

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Tuesday, 4th March, 1980

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery where we have 25 students of Grade 6 standing from the Bertrun E. Glavin Elementary School from River East, under the direction of Mr. Morris. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Rossmere.

We also have 85 students of Grade 6 standing from General Vanier School under the direction of Mrs. Campbell. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Radisson.

On behalf of all the honourable members we welcome you here this afternoon.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Department of Education for the period ending December 31, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. NORMA L. PRICE (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Annual Report for the French Manitoba Cultural Centre for the year ending March 31, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Seventh Annual Report of the Manitoba Water Services Board for the year ended March 31, 1979.

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose on a point of order.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ADAM: Yes, I am rising on a point of privilege to correct an error in Hansard. On Page 80, on the 15th line from the top of the page, in my remarks on the Speech from the Throne, and I said, "Not even the Creditiste would support the budget", and it appears, "Not even their creditors", and I think that should be corrected.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS (Cont'd)

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make this announcement because possibly some of the honourable members missed it on Friday in the papers. I would like to announce that Mr. Phil R. Enns, on behalf of a company to be incorporated received a \$394,680 grant from DREE to expand the manufacture of hopper bottom grain trailers.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): On a point of order, if the Minister is undertaking a statement, we would appreciate a copy of same.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development I am sure will be glad to present copies of his report.

MR. JOHNSTON: Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it's my error at this time that I don't have the copies. Tomorrow I will have them and make the announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps we can wait till tomorrow then for the announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the Report of the Department Labour and Manpower for the year ending December 31st, 1979.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in response to questions posed by the Member for St. Johns to the First Minister, the First Minister indicated that the Minister responsible for Housing was presently investigating the British Columbia program which had been announced some time earlier by the Bennett government. Since the B.C. program relates only to new construction and does not in any way apply to existing mortgages involving those mortgages that are coming up for renewal at higher interest rates, I ask the Minister responsible for Housing whether or not the study that the First Minister made reference to includes a study insofar as the existing situation in the Province of Manitoba, involving higher interest rates and mortgages of an existing nature coming up for renewal.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Housing.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition had taken the trouble to do the research and work that the media did yesterday, he might know some of those answers but I will try to give them to him.

The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation was directed to look at the B.C. plan and I have told the people of the media that they were quite welcome to talk to the Director of Research and the Chairman of the Board of MHRC. At that time they informed them that the plan was an exceptionally good one for B.C. in that there is a shortage of houses and their plan did create the incentive to build new houses, and the press responsibly reported those answers today.

I would like to say that we are also taking a look at other problems as far as interest rates are concerned. It's an interest rate problem in the Province of Manitoba. It is not a problem of needing new units, and there has to be something to be looked at to look at the problem of foreclosures, look at the problem of helping people with mortgages that are going to have higher interest rates put on them in the near future.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: A further supplementary to the Minister responsible for Housing. In view of the First Minister's answer and in view of the comment in today's paper, that the honourable member makes reference to, by the manager of Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation that the B.C. plan is not applicable to Manitoba, and in that he does not expect to see such a recommendation made, does the Minister responsible for Housing then acknowledge that contrary to the answer provided by the First Minister yesterday, there is no actual study under way pertaining to the British Columbia plan?

MR. JOHNSTON: I just don't understand the Leader of the Opposition. We have studied the B.C. plan and we have found that the B.C. plan is an excellent plan for the

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

Province of British Columbia. The research people in my department, Mr. Speaker, and the Chairman of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, have and will outline the B.C. plan even further to us but, as mentioned, they do not feel it could be recommended as a plan that would be applicable to the problems in the province of Manitoba.

We are looking at other ways to try and find a solution, if possible. We also, as the article said, believe that the problem is one that is directly a response of the federal government, and we have to encourage them to take a look at this problem. We would certainly, as far as the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation is concerned, be in contact with the federal government to see what moves they are going to make.

If the Honourable Leader of the Opposition had quoted from the news media as late as yesterday, he would have found that the federal government has said already, that they are planning to look at something and we want to work with them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's answer, in view of the fact that he has indicated that there is no present study under way, I would ask the Minister responsible if he would inform his First Minister, who answered yesterday that a study was under way, that in fact there is no study under way pertaining to the British Columbia plan, that in fact the study has been completed and the B.C. plan has been found to be inapplicable.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons a person who is responsible for mules carries a big board is so that he could hit him on the head to get it through his skull. And, Mr. Speaker, I have told the Leader of the Opposition three times that we did study the B.C. plan. It's a good plan for the Province of B.C., it is not applicable to the Province of Manitoba. We are looking at other ways, and we are continuing to look at it and we want to work with the federal government. I don't know how much clearer I can be, and if the honourable member wants to keep getting up and putting words in people's mouths, that's entirely up to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Order. The Honourable Member for St. Johns on a point of privilege.

MR. SAUL CHERNIAK (St. Johns): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention to the Minister of Housing and to you, Mr. Speaker, that to my recollection and confirmed by the newspaper report, the First Minister yesterday, in response to my question, stated that the Minister for Housing was studying the \$200 million B.C. plan, when in fact the Minister of Housing was no longer studying it and had stopped studying it some time ago. The point of privilege is that the First Minister did not know; and I don't blame him for not knowing, but he pretended that he knew the answer and he didn't.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please.

The Honourable Minister responsible for Housing on the same point of privilege.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the word was "studying" the B.C. plan. You know if he wants to use his tricks that he always uses in this house, this is perfectly up to him. The First Minister said the Minister of Housing and the Manitoba Housing Renewal Department was studying the B.C. plan. We have studied it; it's still there. If he'd like us to read it again, we'd be very happy to.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I have listened to the point raised by the Honourable Member for St. Johns. I believe it's a question of semantics rather than really a point of privilege; therefore, I have to find the point of privilege out of order.

The Honourable Member for St. Johns on a point of order.

MR. CHERNIAK: On a point of order, I'm just looking . . . It's an unparliamentary expression referred to in the Beauchesne quotation, Citation 154, which suggests that there should not be misrepresenting the language of another.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that I did not misrepresent the language of the First Minister but the Minister for Housing did by pretending that the First Minister was using the past tense, whereas clearly it's not semantics; he was implying and attempting to tell the

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

House that the Minister for Housing was currently studying and not completing the study. Now if you call that semantics, Mr. Speaker, that's your privilege but I think it was clear yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. We can only have one point of order at a time.

The Honourable Government House Leader on the same point of order.

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Well, Mr. Speaker, you have already made a ruling with respect to the point of privilege raised by the Member for St. Johns, and it's not debatable.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier advise whether there are any studies under way at the present time, by his government, pertaining to easing the lot of interest rates within the Province of Manitoba upon farmers and small business people?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, that question has been raised before and has been addressed in the House. We have put as much pressure as we possibly could on the federal government over the months. Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps the listening audience is quite well aware of the fact that interest rates are established on a national basis, Mr. Speaker, and are not established on a provincial basis.

The most effective move that could have been made was made, under the initiative of the First Minister, the Premier of Manitoba, when he, as one of his first moves as Premier, took the position that the Bank of Canada ought to pay more attention to the regional interests of the country.

Mr. Speaker, whether it was that admonition or some other reason, the Bank of Canada did, for the first time that can be recalled, take the trouble of crossing the country, the economic council preceding it, the governor of the Bank of Canada following it, and in fact were prevailed upon by the Manitoba government to not follow the pattern of the American increases in bank rates; that if there were no fixed rules that brought about this kind of dictative following it, that if they had to err for goodness' sake err on the side of keeping the interest rates lower.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the last move, the move today in the United States, if it is a move that is going to be there and set, is going to place that rate higher in Canada. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. May I suggest to the Honourable Minister that his answers be short and to the point.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Well, Mr. Speaker, really, the nub of it all is that the interest rates in Canada are high and that any further increase is going to be more disastrous than it is already. We trust that there will not be any further increase in spite of the American increase. If there is action taken, that action ought properly to be taken at the national level, where the interest rates are effectively established.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. My question arises out of comments that the Minister made in reply to the Throne Speech when he said that it was the previous government, approximately seven or eight years ago, that stopped the flow of hogs coming from Saskatchewan into Manitoba for processing. I wonder if the Minister could give us some indication as to what the volume or the number of hogs were at that time that were coming in from Saskatchewan to Manitoba for processing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the number of hogs flowing in from Saskatchewan for processing in Manitoba at that particular time was approximately 230,000. The move by the previous administration reduced that flow to something like 20,000 hogs in the last year.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister. Since, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister now indicates there were approximately 200,000 hogs involved with the stopping of coming into Manitoba, could the Minister give us any indication as to whether this had any relevance to the Swift Canadian packing plant closing up last year?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the irony of the whole thing is the way in which the members opposite laugh about the loss of jobs - 600 jobs at Swifts. They think it's a big joke, and, Mr. Speaker, yes, that had an influence on the closing of Swift Canadian.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture then, since we're dealing with the issue of hogs, and ask him what actions his government is prepared to undertake with respect to the Cargill expansion of hogs in the Manitoba market at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, my response to the Member for St. George would be that we prefer that the family farm be the people who produce the hogs and the agriculture products in this province.

MR. URUSKI: Since the Minister is in favour of the family farm operation, what is he then going to do with respect to the expansion and intrusion over the opposition of the majority of hog producers in this province into the hog marketing system, as is evidenced by Cargill Grain?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, the member makes some accusations that may be taking place. At this particular time, I have not - and I say have not - other than received the preliminary concern of the Hog Board to my office. There has been no move or representation made to me to stop any such program. However, I would indicate that their concern has been put before me and I have listened to them and discussed it with them.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, it has now been reported that Cargill is in the production of hogs, whether they are contracting out to farmers or not. What is the Minister prepared to do to stop that kind of vertical integration in this province?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, my number one concern is that agriculture remain with the family farm units in this province, and, Mr. Speaker, when concrete evidence comes before me that that position or their position in the production of farm goods is being eroded or challenged, then I'm prepared to make public statements on behalf of the farmers in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Honourable Attorney-General. Can the Honourable Minister confirm, as disclosed by the records of the Registrar in Bankruptcy, that bankruptcies have increased from the last year in which the New Democratic Party was in power the last full year, in 1976, from 487 to the first full year in which the Conservatives have been in power, 1978, to 658, and have risen in 1979 to 821 bankruptcies, an increase of 70 percent over the last year in which the New Democratic Party were in power for a full year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm those statistics. I can take the question as notice and make an enquiry and report back to the Member for St. Johns, unless the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has any information with him with respect to that matter.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, would the Attorney-General consider studying an inappropriate British Columbia plan that is designed not to deal with these questions, to see whether that is the remedy to his problem?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the Member for St. Johns that our government studied the Shelter Allowance Program from B.C. and did not adopt the plan they have in B.C. but introduced a much more equitable plan for senior citizens, a Rental Subsidy Program, in this province, Mr. Speaker. We're always prepared to look at plans in other provinces and improve them for adoption in this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the statistics that we have heard relative to foreclosures, both last year in this House and this year - and they're much easier to get this year, apparently, than last year - and the statistics with regard to bankruptcies which I asked the honourable member to confirm, would the Minister tell us how long the people of Manitoba are going to have to endure this massive experiment in eighteenth century capitalism?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I will enquire to check out the exact figures that the Member for Inkster has referred to and compare them with similar figures developed in other provinces for this same period of time, Mr. Speaker, and we will, as usual, look very seriously at solutions to problems that may exist to home owners and small businesses as a result of the exorbitant interest rates that have been invoked by the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Honourable Minister of Labour. In view of the recent decision by the Human Rights Commission supporting federal equal pay for work of equal value legislation, will the Minister introduce legislation requiring equal pay for work of equal value?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, we presently have legislation which makes reference to equal pay for work that is of substantially equal nature. I'm not satisfied that, in our particular province or in any provinces in the country, that is being totally adhered to and I think we've got a job to apply that particular existing legislation before we look at anything else.

MRS. WESTBURY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, when it is appointed, look at the urgent need for legislation in this area, for espousing equal pay for work of equal value rather than for work of similar value?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I can't dictate or determine what the Advisory Council on the Status of Women will be looking at or recommending but, in conversations with them, I have had them say on numerous occasions that if the present legislation was made applicable to instances here in Manitoba that would be a big step towards equalizing the opportunities that women are demanding of, and have the right of, in the Province of Manitoba, as other jurisdictions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort rouge with a final supplementary.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, did I understand the Minister to say, "in conversations with them", meaning the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, that's what he said. My understanding was that they have not yet been appointed and I would be interested in knowing just to whom he has been speaking on this matter.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Speaker, we can check Hansard and see what I said and if I said I was talking to the Advisory Council that certainly is incorrect. What I hope I said and what I meant to say was, "that in talking to women's groups from women's organizations".

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Education. I asked him last week if he could confirm that Winnipeg School Division No. 1 was laying off a number of teachers, or planning to, and he promised to look into the matter and report back. Is he now in a position to report to the House what the situation is with the Winnipeg School Division No. 1?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, to the Member for St. Vital, certainly I can confirm that the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 is laying off some teachers. I think this is a fact that we are going to have to grow to accept in this province unless gentlemen on the other side have some remedy to the declining population factor. If they can somehow solve the problem then we won't have that particular situation.

MR. WALDING: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform the House as to how many teachers would be laid off and how many teaching positions will be deleted?

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Speaker, this type of information of course is something that rests with the school divisions. They have jurisdiction in this matter; they make that type of decision. At the time I get into my Estimates I can have a careful record here of the number of teachers teaching in each school division last year, the number that they propose to have next year, if that is the type of information the member requires. He's speaking of one specific school division in this province; we have 47, and I have an equal interest in all of them. Certainly if he requires that specific information I can get it for him without any problem and I will endeavour to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital with a final supplementary.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister for undertaking to provide that information. I was particularly interested in it because of the unprecedented step of the Winnipeg Teachers Association calling a number of meetings at Winnipeg schools this Thursday, March 6, at 7:30. Will the Minister inform the House whether he intends to be present at one of those meetings to explain to the parents and the teachers involved the system of provincial grants to education?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter between the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 and their teachers. If the teachers and parents wish to meet and discuss items of mutual interest, certainly they are quite at liberty to do so. This happens across the province, I don't think this is a unique situation that they get together to discuss things of mutual interest and I see this as no different than any other type of meetings that take place between those two bodies.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. Is the Minister of Education telling us that he will not be present at any of those meetings on Thursday night?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I would see absolutely no value in being there. I feel that I would be interfering in the workings of that particular school division. This is a matter between the teachers and the parents of that division and the school board of that particular division. Is he suggesting that the provincial government should interfere in all the affairs of every school division in this province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. GARY FILMON: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines. In view of recent media reports to the effect that the St. James School Division has achieved major cost savings in energy through a program of conservation, does the Minister's department have any plans to make incentives available, or other measures to be undertaken, to achieve or encourage similar savings in other school divisions?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns on a point of order.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that when a Minister wishes to make a statement, he makes a ministerial statement, we respond to it. The member who has asked the question is not just the Member for River Heights, he is a member of the Minister's department and has access to the Minister's departmental information, and therefore, the question being asked . . . On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. . . . the question being asked by the person appointed to be the Executive Legislative Assistant to the Minister, having access to the information, is providing the question only to give the Minister an opportunity to make a statement to which we should respond.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my point is that I recognize the right of backbenchers of the government side to ask questions during question period. But, Mr. Speaker, I have been a Legislative Assistant and I have been a Minister and I do know that a Legislative Assistant, having access to the information, is only serving the purposes of his own Minister by feeding him a question. If the member had asked a question of any other Minister I might not have a valid objection but since he's asking it from within his department to his own Minister, I say that he is circumventing the rules and in that way making it possible for his Minister to make statements without a response.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General on a point of order.

MR. MERCIER: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. Any member of the Legislature has a right to ask questions and the Member for St. Johns has no valid point of order.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order and strictly to the statement made by the Honourable the House Leader, I believe he is incorrect in his statement that any member of the Legislature may ask a question. I think it is clear that members of the Cabinet do not ask each other questions. I think members of the Executive Council, having access to each other every Wednesday morning at least, do not ask questions of each other and do not have the right so to do.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs on a point of order.
The Honourable Attorney-General on the point of order.

MR. MERCIER: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would have expected that the Member for St. Johns would have realized that members of the Treasury Board do not ask questions, but obviously with the Member for St. Johns you can take nothing for granted. I can if you wish, Mr. Speaker, quote from Beauchesne where parliamentary assistants in the House of Commons are entitled to ask questions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs on the point of order.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. The Member for St. Johns has indeed a very short memory. He perhaps does not recall the former Member for Radisson, day after day, rising in his place in the House, and he was a member of the Hydro Board, asking questions of the Minister responsible for Hydro. He perhaps also doesn't remember the tong wars that went on between members of that Cabinet when on this side of the House, carrying their fights of Cabinet right into this Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, since we're all getting into the act, I will speak to the point of order. I would think that the Member for St. Johns has a valid point, but I do say, Mr. Speaker, that with respect to his point I think it's pushing it a little hard because there are virtually no more backbenchers who don't have duties in the Conservative Party and they wouldn't be able to ask questions; therefore, perhaps we should be a little bit charitable towards them.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance on the point of order.

MR. CRAIK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on the point of order, too. I didn't intend to before the Member for Inkster rose at this point. I don't think the numbers are much different than they were before and I don't think the practices are any different than they were before.

The Member for St. Matthews we used to listen to - I've forgotten who he was the legislative assistant to - but he had a practice of questioning all the members of the front bench of the former government and I'm sure he questioned his own Minister frequently, as well.

The Member for Radisson, who formerly sat here, his practice was much closer to that of the Minister who was responsible for the Crown Agency of which he was a member of the board.

Mr. Speaker, the other point that was made by the Member for St. Johns is that the legislative assistant is an employee of the department, I think he said.

MR. CHERNIACK: A member.

MR. CRAIK: A member of the department. Mr. Speaker, a legislative assistant is a member of this body. I think it's perfectly in order. We have all known that Cabinet Ministers don't normally, although they have . . . As the Minister of Consumer Affairs has pointed out, when we were on the other side we watched Cabinet Ministers fight openly in the House here, back and forth down the bench, Mr. Speaker. --(Interjection)-- They didn't ask questions, they just cursed one another out, Mr. Speaker. They might as well have been asking a question; it was a good sideshow.

Mr. Speaker, from that point of view I think that it's a pretty tenuous point of order that is claimed by the Member for St. Johns. Any member who is not a member of the Cabinet is in order asking a question of the front bench, regardless of who.

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened carefully to the points of order and the remarks of the various members and I realize that I have a responsibility in this Chamber to ensure the right of free speech to every member of this Chamber. If I am to ask a member to clear with me, before he speaks, who he is addressing his remarks to, I think I would be infringing on his rights. Therefore, I rule the point of order not a point of order.

The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, that being the case, I would like to reply to the question that the School Division of St. James did not require any particular incentive to undertake their good work and, while the government can well address incentives generally for conservation measures - and we would hope to do those sorts of things under the new federal/provincial agreement - I want to indicate that the School Division of St. James did do a remarkable job on their conservation program, primarily at their own initiative.

And I think the greatest incentive that can be drawn is to draw to public attention that school divisions, or any other bodies who are operating physical facilities on that scale, can and should address themselves to it and can be assured of very substantial financial gains and conservation measures, to boot.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education and ask him whether he actually said that university students in Manitoba should consider themselves lucky or fortunate to have an 8 percent increase in their fees, which is something that will cause a hardship for many thousands of university students.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Elmwood, I think he is misquoting what I said slightly. I said if you are going to look at fee increases and the amount of fees that are paid by university students in this country, that in Manitoba the students are in a rather enviable position.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, there will be few students who will agree with that correction.

I would ask the Minister whether he has any concern about the quality of education at the university level, in view of statements made by Ralph Campbell, President of the U. of M., who said that, "The university will be forced to cut entire programs in the near future because of poor provincial funding;" the Dean of Medicine who is concerned about potential cutbacks; the fact that in the past year or two there was a loss of accreditation in the Faculty of Engineering and in the Dental School. Is the Minister concerned about the possible reduction in quality at the universities because of inadequate provincial funding?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, let me correct the Member for Elmwood. The only time there has been a loss of accreditation, to my knowledge, was during the NDP years when the School of Dentistry lost their accreditation. There is no faculty that has lost their accreditation in the last two and a half years.

Certainly we are concerned about quality, and I would suggest that an 8.1 percent increase in university funding this year compares quite favourably with the type of increases that we're seeing across this country, and I would suggest that he refer to Ontario where they have a 7.2 percent increase this year and take a look at our sister provinces as well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would point out, incidentally, that the Minister is not correct, that the Faculty of Engineering was only granted a three-year extension, which was to their detriment.

My question is whether, in view of the kind of funding that's being provided, which is considered inadequate by many of the Deans and by the students who are paying high fees, whether the Minister has any new programs, any new grants or bursaries or new job creation for students, to help alleviate the adverse effects of these fee increases.

MR. COSENS: Well, once again, Mr. Speaker, the Member for Elmwood talks about paying high fees and I say to the Member for Elmwood, in comparison to what and in comparison to whom? --(Interjection)-- To what? To the students in Saskatchewan, who are paying much higher fees than in Manitoba; are those the high fees that he's talking about? Or the students in Ontario, who are paying something like \$200-and-some more a year in fees in similar faculties? Are those the students he's talking about when he says "are paying very high fees"? --(Interjection)--

Certainly we're monitoring the situation very closely; certainly we're looking at the quantities of student aid and assistance that we can provide in this province to help out students who may have some difficulty in meeting the financial commitment that university requires.

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

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. I wonder if the Minister could advise if the residents of Rorketon can expect to see construction of senior citizens' housing for their community to proceed in 1980, which has been delayed for some time now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Housing.

MR. JOHNSTON: I'll take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and inform the honourable member of all the statistics regarding applications and everything.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education, and it's related to an announcement in the Throne Speech respecting Assiniboine Community College. Is the government planning to hold sod turning ceremony for the proposed expansion at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon or will the sod turning ceremony that the NDP government had in 1977 be satisfactory?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I wasn't here at that time, and I understand the Member for Brandon East is a real sod-buster. But we are doing a little more than turning sod; we will be putting up a structure that they had promised for some time.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please.
The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister advise whether the Department will be using the plans prepared under the previous NDP administration for the expansion of the college - and this, of course, prior to the freeze that was placed by the Minister of Public Works after this present government came into office - but will the Minister advise whether the same plans will be used or whether there have been modifications to those plans?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, plans have been modified and improved.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East with a final supplementary.

MR. EVANS: Would the Honourable Minister advise, then, whether the freeze has been lifted - that is the freeze announced the Minister of Public Works in the fall of '77 - whether it has or will be lifted on the construction and the expansion of the Brandon School of Music building?

MR. COSENS: That particular project is not in our Estimates this year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, the time for Question Period having expired, we will proceed with the Orders of the Day. On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for River Heights.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on being there again this year and on your continuing to carry out your function in an even more fair and impartial manner as the days progress.

I would also like to welcome, Mr. Speaker, the new members to the Legislature, especially the Member for Rossmere, who has shown himself to be very capable within this House and, Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the new Member for Fort Rouge that I don't agree with some, who would imply that some members past and present from that post are, were, or have been eunuchs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, last evening in this House, we had the . . . I was going to say opportunity, Mr. Speaker, but I don't think that's quite the word to use. Last night we had to listen to the First Minister of this province address himself to the question that's before us, in terms of the Speech from the Throne and the amendments thereto. And, Mr. Speaker, the comments of the First Minister are a real disappointment to those of us on this side of the House and to myself. Mr. Speaker, what the First Minister, what the Premier, what the head political person of our province normally does, when he has an occasion to speak to the Speech from the Throne, is to try and outline what his government is doing, why they're doing it, and how well they are able to do what they are doing. Mr. Speaker, it's an opportunity for the political leader of our province to tell people, to account for his government and his role as Premier in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we didn't get that last evening. In fact, we didn't even get any idea of what their programs were, what their policies are, what the problems are they face, and what they're going to do to try and move Manitoba ahead, to try and improve things in Manitoba. --(Interjection)-- No, we didn't get any of that, Mr. Speaker. We didn't get any of that from the First Minister of our province.

I think what we got was some pouring out of his hatred and his individual insults to members on this side of the House, and to have his venom spewed across the floor of the House; and that's about all we got from the First Minister of our province. And, Mr. Speaker, that is a disappointment to me, that is a disappointment to legislators on this side of the House and I'm sure it's a disappointment to all Manitobans to have a First Minister who sees it as his only role to spew venom and not to deal with the issues that Manitobans are faced with, and to outline what his government is doing, if anything, and what is government proposes to do, if anything.

Mr. Speaker, that, I guess, shouldn't be too surprising when you really look at the nature of the Throne Speech itself, which was basically, Mr. Speaker, a document of misinformation and a document of false or repeated promises.

The First Minister did say something last night, Mr. Speaker, that I think was quite correct. My leader, the Member for Selkirk, the Leader of the Opposition had indicated . . . Or the First Minister corrected him. My leader had indicated during his comments that, in fact, there was something truthful in the Throne Speech Debate in terms of that the economy was not moving, and the Premier corrected him last evening and said that he misunderstood that, that that is not what the Throne Speech had said. And I think that the Premier was right, that my leader did make a mistake there when he said there was something honest in the Throne Speech Debate; and, as the Premier pointed out last night, there is nothing honest in the Throne Speech Debate after you get rid of that particular statement that was misinterpreted by my leader.

Mr. Speaker, the basic misinformation, the basic misguidance, the basic falsehood that is being perpetuated on the people of Manitoba is that the economy of Manitoba is now in fact . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that he choose his words quite carefully because many of the words that he's using have, in some cases, been considered to be unparliamentary; sometimes they have been considered to be parliamentary. So I would suggest to him he use his words very carefully.

The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your advice and assistance on this matter. I don't want to lower the level of my debate to the level the First Minister engaged in last evening.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I'll do then is just move on to the facts, and if you have a set of facts that come from Statistics Canada and the statements of the First Minister which are contradictory or don't agree with the statistics from Statistics Canada, then you have to put your own interpretation on the comments of the First Minister. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will leave it up to people to put their own interpretation on the comments and statements of the First Minister and in the Throne Speech Debate.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a general understanding and a general feeling in the province of Manitoba that our citizens have. They are aware, Mr. Speaker, that things are not quite what they could be or what they should be in terms of the economy in the economic performance of Manitoba. They are aware if they know some people who have had to move away from the Province of Manitoba to get work; they are aware, Mr. Speaker, of people who are wanting and actively seeking work that have been unable to get it; they might be aware of people who are working part-time when previously they have been able to work full-time; and they are also aware from other sources in terms of people that have collectibles out, businessmen are having more difficulty now in collecting those collectibles than ever before; they are aware of other business people that are in serious problems or facing bankruptcies, as was outlined in this Chamber this morning, because of the general economic situation.

So there is that general understanding that the majority of citizens have, that the citizen on the street or the average citizen, if you like, has about the the economic situation in Manitoba. So when the government announces that now the economy is turned around and that everything is improving, they are a little skeptical or a little bit doubtful.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

When I went into a home and was talking to some people during the federal election campaign and I said: Where are the boys, where are your sons that were here in the spring, during the election? Well, they've had to go to Alberta. They've gone out there to find work because they just couldn't find any work here in Manitoba. And, Mr. Speaker, that was not an uncommon experience. As I was talking to my constituents - and the Member for Lakeside smiles - my constituents in the Interlake area which is very dear to his heart, and those people that are travelling back and forth to Manitoba now; some to the northern part of Alberta, in the new developments there; some to the City of Edmonton where they are working as landscapers or with a landscaper; and others to the southern area of Alberta where they are working on housing construction.

The First Minister, from his seat the other day, he said, well, these people that have out-migrated, these people that have left Manitoba that makes Manitoba the only province to have a decline in population were socialists and somehow had gone out to seek another socialist haven. Well, Mr. Speaker, maybe they were NDP supporters but they ended up in Alberta and I don't know of anyone who would interpret that Alberta is a socialist haven, although they do have in fact an airline in Alberta and they're looking at investment in mining industry as part of their heritage fund moneys.

But, Mr. Speaker, what are the facts of the matters, and I think that all we can do on this side is just repeat the statistical facts because there is an old saying that if you throw mud at the wall long enough some of it will stick. And, Mr. Speaker, what we want to do is just keep outlining the facts to the honourable members opposite and maybe they will understand what Manitobans understand and what Manitobans feel in their gut.

And, Mr. Speaker, let's look at the economic review for 1979, real economic growth. Manitoba's rate of economic growth was the lowest of any province in Canada at .8 percent. It was approximately one-third of the Canadian growth rate of 2.6 percent.

In the area of personal income, personal income increased by less than the Canadian average in 1975.

In the area of investment, the percentage increase in total investment in Manitoba in 1979 over 1978 levels will be the lowest of any province in Canada. Manitoba will also experience the lowest rate of increase for private and public investment. Investment in manufacturing is expected to increase by 33.5 percent, however, since it only amounts to 6.3 percent of total investment expenditures, it is not significant. Furthermore, other provinces such as Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, will experience much larger increases.

In the area of housing starts. Housing construction declined by an estimated 42.2 percent in 1979 from 1978. This was the sharpest decline of any province and well above the Canadian average decline of 13.9 percent.

In the area of employment, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba had the lowest increase of any province; and the members opposite keep saying, well, there was an increase of so many thousand jobs, we increased so many thousand jobs, you're not being honest on the other side. But what happens when you look at the performance of every other province in Canada, Mr. Speaker? Manitoba had the lowest increase of any province in Canada.

In the area of unemployment, Manitoba experienced an average annual unemployment rate of 5.5 percent.

In the area of retail sales, retail sales are estimated to increase by 9.2 percent in 1979 over 1978. This was the lowest increase of any province and is well below the Canadian average of 12.5 percent.

In the area of manufacturing shipments, Manitoba increased its value of manufacturing shipments by 21.1 percent in the first eleven months of 1979 over 1978. Although this is somewhat higher than the national rate of increase, Manitoba's share of Canadian manufacturing output is only 2.6 percent lower than the levels achieved in 1971 to 1977.

In the area of farm cash receipts, farm cash receipts increased by 13.2 percent in the first eleven months of 1979 over 1978. This rate of increase is less than the national average and less than one-half of last year's increase.

In the area of population which is the one that's had much discussion here, but I would like to repeat it for the honourable members nonetheless, Mr. Speaker. Manitoba is the only province in Canada with a declining population, the only province in Canada with a declining population.

So, Mr. Speaker, what Manitobans are aware of from personal experiences, what Manitobans feel in their gut, is confirmed by the statistics from Statistics Canada and no matter what kind of interpretation the First Minister attempts to put on that, no matter

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

what interpretation the Conservative Party attempts to put on those statistics, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba are quite aware of the economic decline, of the economic stagnation that we are faced with in our province.

Then, Mr. Speaker, then the Throne Speech moves on from that not quite correct analysis of Manitoba's economic situation - and I think those words are suitable, Mr. Speaker, the "not quite correct" . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member may proceed.

MR. McBRYDE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying before the electrical problems were that we move from the premise which misinterprets the economic situation in Manitoba then to a premise that somehow something more is going to be done in terms of services to people in terms of social services in the Province of Manitoba. And it's sort of like now it's going to be a Christmastime because perhaps there is going to be an election coming up. And so we have in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, a bunch of packages that are very fancily wrapped with beautiful ribbons on the packages and now this is the gift to Manitobans now that the economy has straightened itself out, that the Conservative government is now going to present these gift to the people of Manitoba.

But what happens, Mr. Speaker, when we open the gifts, when we untie the fancy blue ribbons and take off the wrapping paper, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing inside. The boxes are empty or the boxes were gifts that they gave us last year and now rewrapped them and gave them back to us again. And that's all we're getting from this government, Mr. Speaker. Now that they have turned the economy around and things are going so well in the Province of Manitoba and now that we get these nice new fancy gifts we find that the package is empty.

And, Mr. Speaker, the line in the Throne Speech Debate, when it was first read out, that it really drove this point home was the one that: "To that end my government is appointing the Manitoba Council on Aging, announced at the last session of the Legislature."

Now, Mr. Speaker, isn't that nice? At this session of the Legislature, in the Throne Speech Debate, they are now going to appoint the advisory committee that was announced in the last session's Throne Speech Debate. --(Interjection)-- Yes, it is an aging proposal, Mr. Speaker.

And of course the next sentence there is, "At the present session you will be asked to approve the funding of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would just like you to guess what's going to be in next year's Throne Speech. Does anybody have any idea what's going to be in next year's Throne Speech? "To that end my government is appointing the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, announced at the last session of the Legislature." That will be, Mr. Speaker, my prediction for next session's Speech from the Throne.

And the speech, Mr. Speaker, as many of my colleagues have pointed out, contains numerous announcements like the Seven Oaks Hospital, like other expansions that were in the works prior to 1977 that were committed and that were frozen, a few that are now proceeding and a few that have been announced.

Mr. Speaker, I used to get surprised by the federal government, way back in the days when I was a civil servant working with Treaty Indian people. There would be a big announcement come out from the federal government, "A New Program for Indian Housing Announced," and, Mr. Speaker, what it would be is the same program as the year before with another \$100,000 added to the program and so it was announced as a brand new program.

Mr. Speaker, I advised some of the Ministers here the other day from my seat that they've only used one of these announcements three times and, Mr. Speaker, they're entitled to five times. Every announcement seems to have gone through five times; so they've still got two to go on many of these projects that they've only managed to announce three times instead of the full five times.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have is these empty boxes with either last year's gifts or last fall's gifts or a completely empty box with nothing inside it. We talked about education today and certainly that is the case with education; the Minister announces his huge increases in education, which don't even quite keep up with the rate of inflation, where school boards are having to cut staff, not just because of declining enrollments, although that is part of the problem, but because of the grant system and the way the Province of Manitoba is administering that grant system and not giving the school boards, the local governments, what

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I guess you could put it the other way, that some of those packages that are empty, the wrapping paper was paid for by local taxpayers through other taxes. In order to buy the blue ribbon and the wrapping paper to put around those empty boxes they had to transfer costs to local taxpayers, as opposed to the provincial taxation. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the shell game that we've talked about before in this Legislature and is the way that this government has operated.

Mr. Speaker, the other thing that this government and this Premier is going to have to learn is that it is not acceptable any longer; it is not acceptable in Manitoba; it is not acceptable in Canada to make promises to the electorate and then not carry out those promises. And, Mr. Speaker, we saw it at the federal election in May when promises were made; we saw it at the federal election on February 18 where people who did not carry out their promises were defeated. And, Mr. Speaker, that is the same thing that is going to happen to this government, this government that came to office promising more jobs in Manitoba. More jobs in Manitoba is one of the platforms that they offered to the people of Manitoba. And then they talked about the economic growth in the Province of Manitoba, another promise of this government. So when you come from the broad provincial announcements of policies and programs, they have not kept their promises.

When you go to the regional commitments, the regional promises - and some of them are the same - the regional promises for more jobs and more economic development in northern Manitoba, the promise was again broken.

You can take that, Mr. Speaker, right to the local level and of course I would like to use the example in my own constituency of The Pas. There is a road that is a shortcut to the ManFor site and rather than driving out No. 10 highway and then going back east again, the majority of workers at the ManFor site cut through a gravel road that goes through a Métis settlement in the LGD of Consol that's called the Umperville Settlement. And, Mr. Speaker, that road is a real danger and a real hazard because there are a lot of people in that particular settlement that do not drive cars, and because of the heavy traffic on there and the dust that's created in the summertime there's a real danger that somebody walking along the side of that road is going to get hit.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative candidate in The Pas at the last election ran an ad in the local newspaper, "Questions and Answers from your Conservative Candidate", and the question was: "When will the Umperville Road be paved?" Conservative Candidate: "As soon as a Conservative Government is elected in Manitoba." Well, Mr. Speaker, that was in November of 1977 and the road isn't even properly oiled now, Mr. Speaker, let alone been paved. So, Mr. Speaker, the whole broad range of promises and commitments that have been made by the Conservative Party and by the Conservative Government have not been carried out.

Mr. Speaker, one of the main commitments that was made in the north is that there would be consultation with northerners before policies would be brought in. At that time they didn't talk about before policies were cut out, Mr. Speaker, because they told the people of northern Manitoba that there would be very little change, that existing programs would continue under a Conservative Government. But, Mr. Speaker, there were a large number of programs that were cut out. But that was one of the commitments that the Conservative Party made to the people of Manitoba and another one of the promises that have been broken by this party once it came to office.

Mr. Speaker, that kind of behaviour is just no longer acceptable to the electorate of Canada, to the electorate of Manitoba and especially to the electorate of northern Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen the example now of the lack of any consultation when programs were cut; we've seen the example now of no consultation when programs were changed.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to get the concrete down-to-earth individual example of that in northern Manitoba, try and talk to people in northern Manitoba who have tried to get hold of the MLA for Thompson, the Minister of Labour. Mr. Speaker, there's all kinds of interesting stories about trying to get hold of their representative and not being able to do that. And, Mr. Speaker, that was not to get hold of them to make recommendations or discuss what's going to happen; that was to find out exactly what was happening. The same member whose part of his election campaign said, "There will be full consultation with northerners before any changes are made."

"There when you need him", I think was the slogan that he used. --(Interjection)-- And, Mr. Speaker, he might be there when you need him but you can't find him, Mr. Speaker, he's a very good hider.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that the Minister of Resources is still in his seat to hear my comments because the best example - no, that's probably not even the best example but the most recent example - the most recent example of people having policies inflicted upon them by the Conservative Government of Manitoba was the Minister's announcement in regard to fishing regulations. And, Mr. Speaker, on October 9th, 1979, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources and Environment sent out the following letter to fishermen:

"Dear Fishermen: The new Manitoba Government policy on commercial fisheries will be in effect, commencing June 1st, 1980."

Mr. Speaker, I want you to listen to that sentence again because of what the Minister has said in this House; what the Minister has said to the fishermen; what the Minister has said to the media. The first sentence in his letter, "Dear Fishermen: A new Manitoba Government policy on commercial fisheries will be in effect, commencing June 1st, 1980."

Now, Mr. Speaker, does that imply: Fishermen, we want you to give us advice on our new policy? Fishermen, we have this idea that we got from one fisherman or one civil servant, or maybe three people in the province of Manitoba. I know that you commercial fishermen didn't ask for it, but we have this idea in keeping with our theory of privatization, in keeping with our theory that people with money should be able to get into the fisheries and make a profit out of the fisheries.

In the sentence again, Mr. Speaker, "A new Manitoba Government policy on commercial fisheries will be in effect, commencing June 1st, 1980." And then the letter outlines "The general principles of the policy of this are . . ."

The key element, Mr. Speaker, in the new policy is under Section 2, "Developing and putting into effect a system of the fisheries resource distribution through the long-term lease. This lease will ensure access to the fishery resource for 20-year periods." That's 2.1.

"2.2 This lease will allow the holder to sell it or assign it to another individual if he so chooses;

"2.3 This lease will be cancelled if the holder does not fish or does not comply with conditions of this licence."

Mr. Speaker, what the sections 2.1 and 2.2 meant to the fishermen, the fishermen's interpretation of that and the interpretation that the Minister . . . I don't think even the Minister now, even though he's run into such problems with this policy, will deny it will in fact lead to decreasing the number of fishermen and increasing the number of licences that one particular fisherman or outside business person can hold.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a step backwards. It is going back to what existed in the old days, when a fish-buyer would in fact provide the nets, provide the boats and send fishermen out to fish for him, pay them an hourly wage and he would reap the profits from that. Mr. Speaker, that would be the direction backwards in which this proposed regulation is moving.

Now, Mr. Speaker, without debating the details of what's going to happen with that regulation, I want to talk about the implementation of that regulation and the dog-headed stubborn attitude of this government in terms of imposing that regulation, the doctrinaire attitude in terms of imposing that regulation on the fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Member for St. George said something to the press when that came out, and I believe my colleague, the Member for Rupertsland, said something when that came out. Mr. Speaker, I did not make an immediate response to that letter to the fishermen, which one of the fishermen sent to me, which I didn't get from the Minister's office but which one of the fishermen sent to me because I wasn't sure, Mr. Speaker, what fishermen's response would be to that proposal. I was concerned because when I read that, it meant to me that some fishermen would end up selling their licences, especially if they couldn't get the money to get the nets, boats and equipment they needed themselves. And, Mr. Speaker, that is another problem because there has been reductions in the special ARDA Program that does give assistance to fishermen to get into the fisheries, to get the equipment they need to do a proper job.

But, Mr. Speaker, the fishermen themselves began to get very concerned about these new proposals, and we saw it; the first meeting I believe was held in South Indian Lake, where the total community rejected the new proposals put forward by the Minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Member for St. George and I happened to be in the vicinity of Fairford and we heard the fishermen's meeting was on then, and I thought it was the official departmental meetings to explain the new regulations that were going to be imposed on June 1st, although the date didn't seem to quite fit but the fishermen said that there's a meeting here tonight on the fishing. So the Member for St. George and I went to the meeting. We sat

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

there and we looked around for the departmental officials, and I said, "Where are the officials?" And one of the fishermen said, "Well, this is just a fishermen's meeting. The officials don't come for another three weeks; this is just a fishermen's meeting and we want to talk about the new regulations."

And then, Mr. Speaker, they started giving the Member for St. George and I heck. They said, "What are you trying to do, shoving this new policy down our throats? What are you, our elected representatives doing, making us fishermen have to have this new policy?" And the Member for St. George and I had to do some quick talking, Mr. Speaker. We had to do some quick talking to let the fishermen know that the person shoving these new regulations down their throats is the Minister of Resources and not the Member for St. George and I. Mr. Speaker, we went there as innocent bystanders at this meeting and started to get the concern of the fishermen thrown at us because of that particular new policy, by the fishermen.

But, Mr. Speaker, somewhere, somehow, somebody got through to the Minister. Somebody let him know: Look, look Brian, our Conservative candidates in the Interlake and up north are in bad trouble. We're in trouble in Selkirk Interlake; we're in trouble in Dauphin; we're in trouble in Churchill and your policy that you're forcing on the fishermen is one of the problems that we got to face as Conservative candidates. Let alone, we got enough problems with Clark's budget, but no, the province has to impose these regulations on the fishermen that they don't want.

So, somebody got through to the Minister and he issued a press release. "Natural Resources Minister, Brian Ransom, has announced that implementation of commercial fishing policy changes that were proposed to take effect on June 1st of this year has been suspended, and that there be some relaxation of the current licensing freeze."

Mr. Speaker, that's the announcement he made. Then he went on to talk about his consultation with the fishermen and, Mr. Speaker, I went to a fishermen's meeting and I took this press release and I read it out to the fishermen. I read the whole press release out to the fishermen about the Minister's consultation with the fishermen, and then I asked the fishermen, I said, "Would all those who were consulted about this new policy, who in fact it was discussed with before this letter imposed it upon us on October 9th, would all those who discussed this new policy with the Minister raise their hands? Well, come on you guys, raise your hands. You mean there's nobody at this meeting, not a single soul that was involved with the Minister before October 9th, 1979 in terms of this new policy."

Then, Mr. Speaker, I should have known better but then I asked the fishermen, "How many of you want, wanted or asked for this change? How many of you want, wanted or asked for this change?" And, Mr. Speaker, I again couldn't find a single fisherman, not a single fisherman that would admit it; and I think they wouldn't admit it because they didn't ask for or didn't want this exchange.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we had to speculate, those of us on this side of the House. I mean, where did the Minister get this from and why was he so determined to force it upon the fishermen when everywhere they seemed to be rejecting it? And one of my theories, I guess, that came from some of the fishermen in my constituencies on the west side of Lake Winnipeg and from the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. George was that, well, there are a few of the big fishermen at Gimli who want to get these regulations changed; so maybe, you know, they talked to the Minister of Education and he went and talked to the Minister of Resources.

But then, Mr. Speaker, I read in the paper about the Gimli meetings, when they went to the Gimli meetings and presented these proposals to the fishermen at Gimli. And, Mr. Speaker, the fishermen at Gimli unanimously rejected these proposed regulations. So, Mr. Speaker, that leaves myself and members on this side in the dark. Where did the Minister find this from? Where did he ever dig out this particular proposal in terms of the fishing regulations? And, Mr. Speaker, we still don't know 'til this date; we still don't know 'til this date.

But we do have a problem as representatives, as elected representatives for large numbers of commercial fishermen in the Province of Manitoba. It is that fisherman are phoning us up, phoning us up this past week and the week before, saying, "What exactly is happening; what's going on? Can you explain what the Minister is going to do?" And we have to say, "Sorry, we don't know what the Minister is going to do. We asked the Minister questions in the House; he won't answer. He won't tell us what is going to happen with those new regulations. We don't know if he is going to change them or if he is just going to implement them again after the

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

summer season is over, or if he is going to implement them before the winter season or the next spring season. We don't know what he is going to do with these regulations that, so far as we can tell, are unwanted by the fishermen of Manitoba."

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is clearly of the opinion that he pretends to be, that the fishermen have not rejected these regulations, if he still believes the fishermen have not rejected these regulations, then there is a simple way for him to find out. And I would recommend to the Minister, that if still doesn't believe the fishermen have rejected these . . . And, Mr. Speaker, I can only assume they have because I have not found a single fisherman, a single fisherman, who accepts Number 2(1) and 2(2) of the fishermen's proposal.

Mr. Speaker, I called the Chief, Jim Tobacco, at Moose Lake, the other day, and I said, "Well, the Minister is saying in the House that you guys didn't totally reject these." He said, "We rejected that proposal of the Minister; we rejected that proposal of the Minister. We still want to talk about what could be done to improve our fisheries and we made a proposal to the Minister what could be done to improve our fisheries, but this section that will allow licence holders to sell their licence, we have rejected that."

My colleague, the Member for St. George, did find a fisherman. One fisherman from Gimli phoned him and said he disagreed with what we were saying on this side of the House and that he thought the new regulations should go ahead. So, Mr. Speaker, that's one out of 800-and-some commercial fishermen in the Province of Manitoba. There was one that said that he agreed with those new regulations.

So, Mr. Speaker, we still do not know what to tell our constituents when they ask us what's happening with these regulations. We have an answer when they say, "Well, what should we do about these regulations? What can we do to make sure these regulations aren't imposed?" My colleagues and I have an answer for them. We can say, well, the next provincial election there is a way to ensure that these new regulations won't be rammed down your throat. In fact, with the federal election coming up on February 18, you could probably make your views known then.

And, Mr. Speaker, the fishermen did make their views known on February 18. They did make their views known, Mr. Speaker. In one community in my constituency, which is almost totally dependent upon the fishing industry, Mr. Speaker, the Marxist-Leninist Party got more votes than the Conservative Party in the federal election campaign. The Marxist-Leninist got three votes and the Conservatives got two votes in the community of Easterville.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm proud of is that the New Democratic Party candidate got 185 votes in that particular community, which shows the wisdom of the fishermen and the wisdom of the voters in those particular constituencies and which, Mr. Speaker, should demonstrate to this government that the people of Manitoba are smarter than the Conservative government will give them credit for, and especially smarter than the First Minister will give them credit for, Mr. Speaker. He thinks that he can break promises; he thinks he can tell them that the economy is in good shape in Manitoba when everybody knows different, Mr. Speaker; and he thinks he can impose fishing regulations on the fishermen that are not wanted by the fishermen of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I realize my time is limited but this fishing question becomes so critical because what has happened under the Conservative government in northern Manitoba is that it's the only economic development, the only employment opportunity, the only resource development that people have left. It's all they have left, Mr. Speaker. These people across there, in their wisdom, have taken away economic programs in northern Manitoba, have taken away employment creation programs in northern Manitoba; even programs that were cost shared and 60 percent of the money came from the federal government have been moved out of northern Manitoba, taken away, Mr. Speaker, to save a few cents for this government, at the same time costing them more money because the welfare has gone up in northern Manitoba, because people receiving medical care has gone up in northern Manitoba, because court costs and people having to go to jail has gone up in northern Manitoba, because of the policy of this government.

Mr. Speaker, that is the situation we are up against. It is the fact that we have broken promises, the declining economy, and the lack of employment in economic development in our province, and this government is going to have to answer for that at the next election. They are the government, they are responsible, and the voters of Manitoba will speak to them as soon as they screw up their courage and call the next provincial election.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. JIM GALBRAITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into the Throne Speech Debate, may I first take this opportunity to congratulate you on your resumption of position in your high office. May you continue to get the support of all the members of this House, and I realize that you do have a difficult time and job directing proceedings in this House. The Question Period today was a good example of that.

I would also like to congratulate the three new members of this House: my colleague, the Member for River Heights, who so very ably moved the speech from the Throne, the Member for Rossmere, and the Member for Fort Rouge. The lady is not here today but I would just like to remind her that she should be careful that she doesn't fall off the fence to the left. Some of her comments in this House and some of her actions already make me think that she has already left the ranks of that once great Liberal Party.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my three colleagues on this side of the House who have been appointed to the provincial Cabinet. I feel they are very worthy gentlemen and will make a great contribution to this province and to this government.

I would also like to congratulate the Member for Virden on his appointment as Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize the Leader of our Official Opposition on his election as official leader of his party. May he have a long long reign as Opposition Leader in this province. I also wonder if he doesn't feel a little bit lost this time around, as the people of the Dauphin federal riding happen to have elected his executive assistant as their federal MP to Ottawa. He really shouldn't, though. Remember last spring? The Opposition Leader voted against having an executive assistant. It's a funny thing, though. Shortly after we passed that legislation, he was very quick to have his hand out to the Premier of this province asking him for his executive assistant. I wonder. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. PAWLEY: On a matter of privilege, I . . .

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of privilege.

MR. PAWLEY: As I understand, the honourable member indicates that I asked the Premier for an executive assistant?

A MEMBER: No, you begged. . .

MR. PAWLEY: That I begged the Premier for an executive assistant? I would like the honourable member to document; I say to the honourable member at no time did I request the Premier of the Province of Manitoba for the services of an executive assistant.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. GALBRAITH: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we will have the same treatment this side around in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition has pointed out to the Honourable Member for Dauphin that he did not ask for an executive assistant. I would hope that the Honourable Member for Dauphin accepts that as the statement from the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order. If, Mr. Speaker, I were to provide you with the letter signed by the Leader of the Opposition requesting the party involved and named, along with the car that was accorded to him with respect to the legislation passed in this House, I think that that is perhaps not entirely, you know, perhaps out of order on the part of the Member for Dauphin indicating that the Leader of the Opposition did indeed request of the government, through the Premier's office, for the accreditation of an executive assistant, and a car.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on the point of privilege.

MR. PAWLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I don't want to overextend this, but the Honourable Member for Dauphin clearly suggested that I had begged for the services of an executive assistant. He indicated that I had made such a request. Mr. Speaker, money was voted in the Legislature last June for the provision of an executive assistant for the Leader of the Opposition, certainly in answer to the Minister of Public Works and he knows full well. Subsequent to that vote, a request was made at that time relating to the provisions of the legislation, that in fact, that legislation be complied with with the provision of an executive assistant. But it is wrong, in fact and in truth, for the Member for Dauphin to suggest that the Leader of the Opposition begged for an executive assistant. It is untrue and I ask the Honourable Member for Dauphin to withdraw that statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened carefully to the point of privilege raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition. I will peruse Hansard to see if the words that are supposedly being used were in fact used and I will report to the House as soon as I get that transcript.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. GALBRAITH: Mr. Speaker, if I did use the word "begged", I will withdraw that word.

Mr. Speaker, we have some proposed amendments to our pay increases being proposed by Mr. Justice Hall and I wonder if these wage increases for Cabinet Ministers, the Premier, MLAs, and Opposition Leader, will receive the same kind of treatment from members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, we had a very interesting federal election in Dauphin, a federal NDP candidate. --(Interjection)-- That's right. The Member for Inkster says it was very interesting. It was very interesting. It seems the NDP candidate seemed to be all mixed up in his policies.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Rising on that point of order, the honourable member is now intimating that the same procedure . . . He intimated that my Leader had begged for an executive assistant and now he's intimating that members on this side are going to be begging for an increase; and I think the member should . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I suggest to the Honourable Member for Logan that he is misinterpreting the words that were uttered by the Honourable Member for Dauphin, and he has no point of order.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. To the Honourable Member for Logan, I have ruled that there was no point of order.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, in all due deference I must challenge your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained? All those in favour, please say "aye"; those opposed please say "nay".

In my opinion, the "ayes" have it.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. GALBRAITH: Mr. Speaker, we seem to be getting off to a crusty start here. I must be getting to them early.

Mr. Speaker, I was talking about our federal election campaign in Dauphin and it seemed to me there were some interesting concerns about that election. Our NDP candidate seemed to be worried about unemployment; increased welfare benefits - hearsay I must say - better roads, especially to native and Métis settlements; his former employment bill - whatever that means - grain movement and fuel prices.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

Let's first deal with unemployment or employment, the same difference. The NDP federal candidate seemed to be concerned about the shortage of work in Manitoba. He failed to realize that in the last two years over 24,000 more people are working in Manitoba than there were when our government took office. Yes, under our government jobs were being created at the rate of about 12,000 per year, compared to 4,000 the last three years of NDP administration in this province.

The beauty of this employment record is that these jobs under our administration were all created under the productive private sector, not in the costly public services under the NDP administration.

Another of our federal NDP candidate's concerns in Manitoba was increased welfare benefits, hearsay I must say, although I believe them to be true. Imagine a man of his high moral standards leading our lower income people in Manitoba along the garden path, encouraging them to believe that they would be getting increased welfare benefits if he was elected to office.

Another of his concerns in the Dauphin federal area was better roads, especially to some of our settlements in outlying areas. Has he forgotten that his provincial counterparts were in office for eight years and that they didn't really have a policy on building roads anywhere in the province? That was one area that was nearly completely neglected.

His full employment bill. I'd like someone to explain to me how he can have a full employment bill in a free society like we have in Canada. The NDP, at least Mr. Lewycky, must have intentions of setting up a dictatorship in this country so they can herd people to the jobs, just like leading cattle to the slaughter. This policy of his sure contradicts his increased welfare benefits. Under his system, there wouldn't be much need for welfare.

Another of his concerns was grain movement. He promised to move more grain for Canadian farmers. He will have a hard time even coming close to the concentrated attack that was being put forward by the Joe Clark government and Don Mazankowski and the rest of that great team. They made more progress in nine months, or six months, than any government has made in history towards improving our grain transportation and our transportation, in general, in this country.

Fuel prices. Mr. Lewycky makes a very good attempt at leading the people of the Dauphin federal constituency down the garden path that PetroCan is going to solve all our energy problems. He did; he convinced about 45 percent of the people that the NDP and PetroCan will cure all our fuel and energy problems. An 18-cent election.

I predict that within a couple of years the last federal government under the leadership of Joe Clark will start to look very good when it comes to our energy problems. It will be interesting to see how our federal M.P., our new federal M.P. will come through with all his promises. Let us remember that the NDP federally is only a "rump" party.

Mr. Speaker, I predict that the policies of the NDPs and the Liberals are going to be in total disarray within a couple of years. The defeated policies of the Joe Clark government . . .

A MEMBER: What policies? They didn't have any.

MR. GALBRAITH: Or non-policies I should have said, as the Member for Pembina says. The defeated policies of the Joe Clark government will very soon appear to be very responsible and sensible to the people of Canada. The present slide of the general public towards the Socialists will very soon take an abrupt turn and once again we'll be looking for a strong responsible government, such as we are getting in the Province of Manitoba at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, as an interested observer of the federal election, I noticed some peculiar things that took place. The NDP talked and talked about PetroCan. Mr. Speaker, did you know that the federal NDP candidate went to the multinational oil companies to get his T.V. advertisements made up for the election campaign? He's even reported to me that he even takes his car to a multinational to have it serviced. Why doesn't he purchase his gasoline and have his car serviced at the PetroCan station in Dauphin? No, no, he supports the multinationals.

Mr. Speaker, I really find it amusing that the NDP will not put their money where their mouth is.

I see socialists in Dauphin buying groceries at multinationals. How come they don't

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

support their local grocer?

During the federal election campaign we had an official opening of the Dauphin Consumers' Co-Op Home Centre in Dauphin. I was invited to take part at those official opening ceremonies.

Mr. Speaker, before I go any farther with this I just want to assure the House that I am a member of the Dauphin Consumers' Co-Op.

Anyway, I found it very amusing. But at the opening one of the Board of Directors, whom I personally know as a confirmed supporter of the Socialist Party in this country, made a statement to the crowd in attendance and I quote:

"When you buy at Co-Op you are supporting a 100 percent Canadian business. You are not supporting the multinationals."

Mr. Speaker, I find that statement very amusing. When I walked into that new store and browsed around, I looked at the products and the goods in that store that were for sale and, to my amusement, a good percentage of those items in that store were made and manufactured by multinationals. What a misleading statement coming from the socialists.

Mr. Speaker, before I leave the federal election scene I would like to make a few comments about our proposed new fishing policy in Manitoba. The other day in Question Period the Member for The Pas made a comment about "The new fishing regulations are once again being rammed down the throats of Manitoba's commercial fishermen." Mr. Speaker, what a blatant scare tactic. This kind of questioning in the Chamber by the Member for The Pas makes me wonder just what was going on at the meetings called by the provincial Fisheries people, who were trying to explain the new proposed changes in the fishing policy. I know in one case where the Dauphin NDP had a meeting scheduled in the same hall a half hour after the start of a provincial Fisheries meeting with the fishermen. I just wonder what the provincial member from Ste. Rose was doing at that meeting. What kind of rumours was he spreading at that meeting?

Well, Mr. Speaker, we had eight years of NDP policy shoved down our throats.

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

MR. ADAM: Yes, on a point of privilege. The Member for Dauphin is saying that I attended a particular meeting half an hour after a fishermen's meeting. I would like him to clarify that. I don't recall what meeting. I would like him to indicate what meeting I attended to. He indicated that I was at a meeting and spreading false rumours. I would like him to indicate what meeting . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please, order please. The honourable member did not have a point of privilege. I think he has difficulty listening.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. GALBRAITH: Mr. Speaker, as I just said, we had eight years of NDP policies shoved down our throats. Things like government interference and takeover of private business and farms; increased personal income tax; small business corporate income taxes; higher corporate taxes; mineral acreage taxes; mineral royalties; succession duties and gift taxes; tripled government spending. And we had our hydro rates more than doubled during the NDP reign in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, we now have a government in Manitoba that is willing to listen and work with the people of Manitoba for the betterment of Manitoba. Pray God that it stays that way.

Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition was commenting on the Speech from the Throne - Mr. Doom and Gloom, I think we should be calling him - he was terribly upset about unemployment and employment in Manitoba. It seems to me that he is just as mixed up as his federal counterpart from Dauphin. More people are now working in this province than ever before and he knows that unemployment is down in this province, and we are maintaining our position as the third lowest rate of unemployment in this country.

He also seems to be very worried about people leaving this province. The records show that there are not more people leaving this province than there were before; it's just that there are not as many people moving into Manitoba.

Mr. Doom and Gloom and his colleagues should realize two points. We have a boom situation in the western provinces of Canada and people are free to move as they so desire in Canada, at least they always have been. Does the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues intend to build a kind of fence around Manitoba, to keep Manitobans in Manitoba? --(Interjection)-- Well, that's what I'm asking. --(Interjection)-- A socialist wall.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Doom and Gloom and his colleagues continually harp about health care in Manitoba. Let's talk about cutbacks, yet every year more and more money is spent in this province on health care. New programs are being continually introduced, such as our present program, a new program to provide improved capacity to protect high risk, newborn infants. A new and short dental service to provide the special treatment needed by children suffering from cleft palate and lip disorders. Many of these other programs are being expanded, such as a self-care dialysis program.

He talks about cutbacks, and yet as a Progressive Conservative government that is funding a new 75-bed hospital, plus a new 104-bed personal care home in his home town of Selkirk, where was he for eight years?

In Dauphin, the NDP like to blow about what they have done for Dauphin. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you one thing, they talk about health care, but what do they do? They build monuments to themselves, Mr. Speaker, yes they build monuments, office buildings come before hospitals. Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the good people of Dauphin that health care does come first with this government. We haven't got our priorities mixed up as the previous government had. The Minister of Health announced last Thursday, he assures the people that this government hasn't got its priorities mixed up. Health care comes first in Manitoba.

In Dauphin, the replacement of the older portion of the Dauphin General Hospital and the renovation of the newer section and a new diagnostic unit makes this a certainty.

We hear lots of talk about personal care homes from Mr. Doom and Gloom and his colleagues. He worries about the per diem payments of our personal care homes increasing. I'd like to inform him and his other members of caucus that the per diem rate is not increasing as fast as the residents' real income. Does the Leader of the Opposition want increased estates left to the children of patients in our personal care homes? I've always been under the impression that the NDP Party didn't believe in estates, or is this just another contradictory statement that we're hearing from across the way?

The N.D. Party say there isn't any room for profits in the health care system. I'd like them to tell that to the doctors, the nurses and the maintenance staff working at all our health care units in this province. Where are we going to get all the workers if there's nobody allowed to make a dollar looking after people? --(Interjection)-- The Member for St. Boniface says that fees are not a profit. When somebody does something, he does it to make a living at it and if that isn't a profit, I wonder what it is.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the NDP really believe in those posters that we see stuck all over fences and buildings in the City of Winnipeg, "Make the rich pay." If so, I wonder where the money will come from after all the rich people are gone. Will they be satisfied after they have destroyed all our personal initiatives, or do they really believe that money grows on trees?

I say to the people in the Province of Manitoba, remember their slogan, two-and-a-half times one. I also say to our socialist capitalist friends, when will you put your money where your mouth is? You socialists with your big homes, your big farms, etc. Take in a welfare family and share your wealth with them, if you really believe in two-and-a-half times one.

Mr. Speaker, I have another thought. Who is our worst enemy? Big business, like the multinationals, big labour or big government. The answer as far as I am concerned, is big government. Big labour and big business can both be controlled by government, but there is nobody to control government but government itself.

The NDP would like to have the people in Manitoba and Canada believe that PetroCan can solve all their energy problems. This is ridiculous. PetroCan will mean nothing but more government control. They will most certainly have higher prices, shortages, rationing and a black market, if we follow their line of thinking.

Mr. Speaker, if we have one oil company or one energy company with complete control over our energy requirements, where will the socialists turn next? Will we have state farms, state stores for food and clothing, state farm machinery companies, state cars? Where is this going to stop, Mr. Speaker, just where are we going to stop?

Mr. Speaker, we have heard different speakers from the opposition benches condemning this government for a block funding system for the City of Winnipeg. The City of Winnipeg elect their aldermen, just the same as we in this House are elected. --(Interjection)-- Councillors, as the Member for Fort Rouge says. I'd like to ask members of the other side of the House whether they figure that our councillors elected to the City of Winnipeg are not capable of making decisions for the city, or the NDP really believe that they are the only people being capable of making decisions for the people in this province.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

We hear nothing but talk of doom and gloom from our socialist friends across the way about businesses closing. Well, I'd just like to say that in Dauphin, we have a \$6 million shopping centre that has just opened late last summer, and I have to say that nearly all the space for rent in that building has now been taken up with new businesses.

Before I close, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to read a little article from the Earl Nightingale program, *Our Changing World*. It is titled, "It Looks So Easy." There is a story that goes: "What would happen if the communists took over the Sahara Desert?" The answer is nothing, but in 50 years, there wouldn't be any more sand. If there's one thing that drives a socialist out of his mind is the fact that under socialism, nothing operates as well or as profitably and consumer oriented as under capitalism, and he can't figure out why. The answer isn't all that difficult to find.

To socialists, success in business appears to be not particularly difficult. You see all those big profitable companies growing year after year and after awhile they come to believe that that kind of success is an automatic thing, and it doesn't matter who's in charge of business, that it will just go on operating at a profit and growing forever into the future. What they lose sight of, if indeed they ever realize it, is that success in business, like success in anything is not a common thing. It is a rare and uncommon occurrence and it takes special people with special ideas and talents and dreams to bring it about and keep it going. It doesn't take long to establish the fact that socialized industries tend to produce inferior products at higher prices by dissatisfied workers.

In an article for the *Washington Star* syndicate, William F. Buckley Jr. tells about the time a guide took him and his son around Copenhagen a few years ago. As he showed them around, the guide rattled on about the accomplishments of his remarkable little state, and arriving at the prioration, said rather breathlessly, "Here we have a 99 percent tax on the highest brackets of income. He beamed with pleasure, as if no one could now deny that Denmark had achieved the high water mark of western civilization. Buckley remarked that Britain was not far behind, and he said patronizingly that, yes, Britain, with its 85 percent tax was doing pretty well. But, of course, Britain is not doing very well, and it isn't only the ravages of a tax rate so preposterously high as to encourage economics stupidity. It is an implicit mandate behind such photophobic tax rates. The rate of 85 percent, Buckley continued, against the most productive members of society, quite apart from what it does to discourage savings, investment and an intelligent allocations of resources, (a) abrogates any possible theory of equal rights under the law, (we are not all Englishmen, we are in an involuntary way, servants and masters); (b) stimulates a sense of bitterness by a victimized class; (c) robs Britains of the morale that makes partnership of endeavour an act of spontaneity, (a genius of Switzerland); (d) encourages outright to find some parliamentary authority that is undermining political democracy; and (e) causes a few sensitive odd and important British to feel that their only defence is to take residence outside Britain.

Socialism takes all the excitement and fun out of accomplishment by reducing everyone to a small maintenance income, it removes the carrot from the stick. There's no way to keep score anymore, it takes human creatures into plodding automatons, tools of the state, and all the spark, zest and excitement go out of living. When bureaucrats and theorizing intellectuals take over the business of a thriving, capitalistic society, the light goes out at the end of the tunnel. There is simply no way it can work. Success is a rare and uncommon thing."

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech. It continues to look after Manitoba's best interests by putting forth a program of measures to stimulate and encourage stable, long-term, economic growth in Manitoba by developing Manitoba's hydro-electric resources in a sound and orderly fashion, by provision of incentives to the tax system for the promotion of practical use of gasohol and other renewable energy sources, as well as other conservative measures. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. GALBRAITH: . . . like programs of support to agriculture, the mining and tourist industries, but continuing to expand programs for our senior citizens, such as SAFER, by continued improvements in the health field.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to take part in this Throne Speech Debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a question.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering why the honourable member stated that I was not here this afternoon, when in fact, I have been in the Chamber since 2:30.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. GALBRAITH: Mr. Speaker, she was not in her chair when I made that comment.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. May I point out to all members and I've noticed over the past two or three years, there's been an increasing tendency for members to make note of the absence or presence of members in the Chamber, and according to Beauchesne, that is not an accepted parliamentary practice. I have not brought it to the attention of the House before, but I do so now hoping that members will, in the best interests of good parliamentary debate, refrain from making note of whether a member is present or absent from the Chamber.

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN (Churchill): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I wish to begin my contribution to this Throne Speech by way of congratulating yourself on your retention of your honoured position within these Chambers. Sir, I believe it is a strong testimony to your skills of conciliation, skills, Mr. Speaker, that I believe are to be sorely tested during the upcoming session by a desperate, progressive, conservative government, that is being dragged, kicking, crawling and screaming into the '80s, Mr. Speaker, which on this side, Mr. Speaker, is confronted by, I might add, a optimistic New Democratic opposition, flush with victory, invigorated by new leadership and competent, buoyant and bold into the new decade we march, Mr. Speaker, so that is a confrontation. That is a confrontation that you will face throughout this session. As you, Mr. Speaker, betwixt and between, sit in your honoured position, an honoured position if not a comfortable one. I wish you well during this session and upcoming sessions.

I would like also to take the opportunity, as have members before me, to congratulate the new members in the House: the Member for River Heights, the Member for Fort Rouge and, of course, our own honoured member from the constituency of Rossmere. All have taken part in the proceedings in a major way in this debate and their contributions, Mr. Speaker, to date speak well of their abilities. I believe that they will be a fine contribution, not only to this Legislature and to these Chambers but also to their constituencies, and I know that all of them will serve not only their constituents but their province well.

Of course, my congratulations must go out to the Mover and the Seconder of the Throne Speech. I believe that it was a difficult chore on their part to speak to that Throne Speech, given the ambiguity of it, given the fact that it was a desperate move by a desperate government, but they handled that chore quite capably.

But, while on the subject, Mr. Speaker, I have to thank the Member for Emerson, whom I will not indicate whether or not he is in his seat today; I have to thank the Member for Emerson for his endorsement of my abilities and his advice. He suggest that I pay more attention to, I believe it was the Port of Churchill, that I pay more attention to hydro development in my contributions to this House and pay more attention to mining.

Well my suggestions back to the Member for Emerson, Mr. Speaker, is that he pay more attention to the Order Paper for, had he done so - and it was available to him at the time of his speech - he would have noted that there were two resolutions standing under my name; one dealing with the Port of Churchill and one dealing with the hydro development. And I can only suggest to the member that in the future he learn to read before he leap and he will avoid those embarrassing mistakes.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, it is customary to remark upon the changes within the Cabinet on the government side and welcome those members to their new portfolios. And I can only comment, in regard to the additions, Mr. Speaker, is that it is my perception that with those additions, for the most part, they have strengthened the anti-worker and the anti-labour element within their own Cabinet. In other than this reaffirmation of Tory philosophy they have accomplished little else except to enlarge their Cabinet to a size which they considered to be wasteful and extravagant when our administration had that same number of members in their Cabinet.

So, having got the niceties out of the way, Mr. Speaker, it is time to review the record. It is interesting, number one, that the Conservatives are finally participating in full in the Throne Speech Debate. I believe this to be the first time that they have done so in this session of the Legislature, and they are doing so, Mr. Speaker, because they now have a record to defend. A deplorable record albeit, it is nonetheless a record that they must defend.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

They have a record, Mr. Speaker, of mismanagement of the economy and we have proven it time in and time out, as every speaker on this side stood before you, Mr. Speaker, and gave you facts and figures and gave to the public of Manitoba facts and figures that proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the members on that side, that the Progressive Conservative Government had bungled their management of the economy of the Province of Manitoba. They have aided and abetted in the destruction of social services, needed social services, Mr. Speaker. They have implemented tax cuts for the wealthiest people in the society and, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, they have instituted cuts in programs for the neediest people within the society. And that, Sir, should not surprise any of us. That is their historical and, Sir, that is their philosophical stance.

They are rebuilding Manitoba in their own image, Mr. Speaker, they are restructuring the society to serve their selfish needs and, unfortunately, given the track record of the government, they are succeeding. And that is why the best people in this province are leaving, Mr. Speaker; and that is why very few want to come to the province; and that is why we have the out-migration figures that we do, that show we are losing population. And that I might add, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what the Conservatives want to happen.

But, let us examine their attempt to defend their record; how have they gone about it, outside of the diatribe of hate that we heard last night in these Chambers, one that we have heard previous and one that I am told has been given by the First Minister throughout his career; outside of that they have attacked our Leader's hairdo. And I must admit I see it from a different perspective as do they. But I want to assure my Leader that their attacks are groundless, at least from my perspective; that he has a very nice back of the head, Mr. Speaker. They attack . . . And we've seen some personal attacks this session that are unparalleled, and we will see more because that is their strategy. That is their tactic; that is a last desperate action of a person who is drowning in their own mismanagement. We will see more, but we have seen them; they have attacked different members of the opposition. And to the press - ah, what they have called you in private; what they've called you in private. Mr. Speaker, their comments in this House - and they are hurting enough I'm certain - pale besides what they are saying behind your backs, be careful, be careful. But continue to print the truth and continue to print the truth in the unbiased and in the complete and comprehensive manner in which you have, and you have our support in bringing the truth to the people of Manitoba.

They intimate that there an NDP media conspiracy at work here; that we are in cahoots, you and I and members of the press gallery, all of us are in cahoots; that we are trying together, for reasons known only to ourselves, to depopulate this province; that that is our work; that people are leaving because, as the Member for Dauphin said, and many members on that side, because we're full of doom and gloom. Well the doom and gloom is not in our mouths; it is not here, it is out there, Mr. Speaker. And that is why we are losing population in the manner in which we are; that is why people don't want to come to this province, people that did before.

We are not manufacturing the crisis; you are not manufacturing the crisis, my sycophant friends in the press. They are creating a crisis; they are creating a crisis of their own doing and, Mr. Speaker, it will also be their undoing.

But, let us look at how the Minister of Natural Resources - one who is left with little else; he came in here with a much larger portfolio and it has shrunk in time as they have added and brought new people into their Cabinet - but let us look about how he went about it, Mr. Speaker. They dredge around the back rooms of Statistics Canada and the Conference Board, organizations, both of which they have severely criticized in this House. They severely criticized those organizations when it suited their purposes but now they dredge around in the back rooms; they pick a stat here, they pick a statistic there like a Saturday afternoon rummage sale. They finger through them and hold them up to the light - look, see what that one . . . no, put it down - and on and on and on until finally they pick and choose the wardrobe of statistics that fit them the best, and they leave the rest as if they never were.

And I believe it is worthy of the record, Mr. Speaker: The Member for St. Boniface said: "That is why they are parading in the nude," and I think we have found, as apologists found, that the emperor, the little emperor, does indeed have no clothes on, Mr. Speaker.

But we are left with the spectacle of that Minister of Natural Resources waving his way through a statistical review, a selective statistical overview, an argument that he weaves that is not intended, Mr. Speaker, to convince, but to confuse. He uses his statistics as a drunk uses a lamp post in the middle of downtown; not so much for illumination, Mr. Speaker, but more merely to prop himself up. And it is with those statistics that they have tried to

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

prop up a dismal record. It is like trying to paint a picture by numbers' set using only the numbers that appeal to you, they never can quite finish the picture, Mr. Speaker. But let us help them. They say that a good opposition, and we are indeed a good opposition - a better government mind you, but a good opposition, nonetheless - they say that a good opposition can make a better government. Well, in this case, I don't know, Mr. Speaker, they are not beyond hope. As the Member for Transcona says, you cannot make silk out of a sow's ear.

But, let us make, at least for the record, the proper comparisons. Let us not pick a number here and there arbitrarily and partisanly, but let us create the full picture. Let us start with the employment picture. The Minister of Natural Resources and his colleagues time and time again want to give us statistics that tend to isolate the Province of Manitoba, as they want to isolate the Province of Manitoba from the rest of the country. What they wish to do statistically - unfortunately, they may be succeeding doing literally - but it is an unfair comparison to pick a three or four-year period from the New Democratic Party administration and compare it to a selected period of their own. Manitoba must be viewed in a national context. In these of all times it must be viewed in the national context. He, the Minister of Natural Resources, picks the worst four years of the NDP term and then paints his picture using only the Tory blue number that is categorized as Number 13 in the Paint by Numbers kit. Let's paint the full picture. Let's do it now, Mr. Speaker.

Fact: the Progressive Conservative job creation record in comparison to the other provinces for the years 1978 and 1979, was the second worst in Canada. Only Quebec was worse. The second worse. Statistics Canada is the source for most of these statistics and I will indicate if necessary where it is not the source so that the members can verify the true complete total picture.

Let's look at another fact. Our number of unemployed people in this province as a percentage of the Canadian employed, slipped more in the last two years than it did in any other two-year period since 1970. In other words, their two-year period, as a percentage of Canada, the number of employed is worse than any two-year period in the NDP administration. Take them all, compare them all, either way, 1977 with 1976, 1976 with 1975 or 1977, it does not matter. Their record in two years is worse than ours ever was in that regard. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we have not created employment in this province at the national average. Had our employment in this province increased at the national average for the last two years, there would be 8,000 more people employed in this Province of Manitoba today - 8,000. That's what their policies have cost us. They've cost us 8,000 jobs, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, had our percentage relationship in the number of employed - and I beg you to try to follow these arguments because we are digging deep into the statistics for the full picture and sometimes it takes a greater deal of concentration - but the point I want to make is that in relationship, the number of Manitoba employed as a percentage of the number of Canadian employed, had this government been able to equal the average record of our government in our eight years, there would be 22,000 more Manitobans employed today. And that's what their policies have cost us; 22,000 workers, Mr. Speaker.

And they talk about the 24,000 jobs that they have created. Mr. Speaker, 6,000 of those jobs were part-time; 6,000, a full quarter of the 24,000 jobs that they brag and crow about, were part-time employment, not full-time employment at all. So when the employment picture is painted in full, the Tory blue job creation picture turns rather bleak and it's actually Tory black and blue, Mr. Speaker. They did not perform as well as the NDP; they did not perform as well as the national average. In matter of fact, in most areas, they had one of the worst records in Canada, and that, because that's all they have, is what they boast about in their speeches, as if they were talking to fools. As if the First Minister and his colleagues thought that the public were fools; as if they thought the press were fools. And as if they thought you and I were fools, Mr. Speaker. I'm certain about myself, I'm certain; and I am certain, Mr. Speaker, that you are not a fool, that you are not fooled by their attempts at deception and at their attempts at misrepresentation.

The Minister and his colleagues also have to defend the unemployment record, Mr. Speaker. Again we'll paint the complete picture, not selective statistics here and there, fact, today or as of January the last figures that are available to us from Statistics Canada, there were approximately 28,000 unemployed Manitobans. That's a lot of Manitobans out of work. There were 22,000 in October of 1977. That's what their policies have cost us, 6,000 more people unemployed, Mr. Speaker. So however you cut the picture, however you want to paint it, as long as you are careful and honest enough to paint the full picture, their record is hard to defend and it is hard to imagine that those 6,000 or 8,000 or 22,000, whichever way you

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

want to use the figures, Mr. Speaker, unemployed people out there, share the First Minister and his colleagues' enthusiasm about their job creation record. I can tell you, I have talked to some of them and they do not and they are waiting, they are waiting, patiently albeit, but they are waiting to be able to inform you directly, and not through a federal election as they have in the past two times, but to inform you directly of their displeasure.

And in the area of mining, Mr. Speaker, an area over which the Minister of Natural Resources previously had responsibility, and for that reason has to take some of the responsibility for the record, the past two years has seen a picture drawn that is even bleaker than the pictures I have just outlined for you. It's downright dismal, Mr. Speaker.

They puff their chests and they strut when they discuss the exploration costs, Mr. Speaker, proud as brass, more money going into exploration. But the bottom line is production and employment, Mr. Speaker, two areas of abject failure by the government.

Direct our attention northward for the moment and we examine the mining industry as it exists under a Tory administration. And we must remember that this is considered to be a Conservative strong suit, the mining industry. Historically the New Democrats have been friends with the miners. Historically the Progressive Conservative Tories have been friends of the mining companies. So one would naturally expect that the mining companies would reciprocate that friendship. Mining production would increase in the province, we would expect; new mines would come into production, we would expect and there would be an investment, a rush, an inflow of capital into new mining ventures. The fact is that even although that is what one would reasonably expect; and that is what they would have us believe with their selective use of the statistics, once again the facts prove otherwise, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection)— We shall see what happens, Mr. Speaker, when we do come back to answer the question from the Member for Wolseley.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that mineral production under the Tories in the Province of Manitoba over the past two years has decreased. Mineral production is down, Mr. Speaker. The fact is there are fewer employees in the mining industry today than there were in October, 1977. The fact is that workers have been laid off in record numbers; that it is the worst decrease in the number of workers using the 1978 figures, which are the latest ones available - and this by the way to the Member for Wolseley is from his own mining Annual, his government's own mining Annual - that it is the worst decrease in at least the last decade. It is far worse, far worse than any other one-year fall-off under the NDP administration. That's the record they must define. That's the mining climate they have brought to the Province of Manitoba. And the fact is - and I want to be fair, to draw the whole picture, to give a totalistic view of what is happening - Manitoba's mineral production as a percentage of the provincial gross product suffered the second largest drop-off out of any province in Canada; that our mineral production as a percentage of the Canadian total, when we compare our production to what's happening in the other provinces, because there are fall-offs there too, is the lowest that it has been in at least a decade - and I can only say in at least a decade because that's as far back as I have the figures - but I would assume that it would go farther than that.

So yesterday the First Minister in his dialogue of hate, accused the Opposition of deception and misrepresentation. But I wish to read back to them an example of his own government's feeble attempts at pulling the wool over the people's eyes - true as it may have been -- it's a press release, Mr. Speaker, dated January 25, 1980, and I quote:

"Amongst the major investments in 1979 which he said reflected" - and the "he" in this case is the Honourable Minister of Mines - "he said reflected confidence in the industry was a 36 million-dollar underground mine development at Ruttan Lake to replace the open pit operation and a 33 million-dollar concentrator which opened at Snow Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I have with me several articles from the Canadian Mining Journal. This article is from August, 1977. Now you will note that this is before the government changed hands. Let me just read from that article, Mr. Speaker.

"In a major step forward for Snow Lake mining community, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting has just given the go-ahead for the construction of a 26,003,800-ton per day concentrator adjacent to the Stall Lake mine by early 1979," before the government changed hands. Before the election had been called, the go-ahead had been given. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, in the October Canadian Mining Journal under the CMJ Capital Spending Report, under Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting it says: "The company has begun construction of a new concentrator to serve its Snow Lake area mines. Planned capacity is 3,800 tons per day". They had begun construction before the government changed hands, and yet they want to take credit for it. They want us to believe that it is because of a confidence in the industry, a confidence in their government's reaction to the industry.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

Sherritt-Gordon Mines, Mr. Speaker, and the Ruttan operation is much the same story - I'm reading again from the October, 1977 CMJ Capital Spending Report from the Canadian Mining Journal - and it says under the heading, Sherritt-Gordon Mines: "We'll develop an underground mine below the Ruttan open pit to the 1,400 level and the estimated cost is \$30 million."

So, Mr. Speaker, --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, the Member for The Pas says that was planned when the mine was open, and that's exactly right. But it was announced, it was on paper. The plans were drawn up, it was off the drawing board by the time the government changed hands and yet they want us to believe - or they would like us to believe - that these new capital ventures are because of their efforts in the field of the mining industry.

The release, by the way, that I first read to you is entitled "Craik Optimistic for Mining in Eighties," and it goes on to say just the same things that I said to you minutes ago, that the mineral production's down - and I'm taking statements from this press release - that the minerals produced was below the quantity produced in 1978. That's what they say. He says that. I say that also. What he doesn't say is that it was below that which was produced in 1977 also, when the government changed hands.

This makes our Minister optimistic, the fact that mineral production is down. It would destroy any other Minister of Mines in any other jurisdiction, but not our resilient Minister, Mr. Speaker, that makes him optimistic; and he's optimistic for two very specific reasons, capital ventures that were started, that were announced and that were proceeded with before his government came into power. So if there is any reflection of confidence that should be gleaned from these capital investments, Mr. Speaker, I would think that it is confidence in the industry under the NDP administration when these investments were first considered and first approved.

But when we talk about all these statistics we must not forget that we are talking about people; people without work, people with work, Mr. Speaker, people who don't want to work - there are some - people who desperately want to work and can't find the jobs; people who can't find the work they need. And we have to remember that people work for a number of reasons. The lucky people work and receive from their work a sense of self-satisfaction, and that is an ethical part of work and must always remain so, let us not forget it.

There are some who work only - or at least in part - because they need - and this is most - they need to make a living wage. They work to make a better wage. They work to better conditions for themselves and their families. So we must not only review the mining statistics and the labour for statistics, we must also examine the income statistics and we must review along with that the consumer price index statistics. And again, with the total picture in place, we can then make our effort in a reasonable comparison. So again, the full facts.

The facts: Using figures, 1967 through 1977 the percentage increases in the average weekly wages exceeded the percentage increases in the consumer price index every year. In other words, the workers were out-pacing inflation, they were getting ahead.

During 1978 and 1979 under a Tory administration, which has never been known for its sympathy or empathy with the working people of this province, Mr. Speaker, the percentage increases in the consumer price index were greater than the percentage weekly wage increases. In other words, the workers were making a little bit more money but they were spending a lot more and they, in fact, were falling behind and they were suffering a decreasing standard of living under a Tory administration. A startling fact, Mr. Speaker.

The average annual percentage increase in union wages and supplements, using 16 major trade unions as a base and comparing different cities against other cities throughout the country, show that these unionized workers on an average in Winnipeg had the smallest percentage increase in their wages of any other major city in the country, in 1978, Mr. Speaker, the first full year of their term. The smallest, and I have looked at those figures, I have perused and examined those figures and it is by a great deal smaller than the other cities, a great deal smaller.

And for the comparison --(Interjection)-- The Member for Inkster says they considered it an accomplishment, and that they do. I have mentioned that before. That's what they're after and they have succeeded in destroying our economy. But let me just compare it to 1976 and 1977, Mr. Speaker, because in those two years the percentage increases for Winnipeg led the pack. In other words, in 1976 and 1977 our workers were leaders, and in 1978, in one short year, they have fallen way back to the back of the pack.

Let's talk about total income. Manitoba's percentage increase in total personal income, 1978 over 1977, Statistics Canada, the latest figures available, was the second lowest again among the 10 provinces and well below the national average. So in total, the personal income is down.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

How about the disposable income? The total personal disposable income, again using the same years 1977 compared to 1978, we had the third lowest increase out of the 10 provinces. And again, under the Tory rule Manitobans are at the back of the pack.

Manitoba had the second lowest percentage increase in total wages in comparison to the other 10 provinces for the years 1978 over 1977, and that includes our salaries and supplemental income, less than the national average once again as it was in all cases.

The average personal income for Manitobans increased at less than the national average again, 1978 over 1977. So while Manitoba as a whole was lagging behind the rest of the provinces in their economic picture, in their job creation record, in their deplorable unemployment record, they were lagging behind as a province. The individuals working were lagging behind individually in wages and salaries, in personal income both total and disposable, in their standard of living. So the total picture, again, Mr. Speaker, is the Tory black and blue.

I have to comment again on the remarks from the Member for Emerson, that great advocate of labour in this province, the workers' friend. He said in his speech, "This must be a record year for the loss of hours through lack of strikes and I contribute it all to my Minister and his people."

Well, Mr. Speaker, so much for the valiant efforts of both sides, negotiators for the companies and negotiators for the employees at the bargaining table. So much for the hours upon hours that those dedicated people have spent in reasonable and responsible negotiating, giving us the record that we enjoyed last year, and it was a good record. Let there be no doubt, it was a good record.

But so much for their efforts. I must go out and tell my Labour friends that they can rest easy, that they can sigh with relief because the Minister is going to take care of their negotiations for them and there is not going to be any more strikes in the province and they are going to get what they want. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's not true, that's not true. But neither were the facts that the Member for Emerson, when he said that it must be a record year, absolutely correct either. Because aside from this transparent grab for credit, let us again look at what the facts show. The work days lost due to strikes and lockouts for 1979, were lower than usual. I said they were a good year and I'll stand by that statement, but they were far from any record.

As a matter of fact, and it's according to Statistics Canada figures, if you wish, or the figures that are in this, the 1979 Annual Report from the Minister himself, Mr. Speaker, in 1977, there were less days lost due to work strikes and lockouts. So it was not a record year. As a matter of fact, in 1977, they were up by two-thirds of what they were in 1979 in comparison of the hours.

But let us look at the total picture again, in 1978 and 1979. Put into the full two-year term of the Tory government so far, and those are the only figures we have to work with, the work days lost in this province due to strikes and lockouts for Manitoba, are a higher total than any other two-year period under the NDP government. And I can go back a lot farther than that probably, although I would not want to make the categorical statement, probably to 1919. But I will suffice myself with confining my remarks to the NDP reign and administration.

The two-year period that we have just suffered through in the Labour Relations area in this province was worse, using that comparison, than it was under any two-year period of the NDP administration, and that is the record he must have been referring to, not the lack of strikes but the large number of days that were lost due to those strikes. And in absolute terms it was higher, Mr. Speaker, and again the full picture, percentage terms, comparing the Province of Manitoba to the rest of the provinces, it was the highest increase, a record increase, once again.

So, I must recommend to my friend, the Member for Emerson, as I did earlier, that he learn to read before he leap, to temper his zeal with an enthusiasm which I know comes easily to him. And I mean no disrespect, we should all be zealous and enthusiastic in our work in this Chamber. But I hope he tempers it with a little research. Facts that are available to me, I assume they are available to him.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we talk about the number of certifications, and this is information that I just got here today. How are the unions doing in this province? While the Manitoba Federation of Labour, even though they included more affiliates in their body this year, had fewer members than last year, possibly a thousand fewer members. That is just a reflection of what is happening in the economy as a whole. But the unions are suffering. They're not finding any easy row to hoe under this government, they're suffering because this government is not their friend, never has been, and never will be of course, but should not try to leave the

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

impression that they are friends of labour; they are not, they are not friends of working people. And their antagonism is reflected in their record, and as they were so quick to take what they termed to be success, let them be also quick to accept the responsibility for the abject failures that have occurred.

There's a point to follow on that, Mr. Speaker. There were fewer applications for certifications in 1979. They were the fewest number since 1968. In other words, the union organizing activity is not taking place out there because of the labour relations' climate that those friends are creating in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes left to me, I want to take a look at a more general area. Not the performance of the economy but the performance of the government I want to speak to two rather specific subjects: Autopac and the New Democratic Party labour legislation that is in place in the Province of Manitoba today, because I think we can draw an example and a parallel from what is happening there.

In both instances, Mr. Speaker, historically and publicly, these progressive measures brought to this province have been vehemently fought by the Tories, both publicly and philosophically as well as in this Legislature, it is a matter of record. And in both instances they've promised substantial changes to that legislation into that program when they took office. And for all their talk, for all their promises to their friends, nothing has been done, other than a total endorsement of NDP policy and programs, and a rejection of Tory philosophy and ideology. Let there be no mistake about it, they have turned their backs on their friends, they have turned their backs on their heritage, and they have turned their backs because they have done so in the most callous and disreputable method. They have turned their backs, Mr. Speaker, on their own future.

Mr. Speaker, they have not really changed their spots. Let us hope that it does not happen, but if that party came to power once again, we would see unparalleled attacks on those two areas. We would see them totally destroyed because there is still a mean vicious streak left in the government. The porcupine may play dead but it does not lose its needles, Mr. Speaker. So I give that as a warning to the public to beware of the shams and the cons; we must guard and be on our vigilance against that party's opportunism. And it's all because of the federal election. The Member for Emerson referred to it.

I have just a few moments; I'll be very brief. I would like to say more about the federal election. But, Mr. Speaker, the point is, that the pendulum is swinging. There is a great political pendulum out there and parties go from favor to disfavor, and they are going into disfavor. And the people of the Province of Manitoba are telling them in no uncertain terms, that they are in disfavor, in the Churchill Constituency, my own constituency. I thank the First Minister for coming to Lynn Lake to campaign for the federal candidate. It was the first time in history that I can remember that the NDP took that community, and I contribute it in no small part to the visit made by the First Minister, as well as to the good sense of the Lynn Lake electorate.

Mr. Speaker, in the Churchill riding, by the way, the Tories went from first two years ago to third this year in the standings. And the pendulum having swung, Mr. Speaker, means that we will soon be on that side of the Chambers and they will be on this side of the Chambers.

Mr. Speaker, when this boisterous bold party came to power two years ago, we all knew they were heartless, we all knew they were sightless, that they had no vision, no conception of the future. We all knew they were soulless, but we thought they had courage. We thought they had the guts to stand up for their own convictions, courage to take unpopular actions. We were wrong. We were fooled by their gun-slinger stance. They weren't tough, they were only bullies, and when the going got tough, like all bullies, they turned tail and ran. And they've endorsed our programs. They have endorsed them because they are a heartless visionless soulless gutless government on the run, left only with its ego, and that is being crushed if you look at them now, Mr. Speaker. That too is leaving them. They are the big losers of the Seventies and that is why we are being treated to the curious spectacle of the past two months.

Are the Tory government grasping to its heart NDP policy and programs in legislation? If I can just one moment, warn them of their folly, Mr. Speaker, I consider it a duty, they will not win on our programs, they will not win on our policies. If the people want NDP programs, they will elect an NDP government and that they will.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please.

The Honourable Member for Roblin.

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, what an interesting way to spend an afternoon, listening to a left-winger, almost a Marxist, that's only been in this country for a very short time, espousing and telling us people in this province what this great party with all the wisdom and talent and skills that they have over there, it's unbelievable. I've heard much about the honourable member who just spoke from the last city election and the active part that he took in that city campaign, and how his philosophies and beliefs were spelled out loud and clear. I only need to take a couple of speeches out to my constituency, Mr. Speaker, and I sure wish him well to run in Roblin.

Mr. Speaker, may I again, as all members have done, congratulate you on your next year in office and wish you and the Deputy-Speaker, unfortunately he's not in his chair, wish him every success. What a difficult job it is, that of the Deputy Chairman. I had the occasion to try that job and it is very tiring, long hours and very difficult at times to keep the members in order, but I do wish him well during the session.

May I also, Mr. Speaker, express my appreciation and congratulations to the four Pages that have been selected to look after our duties in this Chamber. I was very annoyed last evening, Mr. Speaker, when one of the Page girls made a slight error and members opposite started pounding their desks and cheering as if in fact that wasn't something that could happen to any person. I felt sorry for the poor girl; she'd done her best, and that's not an easy task, Mr. Speaker, for a Page to stand over there, new in her place, name all the members off and in order, and do it correctly the first time. I dock my hat to her. But I regret the incident, as she felt terrible when she saw what was going on in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, may I again congratulate the new members: the Honourable Member for Rossmere; the Honourable Lady for Fort Rouge who has now graced our Chambers and the new Member for River Heights. I look forward with keen interest to the debates of these three very learned people. They are certainly going to add some spice to our debate and some new thrust and new drive. New faces always help make this place a little more exciting than it was in the past.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the three new Ministers which the First Minister has seen fit to appoint. . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I know this is very very unusual, but it has been brought to my attention by the Clerk of the House that the error was not that of the Page, it was the error of the Clerk, and he wants the House to know that it was his fault last night and not the girl's at all.

The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: I withdraw my remarks. If the Clerk was at fault, no more said, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the new Ministers, I am sure, are going to add a great deal of new ideas, new incentives, new thrust, and bring fresh ideas and philosophy to the government and for the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, may I bring to all the members, the government, greetings, and the best wishes of the people of Roblin Constituency, who I've been honored to represent over the years. We had a first there last year on this bluegrass and western festival which became a very big event, and later on during the session I'll be bringing and passing brochures amongst the members of the House of the second annual which is slated for Foggy Creek. It certainly was a very exciting weekend here; all these banjo pluckers and guitar players, and western and Dixie singers from all over entertaining people out on the grass. I look forward to that being an annual event in our constituency.

May I very briefly, Mr. Speaker, pay my respects and condolences to the family of the late Nick Hryhorchuk, who passed away since the last session, a great member of this Legislature, who sat here, started way back in 1920 as representing the Independent Farmers Party. Later on, I am sure, in the session, the condolence motion will be brought forth, but we certainly miss him from my constituency, one of the great pioneers of - he called himself a Ruthenian, from the part of the Ukraine that he came from.

May I also, Mr. Speaker, bring my best wishes to the Mover and the Seconder. It's always refreshing, especially new members, to hear them bring their thrust and new ideas into the debates before us. They are most enjoyable and I wish them both well in their years of service to the House and to the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, the bilingual atmosphere of the Chamber is new, and I rather like the odd member using French in this House. I think it's going to add considerably to our decor; it's

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

going to, I'm, sure cement our relations with other parts of Canada. The Honourable Minister is in the throes of getting the equipment into place. I'm sure it will be very interesting for the future of our province and I'm sure the people of my constituency do everything possible to stimulate Canadian unity and make Canada a better place for all.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, that in Roblin the recreational director there, Mr. Chrysler, went out of his way in the local community to bring a midget hockey team into Roblin to spend a whole week from the eastern townships of Quebec. So, we will, no doubt, be practising our western French on those athletes when they do arrive in Roblin. I think it's between 20th and the 27th.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to dwell very briefly on, is the Canadian unity, I dare say was rocked to its very foundations the night of the election, when we turned our radio sets on and our television sets, and found that the election was over before we even had a chance to count our ballots. That is something, I think, that in this House and all across Western Canada especially, has really brought us back to our senses, that this country is a long way from being one country, and we are going to have to work long and hard at our parliamentary system to see if there are not some ways or improvements that can be made, so that we don't face that difficult problem again. There is certainly always room for improvement in our constitution in our parliamentary system, and either we don't turn the televisions on or keep the vote away from the public until the votes are all counted. I think that that was a backward step, for especially Western Canada. I don't think that many people realize that it was possible for that to happen in our time, that an election could be held in this great country, and the votes counted in Eastern Canada could elect a government with a majority.

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with keen interest to all the various members that have spoke on this Throne Speech Debate, and it is a very very interesting and worthwhile document to research.

The general trend seems to be to follow the statistical kind of theme during this particular debate. I recall, I believe it was the late John G. Diefenbaker, who once said that statistics were for dogs or poles - poles were for dogs - and I wonder about statistics, because I have not been the most learned person in dealing with statistics. You can make statistics basically read or say anything you want, depending what you compare them with, and I wonder if we got ourselves in the state of debate in this Chamber and in this province, whereby we're going to use that methodology or that type of debate to try and make it a little better for the citizens who live here, and give them full value for the taxpayers' dollars that they're expending for governments to spend to try and make our quality of life a little better. I just listened to the learned gentleman that just spoke from Churchill, and listened to him read through statistics there, turn them around any way he wanted and said they're facts. Certainly, you can make facts out of statistics, depending on how you put them together.

But I noticed also, at the same time, that he never spoke about my learned Minister of Labour in the same terms that he should have been spoken about in this debate. Because I say, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like the record to show, that that is the finest and the most able Minister of Labour that this province has had since I've been in this Legislature, and I defy any man to show me that we haven't better labour manager relations in this province than we've had since he's occupied that chair. And one only has to go through the foreword of the Annual Report, which was tabled in the House today, to realize some of the great things that this Minister has done in his time. It's not a very lengthy period in office, but, nevertheless, it's all there in the foreword, and I'm sure when we get to his Estimates, we'll get back to it in more detail. But I found it strange that the Labour critic today, in his remarks to the House, he avoided that. He did refer to him on a couple of occasions, Mr. Speaker, but very skillfully by-passed some of the most interesting things that are there about the Minister's performance in the year that's passed.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let's get with the Throne Speech that is before us and see why the members opposite are so annoyed and so concerned and have already put two motions on the record that they are opposing. I'm very unhappy to see the former House Leader of the New Democratic Party sitting over on that end seat there. This Chamber is not the same at all, with the member, who used to sit over there and keep the House running smoothly. The place was always exciting, and when it got a little dull, he'd wade into the debate and give us one of those fired-up speeches that he was so famous for, and could draw our attention for hours on end listening to the eulogy and the authority. I regret very much to see him to have to leave his party due to reasons that I think are pretty well known to most of the members. I suspected that it was going to come long before it did, especially when the former president,

Tuesday, March 4, 1980

Mr. Syms decided to leave the party. I'm sure maybe there are others that are feeling that the rest of the boys that's home looking after the place, like the great member from Ste. Rose, have moved far to the left and they can no longer stay with them now.

But, Mr. Speaker, as the First Minister said last night, I've heard a lot of speeches, I've heard a lot of talk, but I still haven't heard what are the policies of the Honourable Leader of the Official Opposition and his party. Not one word in any of these debates have I heard to enlighten me or let me go back to my people in the Roblin constituency and tell them what the NDP stand for, or what are some of the answers that they have to some of the problems that we're facing in this province today. I listened intently of how they're going to deal with inflation, Mr. Speaker, and as I rise in my Chair today, I heard not one member opposite address themselves to that very difficult subject that faces all Canada, the Americans and the western world today. A most difficult problem but it's got to be resolved, and it's got to be dealt with to the best way possible that we know. But I find it strange, either the New Democratic Party does not have an answer or a solution, or the one that they have got, they're afraid to bring it out into the open. My answer is that governments are spending far too much of the taxpayers' dollars, and once we bring that under control, then we will start to dampen inflation. That's not going to resolve it all, but at least that will be a start to deal with the matter of inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I heard them discuss at some length, the high interest rates that were the subject of the question period today. What is the answer to the high interest rates? What is the policy of the New Democratic Party in regard to the interest rates? How is Mr. Broadbent and your national party going to, all of a sudden one day, say, "Look, interest rates are down 3 or 2 percent?"

Now, that's nice, to stand up on a soap box in an election campaign, Mr. Speaker, and make those kind of statements, but realistically and economically, how are you going to do it? And I wait, Mr. Speaker, I wait and I will wait until - Mr. Speaker, I'm still waiting for - I don't who was the energy critic over there to espouse your policies on energy for the people of this province.

Now, I maybe have not been listening as carefully as I should have to find who that learned member is that's going to deal with energy matters, but I hope that on an early occasion, he will rise to his feet and give us some insight into how the New Democratic Party intends to deal with the serious problems that we face in energy in this province. Or, Mr. Speaker, are they going to refer back to that old dogmatic socialist trait, where you just let it drift, and it will look after itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech, the document that members opposite voted against - it says, first of all, that the levels of taxation borne by the people of Manitoba are now once again comparable to those borne by the other people of Canada. Now that is a statement. That is a fair statement, Mr. Speaker, and one that the honourable members opposite should have supported.

Secondly, government intrusions in the ownership of business enterprises and of farmland throughout Manitoba have largely ceased. That is a positive step. One only has to read the statements of Mr. Runciman in the last issue of the grain growers' newspaper to realize what an important statement that was, and it's strange that Mr. Runciman, only last week, coincided almost exactly with those statements that were put into the record at this communication which he was speaking to.

Another statement, Mr. Speaker, my Ministers inform me that the economy of Manitoba is expected to grow at a rate generally above the national average. Now, I've listened to members espousing this theory for the last several days - the member that just sat down. I think he had us down second last, or last, or fifth, or sixth. That can be put in perspective whatever way members opposite wish to put it. But, nevertheless, that statement is on the record, that's the statement of this government, that's the statement of this party, and I challenge members opposite, anyone, to stand up and prove to me that the economy of Manitoba will not grow a rate generally above the national average in the next years.

Mr. Speaker, it goes on and on. We had the problems of hydro spelled out in here. I find it strange nobody wants to talk about hydro, and I'm sure that will come later. We'll get into that one in great depth. I look forward to those debates with keen interest. The rate freeze was mentioned in here. Do members opposite support that rate freeze? Is it a bad thing in Flon Flon? Is it a bad thing in Burrows to have the hydro rates froze five years in this province? They avoid that like poison, Mr. Speaker, for some reason, but nevertheless, it's in the Throne Speech.

Let's move on now to the energy authority, Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Energy Council and so on. The Energy Conservation Agreement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. Before the member proceeds any further, the hour is 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair to return at 8:00.