



First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virден	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
McCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	PC
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Friday, July 29, 1988.

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General) introduced, by leave, Bill No. 8, The Court of Queen's Bench Small Claims Practices Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur le recouvrement des petites créances à la Cour du Banc de la Reine; and Bill No. 9, Statute Law Amendment (Re-enacted Statutes) Act; Loi modifiant diverses dispositions Législatives (Lois réadoptées).

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Man. Cttee. on Wife Abuse Funding

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question this morning is for the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson).

The Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse is the coordinating body and the umbrella organization for shelters and abuse programs throughout this province. On June 17, the Minister met with this organization to go over with them their review and audit, and asked the committee at that particular point for a week in order to make a response. It is almost six weeks later and, to date, they have not yet received a response. Why has this Minister failed to meet this commitment, particularly in light of the phone calls and letters urging her to do so?

* (1005)

Mrs. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): Thank you to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) for that question. Yes, I did meet with the group, and we have been considering their proposals. Interim funding has been going out to them, and decisions will be made after the Budget is presented. Announcements will be made, I mean.

Mrs. Carstairs: The Minister said that interim funding has been going out to them but, in fact, the quarterly payment was expected on July 1 and has not yet been received. Indeed they were informed that they would have their July payment by a minimum date of July 15, and that payment as of July 29 has not yet been received and there is no Order-in-Council for that funding. This committee will be bankrupt on August 1. Will this Minister make sure that they receive this promised funding immediately?

Mrs. Oleson: They will receive the funding immediately. The Order-in-Council has passed.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the Minister tell the House today whether they will be receiving funding for August and

September, or whether they are to receive funding only for July?

Mrs. Oleson: Announcements will be made after the tabling of the Budget.

Mrs. Carstairs: Has this Minister and this Government decided to no longer fund the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse?

Mrs. Oleson: Announcements will be made when we are ready to make them on this subject.

Mrs. Carstairs: One can only assume from that answer that the Minister is not going to fund the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse. Can the Minister explain to this House why this committee has been removed from the normal process of quarterly funding?

Mrs. Oleson: An Order-in-Council was passed yesterday for interim funding. Other announcements will be made later.

Crisis Shelters - Funding Delay

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): A question to the same Minister, the shelters of this province have also expected their quarterly funding prior to July 1 of this year. An Order-in-Council finally did pass on July 20 of 1988 to approve this funding, but that means they are already working weeks behind in their funding requirement. Is this type of delay of funding for vulnerable individuals in this province going to be the ongoing style of Community Services in this province?

Mrs. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I wish to remind the Leader of the Opposition that this is a different type of year than what we have normally been in. We have a different set of circumstances. I realize it is not for them, and I have thanked these agencies across the province for being patient with us. This is a different situation. We cannot be announcing funding for a full year till the Budget is tabled.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a final supplementary to this Minister, it has been traditional in this House to provide quarterly funding to this agency and to other agencies. Why has this Government changed the rationale for funding?

Mrs. Oleson: Quarterly funding has been advanced wherever it is possible. We are working on this problem and we do sympathize with those agencies. It is difficult for them. We know that.

* (1010)

Hazardous Wastes - Flin Flon

Mr. Gary Doer (Concordia): My question is to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery).

Certainly Manitobans have been speaking to our MLAs on the whole broad policy issue of Manitoba becoming a disposing site for U.S. chemicals. My question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Connery). Notwithstanding the broader policy issues of this, yesterday the company confirmed that there was arsenic in the sludge. Today the company alleges that there are no materials such as arsenic, cadmium and mercury in the Dow Chemical shipments. I would ask the Minister to inform Manitobans what his analysis is of these materials and substances.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): Mr. Speaker, we will be obtaining, early next week, a sample of the Dow — and let us make sure that we do not confuse Dow Chemical with Dow Corning. It is Dow Corning, the glassware manufacturer, we are talking about, not Dow Chemical, because that is the scare that is being tried to be put in, that it is a chemical. It is not. We will be obtaining samples and doing our own independent analysis at the lab.

I had a meeting this morning with the officials from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. We had an excellent meeting. We discussed the situation and they are as concerned as we are. The concern is not up in Flin Flon; the concern is with the Opposition Leader. The officials of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting assured me that they would notify our department of every load of chemical or whatever that is coming in for processing. We would be informed of it. We would be told what is in it, so that we and the unions will know.

This company offered the same sort of communications to the previous Government and it fell on deaf ears. They did not take up on the opportunity to know what was coming in.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister had an excellent meeting with the company.

Did the company inform the Minister so the Minister can inform Manitobans what was contained in some of the Dow shipments that have already been processed in Manitoba and into the Manitoba environment? Can the Minister inform us and indeed Manitobans whether in fact our allegations or our information is correct or not? Can he please inform Manitobans whether indeed the substances that we mentioned were contained in the earlier Dow company shipments?

Mr. Connery: It is obvious that we cannot make that declaration until we have the test done. We could also be assured that this Member must be speaking to union people in Flin Flon. The union people have seen an analysis of the Dow product. They have been shown an analysis. There are some patent rights and so forth that the company does not want a public disclosure of. All we want to assure is that the union knows and that we know that it is safe to handle. We will not proceed until we are sure. When our own independent

analysis at the Government lab is ready, then we will be able to make those decisions. There are also handling concerns. There are many concerns with these chemicals coming in that our department is investigating, and nothing will happen up there until we and the union are sure that it is safe to handle.

Mr. Doer: Well, I have a very simple question to the Minister. Did the company inform the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) so the Minister of Environment can inform Manitobans that indeed there was arsenic, cadmium and mercury in the material that has already been processed into Manitoba's environment?

Mr. Connery: If the Honourable Member would do his research, he would know that already in the plant at Flin Flon, arsenic is present in minimal amounts. The product coming in, I am told, has infinitesimal amounts, a very very minor portion of what has already been used in the plant. Those are the facts and those facts are available. He is trying to mislead the people and to scare. We have seen for three days, Mr. Speaker, scaremongering from the Opposition over here when there is no issue.

* (1015)

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to share with the Minister. We have it on strong authority that the first shipment that was in the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, shipped from the United States, shipped from Dow Chemicals, indeed contained arsenic, cadmium and mercury.

There is a fundamental difference between treating the materials that come from the ground in Manitoba in our smelters, and indeed becoming the source and receiving the material from all over the United States in terms of chemicals and treating them into the Manitoba environment. I wish the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) could understand the difference.

We are prepared to share on a confidential basis our material, and I would ask the Minister when he is going to put in a cease order so that Manitobans can have some protection on the broader policy issue of this province becoming the depository for American chemicals.

Mr. Connery: I would like to advise the House that the first carload of this Dow Corning chemical came in, in March, under the NDP Government when they were in power.

Military batteries were processed . . .

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Connery: The first load came in under the NDP Government. Military batteries were processed up there

in the last year when they were in power. Computer chips were processed in Flin Flon under their Party. After people got sick, then it was stopped. There was also another load of product that came in from Calgon under their Party and was processed.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), on a point of order.

Mr. Doer: I have a point of order, Mr. Speaker, on the comments made by the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery). On Wednesday, when we raised this issue, we fully disclosed that there had been the one shipment of the batteries which we had stopped and, secondly, we did state that the Dow Chemicals came in during the election period, before we had changed office. We have made that public.

Mr. Speaker: A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Family Violence

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): My question is to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

The Committee for Children and Wife in Crisis at The Pas has been notified this week that no longer will the town police detachment interview women who are willing to press charges against abusive spouses in the protective environment of the shelter. In addition to the trauma they already are experiencing, women will now be forced to report to the offices of the police.

Is this the style of improved services people in need are to expect from this Government, and will the Minister change these directives today, immediately?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): I will ask for a report from my department immediately.

Mrs. Charles: Again to the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), will the Minister indicate whether his Government supports the attitude of some rural RCMP detachments that they are not bodyguards nor messenger services and, to that end, will not accompany women who have escaped dangerous family situations, but must return to pick up clothes, medication, or children's needs for the well-being of themselves and for their children? And will he indicate any directives that have been sent to our rural policing units, overlooking the Government's support of women and children in crisis?

Mr. McCrae: Early after my appointment, I became involved and extremely interested in family violence issues. Here again on this matter, I will receive a report from my department and get back to the Honourable Member without delay.

Crisis Shelter - Funding

Mrs. Gwen Charles (Selkirk): My question is to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson).

Since the Wife Abuse Centre for Selkirk again has had a quarterly advance of the 1987 Budget and since

this Budget does not reflect the cost of the shelter added in August of last year, will the Minister indicate whether indeed she realizes this shelter is yet to be funded, and give indications of the degree of priority that funding of such shelters will take with her Government?

* (1020)

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): The question of family violence is very very important to this Government. I will take as notice your query regarding the Selkirk shelter, and I will get back to you on that.

National Conference on Wife Abuse

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson). Manitoba was to be the site of a national conference on wife abuse this coming November. However, it has been cancelled because of the financial difficulties of the Committee on Wife Abuse. Could the Minister assure this House that this conference will take place in this province?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): The whole question of funding of all agencies and groups is still not able to be published because the Budget has not been published.

Ms. Gray: A supplementary to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson), would the Minister tell this House what problems were identified in an audit and review that was conducted on the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse? This audit was discussed with this committee. Could the Minister please tell this House the findings of that review?

Mrs. Oleson: That review has been looked at by both Parties. It is not for publication at this time.

Social Agencies - Funding

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is for the Deputy Premier. Would the Deputy Premier please tell this House how women and the needs of women across the Province of Manitoba can possibly be a priority with this Government, given the lack of action on the part of the Department of Community Services regarding funding. The Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse is experiencing difficulties and has actually laid off staff. Shelters across the Province of Manitoba are experiencing day-to-day difficulties. Could the Deputy Premier please tell us how possibly this Government can see women and their needs as a priority?

Hon. Glen Cummings (Executive Council): I would be very pleased to assure the Opposition and the people of this province that the very serious concern of wife abuse and the important services provided by the shelters is supported and will be supported by this Government. I would like to also advise the Member opposite that I am sure they will be pleased with the announcements that will be coming forth in the Budget.

Man. Oil & Gas Corp.

Mr. Harry Enns (Lakeside): I direct a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Oil and Gas (Mr. Downey) exploration. It arises out of information that he tabled in the House the other day.

Some Members will recall that, on February last, I was attempting to inquire from the then Government and the then Minister responsible for Energy the costs of the failed attempt to acquire Inter-City Gas Corporation at that time. The Minister at that time clearly indicates in Hansard that the total cost was some \$589,000.00. I suggested at the time that figure was low and perhaps could have been considerably higher, indeed in the millions of dollars. My question to the Minister is: It would appear that, as early as December 8, 1987, one invoice alone amounted to some \$861,000 for the acquisition costs. Another invoice of \$371,000 brings that figure to over the \$1 million that I had suggested.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member have a question?

Mr. Enns: My question to the Minister is: Would this information have been available to the Minister of the Day?

Hon. James Downey (Minister responsible for The Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation Act): I am pleased to respond to that question. I first of all want to say how important I think it is to all Members of the Assembly that, when information is provided, accuracy is of the utmost importance so that everyone, particularly the public, can base their decisions on what is taking place with the taxpayers' funds. I do say to the Member, not only do the numbers here fully disclose that the information provided was less than accurate but, in addition to the \$1.2 million that has been spent so far on behalf of the taxpayers which was passed through the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation, that number is even greater than the \$1.2 million.

So my colleague in his question was absolutely right, and I think it is important that the people of Manitoba know fully the story that took place prior to the takeover of this administration.

* (1025)

Mr. Enns: I appreciate it is not within the Rules and traditions of this House to be able to ask questions of former Ministers, although I must acknowledge I had more fun doing that during those days.

My supplementary question to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Oil and Gas (Mr. Downey), the information that he has now received from the president of that corporation, does that give him any indication that figure out now, well in excess of a \$1 million, will in fact be considerably higher?

Mr. Downey: As indicated in the information and any discussions that have taken -(Interjection)- I can appreciate the sensitivity of the former Minister who

this is dealing with and I think the people of Manitoba made their decision. I would hope they would now give the opportunity for the Government to disclose and to give some further evidence as to why they made their decision the way they did at the last election.

The question directly is: Are there further financial implications in this regard? The answer is, I have been informed that there could well be further expenses which either are in the Department of Mines and Energy and/or in the Manitoba Oil and Gas Corporation. We will attempt to fully disclose those figures when they are available.

Hazardous Wastes - Flin Flon

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I was disappointed our offer to share some of the information on the Dow shipments was not received by the Minister and, clearly, we have stated publicly that the first shipment did come in during the latter part of the election and over the changing Governments. So I have always stated that, and I have no problem with the Minister's point in that regard.

I would ask the Minister, certainly in lieu of the escalating number of boxcars coming in Manitoba in the last two or three months from the United States, and let us make that point perfectly clear, is the Minister satisfied that the licence requirements under The Clean Environment Act have been met by the corporation and the processing of these goods?

Hon. Edward Connerly (Minister of the Environment, Workplace Safety and Health): We are continuously monitoring all the plants in Manitoba, watching to make sure that there are no problems under Clean Environment. As you know, from time to time, variations are made and a variation was made to that particular function under their rule — a variation was made. We are watching these things very closely. As there are problems, we will monitor it. We will maybe even stop work order, if it is necessary, if it is environmentally dangerous.

We even went so far as to talk to the union people up in Flin Flon to see if there was a big concern with the union. Do you know what they said to me? What is going on? Why are all the reporters up here? What is the issue? They are concerned with what they are handling, but they did not raise this big issue. This issue was raised by the Leader of the N.D. Party (Mr. Doer) to fearmonger and to try to draw attention to their own Party.

Mr. Doer: My question to the Minister is: Is he satisfied that the company, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, in operating these chemicals from the United States, is operating within the licence they presently have pursuant to The Clean Environment Act?

Mr. Connerly: As the Member knows, there has only been one load processed. The Member knows that, if I believe correctly, there are some 7,000 tonnes of ore that are processed every day, and we are looking at 35 to 50 tonnes coming in which would be mixed in

over a long period of time. So there is no significant change. As I indicated to the Member, the material coming in has significantly less ingredients than the ore they are processing.

But our Workplace Safety and Health people are on the site in Flin Flon on a continuous basis, working with the unions, working with the companies and analyzing the material, analyzing the workplace to ensure. As you know, and the Member should know, there are monitoring systems within all plants to ensure that the threshold value levels are within proper levels.

* (1030)

Mr. Doer: My question was very simple to the Minister. Are they operating within the licence that they have been granted? We know that the licence for smelting operations is pursuant to the extraction of metals that are in the ground at that site, not in terms of disposing of chemicals and other goods from other locations, particularly from the United States. Is the company operating within their licence pursuant to The Environment Act?

Mr. Connery: I will take that question as notice.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Connery: Mr. Speaker, when you control Chip'n Dale, maybe some Members will be able to answer a question. I have asked our staff to look at it to ensure that they are and, if there are no problems, I will still bring the information to the Member in the House as soon as all that information is available.

Pharmacare Claims - Delay

Mr. William Chornopyski (Burrows): My question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

The Pharmacare Program is presently buried under a huge backlog of outstanding claims. This is causing severe hardship and frustration for many claimants, especially the senior citizens. Extra overtime has been authorized as a quick fix but, over the long run, modernization of Pharmacare's operating policies and administration will be required. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister implement the pharmacard system which would significantly reduce up front expenses for claimants and increase the efficiency of the program?

An Honourable Member: It is a good idea.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank my honourable friend from Burrows for that question. There has been a very significant backlog at the Pharmacare program caused by some difficulties with staff, where one of the senior people has not been able to attend work on a regular basis.

Besides that, the staff has indeed been dedicating significant time, some of it overtime. Indeed, within the Manitoba Health Services Commission, staff allocations have been dedicated to bring down the backlog of

Pharmacare claims because we recognize that seniors and others who are desirous of having that refund need the money for very real financial reasons. As a result, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to indicate to the Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) that, as of today, 2,000 cheques are going out to reimburse Pharmacare claimants. Those 2,000 cheques that are going out this morning represent a six-week turnaround which has been the normal turnaround time for this time of the year.

Mr. Chornopyski: I have a supplementary question for the same Honourable Minister. When will the Minister change the receipt submission rules so that total claims over the specified dollar level can be made at any time, thereby avoiding the annual spring rush?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, let me indicate to my honourable friend for Burrows that the Pharmacare program has been under some unusual circumstances over the last six months, part of which are caused by the intransigence of the previous administration in their dealings.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Orchard: Do you know that . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr. Chornopyski) has asked a question. I am sure the Honourable Member would like to hear an answer.

Mr. Orchard: Part of the problem has been, of course, a dispute with the pharmacists which still is unresolved, the unilateral change of regulation imposed by the previous administration when they could not equitably resolve the dispensing fee negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Association. As well, I think all Honourable Members will be pleased to know that there are growing claims to the system, so that now we have some 200,000 claims per year being processed.

In addition to the measures taken internally over the last several weeks, which led to the mailing of the 2,000 cheques today which represents approximately a six-week turnaround time, in addition to that to clear up the approximate 11,000 numbers of backlog claims right now that are in the Commission, we have authorized the hiring of five part-time staff to clear that backlog up in the month of August.

Mr. Chornopyski: My second supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the same Honourable Minister. Will the Minister explore the pharmacard option with Manitoba's pharmacists and major consumers?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, that issue has been explored by myself in discussions with the Pharmacists' Association of Manitoba, and it is a subject of discussion with the Pharmacare program and staff internally at the Manitoba Health Services Commission to see the appropriateness, the effectiveness and the benefit of undertaking such a system.

Brick Warehouse - Charges

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. In light of the refusal of the Attorney-General to state whether or not the Government will support Bills No. 2 and No. 3, that is the amendments to The Business Names Registration Act and The Corporations Amendment Act, would the Attorney-General lay charges against Brick Warehouse of Alberta for being in breach of The Business Names Registration Act for the last 75 days and, if not, why not?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) is just a little premature in making comments about whether this party or that party is willing and ready to support a Private Member's Bill which has only just recently been put on the Order Paper and will not come up until at least a week from now.

The Honourable Member should be aware that the department is very well aware of the issue and very concerned about the issue faced by the Brick family, who are the proprietors of Brick's Fine Furniture here in Winnipeg, and other businesses in this province who are experiencing difficulties because of the differences or the anomalies that you find between the federal Trademarks Act and the provincial Corporations Act. The matter is very well in hand by my department and, when we are ready to make an announcement in regard to the Honourable Member's question, we will make it.

I will, however, say that we have written to the federal Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Honourable Harvey Andre, urging him to take a very close look at the Federal Trademarks Act with a view to amending it so that Manitoba businesses established here for 20 years and more are given proper rights to do business in this province.

Mr. Maloway: To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) during the last election promised the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce that he would act to help Brick's Fine Furniture. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) should know that it is his duty to uphold the law. He should also know that local trade is a provincial matter and that his failure to uphold the law threatens many other local firms as well. Will he press charges?

Mr. McCrae: As I say, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member is premature in his first question and he is premature in suggesting that the Attorney-General of this province is failing to do his duty in terms of upholding the law. Our law is here and it is my duty to uphold the law. We are taking every step necessary and possible in this situation to assist a Manitoba business of long standing.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Attorney-General, on April 14, Brick Warehouse of Alberta opened its doors. Section 3.2 of The Business Names Registration Act gives them 30 days to register. They have now contravened the Act by 75 days. Would

the Attorney-General read Section 3.2 of The Business Names Registration Act and press charges against Brick Warehouse?

Mr. McCrae: The Alberta Brick Warehouse is not registered under The Corporations Act of Manitoba and my department is acting on that issue.

* (1040)

Grand Beach Provincial Park Campground - Wind Damage

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): My question is for the Minister of Business Development and Tourism (Mr. Ernst).

Tourism is the third-largest industry in Manitoba and critical to the provincial economic performance. Government encouragement of Manitoba's tourist industry is needed in many ways. As an aftermath to the severe windstorm in June, there has been an announcement by the Highways Minister (Mr. Driedger) that disaster relief in the form of clean-up money for the owners in the Gimli area, Victoria Beach and the Local Government District of Alexander. Will the Minister explain to the House what sense there is in leaving one-third of the popular but undersized campground of Grand Beach Provincial Park in an unusable state because of wind damage there?

Hon. James Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): I would like to advise the Honourable Member for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry) that the provincial campgrounds fall under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner). Unfortunately, at this point, I discussed the matter with him yesterday. He indicated that the clean-up was completed. I know little more than that because it is not within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism. I would suggest that the Honourable Member question the Minister of Natural Resources further if he desires additional information.

Grand Beach Provincial Park Campground - Wind Damage

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): To the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), summers are too short and this one is half over. It is presently the tourist high season and there is only one more long weekend after this one. Will the Minister tell the House when they will provide funding the Grand Beach clean-up?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): It was my impression by comments made by the Minister responsible for Business and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) that the project had been completed. In any event, I will take the question as notice on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) and have a reply back at the next sitting.

Surveys Branch - Moratorium

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Yesterday, the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) — seems like it is always going to be the Honourable Member for St. James. It was the Member for St. James in the last Session who I dealt with to some extent. Yesterday, the Honourable Member raised a question, and I promised that I would get back with an answer just as soon as possible.

I am advised by officials at the Winnipeg Land Titles Office that there is no moratorium on the examination and processing of plans of the Survey Section of the Land Titles Office. All plans are being registered in the normal fashion. The Survey Section and the Land Titles Section are both experiencing peak registrations, together with normal vacation schedules. Plans deposited this week will not be pre-examined, pending examination of those plans already presented. This in no way constitutes a moratorium, but rather is the normal procedure.

I ask the Member, stop sending shock waves across the City of Winnipeg.

Child Care - Funding

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): A question to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson).

In light of the fact that, although we know that we presently have one of the best day care program systems in North America, we also know that we still require an additional 16,000 day care spaces; in light of the fact that all studies show that the non-profit day care system is the one that provides the best quality day care; in light of the fact that we know that the commercial, private day care system does not have the same number of qualified staff, has more trouble meeting the licensing standards, go where there is a profit not where there is a need, put some of the public money into the pockets of the operators, would the Minister please confirm to us and please make a commitment to this House and the people of Manitoba, the parents of Manitoba particularly, that the new federal day care money and the new provincial day care money will indeed go, not into the existing 4,000 commercial day care spaces which will give us no new day care spaces, but will go into new non-profit day care spaces?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): I wish to assure the Member that we are looking at all aspects of day care. We want flexibility in the day care system, and we are looking at all different ways of effectively providing day care for the parents of Manitoba.

Ms. Hemphill: When we are talking about the expenditure of money, one of the other major issues in the day care system is the salaries that are being presently paid to day care workers. According to a Stats Canada recent study, it shows that day care are the poorest-paid workers in the country. They are lower than waitresses and bartenders, and we know that the job they do is a little more important than that.

Will the Minister please guarantee that the existing salary enhancement grant that is presently given to day care workers that gives our day care workers \$14,000 in the rural area, \$16,000 in the city, but is far below the \$22,000 they should be making according to pay equity, will she guarantee they will maintain that salary enhancement and increase it, if possible?

Mrs. Oleson: As I said before, we are looking at all aspects of this and, when I make announcements regarding day care in the near future, all those questions will be answered.

Child Care - Training

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Madam Speaker — Mr. Speaker, I will put my glasses on. Mr. Speaker, my apologies.

While the Minister is taking those questions as notice actually, because she has given no answer, and will report back to the House, there is one other area that is very important and that is the question of adequate training.

Two-thirds of the staff in our day care systems must be trained by October '88. All day cares must have two-thirds of their staff trained. I would like the Minister to report to the House, and tell us whether or not — what the numbers are for people who have not been licensed in the non-profit day care system and those who are not carrying licences in the private commercial day care system. It is my understanding that there are far more staff who do not have adequate licences and who are having trouble meeting the licensing standards in the private day care system than in the non-profit day care system.

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): In order to give accurate information to the Member, I would have to take that as notice and get back to her on the specifics.

Crisis Shelters - Funding

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to mention to the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), who enquired earlier, staff advised me that the second-quarter funding for the shelters, including Selkirk, are either being picked up today or put in the mail today.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, I would like to beg your indulgence. The question concerns the priorities of this Government in relation to statements that were alluded to by the Minister of Trade (Mr. Ernst) and the Free Trade Agreement. He suggested on May 25 that he would review the enabling legislation and be concerned and be supportive if it trampled provincial rights.

I think that I would like to ask the Minister if — and I am sure that he is putting the interests of Manitobans ahead of the party line from Ottawa. But in light of the changes that have been proposed in relation to the

overriding legislation and in relation to water, has he looked at the potential of the Americans coming in and setting up systems to buy blood from Canadians who want to sell their blood?

Mr. Speaker: The time for Oral Questions has expired.- (Interjection)- I recognized the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) because I understood he was rising on a point of order.

Mr. Angus: I am sorry. Mr. Speaker, I will apologize to you and the House. I was unfamiliar with the Rules, and I realize that I was not allowed to do that and I will take it up with my chairman as the House chairman. Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill).

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share with my colleagues some of my thoughts on the Speech from the Throne, and I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that you have accepted a very challenging job, one that is very important to the fundamental parliamentary democratic system that we operate under and one that is going to require fairness and a very even hand, and that you must find a way to provide a balance between freedom of speech and the right to be heard and maintaining a certain required level of decorum in the House that is also necessary for our ability to do our job.

* (1050)

We have all been watching you and each other as we adjust to our new positions, and I want to say that you have certainly survived your first week quite intact. I have noticed particularly that you have been able to remain calm and cool and that you have retained a sense of humour. If any of us were to give you any advice, having been in the House for a short period of time or a long period of time, it would probably be that your sense of humour will probably be what will get you and perhaps us through some of the difficult moments that are facing us ahead, and I wish you well in your duties.

I would like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker. Although he is not here, I am sure his colleagues will pass my good wishes on to him, the Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). My apologies, I will just send my message and I am sure he will receive it.

Mr. Speaker, he is in the interesting position of being given the job and literally having to learn on the job. We know that there is not a better way to learn perhaps than the way he is going to be learning, which is learning while he is doing the job, and we wish him well.

I also would like to congratulate all of the Members who were elected, but particularly the new Members

of this Legislature, those who are being elected for the first time. It gives me an opportunity to say to them and even to the people of Manitoba that I have always believed politics and politicians to be a very honourable profession and very honourable people.

While we know we are facing a very difficult time to be in Government, to be in Opposition, to be doing the job of elected office, that it is actually a thankless job and one for which you are under a lot of stress and pressure and you do not get too many thanks, it also gives us, I think, a greater challenge and opportunity to do public service than does almost any other role or position. I think that is one that I greatly appreciate, having the opportunity to serve and I am sure they do also.

(The Acting Speaker, Harold Gilleshammer, in the Chair.)

I also want to take just a couple of minutes to congratulate the women who have been elected, some old or some who have been elected before and some who are being elected for the first time. We now have eight women in the Chamber. I think that is a record. While we recognize the numbers are increasing a little more slowly than we would want to, we also recognize that the ones who are here are breaking ground for our children and grandchildren who are coming behind us.

I would like to pay particular mention to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) who is a woman Leader of a Party and who is, I think, demonstrating the capability of women to serve in that capacity, as well all the women of the Chamber demonstrate to the women of our province and the people of our province, and I wish them all well.

I did want to say a few words about my constituency. First of all, I want to thank the members of my constituency for the support that they have given me over the years and that continued in the last election. I want to say that we have worked very hard in Logan not just to serve the members or the constituents of Logan but to work on behalf of the entire Inner City and all of the people in the Inner City. I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish, Mr. Acting Speaker, in that period of time, and I want to touch on it a bit.

It was not very long ago that we had a dying Inner City. The deterioration was so bad that there were a lot of us who were not sure that we could ever bring it back up again. But through a concerted effort not just of our Government, I do not want to suggest, but all levels of Government, community organizations, institutions and really the people of the Inner City themselves who have been the most committed to making improvements to make the Inner City a good place to live, we have made tremendous strides in making the heart of our city a good place to live and to raise families.

I think that we have renovated and upgraded a tremendous amount of housing. We are saving the old buildings instead of tearing them down which was done previously and which we must stop doing. They are

being turned into office places, community places, housing for handicapped and for families.

One of the programs that I am proudest of is our Infill Housing Program that took empty lots in the city that were just eyesores and full of garbage and certainly did not enhance the neighbourhood community, bought the property, our thanks to the city, often for a very small amount of money and put very lovely infill houses on them that were then made available to people who wanted to live in the city. Those infill houses have gone a tremendous way in helping encourage their neighbours and the community to upgrade their homes and to improve the street and the neighbourhood.

The training programs, our schools, Mr. Acting Speaker, we know that if the Inner City is going to be a place where people work and live that we have to have good schools. We also know that our schools have been allowed to deteriorate for decades, not 10 years, not 20 years, not 30 years, but 40 years and 50 years, and that these schools were in no way adequate to provide an education to the children of the Inner City. They were a far cry from the beautiful new schools that had been built in the suburbs to accommodate the new developments that had gone out there in the suburbs.

In the first year we were in, I think we committed \$20 million to the Inner City schools so that with the schools, with the training programs that are going in there, the compensatory programs that are recognizing that at-risk children in the Inner City need special help and special support to have a decent education, we have really been making great strides.

I am concerned about a couple of things that are happening, Mr. Acting Speaker. The first is the recent approval by the city to allow a major development to go beyond the suburban limit line that was accepted and agreed to, I think, by the city. I am very concerned about that continuing. City Council in its wisdom accepted that there should be an urban lot line, that development should not go outside of this line. It is going to cost the taxpayers \$90 million, a tremendously unnecessary increase in costs, but it is going to detract from our continued renovation in maintenance and improvement of the Inner City because there is not going to be money around to do both.

I would encourage the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) to meet with the members of City Council and to encourage them to turn down that major development. If that is not the case, then I think that the province should impose an urban limit line to development. That is something we did not do, we did not want to do. We thought the City Council was agreeing to it. If they do not conform to their own plan, then I think it must be required by us.

One of the other major concerns that I have, Mr. Acting Speaker, is the delay of the flow of funds from the Inner Core. We know that the Inner Core has given a tremendous boost to the Inner City. It has trained people, it has educated them. It has helped businesses set up in the Inner City. It has fixed up housing. It is going to participate in the development of the Forks as a tourism attraction. It helps many community-based

agencies and organizations and many volunteer organizations but, for a long time, the money has not been flowing. People are on the verge of going bankrupt, businesses are. Community agencies are taking loans. They are all struggling to hold on, waiting for their Inner Core money to come in. I would ask the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) to take this as a very serious issue, to please find out where the log jam is, why that money is not flowing and please get it flowing as quickly as possible.

I now want to talk a little bit about the Throne Speech, and I guess the first thing I have to say is that there is not much to say about it. You know the old saying, "much ado about nothing"? Well, there is not much ado about nothing in this Throne Speech. - (Interjection)- A copy of your Throne Speech? Of the Throne Speech — you think that I must have gotten the wrong Throne Speech?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the first thing that you can tell when you read this Throne Speech is that this is an election Throne Speech. This is an election Throne Speech and it has been written by a Government who believes that they may be facing an election at any time and wants to cover all of the areas, all bases, so that if the election comes they have out-conservated the Conservatives, out-liberalled the Liberals, and really have a little bit of something in there for everybody. But most of it was in there before.

* (1100)

It looks like they want to get out in about two-and-a-half months, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I think they are looking for a short Session, one where the Throne Speech is based, I think, 80 percent on programs that are already in existence or that are being expanded and about 20 percent on studies. So 80 percent of this Throne Speech is already happening. The programs have been initiated; they have been developed. They are implemented; they are expanding them in many areas. They are studying everything under the sun, and there is about 20 percent of the Throne Speech that is new initiative, that is new action, that is giving some indication of the attitude and the direction of this Government.

It is a Government that does not have any plans. When they went out in the election, they said we have got plans and we have got vision and we want to be elected so we can implement them, but there is not any plan in here, there is not any vision in here. They have no economic plans. They are just maintaining the programs that exist, promising other programs in the social services area, and hoping that people will not notice how little they are doing.

Let us look where the real commitments are. The real commitments and where they are putting money is to satisfy the right-wing of the Party and of the province. They are instituting a reduction in the payroll tax. They have suggested that they will, I think, probably emasculate final offer selection. But when it comes to the social services, when it comes to social justice and economic justice issues, what are they doing? They are studying them to death. They have task forces, they

have White Papers, they have studies, vulnerable adults, the medical system, all of these areas — no money, no programs and no initiatives.

They are going out to consult, Mr. Acting Speaker, and we agree with consultation, but we think they should have some idea of what they want to do as a Government before they go out there. So they are taking their policies out and then asking the people to react, not asking the people to develop the policies, the plan and the vision for the province.

Mr. Acting Speaker, one of the things that they are talking, or the only thing that they are talking about really is that they are going to solve all their problems through better management. They are going to cut fat, they are going to avoid duplication, they are going to have better management, and that is going to be the way that they are going to be able to maintain their health, social services and education programs. It is really one of the few indications of an important priority for this Government. It is about the only thing they have really said they are going to do. They are going to be better managers.

One of the ways they are going to manage better is by cutting down on the number of Ministers. You know, Mr. Acting Speaker, I have to say, on behalf of the Ministers over there on the other side of the House, I think that is a penny-wise and pound-foolish action. First of all, I remind the Premier (Mr. Filmon) that we started out just with 12 so he should know that often these increased over the years.

But I think the most important thing is that, if you want to manage your department, you have to have a manageable department and the load they have given those Ministers means, and it is already evident, that they are not on top of everything in their department. They cannot manage, let alone give direction and leadership that is required, because they are overwhelmed and overburdened with the numbers of portfolios they have got, so that each major portfolio is served by a part-time Minister. I think they will find the folly of that as it becomes more difficult for them to manage the departments.

There are several contradictions in the Throne Speech, Mr. Acting Speaker, and I want to talk about a few of them. The Throne Speech says that northern Manitoba plays a key role in the economic development of our province. Well, we applaud that, especially coming from a Conservative Government that has never shown any indication of interest in giving the North a priority before. We will anxiously await to see what it is they are going to do to improve and increase the economic development of our province and to allow the North to participate in economic policies and programs that are available in our province.

But I am afraid, Mr. Acting Speaker, that they failed their first test on this. There was a very important policy change to a very important program. That policy change was in the program of Community Places. What they did is virtually eliminate northern communities and the entire North from being able to access any of those monies. This is an area that has the least community infrastructure, that needs the most help in developing

community-based resources and that needs the tool, the economic tool that is provided by the Community Places Program.

What has happened, the policy says that they will now have to, like everybody else, put up 50 percent of the funding that they are going to receive from the province. I would like to know if the Members opposite — there are two choices. They really do not want them to access the funds or they do not know anything about the North. I do not know which it is.

An Honourable Member: Both.

Ms. Hemphill: He says it is both. They do not want them to access the funds and they do not know anything about the North because, if they did, they would know that a community that has 90 percent unemployment, that has no business, that has no infrastructure, has no community clubs, has no way of raising their 50 percent, virtually the lights are out for the North as far as the Community Places Program goes. That, to me, makes a mockery of their statement in the Throne Speech that they are going to give a priority to economic development in the North.

There is another area, Mr. Acting Speaker. They are talking about creating a Minister for seniors because senior citizens have made such a contribution to this province. They want to focus on senior citizen programs and give them a priority. I applaud that. I actually think that having a Minister of senior citizens is a good idea. It shows the seniors of our province that they are respected and given recognition for the pioneering work they did in building our country.

But they failed again when it comes to action. When you are talking about vulnerable adults, when you are talking about seniors' abuse, what are they doing? Now that they have a new Minister, they are going to put out a White Paper. Are they coming out with a program? Are they coming out with action? We all know what the problem is and we know that something needs to be done about it. I want to suggest to them that a White Paper is not going to protect one senior citizen in this province. It is not going to stop one case of abuse. So there are two examples of where their priorities are, and the statements that they are making in the Throne Speech are not anywhere in evidence in terms of the early actions that are being taken by this Government. So I do not know why we should expect that the other ones are going to be carried out in any better way.

I want to mention a little bit about what was in progress. When you read through the Throne Speech, you read a lot where it says enhanced, continued advancement, all of which means that the programs were already in place. I want to list a few of them and indicate that one of the reasons that the Members opposite are able to move on some of these programs now is because of the years of work that have already been put in place by the previous Government. I will give you some examples.

The first one I would like to mention is Osborne House. In the Throne Speech, they have said that they are

going to have some improvements for Osborne House, that wife abuse is a serious issue and they are going to improve the facility of Osborne House. I commend them for that, but I want them to know that it took us a year to do the study with Osborne House, to look at the options — whether we would renovate that building, buy a new building, whether the services should be decentralized — so that we could come up with the information that would allow us to make the best use of the money to expand the services and improve the facility. All that has happened is that this Government has come in at the very moment the report was completed that said what should be done. All the work was done in the previous year and they are capitalizing in this case, and many others, on the year of work that was done by the previous Government.

* (1110)

Literacy — I commend them for moving on literacy, but they are not really moving on it. They are just continuing it. In fact, the words they said are: "My Government will take action to eradicate illiteracy . . . by the years 1990 or 1991, which is going to be the Year of Literacy. I just want to remind them that I am glad they are putting emphasis on it. It is a priority; I think it should be. But my Government instituted that program when I was the Minister of Education, so that program, the literacy program, has been in place for several years. I am glad they are continuing it. If they are going to expand it, I am glad they are going to expand it, although I do recall in the Estimates debate that there was some criticism from this side of the House because I was putting a priority on literacy and they wondered why, but now it is a priority.

Another area, they talk about the access program for single parents and enhancement. That means the program was already in place. The Child Protection Centre, they are continuing the Child Protection Centre. It was already there and in the Budget. We were expanding the funding. We were in the process of enhancing all of these. All of these things that I am talking about were initiated, were developed, implemented and were being expanded in our Budget. All of them had additional money.

Wife abuse and child abuse programs developed and designed by the former Government, initially with not a lot of sympathy or support I do not think from other Members of the House. The Forks, we are going to make the Forks a national showcase. We were working on that for two years.

Crime prevention and victims of crime, it was our Attorney-General and our Government who brought out a major program and a major centre for crime prevention and a major program for victims of crime.

The centre for the homeless, I think that must be the Main Street Centre. That is a project that we had been working on with Main Street Centre for over a year developing the design, doing a survey and identifying the needs. Once again, they are continuing that.

Of course, the biggest one, the day care which they are talking about as a priority was developed, designed

and implemented by this Government where we brought in the best model, the best day care system in North America. All I hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that, in doing what they are going to do to day care, they do not dismantle it and they do not go back to the dark ages to a system that everybody knows will not provide the same quality of care as the one that is already developed.

A Commission of Inquiry into the Administration of Justice on Aboriginal People in Manitoba has been launched. They are right, it was launched, but by us. When you look at all of those things, including freedom of information, now they came out with a big band saying, "We are proclaiming freedom of information . . ."

An Honourable Member: In three months.

Ms. Hemphill: In three months, yes. They have done the job in three months because we had done the three or four or five years that was required to get it to that point before. We had 100 years of records that had to be documented and we had to prepare the access file. That meant every department had to identify what they had and how they were going to identify it for the access guide, and that all took time.

I just want to remind them that, while we are pleased that they proclaimed it, we did the work. We could have speeded it up. It did take a little longer than we wanted to because the job was so massive it was beyond anything that anybody imagined when we began the job. We could have hired people and brought them in from outside and speeded it up, I suppose. We then would have had a bureaucracy within a bureaucracy. We would have spent additional money but, more importantly, the civil servants would not have understood the system. They would not have developed it. They would not know what was in their department, they would not know how to access it, and it was important that the people who have to use the system were the ones who were involved in designing it for their department.

I want to spend a bit of time talking about day care. I asked a couple of questions today in the House that gave us a clear indication that there is not much happening in day care now, or it does not seem that they know much about what they want to do right now. But there are some very real dangers in some of the changes that we suspect they might want to make.

They have been very clear in saying that they believe day care should be provided by both non-profit and profit, for profit day care, that they believe that private commercial day care should be able to receive some of the same funds that the non-profit day care system does.

That flies in the face of all of the studies and all of the research that has been done, not by us but by others, that clearly shows, every study shows that the non-profit day care system is the one that provides the best quality day care.

We have a recent Senate study that tells us that we should not be spending money on commercial, private

day care. This is what it says. It recommends that provinces concentrate growth in the non-profit area because commitment to quality child care is most likely to come from those who have an interest in children which is independent of their livelihood. If you are interested in creating a real child care system, use your energy and your money for the non-profit structure. They recommended against funding new commercial services through Capital operating grants or fee subsidies.

We know that the difference in the quality of care comes in a number of ways. We know that commercial, private day care has more trouble meeting their licensing standards. By that, I do not want to suggest that there are not some good commercial day cares out there, or there are not some private day cares providing every bit as good a quality of day care as are some of the non-profit day care. But we know that they have far more, in general, trouble meeting the licensing standards, by far, than do the non-profit. They hire the minimum number of required trained personnel, while the non-profit system tries to have as many trained, qualified personnel in their day care as possible. That is why I asked the question today, since they have to meet the two-thirds now, we know that the private system is very adequately under the requirements, in spite of equal access, and no cost training programs, 50 percent of commercial centres will not meet the training requirements, and 80 percent will not have qualified directors by the deadline of October '88.

So we have a serious issue. If we had lots of money, I probably would not mind giving some money to the private day cares, but we need 16,000 spaces and we do not have enough money. We cannot afford to put it into the hands of private operators, where some of that money will go for profit, where if they fund the existing 4,000 commercial spaces that will be money that does not go into creating new spaces, where the adequacy of the staff training is seriously under that which is required in the non-profit system. All of those point to the fact that we should be doing everything we can to maintain the existing system.

In Liberal Ontario, they have a commercial day care system. Most of their day care is commercial. Do you know what they are doing? They are not continuing it because they know now that the non-profit system is the best system. They made a commitment, when the federal Government announced its program, that they would fund no more private day care systems, and that all new programs and new day care spaces would go to non-profit.

An Honourable Member: Run by the parents.

Ms. Hemphill: Run by the parents, the point is made. I want to make that point because that concerns me a lot — but run by the parents. Why on earth would we, where we have established in our province a recognized qualified, the best qualified day care system in, not the country but North America, why would we want to be retrogressive, go back into the dark ages and start funding on the other basis?

But I also want to say that I have trouble understanding the Liberal position on this, because I

would believe that the Liberal position would be to support non-profit day care. I have a quote here, I think, from the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) where she is opposed to two things. She is opposed to salary enhancement grants, and that horrifies me because most of the women who are working in day care are underpaid. They are women, and that is one of the groups that we would want to be improving. My position has always been that it is the child who I would like to see the subsidy go to, not the day care centre. I am not concerned about the centre per se, nor would I provide them with salary enhancement grants, but I would provide subsidies for children because that after all is who is in care.

* (1120)

The Acting Speaker (Harold Gilleshammer): You have until 11:29 a.m., 10 minutes.

Ms. Hemphill: Okay. Mr. Acting Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has gone on record as supporting commercial private day care, which means that she is in tune with the policy and the priority and the direction of the Conservative Government, and I do not understand that. I have a great deal of difficulty understanding that.

I just want to say finally about day care that I hope that this is one of those times when they will not just follow the ideology of the private sector can do everything as well, because they cannot care for children as well when there is a profit motive involved. They cannot. They cannot worry about making money and caring for children at the same time, and we want our money to go into the non-profit day care system.

This Throne Speech is as interesting for what is not in it as for what is in it. There is a glaring hole in this Throne Speech that I wish to point out to the Members opposite just in case any of them are interested. When I talked about Folklorama and we were giving a salute to all of the volunteers who put on our Folklorama, I made the point that in our province now over half of the people come from an ethnocultural community, and our minorities now make up the majority of our province. Nowhere in this Throne Speech anywhere was there any mention of over one-half of the population of our province, people who have come to this province, who have come to this country, who have some opportunities but who are also missing out in terms of accessibility and opportunity in many areas.

On multiculturalism, there was nothing that indicated to the ethno-cultural community that they cared about giving them accessibility to jobs, to training opportunities, to education. There was nothing in this Throne Speech that dealt with the issue or indicated they recognized that the issue of accreditation for people who have gained professional certification in other countries was going to be considered and going to be addressed. There was nothing in the Throne Speech that dealt with contract compliance that would make people who are getting large contracts from Government hire on an Affirmative Action basis and open up hiring and job opportunities for people of their community or for all of the people of our province.

There was nothing there for the promotion of heritage language programs, something that the ethnic community sees as a basic need to help them maintain their culture. I think that the ethnocultural community, the people from all of those different cultural groups, are going to see there is nothing in this Throne Speech for them. I think a lot of them are maybe going to be disappointed and maybe some of them are not, because they never were important before. But in the election, they were promised that they would be important this time, that they were a high priority and programs to give them equal access and equal opportunities would be a priority.

There is another glaring hole and I think that is in the area of health care. We have got one of the biggest crisis and challenges facing us in the health care system of any challenge facing any Government. All we see are White Papers, setting up networks, setting up White Papers, setting up studies, and we see some movement in the area of AIDS education, chemical abuse, the mentally retarded. Those very few new initiatives we welcome, but where are the new initiatives that are going to move us away from the crisis that we presently face where, in the next decade, if something is not done to change the way we deliver health care through high-cost institutional care, we will be spending, I think it is, about 90 percent in a decade? Ninety percent of the provincial Budget will be going to carry the cost of the health care system if we do not change the way we deliver it.

We have to do education, we have to deal with lifestyles, we have to have preventative programs, we have to keep people out of high-cost institutions, look after them in their homes, look after them in community-based clinics, and there is not one word in this Throne Speech that even indicates the Government opposite knows there is a problem, let alone knows that the province is facing a serious serious crisis.

I am not going to deal with the lack of an economic plan, as I have been discussing the lack of social services and economic justice plan in my speech. I will save that for the Budget, but I just want to say there is not one in this Throne Speech. There is no economic plan in this Throne Speech and, if they are able to achieve anything in the way of improvements of programs, it will not be because of good management in the last three months. It will not be because they have been able to find enough fat to trim and to tighten. It will be because of the improved Canadian dollar, because of the increased revenue coming from the federal Government, and it will be because of the reduced interest rate from the major deficit reduction carried out by this Government. That is why they will be able to achieve some new initiatives, if they are able to.

I want to close by quoting one of the Members opposite.

An Honourable Member: Which one?

Ms. Hemphill: It was the Member for Niakwa (Mr. Kovnats), poor soul. But in one of his speeches, when he was on this side, he said, "I know the former Member,

yes, I know what the Minister of Finance is saying. You cannot have it both ways. But, Madam Speaker, I can have it both ways. I am in Opposition, and I can have it both ways."

I want to say that, when they were on this side, they wanted to have it both ways. Now they are on that side, they want to have it all ways. They want to deliver to the people of Manitoba a message which will get them ready for the election that they think could come at any time so they want to have something for the right-wing Conservatives. They want to out-liberal the Liberals. They want to have something in the way of progressive social policy. That is what they are trying to do. The people of Manitoba are going to know that there is nothing in this Throne Speech, no plan, no direction, no vision, no money, just promises.

Mr. Ed Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I consider it a very great honour to have the opportunity of being a Member of this House and giving this, my initial speech.

First of all, I want to congratulate the Speaker on his election to the Speaker of this House and I am sure that he will bring to this office the distinction and the fairness it requires. I also want to congratulate the Deputy Speaker, a man who I am sure will bring great honour to that position. I also want to congratulate all Members who were elected for the first time on April 26, and to the Members who were re-elected. I also want to congratulate the Mover of the Speech from the Throne, the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), and the Seconder, the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer). Both of these Members are a very good example of the strength of our Government.

I would like to mention, as a new Member, the fact that I have been very impressed, and I think most suitably so, by the senior Members of this House, senior in years of service. I really feel that the contribution made by these gentlemen in years of service to the people of Manitoba is significant. I can tell you that, in the three short months I have been here, I have come to appreciate more the great public contribution that they have made, and at the same time I can well imagine the personal sacrifices that they have made. I commend them for it, and I must say that those of us who are new Members have very many worthwhile models and examples to follow in this House.

I would be remiss, Mr. Acting Speaker, if I did not pay tribute at this time to the former MLA for Gimli, Mr. John Bucklaschuk, who represented this House for some six-and-a-half years, and I want to thank him for his contribution to the Gimli constituency and to Manitoba, and I want to wish him well in his retirement.

I should remark on the path that led me to this Chamber. I was first elected to the Village of Teulon Council in 1969 and served until 1974. After a three-year absence, in 1977, I again was elected to council and served until 1980, and that year was elected mayor and served in that position until May of this year. During the years on council, I spent nine years on our hospital board with five years as chairman, and served eight years on the board of South Interlake Planning Districts,

and various other boards and commissions. I think this experience I have gained in municipal politics puts me in good stead to serve in this Legislature.

I am glad to see many other Members who were former councillors, mayors or Reeves. I understand that it is customary for new Members giving their first speech in this House to extoll the virtues of their constituency, and I am certainly pleased to have that opportunity. Before I get to that, I want to thank the electors of Gimli for sending me here, and I can assure them that I will represent them to the best of my ability.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

* (1130)

The Gimli constituency goes right around the southern part of Lake Winnipeg and includes the Rural Municipalities of St. Clements, part of St. Andrews, part of the R.M. of Rockwood, the Rural Municipality of Gimli, the LGD of Armstrong, the towns of Gimli, Winnipeg Beach and Teulon. The Rural Municipality of St. Clements runs from Grand Beach in the north to the boundary of East St. Paul in the south, the Red River on the west and the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead on the east. This part of my constituency has some of the finest beaches in Manitoba with some of the finest sand.

For those of you who are not aware or not familiar with the beaches on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, the sand at Grand Beach, Beaconia and Patricia Beach is some of the finest in North America. Because of the northwest prevailing winds, it takes the sand out of the water and piles it up in large sand dunes which are unique in Manitoba and form some of the best sand beaches in Canada. So it is the beaches on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and Winnipeg Beach, Gimli, Arness, Camp Morton on the west side.

Tourism is one of our major industries in my constituency. Tourism is an industry that is one of our largest employers and has the best potential for growth. Plans for a tourist hotel in Gimli are well under way. With this new facility and a new marina at Winnipeg Beach and other new facilities that are planned, tourism is going to be one of our largest growth areas, one of our largest employers, and an opportunity to be the largest industry in terms of investment and providing new jobs.

The Rural Municipality of Gimli celebrated its centennial in 1987, and is one of only two areas in Manitoba that had a republic, the Republic of Iceland. The other one, of course, was the Republic of Portage la Prairie.

Agriculture is one of the main industries in my constituency and it is one of the main sources of income for many of my constituents. We have in my constituency some of the finest farm land in Manitoba. I think that the Interlake and the Gimli constituency probably produce every agricultural product that is produced in this whole province, every type of product such as strawberries, sugar beets, potatoes, oilseeds, grain and corn.

I should also like to mention livestock. Livestock plays a very important part of our economy in the Interlake.

Stock growers in our area have been winning honours at the various fairs throughout this province and for many years they have also won many awards and they will continue to do so. I think it is to their credit and to the credit of the quality of the livestock that is being produced there.

We have a thriving hog industry with many good operations in the Gimli constituency. We have the largest turkey hatchery in Manitoba located near Gunton. We also have the largest goose-processing plant in Canada, if not in the whole of North America. Just recently, Northern Goose have brought in some breeding stock from Norway to improve the quality of the geese they produce and to improve the feed ratio and to make these geese more competitive with other types of fowl.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I should mention the drought and the devastating effect it is going to have on agriculture and on the towns and villages in my constituency. Agriculture is the backbone of our rural economy. If the farmers do not have any crop and do not have any income, the businesses do not have any income either. So this drought is going to affect everyone, including the businesses in the City of Winnipeg. I have been in the agribusiness in Teulon and the Interlake area for 25 years, dealing with farmers, and have grown to have a great deal of respect for farmers and the honesty and hard work, but 1988 is going to be a year to remember because it is the poorest crop we have seen for many years.

Another way the drought is affecting our constituency is the fact that the water table has dropped some 25 feet in some areas and caused many wells to go dry, and it is causing hardship to the people who have no water and have had to drill new wells and are looking at an expense in the area of \$3,000 to \$3,500.00.

We have many industries in the Gimli constituency that provide many jobs for our residents, such as the Seagram plant in Gimli, which is very important to that community and to all of us in the Interlake area. This industry was brought to Gimli by the late Derek Stefanson, Sr., when he was the M.P. for the Selkirk area. One of the reasons Seagram located in the Gimli area was because of the quality and the abundance of good water which is very important to that industry.

Seagram is an important industry to all of Manitoba because of the grain they use such as corn from the Carman, Miami or Morden areas. So I hope our Government can keep the tax on this product at a reasonable level so that this industry can expand and grow, because Seagram has a plant that is modern with state-of-the-art technology.

Other industries such as Charison's Turkey Hatchery and Northern Goose Processors are major employers in my area, and I hope our Government, with the help of the federal Government, can help provide the infrastructure that is needed so that this industry can expand and grow and provide much needed employment for our young people.

Because the constituency of Gimli goes around three sides of the Town of Selkirk, many of our residents find employment in the Town of Selkirk in such industries

as the Manitoba Rolling Mills, the Steel Foundry, ABEX and many others. I was glad to see our federal Government, with the help of the Member for Selkirk-Interlake, Felix Holtmann, offer some assistance to the Manitoba Rolling Mills so that they could modernize and make working conditions better for their employees and to expand and grow.

* (1140)

We have many more industries in our constituency which provide jobs for our people, such as the rock quarries in the Gunton-Balmoral-Stonewall areas, which provide crushed limestone for many of our road projects in Manitoba and in Winnipeg.

In the Throne Speech, our Government talked about building a stronger economy. Some of the things that will help business is our commitment to undertake a phased removal of the payroll tax. Amendments will be introduced to restore balance to Manitoba's labour legislation. Protecting the rights of both workers and employers is essential to sound labour relations and amendments will be proposed to the legislation governing final offer selection. These and other things will be done to establish an economic climate that will encourage risk and reward initiative so that our companies can grow and expand and provide much-needed meaningful jobs, not make-work projects that just spoil good workers.

In Wednesday's Selkirk Journal and Interlake Spectator, the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles), criticized our Throne Speech for not doing enough for rural concerns. This is the furthest thing from the fact. The programs we have to bolster and enhance economic development and the quality of life in rural Manitoba are outlined in the Throne Speech, noting that one of the main goals on economic policy in the province should be to ensure balanced growth in all regions. The speech lists a great number of Government commitments of special interest to rural regions. These include programs to address urgent needs involving agriculture: roads, health care delivery, education, day care and rural policing. Special attention is given to the impact of drought conditions on farming communities. The Speech says the Government: "In cooperation with the federal Government and the other prairie provinces . . . will . . . continue its efforts to work with farmers and communities to ease this period of difficulty."

The Manitoba Government will develop ". . . comprehensive rural development policies such as the creation of off-farm income opportunities through diversification . . ." aimed at ensuring ". . . long-term stability in rural Manitoba."

In addition, the Government ". . . will announce further action to help farmers meet the current challenge and protect the longer-term productive base of the . . ." agricultural sector.

Something that is very important to the Interlake area and other parts of Manitoba are the policies to serve long-term water needs through a comprehensive water strategy involving broad consultation with Manitobans and with the municipalities involved. Through this

strategy, projects are expected to be identified that ". . . will help alleviate water shortages in times of drought."

The Throne Speech welcomed the recent agreement, in principle, among ". . . all 10 provinces to join a National Red Meat Tripartite Plan for cattle, hogs and sheep." The Speech called it ". . . a major opportunity for Manitoba producers to regain and build upon their traditional strong performance in this sector."

Mr. Speaker, other rural initiatives outlined in the Throne Speech include new initiatives ". . . to attract and retain physicians and other specialized health care professionals in rural Manitoba," a Hospital Program Review to identify ". . . centres of excellence and especially leadership at the community hospital level." These are very important issues to us in the Interlake area, in the Gimli constituency and, I am sure, to other parts of Manitoba.

I have the distinction of having the new Selkirk Bridge in my constituency. I must say it is a bridge that was needed and is needed but was built without the proper planning and research. This bridge was approved and supported by the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) when she was on the Selkirk Town Council but yet, in her reply to the Throne Speech, she criticized this bridge.

As far as the new Lockport Bridge and the corridor is concerned, which the Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles) criticized, it is to replace the existing bridge which is in bad need of repair and has had weight restrictions for many years. Mr. Speaker, it makes sense to plan roads and bridges far in advance of the actual construction date, especially along rivers because of the valuable property. I am proud to be a part of this Government that listens to people, and I want to commend the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) and his department for doing an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, another important aspect of the Gimli constituency is that it is the former home of our Lieutenant-Governor, George Johnson. As well, former Premier Ed Schreyer first represented the constituency of Brokenhead and encompassed the R.M. of St. Clements, which is in the constituency of Gimli now.

An Honourable Member: And Lac du Bonnet.

Mr. Helwer: And Lac du Bonnet, right.

The Liberal candidate in that election of 1958 was my late father, Fred Helwer, who lost to Ed Schreyer by some 30 or 40 votes. If the outcome of that election had been different, it certainly could have changed the history of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the Free Trade Agreement, the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement will be good for Canada and especially for Manitoba and western Canada. Those who argue otherwise represent narrow self-interests or exhibit a lack of historical perspective. Indeed, history shows that whenever tariff and non-tariff barriers are lowered there is a positive impact on trade, economic growth and employment.

Maybe the Free Trade Agreement is not perfect, but is certainly better than anything we have ever had. For one thing, it will shield Canada from acts of protectionism by the U.S. We will not escape all the calls for protection, but the deal will certainly minimize our exposure to a great fiasco of softwood lumber, fish, potash and hogs.

Then there is the global context. Canada is a player, and not just a small player, in a dynamic international economy, but with the emergence of trading blocs in Europe and the Far East and the U.S. that threatens to lower the boom on imports, can Canada really afford to remain isolated?

On the other hand, the growing reliance of many nations on the U.S. market can be used to Canada's advantage. These nations, including Japan, West Germany and South Korea are faced with protectionism in the U.S. To get around the barrier, they can reroute their exports to the U.S. through third countries and thereby lower their bilateral trade imbalances with the U.S. Canada is the obvious choice as a site for nations like Japan and South Korea to build facilities whose output is destined for the U.S., and we in Manitoba are located in the ideal position. With our traffic to the south, we are in a location to be an excellent place for these companies to build and expand their facilities.

We have a literate, well-educated labour force, a society tolerant of ethnic, religious and cultural differences, abundant resources, well-developed capital markets and political stability. The Free Trade Agreement could provide us with another inland port, that is at Minneapolis-St. Paul on the Mississippi River, and provide another option for shipping grain and other commodities, and receive phosphate fertilizer and other commodities from Florida and other areas to the south. Without the Free Trade Act, moreover, domestic firms may cut back on their plans to invest in Canada. Faced with an uncertain trading relationship with the U.S., they may instead choose to invest directly in the U.S. and avoid the threat of import sanctions.

* (1150)

There is also a generation aspect to the agreement against free trade. Most of those clamouring for the protectionism represent our older established workers. They seek to preserve their interest at the expense of younger people in the labour force who have the skills and attitudes to capitalize on the opportunities free trade would provide. Those against the free trade seem to have no confidence in Canada's ability to survive. Those few pessimists should not be allowed to determine Canada's future.

Canadians have shown themselves to be bright, ingenious, adoptive and entrepreneurial. We need to sharpen our focus on these areas as they become increasingly competitive. We cannot isolate ourselves. Clearly, our opportunities are mostly greater with the free trade than without it. Whether we choose to grasp these opportunities and make the best of them will determine the economic health of this province.

On August 12, 13 and 14 the western Canadian Baseball championships, this is the bantam group, will be held in the Gimli constituency in Teulon.

An Honourable Member: This year?

Mr. Helwer: Yes, this year, this August. We have the facilities there, a park, baseball diamonds that we are very proud of. These are world-class ball diamonds. We will be able to hold this tournament and will also provide -(Interjection)- Good. Terrific. This tournament will provide a tourist booth to our area and to the whole Interlake. Also, this will provide some tourist potential for areas even such as Winnipeg and other areas of Manitoba. So I think it is a very worthwhile project.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity this morning.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): First of all, I would sincerely like to express my own congratulations to you on your own appointment. I concur that you are most deserving and I am certain that you will exercise the element of fairness and discreteness that is essential to serving all Members in your present position.

I would be remiss if I did not also congratulate my colleague, the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko). Last week, I had congratulated him for that particular position.

I would also at this time like to publicly thank the individuals in the constituency of Sturgeon Creek, the constituency in which I have lived for over 20 years, the constituency that I am delighted to live in. I would like to thank my friends and neighbours for the support and encouragement that they have given to me in the past and are continuing to send my way. For those of you here in the Chamber who are unaware of this charming residential area in the Metro Winnipeg part of the Province of Manitoba, I hope you will indulge me for a few moments of description.

The western boundary of the constituency of Sturgeon Creek runs along Sturgeon Road, the road which begins at Portage Avenue and extends as a sort of inner highway past Inkster Boulevard. The southern boundary of Sturgeon Creek extends along Portage Avenue eastward, past but not including the very beautiful Woodhaven Park, dips southward and then follows the Assiniboine River until it comes to the footbridge at Assiniboine Park.

Sturgeon Creek encompasses many important landmarks of Metro Winnipeg. I hesitate to prioritize but I suppose one that I think of most frequently, perhaps because I watched it being built a number of years ago, and I am referring to Grants Old Mill. This very charming building is a replica of the very first water mill west of the Great Lakes, rebuilt replica of the original Grants Mill that was built first in 1829 and reconstructed in 1975. I invite any of you who have not had the opportunity to visit the Mill to pack a picnic lunch some Sunday afternoon, stroll along the banks of the creek, pick up some stone-ground whole wheat flour from our own Manitoba wheat or, as I did a couple of weeks ago, a couple of bags of stone-ground triticale, again from our own Manitoba farmlands.

The mill is located on the grounds of the Grace General Hospital which, as many of you know, is run by the Salvation Army. The grounds are beautifully kept

and the hospital has an outstanding reputation for both educating student nurses and for giving caring service to the patients within.

Also located on this site and run by the Salvation Army is Lindenview home, a home for unwed mothers, in which these young women may reside, may attend classes which, by the way, are administrated by the St. James-Assiniboia School Division, may step across the grounds to the hospital to have their babies and may then return, if they so choose, with their infants to complete their school year.

I would be remiss if I did not include in the description the recently opened Living Prairie Museum. The desire of those who conceived this idea was to preserve a portion of the living prairie for posterity so that we Manitobans could walk through part of God's unadulterated land, witness our provincial flower, the crocus, in the spring to observe a number of species, on occasion to see some wildlife — rabbits, gophers, even deer — while walking in the expanse that has been preserved for all of us to enjoy.

If I were to follow Ness Avenue eastward from the Living Prairie Museum, it would cross the area where many of our Canadian Armed Forces personnel live for a portion of time perhaps while they are stationed in Winnipeg. The air base, the drill halls are located just north of Ness, between Whytefold Road and Sharp Boulevard, and of course many of the runways from our own Winnipeg International Airport are in close proximity to Ness Avenue. Because of the International Airport, a rather new development known as Murray Park houses such places as the Air Canada Maintenance, our Hudson's Bay Warehouses, Boeing of Canada, and other manufacturing sites too numerous to mention today.

Deer Lodge Centre of course is another familiar landmark perhaps more meaningful and more familiar to senior citizens of our province, being that it was once called Deer Lodge Hospital and was created specifically to care for those men and women who were fortunate enough to return home following the destruction of the wars, but who are in need of continuing medical service. Parts of this building have been reconstructed, have actually been torn down and rebuilt totally. It has been renamed Deer Lodge Centre and still has as its priority those individuals who are veterans of the great wars. But included as residents and as patients within the walls of the centre one will now find perhaps a broader variety of individuals. I have to add that Deer Lodge Centre has always been a meaningful point to me.

When I was at the tender age of one, my own father, Dr. Arthur W.S. Hay, then a surgeon at the Winnipeg Clinic, felt overwhelmed to give service to his country which was at a state of war, despite the fact that he was responsible for a wife and three very young children. I am told that he was an enormously patriotic man who, as I have said, loved his country and felt also the tremendous responsibility to serve. I can recall only once — I suppose I was a child of about three — when he returned home on leave and I was given the privilege of visiting the then Deer Lodge Hospital with him on one occasion. Unfortunately, my father gave the

supreme sacrifice for his country and is buried in Brookwoods Cemetery just outside of London, England, a site that I have visited on three occasions, and I am delighted to say is kept in immaculate condition, still being visited with great frequency by the young school children who live in the town close by.

* (1200)

I raise the story of my father for two reasons — one, to tie in with the description of Deer Lodge Centre, a spot that I have visited since that initial time in my growing years on several occasions, one as an entertaining Winnipeg Blue Bomber act many, many years ago, as a student nurse, and later as a practising nurse, and twice now as part of the group to honour the sod turning followed by the opening of a portion of the building. I also know that my minimal recollection of my father in the multitude of stories that I have heard from a great variety of individuals, including just the other day from the current Lieutenant-Governor about his outstanding citizenship, his overwhelming commitment to serve, led to a large part to my desire to serve as well and why I am here in this Assembly today.

My desire is not to give for my country and my province but rather to give my life to my country and my province for a short while or a long while, hopefully anyway. I do feel an almost overwhelming sense of responsibility. I do feel a very real sensation to be fair, to use exceedingly good judgment in decision making, to cautiously weigh the pros and cons of specific concerns in order to reach the most appropriate conclusion that would benefit my fellow Manitobans most effectively.

I am well aware that all Members have a right to debate and participate in the decision making of all issues brought to the House, but I obviously feel my greatest responsibility lies in the area of education, being that I have been declared critic for that particular discipline.

I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) for placing that faith in me and I certainly promise that I shall endeavour to fulfill that trust to the greatest of my ability.

My background has been predominantly in the field of health and education. I am a registered nurse, a graduate of the then Winnipeg General Hospital and now Health Sciences Centre School of Nursing, and past-president of the Alumni Association of that very fine agency. That makes two of us here in the Chamber today. Actually one-third of all the female Members in the House today have once practised that profession.

I nursed for a short while upon graduation and then attended the University of Saskatchewan where I received my certificate in teaching and supervision, and require one-half credit more to achieve my certificate in adult education. I have been a volunteer teacher with the Manitoba Association of Children with Learning Disabilities. I have taken a fitness instructor's course — do not laugh — and subsequently taught several classes at the St. James YMCA. Mind you, the individuals I taught were 65 years young and older, and

I must admit I had to work very, very diligently to keep even one step ahead of them.

I taught nursing education at the Health Sciences Centre, the St. Boniface School for Practical Nurses, and Red River Community College. Most recently, I was the Registrar of the L.P.N. School at St. B. and the Assistant Chairman of Student Affairs for both the L.P.N. and R.N. schools at the same hospital.

My political career began when I was asked to run as a School Trustee in St. James-Assiniboia in 1980. I am well aware of many of the issues and concerns of educators and educated in the school system, as well as in the post-secondary settings. My husband and I have four young children, three of whom have attended or are attending the University of Manitoba, and one who has been at the University of Winnipeg. We have concerns with funding to all universities for the continuing qualities of the programs offered at these sites as well as the facilities that house these faculties, not merely for those that are at risk of losing their accreditation, such as the only one mentioned in the Throne Speech.

If I will be permitted to reflect for a moment upon my vision for education in Manitoba, to do a little star gazing, as it were, at this time, I would like to outline just a few of my own personal priorities. At the risk of sounding too simplistic, the need to ensure and enrich the basic three R's is very apparent. Today, we may well refer to the three C's, communication skills, composition, computation in computer abilities. All are essential components of beginning teaching to our children in the elementary schools. Each of us is aware that we are living in a highly technical world today. Perhaps in part because of these changes, many — parents, post-secondary educators, employees in the business community, high-school graduates themselves — are concerned because of decreased ability in these basic skills.

Several university professors have told me that they are appalled at the arithmetic, spelling and composition difficulties their students demonstrate. I taught for almost 20 years at the post-secondary level and witnessed the same phenomenon. What can Manitoba education do in concert with our educators and education planners to alleviate this large and real concern. If we are not part of the solution, we are indeed part of the problem.

Another current thrust that I have been following closely is the move towards mainstreaming of our children with challenging needs. To be sure, this integration of the students with mental and physical handicaps has merit indeed, but should all these children spill into the so-called ordinarily classroom? Should the segregated classroom and/or school be eliminated entirely? What kind of support services will be made available to our teachers who will be required to accept this challenge. Education and Community Services must work closely to ensure a smooth transition process from the more segregated to the integrated approach.

And what about our gifted young people? Are they not also students with very challenging needs indeed?

With the number of businesses closing down and individuals finding themselves unemployed, the need for retraining has become very pronounced. Computer operators, computer repair men and women, fast food workers, plastics craftsmen, to name but a few, are all areas of rapid growth. Are there adequate centres with short effective courses to provide the essential education for job re-entry?

What about literacy programs, with over five million illiterate Canadians, 24 percent of adults in Manitoba. I was very pleased to see in the Throne Speech that at least a task force will be established to develop long-range strategies to address the literacy needs of Manitobans. I was also rather amused when I saw that because I am aware that, in the federal Throne Speech in 1986, a similar task force was proposed, and I have not heard a thing coming from that particular task force.

Many are anxious to learn of the findings and subsequent recommendation from the High School Review Committee, myself included. The diploma, that piece of paper that the high school graduate receives should tell the employer or the post-secondary educator much more explicitly what that young person's beginning capabilities may be. We learn statistics from the high school review such as, of 100 children who start kindergarten, how many are actually expected to graduate from high school successfully? I am certain that the report from this committee will be one of the first received by the new Minister.

* (1210)

During my eight years as a School Trustee, the question of redefinition of division boundaries surfaced periodically. In the recent months, this topic has been raised by members of the city council once again. If there could be better delivery of educational services, more cost-effective administration, perhaps a boundaries review commission might be a logical enactment. When the divisions in Manitoba have as low as 820 students, and some lower actually, but the 820 student population is served by 11 trustees, to 32,000 served by nine trustees, one must wonder.

On the urban school boards, there are 79 elected officials, 496 provincially, but 79 school trustees to serve over 103 Metro Winnipeg public school students. If not a review of boundaries, at least could Manitoba education look at ensuring that students in one school division requiring or requesting a service unavailable in his or her particular division might have easier access to that specific program or service?

There are many facets to the boundary review issue far broader than merely shifting lines on a map or shuffling numbers of students, teachers, support staff, or indeed electorate.

The federal proposal to change The Income Tax Act is of great concern. Manitoba teachers have worked diligently to make it possible for their members to retire without penalty at the age of 55. The society has contributed over \$3 million to achieve this goal. The benefits to both the labour force and to the education of our young people is without dispute. Many school divisions in our province have serious student decline

and, therefore, there are but a few new Faculty of Education graduates finding employment. The turnover of teachers in some divisions is minimal. The mixture of the wisdom of the experience with the enthusiasm of the new, something similar to what is found in the House today, is of a great value to provide for the desirable balance. The female teachers who have left their careers for parenting purposes are penalized to an even greater degree. I am certain that the Honourable Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) and the Honourable Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) will respond to the federal tax reform recommendation, if they have not already done so.

I would be remiss if I did not spend just a few moments stating my own particular concerns for an issue that has been circulating for a long long period of time. If you were all constituents of Sturgeon Creek, I bet you would recognize that I am talking about the bridge.

There have been several proposals dating back, I believe, to the late 1950s with regard to the possibility of building some sort of bridge linking the south end of Moray Street with the north end of Haney Street, or some such other Charleswood location depending on the year the study was done. Many of the residents agree that perhaps some sort of a link might be advantageous. But with this latest proposal of a fairly massive corridor system and a six-lane superstructure, the ilk and ire of many of the residents of Moray Street, Assiniboine Crescent, etc., has certainly been raised. From a provincial point of view, I would think that the Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) should be giving careful consideration to this proposal. I must admit I was very relieved when I attended the community committee meeting just last week to hear that that particular group unanimously rejected the current proposal, but I shall be following eagerly the next chapter in this ongoing saga.

At this point, I would like to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly or those of you who remain for your indulgence. I learned long ago that the Members on the opposite side of the House are experts at shooting from the lip. I learned just last week and this week that, in order to survive in the House, one must realize that an individual gets up to speak, nobody listens, and then everybody is supposed to disagree.

I am looking forward to the next few weeks, sitting in the House, to the next possibly several months in the main Opposition Party and would hope that in this particular capacity, we may serve the collective people of Manitoba in a responsible, sensitive manner. I am certainly looking forward in the not too far distant future with our own competent thought-filled Leader with that voice of distinction as the First Minister, accompanied by this particular group of 19, plus additional northern, rural and urban Liberal MLAs, when our location in the House will be that of one facing westward.

Thank you.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was considering maybe asking if the House consider it be 12:30, but maybe it would be a

good opportunity to get started today and we can conclude the remarks on Monday. Tuesday? Tuesday. The Legislatures are very very powerful places and can do great things. They can change Mondays to Tuesdays and all kinds of things like that.

I say how pleased I am today to stand in the Manitoba Legislature on this great day in July of 1988 as Minister of a Government which I have worked very hard to get to be in. Far too many years have passed since I have sat on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, years which have been very difficult, ones which as a positive person have found very difficult to be negative as one sometimes has to be in Opposition.- (Interjection)- I think probably we would be better to stay with Friday today. It is Mondays that we can change to Tuesdays you see, not Fridays.

As I was indicating, it is very difficult to sit in Opposition and put in years of trying to tell what we felt were a Government that were not prepared to listen, and far too many examples of that are on the record as to not listening to the people of Manitoba, whether it was their record of handling the Crown corporations, whether it was their record of handling the financial affairs of the province in dealing with the borrowing of money abroad, far too many areas they would not listen to the Opposition.

There is a real meaningful role for the Opposition. I am sure that the 19 new Members of the Liberal Party will have the opportunity for many years to learn that role and I wish them well in carrying it out. I do say it is somewhat refreshing to have them in the Chamber, I think, with positive ideas, new ideas and positive ideas, not so far to the left as the New Democrats, probably further to the right than the present-day Conservatives. We will see what kind of a mix comes out of it, because I do believe the people of Manitoba have given us as legislators — the people of the North wanted the NDP, and lo and behold they got it. The people of the south and the rural parts of the area wanted the Conservatives, and that is what they got. The people of the city were determined to have the Liberal Party, and that is what they got. Our mandate is to make it work. I tell, you with the Premier (Mr. Filmon) and the Cabinet and the fine caucus that we have, I can guarantee that we will make it work for a long long time.

The Throne Speech, which I should have a copy of here someplace — I get so many files I am going to have to get somebody in to start looking after them, but anyway we will try and get a go at it here.

As Minister responsible for Northern and Native Affairs, I have to say I am extremely proud and pleased to accept that responsibility. I am extremely proud and pleased to see you as a neighbouring colleague as the Speaker of the Assembly. My colleagues who I have sat with before, I look forward to working with them as Government. And I do look forward, as I say, to the Members of the Opposition contributing in a positive way to the betterment of Manitoba. One cannot expect a lot of positive ideas to come from the New Democrats who have had far too many years to devastate this province and to ruin a lot of good opportunities that we had, whether it is in the North, whether it is in hydro,

whatever it may be. Their best ability was to spend money, to tax people and to not listen to the kind of direction the people wanted to go. Enough about that, I have had far too many years of speaking negatively. Now it is time to talk positively about what the Government of Manitoba is going to do.

* (1220)

In Northern Affairs and Native Affairs portfolio, along with the other Crown corporations that I have the responsibility of looking after, I say this and I say it particularly to the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton) who for some strange reason feels that, if you are from the south part of the province, you cannot look after something in the north, or if you are from the north you cannot look after something from the south or the east or the west. I ask him to take a look around him, in fact, right across the aisle. I believe the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) comes from the southern part of this country — I'm sorry, from North America, not particularly from Canada but originated in the United States. Is he questioning the ability of his colleague to look after the constituents of Churchill because he does not happen to come from Manitoba originally or he happened to live in some other part of the country south of that particular jurisdiction? I say that is not being responsible. However, again back to the positive side, I just thought I would bring that to the attention of the MLA for Thompson.

In fact, I am quite prepared to lay before this Assembly, as the Minister of Northern Affairs, the amount of times that I have visited the North since I have been elected and appointed as Minister. I think I have been in Thompson more times than the Member has been in the last two-and-a-half months. Within four days of being appointed, I had the privilege to be at a graduation of the social work graduates out of Thompson. I was extremely proud to be there with those graduating students because, I tell you, the most important thing we have in Manitoba, whether you are north, south, east or west, are the people, particularly the young people and particularly the need to give them the same opportunities that you and I had as young people in Manitoba — the opportunity for a good job, the opportunity for the services that we require as a society at large. It is our responsibility and we will carry out that mandate to give those opportunities to the young people.

I tell you it is deplorable, the conditions that were left for the Conservative Government and the supporting Liberal Party in Manitoba to clean up in northern Manitoba after the New Democratic administration. Shameful! Shameful! Rates of unemployment of 80 percent to 90 percent — would you believe that? It is not coming from me; it is coming from those many communities that I have visited in the North. That is who it is coming from. It is not coming from a new Minister. It is coming from those dedicated hard-working community leaders in the North who are tired of being told that the New Democratic Party was their answer.

Five times in Thompson, since I was appointed as Minister, I have visited the communities of The Pas, of Flin Flon, of Churchill, Sherridon. Let me stop on

Sherridon for a minute because we have had a community that was almost devastated by the former administration. We had continual visits by the mayor of that community, wanting what? A road, 70 kilometers of road to get to their community where there is a new gold mine operating. Yes, they wanted a road so that they could communicate with the rest of society and the people who were working in that community would feel as if they could move in and out. They were devastated by the lack of action by the former administration.

We have already gone to work and provided some road work and activity. We have committed funds to clean up some of the water problems that they have as far as purity is concerned. We care about the North and are committed to develop the North.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): On a point of order . . . instruct the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) to abide by the Rules of the House and not cast aspersions on others and not, Mr. Speaker, attempt to distort the facts. I would ask whether the Member for Arthur would be prepared to entertain a question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) does not have a point of order.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, I am more than prepared to answer a question from the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). We have 40 minutes every day to answer questions and he has not seen fit to ask me one yet. Why all of a sudden is he so anxious to ask me a question? Why now is the priority to ask a question of northern Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, let me continue. He will have weeks and weeks and weeks to ask me questions in this Legislature, and I invite him to do so.

Sherridon, a fine community with a new gold mine and an opportunity for growth, we will do everything we can to help that community grow. I have to say as well, and this reminds me of an opportunity that I had and the unique opportunity to take my legislative assistant with me and a new colleague, Parker Burrell from Swan River. He is a fine gentleman and knows the North probably better than anyone else from the former administration, who should have known what it was all about, who pretend to be the great saviours of the north.

I also had the opportunity to have my son, Ryan, with me who had a tremendous opportunity to see really what is going on. I speak to the educators, our Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), and to those who some day would be, however may never accomplish it. I believe that what we need are more opportunities for our young people of the south to interchange and exchange programs with the north. Let us learn about one another in southern and northern Manitoba. Let us do some school exchanges. Let us show each other the opportunities that we have. Why are we always going other directions? East, west, further south, or abroad, we have foreign exchanges. Let us have some internal activities, let us have some internal related activities.

We were to Berens River, again where their community had been devastated by the forest fires and again lack

of employment opportunities under the former administration. The story goes on and on, a legacy that no one should be proud of, and I would say particularly those who champion to be those saviours of the north. Gods Lake Narrows, and I will tell you it is named Gods Lake Narrows because it truly is God's country. The name is proper and the people are just tremendous. They treated us fantastically.

We went on to Shamattawa, and I say this about the community of Shamattawa and the many stories that we hear. There are many many fine people who live in that community. All they want is an opportunity to share in those modern-day activities in society that is going on. We have to work very sincerely to try to help those young people to show them that there are opportunities and things to do that are real, and they do not have to depend on the types of things that they are using to take their minds off their daily activities.

Cross Lake, Shamattawa, Norway House, St. Theresa Point, and when I mention St. Theresa Point, I want to update the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton), the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) on all the misleading comments they are making about my colleague's Community Places Program. I do say this with the greatest of respect for the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) who used terminology that is not becoming to a Member of the Legislature of any province, that the changes in that program verged or bordered on racist. That is the worst terminology that any respected, responsible person should ever use who is elected to Assembly.

I think that each and every one of us here should show the leadership and not talk that way. We should show example and set by example the kinds of things that we should do to meld our communities together. The Community Places Program policy for Indian reserves did not change one iota. The policy of our Government is exactly the same as the former administration when it came to the Indian reserves of this province, not one policy change.

The Garden Hill project that was promised by the former Minister of Cultural Affairs was done so by a letter without Treasury Board approval, without Cabinet approval, and the Department of Northern Affairs under the Honourable Member for Rupertsland recommended against that program. So to use that kind of argument, to spread that kind of myth is absolutely and totally irresponsible. We cannot tolerate that any longer. The

people voted that kind of misleading, that kind of statement, that kind of non-commitment to the genuine melding of Manitoba together, they voted that out in April.

I am going to make sure that it stays out and stays out for a long time, because I will disclose everything I can to show all the people, and particularly my Liberal friends, just what kind of people they were. I know they came to the Legislature feeling the acrimony that it was a bad place, that it was not parliamentary. I can tell you, if you sat across from what we sat across from for as long as we did, you would have the same feeling and would be very difficult to control. We just hope that you are able to contain yourselves and live up to what the commitment was by your Leader as far as House activities are concerned. We will do everything we can to help guide you and, as I said, make sure you stay in Opposition.

I want to speak further on the Community Places Program because, Mr. Speaker, it is important that, when you set down policy guidelines, they are lived up to. That is what we were doing. We were living up to the policy guidelines, the recommendations of the former New Democratic Party Government and that is why the Garden Hill community did not get support. It was not the Conservative Government, it was the NDP that cut that community out of that Community Places Program. So let us again sort out and straighten out the record.

An Honourable Member: Why did you cut back two projects in Thompson?

Mr. Downey: The Member says, why did we cut back two projects in Thompson. Let me tell you again that the projects in Arthur, the projects in Brandon, the projects in every community that were on the drawing boards of the former administration got exactly the same treatment. They were all treated equally, absolutely and totally equally. The policy applied equally across Manitoba. We did not sort out any particular community.

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 12:30 p.m., I am interrupting proceedings according to the Rules. When this motion is again before the House, the Honourable Minister will have 24 minutes remaining.

The House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., Tuesday next.