constituency.

MR. FERGUSON: For a few measly bucks.

MR. ADAM: Now the Member for Gladstone, my honourable friend is making some comments from his seat. You know, I drove on a road north of Plumas, going to Waldersee and I believe it is in the Honourable Member for Gladstone's Constituency, and I am driving along this nice paved road and all of a sudden it just ends as if it's nowhere. It seemed to end nowhere, in the middle of a field someplace. It was built prior to '69, it ended at the last gate of the Conservatives, it wouldn't go one inch in Mr. Molgat's Constituency, not one inch. —(Interjection)— Well, that's fine, you see that's the place it should end, eh! Right at the door of a Conservative. Why didn't it go to Waldersee, why didn't it go to Waldersee? I ask you because you are the member. Why didn't it get to Waldersee. why didn't that road finish and go four more miles to Waldersee, why? It didn't go there, it didn't go, it didn't go. —(Interjection)— Well, I'll do that and if I am wrong Jim I'll retract, but it seems to me that that road ended in the middle of a field somewhere, I think at the gate of a last good Conservative on that road. Well, the most recent programs of upgrading in my constituency has been PR 261, a very contentious road in the by-election of 1971. Mr. Molgat and Mr. Asper had me paving that road for about a week, two weeks. Mr. Single at Waldersee, Mr. Single said, "You know Peter we've been waiting for 25 years to have this road upgraded." I said, "Where was your member?" Well, he was there but he couldn't get anything because there was a Conservative Government, they wouldn't give him anything. But I am happy to say that that road after just a few years it is now there, it is now there. I don't stop at the last NDP gate, I get right to Glenella, to the town, I stop somewhere, I stop somewhere, I'll stop at a road corner, I'll stop at a town, I'll go somewhere, I don't stop in the middle of fields. PR 364 upgraded, PR 269 that's all last year, PR 378 upgraded, PR 260 and PR 235 completed, upgrading. —(Interjection)— I don't know but it saves a lot of cars, it saves a hell of a lot of cars I'll tell you. How many votes does that Art Centre buy? I don't know. I've put a lot of money in there, I've put a lot of money in your Art Centre and I don't begrudge that you have an Art Centre, I don't begrudge whether you have that bridge to go across Osborne to your constituency, I don't begrudge that, I don't begrudge putting money in there so I hope you won't begrudge when my people go to

church on Sunday or go to town and they travel on good roads.

A MEMBER: Remember on Sunday go to church.

MR. ADAM: Upgrading of 276, and seal-coat as far as Magnet, north of Ste. Rose, a very very much travelled road. —(Interjection)— I write my own speeches, I write my own speeches.

And, I hope, for the sake of the people in my constituency that this government will be re-elected, not only that I will be elected, but if I'm only elected and the Government is not elected I know we won't get any more roads, I know that, that's already settled. So I am hoping, and I am quite confident, I'm Quite confident that we will be re-elected and those roads will continue in my constituency.

I mention the PEP Program has increased employment and has affected almost every community in my constituency and probably almost every community in the province, including some represented by members opposite. It has assisted many communities to construct recreational facilities and centres, new community centres were built in Toutes Aides, Mallards, Mallard, Crane River, Sandy Bay, Ebb and Flow, Eddystone, Meadow Portage, that's completely new facilities under the PEP assisted programs, and some of the church halls also were assisted as well. Assistance was given to upgrade existing facilities as well. At Rice Lake, Toutes Aides, Ste. Rose, Magnet, Rorketon, Laurier, Kelwood, McCreary and perhaps some that I have missed as well.

A MEMBER: Fork River.

MR. ADAM: Fork River? It is possible. Sure, there's some I missed, I know I've missed some.

Assistance was given to construct a swimming pool in McCreary, and I might say that it is extremely popular. You can go there on any hot day during the summer and the school children are swimming in this pool and it is really a sight to see, it is something that you don't see too often in a small community and we want to congratulate the people of McCreary and the Rotary Club.

A MEMBER: The Lions Club built it.

MR. ADAM: The Rotary Club, the Rotary Club with assistance, and the province I am happy to say put in \$10,000 towards this project, and a very worthwhile project. It is well spent money. So don't be too critical when we do spend money sometimes, some of these programs are very essential and very very worthwhile, very worthwhile.

You know, it is funny, McCreary happens to be a little bit of a Conservative stronghold in my constituency but they are coming around, it is changing. So we don't discriminate, I don't discriminate on political grounds because I am only a politician for five weeks, Mr. Speaker, I am only a politician for five weeks every four years or five years, whatever the case may be, but after the campaign is finished I am no longer a politician I am a representative, and I represent the people. I represent the people and I will do just as much for a Conservative or a Liberal, even if he is a known Liberal or a known Conservative, as I will for an NDP. And that is the way it should be. I believe that that is the way it should be, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)— That will be up to the people, Sir. You know, somebody made a remark, I believe it was the Liberal Leader, the House Leader, who said that our Throne Speech was only to attract the Conservative vote. That's what he said. He said that the NDP are trying to entice the Conservative voters. Well, I say to you, Sir, that in 1971 I had to entice 2,000 Conservative and Liberal votes in order to get elected, and I got them. I got them. So, you know, I don't care what they are as long as they feel that I am able to represent them ably, I am very glad to have them support me.

Mr. Speaker, we have also assisted many communities to have new curling rinks. Some of our programs have enabled the Community of Waterhen, it is one of the northern communities in my area to have a new curling rink in Eddystone. And I have to give credit to the people because you don't get anything done without people. You can have all the programs you want in the world but if you haven't got somebody at the grass roots working towards these projects you are not going to get anywhere. It takes cooperation. And you have to give credit to the people not only the programs. And I believe that is fair comment. And we've also given assistance to existing curling rinks in many other towns and assistance for caretaking under the PEP Program, new skating rinks, some of them are open, some of them are covered. Sandy Bay got a beautiful closed-in skating rink. —(Interjection)— Hydro, I'll talk about hydro, but I'll get to you in a few minutes Mr. Bilton. I am coming to you. We have also helped the Town of Donnelly with a new covered rink there, which is very much appreciated.

I don't have to tell you about the many senior citizens' homes that were renovated under the old PEP Program and hundreds more have been and are being renovated under the new Critical Home Repair. I mentioned that awhile ago. I'll mention it again because I know you fellows are getting just as much credit for that Program as we are, because you are telling your people, "Well that's our Program. If we wouldn't have asked for it you wouldn't have got it." —(Interjection)— That's fine, that's fair ball. You are representing your constituencies and you do what you want. Senior citizens' homes, the housing program, which some members opposite have been so critical about, I believe has been a godsend for my constituency. Any senior citizen's homes were renovated and we also have a thirty-unit senior citizen home apartment constructed in Ste. Rose and fourteen units in McCreary. We also constructed four in Kelwood, sixteen family public housing was constructed in Winnipegosis, six in Ste. Rose, six homes are on schedule for McCreary again. In remote housing the following towns have had homes built: Mallard, Waterhen, Alonsa, Amaranth and Crane River. And nursing care homes, Mr. Speaker, Ste. Rose now has a forty-unit extended care home built at Ste. Rose and it is filled to capacity. Sorry, I've got an hour and five minutes yet to go to finish.

There is also a twenty-unit extended care home on approval for future construction at McCreary and twenty-unit care home for Winnipegosis. So here again you will note that I have made three major announcements for McCreary or four major announcements for McCreary. It is a constituency that I never got that much support from, but they are people, there are needs and if I can do anything to help those people I will do so.

I have only five minutes or now four minutes, I presume, so I will skip some of it, Mr. Speaker, and get to agriculture. It is very, very important but I will try and go through as fast as I can. —(Interjection)— Well, yes, all right, if you want me to go after Bilton I'll do it right now because I'll miss him if I don't.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. In the proceedings I would hope the honourable members would adhere to decorum and not mention each other by first names, second names, but by constituencies. Thank you.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, one of the programs I wanted to mention is that we had provided a provincial supplement for senior citizens' in addition to the federal basic pension and the federal supplement. This is one of the programs that we have introduced in this province. And I want to quote for you, Sir, some of the remarks of the Honourable Member for Swan River last year in this House. So I ask him, I ask him now — (Interjection) — The Conservatives would probably reduce the old age pension supplement and perhaps other aid to pensioners because the Member for Swan River last year stated in this House — just a minute please' you guys better quit here. Mr. Speaker, I have the floor and I ask that I be allowed to finish.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Does the Honourable Member for Swan River have a point of order?

MR. JAMES H. BILTON (Swan River): I ask the honourable gentleman to quote from the document or at least give me the name of the document that he is quoting from.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, what I am about to comment on is in Hansard. He could find it out for himself, he can read.

A MEMBER: Are you commenting or quoting?

MR. ADAM: Well, it is on page 223-224 and here is what he said last year. The Member stated that never in the history of the Valley, and that is how he addressed the Swan Valley, he always says "the Valley," did we ever need charity that this government is handing out. The people are not asking for this money, they don't know what to do with it. And he was talking about his senior citizens. He was talking about his senior citizens.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, there has been diversification programs in agriculture financial assistance programs; management training programs assistance for flooding and flood damage; temporary waiving of lease-rental payments assistance to purchase feed and for transportation of such; acreage payments; land-lease program and we are not ashamed of it; the Beef Assurance Program, second to none anywhere in Canada. Mr. Speaker, we have extended telephon service to Waterhen, Red Deer Point, north of Cayer. Hydro was also extended in those areas. Dial service established at Waterhen, Rorketon, Eddystone, Donnelly. Labour training programs were introduced at Mallard, Crane River and Amaranth and in other areas. I am only scratching the surface, Mr. Speaker, and I am almost finished if I could — (Interjections) — Two minutes, okay. Two provincial parks established, one at Totes Aides and one on Lake Winnipegosis' and many other programs such as Legal Aid, Denticare, Pharmacare, Human Rights, an Ombudsman, Health Services without premium, Day Care. Property Tax Rebates which they want to get rid of, Cost of Living Tax Rebates, more autonomy for School Boards and Municipal Governments. Mr. Speaker, I say that the people of this province can be very, very happy and proud to have a New Democrat Government in power.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I am going to find it very difficult to follow the act of the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose after listening to his comments for forty minutes this evening. I think about the only comment I would like to make to him, Mr. Speaker, is that I thank him for taking note of a question that I sort of prefaced to you, Sir, when asking a question. But I would like the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose to know that in no way have I gone around the Province of Manitoba with a halo over my head thinking that I know it all insofar as the farmer's problems are concerned. So, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I too wish to take this opportunity of extending my best wishes to you in once again acquiring the office of Speaker of this Chamber, and hope that I can assure you that you have my cooperation as much as possible in delivering our responsibilities as we do in this Chamber during this Session.

I would like to say to the Mover and Seconder, in reply to the Throne Speech that it is always an honour on behalf of your constituents to have that opportunity. And while I may not have agreed with some of the things that either of the gentlemen had said, it is something that we are fortunate when the First Minister of a government asks us to do that honour.

Mr. Speaker, I notice the Minister of Agriculture is not here with us this evening and I don't think that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose will be taking the place of the Minister, but I see the Member for St. George I believe is still acting the responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture when the Minister is absent. If I am wrong, Sir, I would ask to be corrected. But I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that probably the agricultural industry in this Province has received its fair share of headlines in the papers in the past couple of months. But before I get on to some of those headlines that have been given through the press and by many people' Mr. Speaker, I have a few things that I want to relate to my own constituency, and merely headline briefly a few of the problems that the people that I represent are still facing and have been for a number of years.

One of the things, and I have had several letters from people who are wondering about the fish problem in Rock Lake and Swan Lake and I think this is the responsibility of the Minister of Mines and Resources. I would like to inform honourable gentleman opposite, Mr. Speaker, that while aeration equipment was placed in Rock Lake this past year, I am given to understand that they forgot to put the weights on the pipes and as a result they didn't go down to the bottom so were not below the ice when the water froze last fall. They removed all that equipment only to find that — I was getting many calls from my constituents asking me what are you doing about the fish kill in Rock Lake. These fish were finding their way to the shores where waters were open and as a result they were perishing there. As a result also, Mr. Speaker, the fish have been removed from that lake, that is dead fish, by the tons. It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that we have an area there that does collect revenue for the government in the way of license fees and we have a government park there, and I am given to understand it's in the neighbourhood of somewhere around \$50,000. And to think that this government, Sir, wouldn't have the understanding or the interest to do that small amount of effort in the cost of aerating Rock Lake so that we could save our fish.

One other thing, Mr. Speaker, I see the Minister of Highways is in his seat, and I presented a petition here last

year with signatures of over 900 names referring to Provincial Highway No. 258, which is at the west end, runs north and south in my constituency. I want to report, Mr. Speaker, to my constituents that this government paid no heed to that petition. So as a result of it, last fall the Minister was asked to attend a meeting in my Leader's town, one of the towns in his constituency, namely, Glenboro. The Minister of Highways had agreed to come out and only to find that when they did have the meeting he didn't show up. As a result Mr. Speaker, we have nothing doing on that particular highway.

Also I would like to relate one other thing, Mr. Speaker, a letter I received just the other day from a constituent who is the Acting Secretary of a Leader's Group and this refers to the 4-H Clubs. You know, Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier there has been much talk about a Marketing Board in this province. I would like to go back a little bit in history, Mr. Speaker, before we deal with that particular matter and say to the Minister of Agriculture in the absence of the Acting Minister, that we have a Hog Marketing Board that was brought in by this Government. I'm not going to back any further than that. I'm not concerned with what happened prior to 1969 because we are now dealing with the present government.

We have also had a Milk Producer's Marketing Board, Mr. Speaker, brought into the Province of Manitoba. And, I would like, Sir, to convey a little bit of information in regards to our Dairy industry and how that Dairy Policy has affected the Dairy industry. I would like to inform Members, Mr. Speaker, that last fall I visited a Creamery in this province and called in on the manager and asked how things were going. Well, he says: "Come on into my office and I'll show you the books." He indicated to me, Sir, (and this was after I had had so many phone calls from my constituents and from other constituents in other parts of the province) the concerns they had last summer about what was happening to their business who were engaged in producing dairy products — and this is a combination, Sir, of both provincial and federal. I am fully aware of that and I would like to make mention of that. But, while I visited this Creamery, which was the early part of November a gentleman informs me that they produced about 20,000 lbs of butter in the month of September of '76. They produced about 47,000 lbs. in the same month a year earlier and because of the policies of this Marketing Board in this Province of Manitoba about 25 per cent of the farmers who were delivering cream to that particular creamery were just about to fulfill their quotas. So, I said to the manager, Mr. Speaker, "If I were one of those farmers, and I had fulfilled my quota but I still delivered a can of cream the following week what would I get for it?" "Well," he said, "I would send you a cheque for four cents a pound for your cream and a dollar" because the total price to the farmer was a dollar four cents. I asked, "What happened to the other dollar?" It would go to the government or to the Board. And that Mr. Speaker, has been a sad state of affairs so far as our Marketing Board concerning dairy products is concerned. But, you know, Mr. Speaker, after we had discussed this whole problem for awhile the gentleman said to me: "The crux is this, because of our policies whereby farmers have fulfilled their quotas and couldn't deliver any more cream, I couldn't produce any more butter, I had to import 50,000 lbs. of butter from other part of Canada to take care of my customers in the Province of Manitoba. To me, Mr. Speaker, this is the result of one type of Marketing Board as it affects one type of commodity in our agricultural industry and that is for the dairy farmers.

As a result of all this, Mr. Speaker, a number of farmers had to fold up and go out of business. Others tried to find some way of disposing of their cream or their milk. It wasn't easy.

But, Mr. Speaker, having made those few comments insofar as our dairy industry is concerned I would like now to deal with the matter of where the Minister of Agriculture in this province and this Government want to establish a Marketing Board for Beef.

I would like to go back, Mr. Speaker, and remind the honourable gentleman opposite that this Minister established a committee to do an investigation on the marketing of red meats in this province and it was an ongoing process for about a year and a half to look into all aspects of our marketing of our meat products in this province. Having done that, Mr. Speaker, the Minister appointed a livestock advisory committee composed of twelve people to go around the province last fall to hold hearings and listen to the comments of the farmers as to how they felt about the findings that the Inquiry Commission had done over a year and a half. Those meetings, Mr. Speaker, started last August.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Minister of Agriculture, if he had any understanding of the farming business at all he would not have chosen the month of August to hold hearings when farmers were busy with their harvest and didn't have time to come in to meetings to listen to the Advisory Committee as to how they felt about the way in which their cattle are being marketed in the Province of Manitoba.

I know, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency I got reports of some of the things that happened. I know in Pilot Mound the Chairman of that group called the meeting to order and having given some explanations of how it was to run, there were a few farmers who wanted to ask some questions and the chairman of that committee said: "No. I'm sorry, you have to wait. We are going to split you up into seven different groups and the committee would be a chairman of each group. The farmers, I'm telling you Mr. Speaker, were a bit annoyed because they felt they were being denied the right to pose questions and to seek information in the way they wanted to. However, this be as it may, those hearings were completed and the Minister was asking the Livestock Advisory Committee for a report by the fifteenth of December. I believe that was achieved on the twenty-first of December. From that, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture received a majority report and he also received a minority report. Now the majority report had recommended a Beef Marketing Agency with limited powers, without a plebiscite and the minority report, if I understood it correctly, Mr. Speaker, wanted a Marketing Board with full powers.

However, as time went on, Mr. Speaker, the Minister received his majority report but he wasn't satisfied with it because, from what I can gather, and honourable gentlemen can argue with me all they like, but, I think, because of the fact this Majority Report did not recommend a Beef Marketing Board with full powers the Minister wasn't satisfied so he wasn't going to stop there. He was going to seek other means of achieving his goal.

We all know that this Government stands for Marketing Boards with full powers to regulate and control. That is an understanding that we have from this government, despite the fact, Mr. Speaker, that this was not the wish of

the majority of farmers. And so, Mr. Speaker, the Minister chose to have a referendum or at least a plebiscite and he (of course he has the vehicle, which he can use, the Manitoba Marketing Board, the Secretary of that Board became the Returning Officer) decided that this is what he was going to do. This was all in haste, Mr. Speaker, and it caught the organized producers of beef in the Province of Manitoba sort of unawar.

I know the Minister of Agriculture attended the Manitoba Farm Bureau Annual Meeting early last month and the representations of the Board for the beef growers of this Province, the Cow/Calf Producers of this province were there in attendance and rightfully so the Minister provided them with the opportunity of asking questions of this particular plebiscite and they asked if he would not consider delaying this thing for a month or so so that they could have the opportunity to get the kind of information out to the farmers because those hearings they had last fall did not get to the majority of producers of beef in this province, by no stretch of the imagination. I'm given to understand the committee when they made the report that about fifteen hundred farmers attended those total number of meetings. Now we understand there are about 14,000 farmers supposed to be receiving ballots to cast a decision as to whether they want a Board or whether they don't. I don't think, Mr. Speaker, that this is fair to the farmer of this province the way in which the Minister handled this whole thing. But, nevertheless, he turned down the request by the representation that was there at that annual meeting from the *bona fide* Beef Growers of this province and the Cow/Calf Producers. They were the spokesmen for these two groups and I think they were the majority of the beef producers in this province.

It is strange to say, Mr. Speaker, and it is strange to me, that all of a sudden, sometime later on, a gentleman by the name of Mr. Rudy Usick resigns from the Manitoba Marketing Board and then all of a sudden the Manitoba Independent Cattle Producers appear on the scene. You know, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you, Sir, that if the titles of that group were given the Farm Union representation Roy Atkinson from Ottawa would be much closer to the correct title than an independent group of cattlemen in this province. It seems strange to me, Mr. Speaker, that all of a sudden when Mr. Usick resigns from the Manitoba Marketing Board, gets on the bandwagon with his small minority of independent cattle producers (and he must have gone to the Minister of Agriculture) and when he saw what was happening in the Province of Manitoba and what the *bona fide* producers or the representation of producers was starting to say and what was

happening, the Minister all of a sudden, does an about-face and notified the producers of this province that he was going to postpone the thing for another month. So we have a referendum that is going to be held and they are going to cast their ballots which they have the opportunity to do between March 1st and March 12th.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Agriculture in the first instance when this first started stated that he was going to remain neutral. Right tonight, I think Mr. Speaker, he is out at Portage La Prairie and the honourable gentleman opposite can tell me if I'm wrong. He is out at Portage La Prairie trying to sell his compulsory marketing board concept with full powers, which is something that the farmers of this province didn't even ask for. You know, when the Minister of Agriculture talks like that it reminds me of the leopard that stood before the mayor denying that he had spots.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the situation has reached the point when I say that I speak for the farmers of the province and particularly now for those who are in the beef producing business . . . You know, it has been published, Mr. Speaker, that the dairymen in this province, also have a vote. They have made it publicly known that they are voting "no" on this plebiscite because, Mr. Speaker, the dairymen of this province have found out what it is like to be controlled by a Marketing Board under this Government. The Dairy Producers and I say to the farmers of this province who are not in the dairy business take heed to that one comment because surely we have a lesson to learn as I described one little aspect, Mr. Speaker, of the dilemma that the dairymen found themselves in last summer because of the dairy policies under this Government. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I have to . . . and I understand this is the proper thing to do, but you know the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat but I think, Sir, that if he were accepting his responsibilities and he was a man of his word and honour he would be there tonight. He would be there tonight, Sir, rather than out on the hustings doing something that he claimed in the first instance that he was not going to be doing. How, Mr. Speaker, can the farmers of this province have faith in the Minister of Agriculture when on the one hand he said he was going to remain neutral and then does what he is doing, maybe say tonight, and has done on a number of occasions?

But I'm not going to stop there, Sir. You know the Manitoba Cattle Producers freedom campaign is composed of groups of people that my colleague from Gladstone had mentioned this afternoon. I would suggest to you, Sir, that they would be at least 95 per cent of the producers of this province under this heading, The Manitoba Cattle Producer's Freedom Campaign because, Mr. Speaker, the beef producers of this province, like the provinces across this nation, told the Federal Government that they didn't want any part of Bill C-176 which was the bill that results in the Natural Products Marketing Act and was the kind of thing that the Minister of Agriculture wants to use as a vehicle to bring the farmers of this province who are producing beef under the clutches of a compulsory scheme.

You know, Mr. Speaker, they talk about wanting to perfect the market. Mr. Speaker, I want to go on record as saying there is room for improvement in our marketing system. We have no quarrel there. The majority report indicates that. They suggested to the Minister that there is room for improvements but they said, "Allow us to do it through our own organizations in the way we feel and we best know how to do it", because I can tell you Mr. Speaker, I have far more, I must say, respect, because I have lost complete confidence in the Minister of Agriculture at the present time and I have far more faith in the beef growers organization and the Cow/Calf Producers in this province to assist me in running my business, because I am a *bona fide* farmer myself.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I want to make one other comment: insofar as the way in which this whole scheme was set up to decide — and the Marketing Board is doing that — as to who is entitled to vote and who is not. You know, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Acting Minister of Agriculture would be surprised that you know under this system that they have regulated and developed a person could have one cow and get a ballot and a farmer may have fifty cows and will not get a ballot. You know, Mr. Speaker, we were given to understand that those who were entitled to vote

without filling out an application form sworn by a Commissioner of Oaths with your Social Insurance Number on it — that's without that — that those who were entitled to vote were those farmers who registered under the Milk Producers Marketing Board Plan, and those farmers who accepted the Beef Promotion Program, signed up and took this thing for a five-year period, were automatically eligible to vote without having to declare as to whether they were *bona fide* farmers of beef or not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sincerely trying to find out from the Honourable Member whether or not this is merely a system to provide for registration — that the other people would already have given the information for registration, that these people would not have, and therefore, they are being asked to do so and, if they do, they are entitled to vote, or am I incorrect in that?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I've explained those who are qualified to vote without having to go through the procedures, the cumbersome procedures, because they are registered under the Beef Promotion Plan, they're registered as Dairy Producers in the province. But, and I'll give you an example: A father and son say, who took out this Beef Promotion Program, automatically qualified each one of them for a ballot. But if they did not accept the Minister's Beef Promotion Program they had to fill out one of these forms, have it signed and, when the Marketing Board found out that they each had their own land, they each had their own feed, they each had their own cattle and they each marketed, let us say father and son, each marketed their cattle in their own names, but they were feeding them in the same area and that was classified as a single unit. As a result of that Mr. Speaker, there was one vote allowed for father and son in that case. And the reason I mention this, Mr. Speaker, is this Government has flagrantly decided that they are going to create discrimination. And I'm telling you, Mr. Speaker, after all the publicity that this whole thing has had over the past month and a half, or almost two months, it has done more because of this Minister and his cohorts going out to try to sell his own concept of a compulsory Milk Marketing Board, has done more to divide the farmers and create more confusion. Never in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, have we seen such utter confusion by a Minister of Agriculture, that this Minister has perpetrated upon the farmers of this province, never in the history, Sir. You know, Mr. Speaker, I have felt so concerned about this and my colleagues, what this Government is trying to do insofar as our agricultural industry is concerned. I can go on and indicate, for instance, what Government interference has done to our cattle industry. The Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba agrees with the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa, and I can indicate to these Honourable gentlemen, just a couple of years ago, against the advice of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association in Ottawa, the Federal Government placed an embargo on red meats going into the United States. Our price of steers then, Mr. Speaker, Grade A-1 steer was 50 cents a pound at the time that regulation was imposed — within one month the price dropped to just about 40 cents a pound. I ask you Sir, is that the kind of thing that the farmers of Manitoba want, because that's what they're going to get if we get a regulated body, a Marketing Board regulated and controlled by a bunch of bureaucrats under this Government. I want to warn the farmers of Manitoba — you have asked me what is my stand and I quote, and I have the support of my colleagues on this side, "that because of the confusion that this Government and its Minister has / created I suggest to the farmers of Manitoba to play it safe. that they vote negative on this upcoming plebiscite because, ! Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to challenge the Minister of Agriculture on any platform he wants — my Leader took it on when he was speaking and replying to the Throne Speech, and I believe it was the Minister of Industry and Commerce, he said "If you want to debate with me, I'm prepared to anytime." And I say to the Minister of Agriculture, again I say he should be here in his seat tonight because he's always very capable of ad libbing an odd comment during the time when a person is speaking, and sometimes it's beneficial just to get a little idea of what he's thinking. But you know, Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Cattle Producers freedom campaign, they wrote a letter

MR. ENNS: Say it again Henry it sounds good.

MR. EINARSON: Yes. My colleague from Lakeside suggests, and I think it's a good one, Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Cattle Producers freedom campaign — you know, Mr. Speaker, that word "freedom" has become more important now than ever in the past 9 and we have to start telling the story that we, as producers of beef are not only losing our economic clout but we're losing the kind of freedom that we've enjoyed for a hundred years in this province, and we're about to lose that Mr. Speaker.

But getting to this letter Mr. Speaker that this organization, and my colleague from Gladstone indicated what that group represented, a letter to the Premier of this province, pleading and asking him to defer this whole thing, but the First Minister said, "You know I think it was about two years ago that we had one of the best Ministers of Agriculture that this province has ever seen." So how could he . . .

A MEMBER: Who said that?

MR. EINARSON: The First Minister. The Honourable First Minister said we have one of the best Ministers of Agriculture this province has ever seen. You know I'm now charging the First Minister with complete and full responsibility of the absolute confused mess that his department is in. And another thing Mr. Speaker, the directive that the agriculture representatives received when this thing was first started, that they were supposed to go to meetings, not to have any bias or have anything to say about whether the farmers should vote for or against the Marketing Board, but to assist in giving information that farmers were asking for. This went on for just a few days until all of a sudden the Minister's Deputy Minister phoned out to all the district men telling the Ag Reps that they no longer could attend these meetings. And I know of a number of farmers asked, "Where is our Ag Rep" Mr. Speaker because they are paid employees by the !!! farmers of this province, they are servants to the farmers. But this Minister of Agriculture he denied them that right, and their duty to represent and to serve the farmers of this province. So Mr. Speaker, I want to say, and it is regrettable that because of this whole mess that we have been going through for the past month and a half, I suggest that the First Minister should ask for the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture in this province.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to quote a few comments from my Leader because we are in unison as to just

where we are going, not only in agriculture but in many other things, and I quote, Mr. Speaker, "Unless Mr. Uskiv is prepared to modify this position that he now holds, we believe that beef producers should vote no in the upcoming plebiscite. In so doing they will not be losing their opportunity to establish a voluntary agency to provide that, with the marketing support they need they will merely be deferring it until after the next election. I fully expect the Progressive Conservative Party will win that election and will form the next Government of Manitoba. When that happens, we will sit down with the producers to examine all the alternatives and to assure that whatever action is taken reflects the wishes of the majority of all producers in Manitoba".

Mr. Speaker I suggest that the much more comprehensive and the much more reasonable attitude than this government is taking! now insofar as the farmers of Manitoba are concerned. And so Mr. Speaker, having made these few comments, it's very, very important that the producers of this province review all aspects as much as possible and pay no heed to what Mr. Usick is doing because he is nothing but a stool pigeon for the Minister of Agriculture going around this Province of Manitoba, because after this gentleman being on the majority report and then all of a sudden resigning from the board, and following on the other side with the minority position, how can the farmers of this province establish any credibility in this gentleman when he goes around to talk about a compulsory marketing board for the producers of beef. Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the farmers of this province that they take very close heed and take full cognizance of what the Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba, with a few of his cohorts, his farm union cohorts, going around this province trying to tell the farmers what is best for them. because I suggest Mr. Speaker these farmers know best themselves. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I was going to move the adjournment, but if the Honourable Member for St. James wishes to speak, then I would yield to him.

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

MR. MINAKER: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Our House Leader gave me the nod so I will proceed with part of the debate tonight. happy to see you back in the as, Mr. Speaker and I'm also very happy to see our Leader in the Legislature now as the Honourable Member from Souris-Killarney. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the comments and opinions that were stated in the speech by our Leader yesterday, are the opinions of the majority of the people of Manitoba, and the opinions of the majority of the people that I represent in St. James.

I, like the Honourable Member from Logan and I'm sure like all Honourable Members in this Legislature, feel that I represent the best constituency, and I represent what I call the famous area of "Sunny St. James", and I would like to comment that I feel it is the best constituency in Manitoba, one of the most energetic, and I am sure that all of us here think the same way about our own constituencies. But, I would like to just take a moment to correct the Honourable Member from Logan who in his speech the other day said that he represented the area which elected MLAs, MPs and Councillors and all of them were NDP. I would like to draw to the attention of the Honourable Member from Logan that there is a gentleman by the name of Councillor Eldon Ross, who represents the Brooklands area in his constituency, who is not NDP and he takes people before politics, Mr. Speaker. And I think if you talk to the people of Brooklands that they would say that Councillor Ross is a very fine representative on their behalf regardless of any political affiliations that any of those citizens may have.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to comment like the Honourable Member for Logan on what the NDP Government has meant to the people of our constituency, St. James. And like many other constituencies some eight years ago they were taken up in this sort of whirlwind support, if you want to call it that, for a new young leader that came back from the East and was going to do wonders for this province, and they elected, I believe, and I could be stand to be corrected on this, the first NDP representative that the St. James Constituency ever elected. And I might add that during the responsibilities of the former Honourable Member of St. James, he chose for reasons through his own wishes, to support the Unicity Bill which the Honourable Member from Logan so clearly and proudly stated was achievements for his constituency. And the former Honourable Honourable Member for St. James chose to support the Unicity Bill even though the majority of the people that he represented did not support the Unicity Bill. Mr. Speaker, he went so far as to go out and promote the Unicity Bill, I think unfortunately the Honourable Member from Fort Garry is not here to verify it but I understand that he travelled with the Honourable Member of St. Johns in his own Fort Garry Constituency to try and promote and sell the Unicity Bill to that area. And this is one of the reasons that the honourable member, the former Honourable Member for St. James is not representing our area now.

MR. HENDERSON: But he got well rewarded.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, what did Unicity — (Interjection)— Oh, I think the public of Manitoba knows how the former member was rewarded, but that is another matter.

MR. HENDERSON: The loser came up a winner.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, what has Unicity meant to the area that I represent, St. James? Well, I can tell you. Sir, it means tax bill increases, and it didn't matter whether you were a senior citizen or a young family or a middle income family the taxes went up, and in fact, Mr. Speaker, the taxes have more than doubled in the period of time that Unicity came into existence, some five years.

A MEMBER: What did it do for you Peter?

MR. MINAKER: More than doubled. What did it mean with regards to services? Well it meant reduced services. And one of the most important things if you understand the community of St. James, and I am sure it is similar to many other communities' a very proud community, they lost their identity. But, Mr. Speaker, this Government wouldn't understand that because they don't support identity or individualism, they support masses or a lost face in the crowd, that's what they support.

Mr. Speaker, what else did it mean to our Constituency of St. James, it meant a loss of \$9.4 million of our Revolving Fund. But, Mr. Speaker, this Government doesn't understand that because they believe in equality, not necessarily equality to the best level or the medium level, but usually it ends up to the lowest level. This is exactly

what has happened in the development of our Unicity.

Mr. Speaker, this Government does not believe in competition, it doesn't believe in competition between communities, it doesn't believe in efficiency. If it believed in efficiency it wouldn't have gone to a big giant operation when you are dealing with major maintenance problems within a large city, it wouldn't have gone that route if it was sincerely interested in efficiencies. Now I know the Honourable Member for St. Johns, when he was selling Unicity, indicated that very clearly that it wasn't going to be less costly, but that didn't matter. Mr. Speaker, I indicated earlier, it doesn't concern itself, this Government, with individual identities of communities, but it only believes, in my opinion, in controlled monopoly, controlled monopoly that they, the Government, can control alone and on top.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member from Logan seemed to pride himself of being a member of the Government and the way that they have reviewed the transportation policies for the City of Winnipeg and how they have saved millions of dollars for the taxpayers of Winnipeg and the province. Yet I might remind the Honourable Member for Logan that it was the Government that he is a member of that dragged their feet for some two, two and a half, years, over the Osborne Street bridge which ended up costing us twice as much as it would have originally cost and they proceeded with it anyways. So that one cannot continually pat oneself on the back and not realize that by trying to have this controlled monopoly that it is ultimate in efficiency because it isn't.

Mr. Speaker, I was very encouraged, and I hope my encouragement isn't false, with seeing in the Throne Speech that there will be a review of Succession Duties. While we do not have any major farms in our community in St. James we do have many small and intermediate size business that are owned by families and that employ many people in the Winnipeg area, and I would hate to see, and it is happening from day to day, where deaths in the family or concerns about deaths in the family cause the sales of good privately owned companies to big corporations. There was a flood of these occurring during the past few years, they are still happening. I hope that when the Government does come forward with its review of Succession Duties that it realizes the size of business nowadays, and what the Honourable the Minister responsible for Industry and Commerce calls "big corporations" may not necessarily be big corporations. The \$500,000 corporation isn't a huge corporation in today's fields because we are having private companies being sold in orders of two to four million dollars in our areas.

Mr. Speaker, again I would point out, as my Honourable Leader did yesterday, that this Government has failed to accept the responsibility of its fair share of the cost of education and it is time that it realizes this and accepts its responsibility as one of the parent governments of our area. Because, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, in our area, and I don't think we are uncommon to any other constituency in Manitoba, that in the past five years the education costs on our homeowners has more than doubled and there seems to be no relief in sight.

Mr. Speaker, much criticism was given in last year's debate on the quality of education in our province and I might point out, and very clearly point out, that the fault does not lie with the teaching profession because of the quality decline in our education system, but for the lack of leadership of the department and the Minister in our province, that is the cause of the decline in the level of the quality of education that is now being delivered to our young people.

Mr. Speaker, we must, as our leader indicated and we have ourselves stressed in this Legislature for some three years, preserve the right of home ownership. That is a very important fact of life that the people of Manitoba want to have the right to. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there should be no education tax required to be paid by senior citizens in our province if they live in their own home. Because, I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that when someone has gone and worked all his life in this province and he has benefited by the education of his fellow workers, so he should pay towards the education tax, but once he stops working and enters that retired field he should be no longer responsible to pay an education tax, he has given his fair share, but this Government doesn't understand that principle, Mr. Speaker.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that I would much rather see a senior citizen living in his own home, than that of a senior citizen care home because they are freer, they feel more independent, and not only that, in simple terms of cold hard cash, it is less expensive to the taxpayer of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, what is the senior citizen and the young family and any family in Manitoba faced with these days trying to maintain their homes? Well, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the homeowners of Manitoba are faced with higher hydro bills, doubled in the last three years, more than doubled in some cases, education taxes have more than doubled in five years. In our area of St. James municipal taxes have gone up 230 percent in five years, this is what they are faced with. Mr. Speaker, this is what the people of St. James are concerned about, this is what they are talking about. But this Government, Mr. Speaker, keeps throwing out the tax rebate system. Now even the Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce is trying to use it. The Minister of Education has used it, the Minister in charge of Municipal Affairs has used it, now even the Minister of Industry and Commerce is trying to use it. That's 300 percent, Mr. Speaker, for that one tax rebate.

Mr. Speaker, the Government will get no argument from me on critical home repair grants, they will get no argument because if we can preserve the houses — I think it is unfortunate that the Honourable Minister of Education doesn't hear too well, I don't think he has ever heard me criticize the home grant system, I'm sure he never has. Mr. Speaker, at least this is the approach to try and preserve homes and home ownership, this finally, I think, is getting home, but unfortunately as the honourable leader from Souris-Killarney indicated yesterday the interest alone lost or paid out annually on the mistakes on hydro would do wonders for this province, that \$60 million interest that we are paying annually for those mistakes. Just think what we could do with that grant for homeowners, just think what we could do with that money.

A MEMBER: Let's hear that again, \$60 million.

MR. MINAKER: Sixty million, that's maybe a little high, ten percent on 600 million, but just think what we could do with that.

Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech the government has indicated that they are prepared to get into the

development of serviced land in the City of Winnipeg. I am interested in that comment because I came from a city, the City of St. James, that was in the land development business, in fact, it was one of the reasons why it was a successful city. It offered land to the citizens of St. James, and to Winnipeg, they didn't care whether they came across the border or whether they came from the country or they didn't even care if they came from outside of Manitoba. The people wanted to come to St. James, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say the people wanted to come to St. James. Mr. Speaker, the City of St. James had experience in servicing its own land, it is a good idea, but I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, what I am concerned about.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I am having some difficulty hearing what the Honourable Member for St. James is trying to say. It seems to me that there are a number of other members that would like to have the floor. Now I am certain that I will give everyone an opportunity but I can only listen to one gentleman at one time. The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your comments, I am not concerned about handling the remarks coming from the other side, but I appreciate your concern about being able to hear my comments.

Mr. Speaker, what I am concerned about with regard to this statement in the Throne Speech that the Government will become involved in serviced land, is again, maybe a buildup of bureaucracy. I would ask the government, "Are they now going to duplicate certain services that maybe the City of Winnipeg has the ability to offer?" And I am thinking of marketing the land, I am thinking of the building of the services, I am thinking of the design and so forth. Are they now going to set up their own department and get a bureaucratic mess of people again, with the good intentions and efforts of providing serviced land at cost, but build in so many other costs onto the final selling price of that land that there will not be benefit to the people. And I hope that this government looks at that because how are they going to market this land? Are they going to set up a marketing office when maybe they could use the facilities that already exist in the community committee areas, I don't know, this is what I am raising the question about. I hope that they will not build another bureaucratic bureaucracy or try and sustain the life, of say the Leaf Rapids Corporation, in their intentions of goodwill to provide serviced land at a low cost and find out that when they add up all their budgets next year that it isn't a low cost item anymore being offered to the people of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, again in the Throne Speech I am looking forward with optimism to the availability of lots for cottage owners. I am pleased to see that the government has looked at this situation and realized that people in our province want to have recreation, want to have a piece of land that they can live on during the summertime. I would hope that the department and government would look at more centrally located areas if they are so concerned about the conservation of energy. I am thinking of the distance that people have to travel in their cars. and with the cost of gas and so forth that to travel up into Duck Mountain or to travel into The Pas area and places like this it is going to be fairly energy consuming to people who live in the major centres of our province and I hope that they would look at those areas, in our recreational areas, that are relatively close to Winnipeg and to other major centres and open them up to people so that they can use them for cottage sites as well, to preserve the energy that we know isn't unlimited anymore, and will as we know, increase in cost year by year.

Mr. Speaker, also when I thought of the recreation facilities mentioned in the Throne Speech I immediately thought of Hecla and the complex and development that we debated in this Legislature last year, and I very clearly remember asking the then Minister of Tourism what happened to the tendering system on this particular project? What happened to the tendering system? You know I started to wonder when I started reading the comments in the media that all of a sudden, in one media it said it was \$2.6 million, then the day before they said it was 3.4 million and it was now \$700,000 over budget. And I went back to Hansard to find out what the Honourable Minister of Recreation had said at that time during that debate, and I quote what the Honourable Minister of . . . I'll read to you exactly: "At the time of tender closing May 27, 1975 three tenders had been received, a) W. W. Construction at \$2,688,400, b) Bird Construction \$3,493,835' c) Poole Construction \$2,793,511," and I quote again what the Minister said, "All tenders," all tenders, "were well above our Budget allocation." I repeat, Mr. Speaker, all tenders were well above our Budget allocation. Because of the fact that all tenders were above available funds the two lowest firms met with Venture Tours (Manitoba) on May 30, 1975 to ensure that the tenders were, in fact, comparative. As a result of the meeting the two contractors were asked to forward to the architect, and get this. Mr. Speaker, forward to the architect a list of construction cost savings. And on June 5, 1975 W. W. Construction declined to submit written confirmation on his revised prices, on June 6th the Poole Construction submitted their revised costs in writing totalled to \$2,350,011. Mr. Speaker, that would mean a saving, supposedly of about I would say \$443,000. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will carry on like the Minister responsible for Colleges has said, and what do we find out now? The complex has cost \$4.1 million, \$4.1 million, Mr. Speaker. This is the tendering principle, the public tendering principle that this government supports, and what did the Honourable Premier say about this? Well we couldn't let that federal money go unused. This is the mismanagement that we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. We've got to spend a dollar because if we don't spend that dollar we won't get that other dollar.

Mr. Speaker, I was very interested today in the Honourable Minister responsible for MDC with his statement. There seems to be a different feeling in the Legislature in the last two days with our Leader in his seat, there's a different feeling on that other side, and all of a sudden, for some reason, we got a statement today from the Honourable Minister responsible for MDC, and what did the statement say, Mr. Speaker? Basically it laid the blame on the Opposition with their public debate on Crown owned or publicly owned operations, then onto the media. Mr. Speaker, even though it was in defiance of the Auditor's Report that we received yesterday, who indicated his reasons for the problems at Flyer Industries, I have to say, Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this Legislature and a member representing the public of Manitoba, it is very awkward, and I don't know whether the Honourable Minister will accept this, but it is very awkward for me to stand up and debate a company that I own part of or owe for.

A MEMBER: You have a problem.

MR. MINAKER: Oh, I do have problems, Mr. Speaker, but I also have the responsibility as a member of this House to look at what the government is doing, and if I feel in my wisdom that it has gone too far or that there is mismanagement or waste of goods and money, then one has to make a decision. Does one dilute that responsibility because he is concerned about the moneys he owes or owns —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is fully aware that I never ask questions during debate of anybody else and I'll gladly answer them at the end of the debate. I've had that policy since I entered this House and to date I haven't broken it and the day I do I will accept questions from anybody.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it is awkward to debate about something that has so many of our dollars on the line because if we are at the end of the road for a company then we obviously want to get the most money out of it for our people that we represent. However, if we have a government that wants to continue to dig the hole deeper, then one has to raise questions to that Honourable Minister or that government as to why they have decided to do this. And I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Minister must sit down with his MDC Committee and with the Chairman and talk about Flyer because what he has done today in this House has made it very clear that he is now walking into this thing with eyes wide open. He is taking the responsibility, not the MDC Corporation. He is taking the responsibility so in an election he cannot lay the blame of a failure on anybody else. He is the man, he is the government.

Mr. Speaker, in years gone by when I stood up or anybody stood up and asked questions about MDC the Honourable Minister said, "I'm not responsible for the day to day operations. During Economic Development Committee you ask the Chairman of MDC. I don't follow the day by day activities. You wait for the Economic Development." But today he stood up and he declared very clearly what he was doing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege. I have never said that I am not responsible. I do agree that I have said that I do not follow the day to day operation but I have never said that I am not responsible.

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

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Speaker, I will suggest then that the Minister has implied that he is not looking at the operation of Flyer or these other companies day by day, he has people that look after that. But it is very clear today he knows what he is walking into, that this government by hell or high water will continue to operate Flyer.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that there are many questions that the people of Manitoba want to know. All of a sudden the market in the USA which was a big market for our company has said — the major people, the Federal Association of Transit Administrators in the USA has said that there is a drastic change in the design of the bus that we will now accept as a standard because we recognize people that are handicapped. As a result they have said that the floor of a bus will no longer be any higher than 24 inches. What has this done to the market in the USA. Well, AM General who has come to our company and asked us to build shells in the past, has very clearly said we cannot afford the redesign of our bus. It will cost \$20 million and we know that we are now limited to Canada, or are we limited to the "Banana Republics" like we were with Saunders. Are we going to get the same reaction that we got on Saunders? These are the questions we are concerned with. We've got \$40 million invested there. Are we going to invest another \$20 million in redesign. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that these are questions that the people of Manitoba want to know.

Mr. Speaker, this government has played the role of being the saviours. They have played this role for years. They were going to save the bus market from that big corporation, GM. They still have that intent because GM and Flexible-Rohr are the problem people right now. Yet a big company like AM General, who said they have lost I think it was \$46 million in the past, \$46.3 million in 1976, they cannot wait this out, that is what they said. Yet this Minister stands up today and says we are going to keep going. That is exactly what the Minister said today. But they are saviours, Mr. Speaker.

They were going to save the publishing industry in Canada, which ended up in an investment of some two million dollars of our money. We don't know what the situation is on W.E. Clare right now. We won't know until we sit down at the Economic Development Committee because this honourable minister doesn't look after or keep close touch on the day to day operation of MDC companies.

Mr. Speaker, they were going to be saviours on Hydro. They weren't going to flood that lake, they weren't going to flood that lake when they had the election in 1969. But they flooded the lake. They were going to save the native people up there but those native people had to be relocated.

Mr. Speaker, but they forgot one thing about saving money for the taxpayers of Manitoba. That didn't matter. six-hundred million dollars, what's six-hundred million dollars. That is \$60 million a year in interest. And what effect has that had on Manitoba? What effect will the hydro bills have on the costs of operating hospitals and operating municipal-owned facilities like skating rinks and town halls? What effect will it have on operating recreational facilities? All municipal taxes and so on will all be affected by this hydro increase in costs. So there is hidden taxes and we are not only talking about that \$60 million a year in interest costs and increased hydro costs. These will all reflect on the operating costs of different facilities in Manitoba. And Mr. Speaker, . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. MINAKER: I would like to comment briefly on the mining industry in Manitoba and the situation that we are presently in. The Honourable Minister stood up for the last two years and very clearly indicated that he didn't care whether there was any private operation in this business or not. He would pick up the slack. He would pick it up with the public money. He would rather buy holes than buy houses. That is what he said. Oh, he is buying holes. —(Interjection)— Well he obviously would rather go and spend the money on the holes in the ground than let private industry do that. —(Interjection)— Okay, it is implied that he will pick up that slack. I suggest that the Honourable Minister would rather spend money on the holes than houses.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the mining industry. In 1969 when this government took over there was, I think, 48 people on the staff, 48 people, and there was ten producing mines at that time. Forty-eight people to look after it and they were developing four mines at that time as well. I would suggest at that time there was serious

exploration going on trying to find more mines in the free enterprise system. They were spending the money trying to find it. Mr. Speaker, what has happened today in 1976? We have 162 people on the staff. Forty-eight in 1969 and now we've got 162. Well, we have 13 producing mines, Mr. Speaker, that is an increase of 30 percent in mines. But, Mr. Speaker, you've got close to over 300 percent increase in staff. This again is this mismanagement, building up of bureaucracies, right in this Honourable Minister's portfolio, who stood up in this House and indicated that last year there was no increase in staff and no wonder. He had already increased, well there was a small increase — 12, 18 percent. Mr. Speaker, a 300 percent increase in staff and a 30 percent increase in activities of actual operating mines.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know. In 1969 there happened to be ten thousand employees working, working in the mines. What is there today, about eight thousand plus. Yet we've got 162 people that this government thinks they require to administer and to look on the operation of 13 mines and 8,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, what about the geologist staff for exploration? I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the three major companies in our province employ some 25 geologists. What does our mining division or mining department employ? Does the Honourable Minister know? —(Interjection)— No, I would say it is a little

Mr. Speaker. More geologists employed by the government more than 30 of Manitoba than by the three major companies in Manitoba. What does that mean? Mr. Speaker, how do we expect the mines in our province to spend millions of dollars with a government that has a four-year mandate. Because we are not talking about a four year program with mines. We are talking about maybe a twenty year development, a ten to twenty year development, once the mine gets rolling. How do you expect people to dedicate millions of dollars into a project with a partner that has a four-year mandate. Mr. Speaker, this is why mining companies are looking at the political situation in areas and it has become a very decisive factor in the decision making on whether mines are going to be established in areas or not. But this Minister doesn't care because he is going to get that money. He is going to find that ten or fifty million dollars. Take it away from Public Housing. Take it away from the municipalities. Take it away from the Home Improvement. This, Mr. Speaker, is the attitude of this government, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Manitoba are tired of this government becoming involved in companies and spending our money and owing money and losing money. The sooner this government wakes up, which will be too late when they are sitting on this side, then Manitoba will get back on the right track. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister for Urban Affairs, that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being ten o'clock the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.