



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

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

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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
BURREL, 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.	Virten	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 22, 1988.

The House met at 10 a.m.

### PRAYERS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Speaker:** Before proceeding to Oral Questions, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence at the Table of Bonnie Greschuk, who has been appointed Clerk of Committees to replace Sandra Clive who resigned in May. I am sure all Members will wish to welcome her to the staff of the Assembly. I overlooked this yesterday and therefore asked Ms. Greschuk to be present in the House today.

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

#### Decentralization rural services

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Speech from the Throne, we heard a speech filled with words like "studies," "enhancement," "consultation," but there were a number of problems affecting the rural residents of this province that received very scant attention indeed.

What is this Government's program with regard to decentralization, I would ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), of services to rural Manitoba, an essential step if the vitality of Manitoba outside the boundaries of Winnipeg is to be maintained; or is this decentralization to be restricted to opening an office in Ottawa?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to respond to the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) with respect to the issue of decentralization. It has been an area that I have been committed to and my colleagues in Government have been committed to for a long long time.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), of course, was not in this Legislature. I am not sure she may not have been in this province during the Lyon administration when we, as a Government, decentralized a number of areas. We decentralized planning offices; we decentralized Natural Resources offices. We put the Water Services Board in the City of Brandon. We made a commitment; in fact, we put our money where our mouth was and we decentralized government services, because we believed that it was in the best interests of all Manitobans.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that recently in travelling throughout Manitoba, in fact in the City of Brandon, I met with representatives of the municipal Government there, representatives of the Industrial Development Commission, and I committed to them that we, as a Government, would look for every opportunity to

decentralize services outside of the City of Winnipeg into other areas of Manitoba because of our commitment to a strong, vibrant, healthy and vital Manitoba throughout this entire province.

\* (1005)

#### Rural services enhancement

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** That is fascinating, considering there was no mention of it yesterday in the speech.

But to the First Minister again, the drought conditions and the crop failures has undermined the quality of life in rural Manitoba. Therefore, it is essential that services be enhanced. What is this Government's position with regard to the extension of telephone services, particularly the elimination of party lines from 40,000 Manitobans?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that when we were in Opposition, we were the people who were raising the issue of rural telephone service. It was not she, it was not any of her Members — who were not here of course at that time — it was the Conservative Party in Opposition who raised the issue of rural telephone service and the need to ensure that we had broader areas for toll charges, that we would eliminate party lines as quickly as possible. Those were commitments that we made.

Of course, that was not able to be done under the former administration because they spent \$27 million on the sands of Saudi Arabia, so there was no money to improve rural telephone service. We have a commitment to work with rural Manitobans to improve their telephone service, and they will be pleased with our actions.

#### Rural telephone enhancement

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** One has to ask why it was not in the speech yesterday since everything else was in that speech yesterday.

To the First Minister (Mr. Filmon): Will this Government finally provide, to communities like Dugald and St. Francois Xavier, the ability to call the City of Winnipeg without a long-distance charge, a position frequently espoused by his Government when they were in the Opposition?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I will begin by saying that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) was quoted as accusing us of being too ambitious, of putting too much in the Throne Speech, but now she says there was not enough in the Throne Speech. Will she make up her mind?

I will say that my Minister responsible for the Telephone System (Mr. Findlay) is very conscious of

the needs of the people of St. Francois Xavier and of Dugald, and is going to be doing everything possible within the financial capability of the Telephone System to address their needs as quickly as possible.

### **HSC - In-vitro Fertilization Program cancellation**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a new question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), and once again asking to set some priorities, rather than this magnificence, the Health Sciences Centre has announced the In-vitro Fertilization Clinic will be abandoned. Your Health Minister (Mr. Orchard) today has uttered sympathetic phrases, but has provided no concrete proposals to help this program continue so that infertile couples can have the opportunity for treatment.

I ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) why has this Government been unwilling to undertake a study of the actual monthly costs of providing these services which, in recent months, according to both patients and doctors, indicate an almost break-even position?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, that is a matter that my Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has been working on extensively, and has had many discussions and consultations. It is a matter within his jurisdiction, and I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) ask that question directly of the Minister of Health.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** With a supplementary also to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), the debts acquired by this program must still be paid by the citizens of the Province, and that will not disappear even if the program regrettably disappears. Surely, the issue now is the ongoing monthly costs. Will the First Minister order the health ministry to undertake a proper evaluation of the monthly costs, minus the debt and the servicing charges on debt, and report that study to the Legislature as soon as possible?

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, that is a matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and the Minister of Health. We, on this side of the House, believe that "Minister responsible" should mean something, unlike what the other administration, the previous administration did, where the Ministers kept coming here and saying they were not responsible, because my Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) has been working on that issue and has been consulting with many people and speaking, I am sure, with more of the players in that particular issue, the in-vitro fertilization issue, than the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I will have him answer that question directly to the Leader of the Opposition.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, to correct the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) in her first question, there has been no request by the Health Sciences Centre to provide funding for the continuation of the In-vitro Fertilization Program at that Centre. The reason the Health Sciences

Centre and its administration have not made that request is that they have decided, through substantial analysis by their experts in program management, their financial analysts, their vice-presidents of medicine, that they have priorities in health care that exceed the demand.

Madam Speaker, or Mr. Speaker —

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Orchard:** — pardon me, Mr. Speaker, for that Freudian slip of my ongoing and enduring fondness for the previous occupant of your high office.

The entire administration of the Health Sciences Centre has given the In-vitro Fertilization Program a very extensive and complete review. They have decided that within the program mandate of the Health Sciences Centre they could not continue the program, and they did not ask the Province of Manitoba for funding because, should additional monies be made available to the Health Sciences Centre, they had a number of more pressing medical and health priorities that they would dedicate that resource to.

I am not in a position to second-guess the financial expertise of the Health Sciences Centre, and I suggest to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that she might avail herself of some additional information by direct contact with that same administration that made that decision not to continue the funding, nor to ask the province for funding to do same.

\* (1010)

### **Health care funding**

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** With a final question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Is the example of a closure of a program, such as the In-vitro Fertilization Clinic, which provides services not only to Manitobans but to northwestern Ontario couples, and couples in Saskatchewan, an example of the enhanced Medicare program we are going to have under this Conservative Government as announced in the Speech from the Throne yesterday?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** No, Mr. Speaker, it is not. The examples of our commitment to health are our commitment that we will not have any permanent bed closures in our major hospitals in Manitoba, as we experienced under the former administration; that we will provide the needed funding to ensure that River House continues to provide the function that will be required to women, women requiring treatment for alcohol and drug abuse. Those are the kinds of commitments we are making; the kind of commitment we said we would ensure, that there would be CAT scans and more diagnostic treatment facilities for people who need it in this province, and that we will ensure that the dollars go where they are required to provide quality health care in Manitoba, and we will choose our priorities wisely. Those are the commitments we have made and those are the commitments we will keep to the people of Manitoba.

### Meech Lake Accord - Senate reform

**Mr. James Carr (Fort Rouge):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Honourable First Minister. Those of us who share the First Minister's zeal for a reformed and elected Senate were encouraged by his support for the idea expressed at the Western Premiers' Conference. We are a little dismayed though that the Throne Speech suggests that the opportunity for Senate reform will be enhanced by the passage of the Meech Lake Accord.

Would the First Minister tell this House why it would be easier to persuade 10 Premiers rather than seven?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Executive Council):** Mr. Speaker, the obvious answer to that is that Quebec is not a signator of the Constitution and Quebec is not able to be persuaded to be a participant in Senate reform or to be a part of Senate reform without Meech Lake. So only with Meech Lake can we have Senate reform, and I might say to the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) that experts across the country, legal advisors to the Government of British Columbia, to the Government of Alberta, to the Government of Saskatchewan, all of whom are supporters and with me issued a joint communique in support of the Triple E Senate as our Party did in its last annual meeting. The only way in which we can get Senate reform is if we have all 10 provinces as members of this federation of ours, as members of Canada, and there will not be Senate reform without it. Unfortunately, the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) has not got very good advice on that and does not understand the issue.

**Mr. Carr:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the First Minister who, as a Premier, should know that Quebec is every much a part of the Canadian Constitution today as it will be next week or in two years from now. The First Minister has every opportunity to make his arguments.

My question to the First Minister is, does he intend to raise the issue of an elected Senate at the First Ministers' Conference scheduled for later this summer?

**Mr. Filmon:** I will continue to be a strong proponent of a Triple E Senate, of an elected Senate, because I believe it. Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) that on behalf of my Government we will do everything possible to achieve Senate reform and the first step towards that is the passage of the Meech Lake Accord. I would hope that the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), if he truly supports Senate reform, will be supporting that resolution.

**Mr. Carr:** My last supplementary is to the First Minister who must have wonderful powers of persuasion to take his nine colleagues from across the country and turn them around to his view, and we will anxiously await how persuasive he can be.

My question is, when does the First Minister intend to unveil his Government's specific proposals for an elected Senate so the idea may be fully debated by all Members of this House?

**Mr. Filmon:** Firstly, I thank the Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) for the confidence that he has expressed in me and I can assure him that I will live up to that confidence. Mr. Speaker, we will unveil our plans for Senate reform after we have dealt with the issue of constitutional reform and Meech Lake so that we are in a position to put it as the No. 1 issue on the agenda of the First Ministers, and the way in which we can accomplish that is through the passage of the Meech Lake resolution.

### Free Trade - Water resources protection

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Indeed all Manitobans have been very very concerned over the last year or two of the tremendous drought and its conditions and impact on Manitobans. Of course, we are all very concerned on the potential effect of the greenhouse effect on North America and indeed Manitoba. Water is one of our most precious commodities, and I would ask the First Minister what assurances can he give Manitobans as our First Minister that water and the preservation of Manitoba's water supply is not threatened or in jeopardy by the proposed Reagan-Mulroney trade agreement?

\* (1015)

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** The Leader of the New Democratic Party is espousing the view, which has been discredited by experts throughout this country, that in some way the Free Trade Agreement will force us to sell our water to the Americans. Indeed, we are under no obligation, either now or with the Free Trade Agreement, to sell our water to the Americans. I can tell him that I, as a Leader of the Government of Manitoba, would not in any way entertain the sale of water to the Americans, and I do not think that any right-thinking government would. That is why that is not an issue of the Free Trade Agreement and, no matter how hard he tries to misrepresent the Free Trade Agreement, fortunately, there are experts, there are people who understand the legal implications of the agreement who have said unequivocally that water is not an issue and that we are not in any way required to sell our water under the Free Trade Agreement to the Americans.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, given the fact that there are three water basins flowing into Manitoba, all of which are outside of the jurisdictions directly, as they begin and initiate outside of this province, and I am sure the First Minister knows that; and given the fact that his so-called expert, John Crosbie, has stated he has not even read the agreement — I hope the First Minister has — maybe he can tell the House whether he has read the agreement or not.

**An Honourable Member:** Have you read it?

**Mr. Doer:** Yes I have. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know the specific assurances Manitobans have that our water is not being threatened under the proposed Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement. He has given me a lot of rhetoric

but he has not given us any assurances, and I would ask him whether he has read it and where are the specific sections in that agreement to protect Manitobans?

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, I have read summaries, I have read briefings, I have had our staff in the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology read the agreement and they are absolutely and fully satisfied that there is nothing within that agreement that requires us to sell our water to the Americans, and there is nothing that the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) can show us that demonstrates that we have to sell our water to the Americans. It is time that he stopped trying to raise that red herring as an issue, because it is not in the agreement and he has no evidence that it is in the agreement, and it is a phony scare tactic that will not work because people have common sense and know a lot better.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely nothing in the agreement. Canada asked for water to be excluded. The Americans said no to Canada, and Canada accepted the agreement the way it is presently worded. By any expert, water is a commodity and a good that can be traded across the borders in this agreement. There is nothing in this agreement and you have not given this House any assurance that there are any measures to protect Manitoba from another water basin, transferring water to the United States. We know the U.S. politicians just after Canadian water. We know that they have said publicly that is going to be one of the solutions to the future greenhouse effect, and empty rhetoric is not enough to protect and give the assurances to Manitobans and their children on water being exported to the United States through this proposed Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement.

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Member for Concordia that there is nothing in the agreement that obliges us or forces us or, in any way, causes us to have to divert our water or send our water to the United States. I can tell him that as long as we are in Government — and that will be for some time in the future — we will not allow the Red River water to be diverted into the United States; we will not allow the Assiniboine water to be diverted into the United States; we will not allow the Winnipeg River water to be diverted into the United States.

And I can tell this Member for Concordia that if he thinks that some New Democrat or some Liberal Leader, many many decades in the future, will allow that to happen, I can say that the people of Manitoba would dump on them and they would not be in government for very long indeed.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, the river systems that you have described start in other jurisdictions, other provinces, some of which start in the United States.

We saw the same limp answer from other Ministers of the Government when we were dealing with the Rafferty-Alameda Dam. All this love, trust and pixie dust with the federal Government on water and you have given no assurances to Manitobans. It is time you

get specific in terms of the protection we will have for our future water supply.

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, I have given him the assurance. We will not let it happen. If some fool New Democrat in the future wants to let it happen, that is their problem.

\* (1020)

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Concordia with a final supplementary.

**Mr. Doer:** I would ask the First Minister to table the assurances Manitoba has. He always describes the situation as unique to Manitoba. I would point out to the First Minister that there are three other water basins that flow into Manitoba. We do not have total control of our water supply when they start in other jurisdictions, and he has not answered that issue.

**Mr. Filmon:** It is not in the agreement. There is no obligation in any way in the agreement for Canadians to sell their water to the United States. That is the assurance that he has got, and he has nothing in there to say that his position is right whatsoever. It is one of those false positions that are being put forward by New Democrats and Liberals across this country, fearmongering to try and scare our young people and our citizens who do not know what the situation is. It is not in the agreement.

### Water resources protection legislation

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is related to the liberalized trade efforts that the Throne Speech made reference to yesterday and, in light of the uncertainty regarding water, my question is to the Minister of Trade (Mr. Ernst).

I would like to be assured that, as the government has indicated that they do not believe that the trading of water, as indicated in Section 22-1 of Articles of the Free Trade Implementation Agreement, that water is not part of the saleable commodity, what separate legislation will you bring in to assure this House that the rights of Manitoba's natural resources, such as water, will be protected, a separate legislation that will give us that area of comfort?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I do not think that there is anything that any government could say that would give the Liberals and the New Democrats comfort on the Free Trade Agreement. They are opposed to it; they are totally and completely opposed to it, and they are trying to raise, through irrational fear tactics, issues that are not in the Free Trade Agreement by any expert's analysis. I can tell him and assure him that the requirement to sell water to the United States is not in the Free Trade Agreement.

He does not understand that. The Liberals do not understand it, and no other government in the country, perhaps with the possible exception of Mr. Peterson,

who is trying to make a desperate political issue out of it, he is the only one in the country who is trying to pass provincial legislation where none is required, and he has been shot down in flames by everybody else across the country.

**Mr. Angus:** My question to the Minister of Trade (Mr. Ernst) is in relation, not to free trade, but to the protection of water.

Will you assure this House that you will put your money where your mouth is and bring in legislation that will be clear on its face that the rights of Manitobans to protect their water, regardless of the possible implementation of free trade, is protected?

**Mr. Filmon:** I have told the Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) that there is no requirement under the Free Trade Agreement, so why would we pass legislation where no concern exists? There is indeed no concern that our water could be sold to the Americans or we could be obliged to sell our water to the Americans under the terms of the Free Trade Agreement. That is not just my opinion; that is the opinion of people right across this country. There have been many, many provinces who have supported it, who have read it, worked with it and indeed the federal Government, with all of its experts in trade and in the legal aspects of the agreement, have indicated that there is no obligation within that agreement for us to have to sell water to the Americans.

**Some Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

\* (1025)

### Free Trade - blood commercialization protection

**Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert):** My question is to the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). It is along the same lines, Mr. Speaker.

In light of the fact that the federal Minister has confirmed that if the Free Trade bill is passed that the commercial American blood banks would be entitled to operate in Canada, will the Minister explain to this House what legislation will be offered to protect Manitobans from the American commercialization of Canadian blood?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Madam, or Mr. Speaker, pardon me. My profound apologies to you, Mr. Speaker.

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) might be aware that currently a number of blood products are imported from American firms in the business of providing blood fractions as needed in the medical system of Canada. Those blood fractions must pass all Canadian standards and meet all of the standards necessary to ensure the continued health and safety of those recipient patients of those blood products.

I would suspect that if any American firm currently in that business wished to locate and manufacture in Manitoba or Canada, for the purpose of providing blood

products to Manitobans and Canadians in need of those products for the continuation of their health - and indeed in some cases their life - that they would be obliged to follow the very stringent Canadian regulations and standards for the provision of those products. Those standards have protected, in the vast majority of cases with few exceptions, the continued good health and life of Canadians. I expect that circumstance would be completely continued under any new investment in Canada by anyone, whether it be from the United States, Europe or Japan, for investment in provision of blood fracturing products if the market opportunity were there.

**Mr. Angus:** A final supplementary, if I may.

**Mr. Speaker:** With a final supplementary, the Member for St. Norbert.

**Mr. Angus:** Does that mean, to the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) that Canadians in fact will be able to sell pints of blood for money to the Americans on the street corners in convenience clinics like we buy milk or drink water?

**Mr. Orchard:** That may be the conclusion that the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus) would make, but I believe his conclusion would indeed be error and reflects a rather distinct misunderstanding of how the Red Cross free donor service, voluntary donor service works in this country and in this Province. There is no sale of blood in Manitoba, there is no sale of blood in Canada. The Red Cross, as an institution, operates across this Province on a voluntary blood donation system which is the envy of the world and, I would suspect, will continue to be the envy of the world.

### Free Trade - retraining programs

**Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women in Manitoba (Mrs. Oleson). As the Minister is no doubt aware, the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal extends to the service sector. The service sector accounts for 70 percent of total employment in Canada, and indeed 85 percent of women in the labour force are employed in the service sector. There is no question that the removal of the trade barriers in this deal that has been proposed could lead to a massive and permanent loss of jobs. As a matter of fact, the federal Minister of Employment has already indicated a loss of .5 million jobs are possible because of the deal.

My question to the Minister (Mrs. Oleson) is: Given the fact that the Mulroney Government does not plan an assistance program to retrain workers made redundant by the deal, what steps would she take as a Minister and what steps would her department take to develop retraining and employment programs and opportunities for the displaced persons, displaced workers in the service sector of this province?

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security):** I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

There are some, I think, mostly rumours that there will be huge job displacement. There may be changes in jobs, but there is no indication that I can find that there will be a massive loss of jobs. In fact, there have been many indications that jobs will be increased across Canada and particularly in Manitoba.

As I said, there may be some changes due to the initiatives of this company or that company in response to free trade which will change the picture and the form of jobs. In that case, the federal Government has promised that there will be a contingency for changes in job opportunities, in job training. This Province does the job training in some areas. It could be expanded if it was found to be necessary. At this point, I do not see that it is necessary, and we would certainly monitor it very closely after the agreement has passed.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister (Mrs. Oleson) referred to the fact that there was no guarantee, no real evidence there would be loss of jobs. I would remind her that the former Minister, Mr. Bouchard, himself had indicated a loss of 500,000 jobs were possible in this country, and the great portion of those would be in the service sector.

The Minister has in her response made reference in a general way to hoping that there would not be much negative impact. I would like to ask her: Has she had an analysis made by her staff? She has a lot of competent research staff. Has she had an analysis made. . . .

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Evans:** I suspect she is not in communication with them.

Has she had an analysis made? Can she give this House information on the negative impact, particularly on the service sector and particularly as it affects women in this Province? Has she had an analysis made, and would she make that information available to this House?

**Mrs. Oleson:** If such an eventuality happens that there were to be jobs lost, it is very important to this Government that everyone have jobs in Manitoba. I have asked the Women's Directorate to do an analysis of the Free Trade Agreement with particular notice to the concerns of women. That, no doubt, will be part of that study.

\* (1030)

**Mr. Evans:** Would the Honourable Minister be prepared to meet with individuals and groups, organizations from Manitoba who are concerned about the loss of jobs, particularly in the service sector as I said? Will she be prepared to meet with them and hear their concerns, and perhaps discuss a course of action to overcome this loss of jobs that we are threatened with in this province?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I am glad that the Member gave me the opportunity to remark that I have met with many, many

groups since I have taken office. Most of my calendar is filled with meetings listening to the concerns of groups. I will listen to every group that wants to meet with me. When I can timetable it, I am very happy to meet with them. I will be meeting on those concerns, as well as many others.

### Crop insurance enrollment

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

I am aware that the Minister is very concerned and has a good handle on what is going on in Manitoba. I am quite prepared, Mr. Speaker, to commend him on the initiatives that have been taken in support of the livestock industry, but I am particularly concerned with the situation as it relates to crops, particularly cereals and oilseeds. I am wondering whether the Minister can explain why producers have seen fit to only cover 47 percent of the eligible acreage with crop insurance in Manitoba. Is there an inherent problem in the system?

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** I thank the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans) for that question. Certainly, it is of grave concern to me as Minister and to the agricultural industry of the province that we only have 47 percent of the acres enrolled in crop insurance. It is a decision that producers have made to take the risk on their own shoulders, to not enrol in crop insurance. There have been some criticisms that have been levelled over the years about problems one way or another, level not high enough, this sort of thing.

It is my desire to work with the corporation and with the producer organizations of this province to try to improve crop insurance to make it more attractive to the rest of the producers so that they will see that it is a viable program and of benefit to them. It was a major point of discussion last week at the Ministers' of Agriculture meeting in Toronto, and we are strongly committed to getting more enrolled. But remember, it is a free choice by those producers who are not in to have not enrolled. We would like to see them in the future, and we will try our best to negotiate with them to get them in.

**Mr. L.E. Evans:** Considering the severity of the situation in 1988, is the Minister willing to allow producers to enrol retroactively in 1988?

**Mr. Findlay:** It is indeed an unfortunate situation that many producers are not in this year, but you know as well as I know as well as the previous Government knows that, if you allow that to happen, you destroy the integrity of the program for the many hundreds of producers who have been in it for a long period of time.

The only angle that we could offer help for them is to promote them through their organization, to meet with the federal Government in a series of meetings that are being held in the few weeks across Canada to try to demonstrate to that level of Government the degree of financial assistance that is needed in the Prairies on top of crop insurance. That is the only angle that is open.



### Drought assistance outside program

**Mr. Laurie Evans (Fort Garry):** It is obvious from the response from the other side that there is not the concern for the drought that we should expect, and I would ask the Honourable Minister (Mr. Findlay) then whether he is prepared to provide assistance to those producers who are outside the program.

**Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture):** To the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans). There is considerable help to the livestock sector, through the Green Feed Program. Grain producers can also produce green feed and have the opportunity to sell it. We recommend that they present their case to the federal Government when the meetings are held across western Canada and the rest of the country, and that we will also be speaking to the federal Government with the idea of supporting their interests in terms of getting some help to get the crop in, in 1989.

### Free Trade - Hydro price setting

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, I think the breadth of questions with respect to free trade this morning illustrates dramatically the view that Manitobans have that this agreement's implications are not well understood.

My question is for the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld). Yesterday there were some musings by the Minister about the ability of Manitoba Hydro to set export prices and his rather weak assurance that yes, Manitoba Hydro still maintained that ability even under the Mulroney trade deal. My question is can the Minister of Energy (Mr. Neufeld) confirm that the Free Trade Agreement limits the ability of Manitoba Hydro to set prices for Manitoba consumers, to set incentive rates for Manitoba industries?

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I believe if the Honourable Member for Flin Flon looks back on his question, he will discover that he is asking for a confirmation, and I think that Your Honour could probably tell the Honourable Member (Mr. Storie) that it is the Member's duty to ascertain the accuracy of the facts that he puts before the Minister in his question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Honourable Member for Flin Flon kindly restate his question.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Honourable Attorney-General was attempting to deflect the question. I will rephrase the question and replace the word "confirm" to ask the Minister whether he has directed his department to explore the effect of the Free Trade Agreement on the ability of Manitoba Hydro to use our hydro resource to promote the interests of Manitobans, to create jobs in Manitoba.

**Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister for Energy and Mines):** Mr. Speaker, the Department has an ongoing policy of reviewing the Free Trade Agreement.

I should tell the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) that contracts with exports are negotiated and it is the

trend of the contract, after negotiations, that will be met by both parties.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Storie:** The Minister (Mr. Neufeld) has misunderstood the question. The question is not with respect to export price. The question is: Has the Minister (Mr. Neufeld) directed staff to investigate the effect of the Free Trade Agreement on the ability of Manitoba Hydro, and therefore the provincial Government, to use Manitoba Hydro as an incentive to establish energy-intensive industries, to attract more business to the province? Can Manitoba, in effect, set a price which is at odds with an export price established in the United States to benefit Manitobans; that is the question.

**Mr. Neufeld:** Mr. Speaker, is the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) concerned about the price we are charging the Americans, or is he concerned about the price we are charging to Manitobans?

If the question is what price we are charging the Americans, of course we can charge what the market will bear. If he is asking whether the price is what we are charging Manitobans, we have to charge Manitobans of course more than the costs; but if he is asking whether or not we can use energy or hydro as a source for encouraging business to locate in Manitoba, that is a matter for government policy in subsidies and other encouragements.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for Oral Questions has expired.

### MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for the Interlake (Mr. Uruski), that, under Rule 27, the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, and that this Legislature call upon the Conservative Government to reconsider its decision not to fund the Health Sciences Centre In-vitro Fertilization Clinic.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before determining whether the motion meets the requirements of our rule, the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) has five minutes to state his case for urgency of debate on this matter. A spokesperson for each of the other Parties will also have five minutes to state the position of their Parties on this matter.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Speaker, before I get into the substance of the argument, I would have to comment on two comments that were thrown across the floor while you were making your comments and I was making my motion. The first was by the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), and he said that they have not been asked to fund the Health Sciences Centre In-vitro Fertilization Clinic and that my premise was wrong. What that shows

very clearly is that this is a Minister of Health, and this is a Government that does not listen to the people, because it may be that the Health Sciences Centre has not asked them to provide that funding, but there are dozens and dozens of couples who have explicitly asked them to provide that funding because it provides the only hope they have to have families in this province. So they have been asked and they have been asked by the people, the people who count.

Secondly, the Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) suggested that, when you indicated that we had five minutes to speak, that was all I really wanted. Let me assure the Member for Arthur that the NDP Opposition wants more than that. They want them to seriously reconsider their decision not to fund this program and to look out for the interests of Manitobans who need programs like this. So let him not cost those sorts of aspersions from his seat, or his feet, because they just will not wash in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Rule 27 affords Members of the Legislature the opportunity to ask that the ordinary business of this House be set aside so that matters of significant public importance to the citizens, not to the Health Sciences Centre, not to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) because we know it is not of importance to them from their reaction, but to the citizens of this Province, so that they can be dealt with by their elected representatives, all of us in this Chamber, elected representatives.

The closure of the In-vitro Fertilization Program at the Health Sciences Centre and the imminent, if it has not already started, dismantling of the program facility and the staff team certainly is a situation that is of great importance to the public, even if it is not important to them.

Mr. Speaker, one in six couples in this country - and that is a national figure - suffer some form of infertility problem, and this program can address those problems. Their suffering is very real. All they want to do is to complete their own family unit, and they are unable to do so. They seek nothing more for themselves than that which the other five couples in that group of six enjoy already, the chance to have a family, the chance to have children, the chance to raise the family on their own. So the problem is a very real one to each of the thousands of couples who suffer that sort of disadvantage.

\* (1040)

But it is also a very real problem for society, a society which builds its foundation upon a strong family unit. If our society, or any society, recognizes, as does ours, the value of the family, it then has to be concerned when one out of every six couples cannot participate in building that society through no fault of their own, and each and every one of us will be asked, I am sure, whether or not we share that concern. We have a chance today to stand and say, yes, we share that concern for the individuals and, as elected representatives, we share that concern for our province. So it is a major problem for individuals; it is a major problem for society.

The second requirement for an emergency debate is that the matter is of such urgency that it should be

dealt with immediately, and there is no other opportunity, reasonable opportunity, that would allow for that debate in a timely fashion. That is exactly the circumstance we face today. A few weeks ago, there was a program operating. Under the previous administration, there was a program operating, not perfect albeit, but a program was there in place and there was hope. That program was disbanded, not by the Government, granted, but by the Health Sciences Centre, day by day it will become increasingly difficult and even more costly to reassemble that program. So by the time we have completed the Throne Speech, it will be August and the chances of having the In-vitro Fertilization Clinic in place will have been greatly and significantly reduced.

The staff team will have left, equipment will have been moved. Couples now on the waiting list will have gone elsewhere or just given up hope. So action is required; it is required now. The Government can act, it is within their administrative ability, their administrative competence, and their administrative jurisdiction to fund this program through the MHSC.

So that is what the resolution asks. It asks that the ordinary business be set aside because we have an important issue and an urgent issue in front of us and, as responsible and reasonable legislators, each and every one of us, we can use this opportunity to convince the Government — not to force them but to convince them — to reconsider their decision not to fund the In-vitro Fertilization Program at least for one year so that a proper evaluation can be made and so that serious questions can be addressed, and so that those Manitoba families currently on the waiting list can once again have hope, and so that we can continue to build a stronger province through stronger families. We can do that, Mr. Speaker, if they wish; we can do it, if you wish, and the rules allow us that opportunity.

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** As I indicated earlier this morning in my question on the In-vitro Fertilization Clinic that we are dismayed that this Government and this Ministry has failed to react in a positive way to the needs of many infertile couples in the Province of Manitoba.

It is regrettable in that what is being requested is so very small an amount. We are going to have to pay the \$600,000 worth of debt accumulated in any case. What we are looking at now is the ongoing costs of this particular program. Regrettably, the (Mr. Orchard) has taken the position they have not formally asked him for help, but the Health Sciences Centre has asked for loan guarantees from any source, the parents involved and therefore, if not directly, most absolutely indirectly from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) of this Province of Manitoba.

The need for this program is clear. We do not have children to be adopted in the Province of Manitoba. They are simply not available to these families. They were available 20, 30 years ago, but they are not today. It is not an option. Therefore, these parents, these potential parents who desire to spend 20, 30 years of their lives in dedication to a child will have that opportunity denied to them in this province.

\* (1050)

It is not as if they are not prepared to bear much of the cost themselves. At the present moment in the program, some \$3,500 for an attempt is paid by the infertile couples who desire to be parents.

It is regrettable that the Minister has taken such a high-handed view in this whole issue. However, Mr. Speaker, there are certain rules which are required for emergency debate. One is that there is no other opportunity to discuss this issue. We have already raised it this morning, and I put the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) on notice that we will continue to raise it in Question Period. We will raise it in our replies to the Speech from the Throne; we will raise it in our Budget presentations. We will raise it indeed in the Estimates process.— (Interjection)— Yes, we will raise it until you, as a Government, finally solve the problem. We cannot solve it ourselves, Honourable Minister. It is required by you to solve the problem.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we do not believe that the rules need to be suspended today, because we do believe that there are alternative times to present our strong arguments. It is also our belief that if this Government is going to be responsive in any way, shape or form to the people of this province, they will act before we have indeed passed the Budget of this province.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to respond to the issue raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), and I appreciate the concern that he expresses. I also would comment that it is customary in this House that issues of this matter at this stage of proceedings are usually dealt with either by House Leaders or by the critics responsible. In this case, it would have been the Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), I believe — I expected to hear from him this morning on this issue — or the Government House Leader (sic), but it seems there is one voice opposite and maybe that is one of the problems they have.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe, with the exception of the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) near the end of her comments, either Honourable Member, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) or the Leader of the Opposition, dealt effectively enough or dealt at all with the matter of the urgency of the matter and the question of other opportunities. I do agree with the Leader of the Opposition who, near the end of her comments, suggested there are other opportunities available to Honourable Members, and so there are.

\* (1100)

So I must bring to Your Honour's attention some of the precedents involved here. I am sure that you, Mr. Speaker, having been here for the last couple of years, are very well aware of some precedents during that time. Previous to that, on March 18, 1985, Walding made a ruling regarding a request from Mr. Doern, and that same ruling was that the Speech from the Throne provides ample opportunity for wide-ranging debate on this matter and any other matter that Honourable Members choose to bring forward.

The same rulings, I remind you, Sir, were given by Madam Speaker Phillips on February 27 and March 3 of 1987, and on February 12 of 1988. There are other opportunities available so, certainly, shortly after conclusion of the Throne Speech Debate, we will have a debate on the Budget, which my colleague, the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) will be bringing forward, and that will provide further opportunity, as well as the Health Estimates which, subject to the length of time, will provide an ample opportunity for the critic for Health (Mr. Cheema) on the Liberal side, or the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), if she chooses to spearhead this issue, as well as all the others, and also the critics for the New Democratic Party.

So without going into further precedents, of which there are many, I believe the case has been made that the matter can be discussed at length and there are all kinds of opportunities for that. That is not to take away for a moment from the concern felt by some in this province and certainly by the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), which I respect. I do suggest though, the matter was dealt with earlier in Question Period today by the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) and the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), and as the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has said, the matter will be raised again and again, and so the matter will well be before the people of Manitoba.

### SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank all Members for their input, but in order for debate to proceed on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance, the Speaker must receive prior notice of the proposed motion; and I did receive such notice from the Honourable Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

Additionally, under our Rules and Practices, the subject matter requiring urgent consideration must be so pressing that public interests will suffer if it is not given immediate attention. There must be no other reasonable opportunities to raise the matter.

The Honourable Member will have numerous opportunities during the Throne and Budget Speech Debates and during the consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Health to raise this matter.

I can appreciate the Honourable Member's concerns about this particular subject, but I must inform him that in my view the conditions governing a Matter of Urgent Public Importance have not been met. Therefore, I must rule his motion out of order as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

\* (1110)

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of respect, I have to appeal your ruling.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair has been challenged. Shall the Ruling of the Chair be sustained? All those in favour, please say Yea; all those opposed, please say Nay. In my opinion, the Yeas have it.

**Mr. Cowan:** Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Quiet, please. Before putting a question and conducting a vote, in order to avoid any misunderstanding, I believe it would be appropriate for me to explain the recording sequence to be followed, as it differs from the practice of the last House.

When the Members of any two political parties are both voting on the same side of a particular question, the votes of all the Members of the Party with the larger number of Members will be recorded by row. Then the votes of the Party with the smaller number of Members will be similarly recorded.

The question before the House is, shall the Ruling of the Chair be sustained?

**A STANDING VOTE** was taken, the result being as follows:

### YEAS

Alcock, Angus, Burrell, Carr, Carstairs, Charles, Cheema, Chornopyski, Connery, Cummings, Derkach, Downey, Driedger (Emerson), Driedger (Niakwa), Ducharme, Edwards, Enns, Ernst, Evans (Fort Garry), Filmon, Findlay, Gaudry, Gilleshammer, Gray, Hammond, Helwer, Kozak, Lamoureux, Mandrake, Manness, McCrae, Minenko, Mitchelson, Neufeld, Oleson, Orchard, Pankratz, Patterson, Penner, Praznik, Roch, Rose, Taylor, Yeo.

### NAYS

Cowan, Doer, Evans (Brandon East), Harapiak, Harper, Hemphill, Maloway, Plohman, Storie, Uruski, Wasylycia-Leis.

**Mr. Clerk, William Remnant:** Yeas, 44; Nays, 11.

**Mr. Speaker:** The ruling of the Chair has been sustained.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**Mr. Darren Praznik (Lac du Bonnet):** It is moved by the Member for Lac du Bonnet, and seconded by the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as follows:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, in Session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address us at the opening of the present Session.

### MOTION presented.

**Mr. Praznik:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks today by assuring this House that I do not intend to give a speech of similar style as my predecessor in moving the Speech from the Throne some months ago in the last Session of the previous Legislature.

If I may begin today with my remarks, I would like to offer to you the congratulations of this House in

your election as Speaker. I am sure you will enjoy the confidence of all Members of this Assembly and that you have worked hard in the two previous years in the Assembly and have earned the job that you now have with us in this House. So I wish you well, Mr. Speaker, in your role as the new Speaker of this Assembly.

\* (1120)

I would also like to offer congratulations to our colleague, the new Deputy Speaker, the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko). The Member for Seven Oaks and I both attended Law School at the same time and were called to the Bar in the same year and know each other very well. I can say, as a friend of that Member, that he will serve this House well in the capacity of Deputy Speaker, and I would like to offer my congratulations to him at this time.

I would also like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Leader of my Party (Mr. Filmon) and congratulate him on his election as the Premier of Manitoba. It was certainly an honour that I am very thankful for to the Premier that he asked me to move this motion today, and for that I say thank you and congratulations to him and all the best in his tenure as Premier, which I am sure will be a long one.

It is also my privilege today to congratulate the Members of the Executive Council who have been appointed to their positions. I have known many of those individuals for a number of years now and I think they are very hard-working individuals and will serve the people of this province well in their endeavours during the course of this Legislature. So I wish them well and I know that their constituents and the people of Manitoba have great faith and trust in their abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also appropriate at this time to offer congratulations to the Honourable Member for River Heights, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). Given the increase in the seats held by her Party, something which is not a usual occurrence in Manitoba elections, it is certainly an achievement and I extend my congratulations to her. I wish her a long tenure in the role as Leader of the Opposition.

It is with some regret that I see the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer) has left the Chamber because. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** You cannot refer to a Member's absence.

**Mr. Praznik:** My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

I would at this time like to extend the congratulations to him of the Members of this House on his election as Leader of his Party. I think that is a tradition and certainly an appropriate one that this House extends to Members when they are elected Leaders of their Parties. As everyone can appreciate, we did not have that opportunity because we were in an election campaign. So I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to him.

I had the opportunity to work with the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) in his capacity as Minister of Urban Affairs while I was employed with

the Honourable Jake Epp and I found him to be a very hard-working and dedicated individual. I look forward to working with him in this Chamber and Members of his Party over the course of this Session. So again I extend my congratulations to him.

I think it also appropriate to congratulate the 24 other new Members of this Assembly who were elected on the 26th of April. As with myself, I am certainly finding this a very challenging occupation now to be employed in, as I am sure they are. As I look both across our Benches and across the Benches opposite, there are many individuals who I have worked with and known for many years on both sides of the House. I can say that many of them are individuals of great character, are hard-working individuals. Again, I look forward to working with them in this Session, and in many Sessions, to bring good government to the people of Manitoba. So I congratulate my fellow new Members in this Assembly.

This debate also provides this House and myself with an opportunity, which I think must be taken advantage of, to pay tribute to all of those Members of the previous House, the previous Legislature, who did not return, whether they retired or were defeated. Whether one agrees with a Member or his Party, whether one is in agreement with the action and the course they take in the House, one does have to recognize that there is a great deal of sacrifice that any individual of any Party must make in order to be in public life and to serve the people of Manitoba. I think that there is not one Member who has ever served in this Chamber who was not here out of a sense of responsibility to his province and wanting to achieve the best for it, whether we agree with that or not. So to all of those Members of the previous Legislature who are no longer here, I think it is an opportune time to pay tribute to them and thank them on behalf of the people of Manitoba for their service in this Chamber.

I would also like to take a moment if I may, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate one of my constituents, Miss Leanne Fisher of Lac du Bonnet, who will be returning to this Chamber as a Page. Although she is not here today and will be returning in September, I would like to wish her all the best for a very enjoyable Session.

Mr. Speaker, this is my first speech as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, but it is not my first speech in this Chamber. Growing up as a youth in Manitoba, I had the privilege of spending 10 of my Christmases in this Chamber as a member of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. In fact, I even had the honour of spending my last year in your Chair as Speaker of that organization, which was an honour bestowed upon outgoing Premiers. It certainly gave me great insight into the workings of the Legislature and of Parliament.

As I stand here today, many very good memories of my youth come back to me, and I look at many of the desks in this House that my colleagues occupy, and what comes back to me is memories of speeches that I gave from those desks and of great debates that we enjoyed and of much fellowship and much learning in a very formative part of one's life. So it is a great honour for me today be standing here not in the capacity

of a youth representative but as a full and duly elected Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, as all Members of this House are well aware, the opportunity to speak on the Speech from the Throne is an opportunity to speak about one's constituency. I would like to take some time now to say a few things about the constituency of Lac du Bonnet that returned me to this House as their representative. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the people of that constituency for accepting my wife Shelly and I so openly. We moved into the Village of Garson in Lac du Bonnet some four years ago, and it has become our home. As a very open and welcoming community, it has allowed us to sink very deep roots into it. We feel very much at home, that it is our home, and are very glad we chose to make that the place where we would raise a family and put down roots.

I would also like to thank the electors of Lac du Bonnet for returning me to this Legislature as their representative. As I am sure all Members feel following an election, it really is a great honour to be selected by one's fellow Manitobans to represent them in their Government and in their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure many other Members can claim of their constituencies, Lac du Bonnet is a very diverse riding with many contrasts. It is a rural constituency, yet it has five substantial urban centres. In fact, nearly 40 percent of its voters reside in urban centres.

Many of my constituents are employed in Winnipeg and are part of that growing commuter belt that exists around the city.

\* (1130)

Agriculture is also a very dominant and important industry in Lac du Bonnet. It is characterized by farms that are much smaller than in the western part of the province; it has a significant dairy industry, some livestock production, beef and cattle, poultry, wheat and oilseeds.

Like most of the agricultural parts of our province and western Canada, it is indeed suffering by the effects of drought and by low commodity prices. That happens to be, I think, one of the most pressing issues facing the constituents of Lac du Bonnet, not only those who are directly involved in agriculture, but also those who serve the agricultural community. I am very glad and very thankful for the initiatives that my colleagues have taken so far to alleviate some of the effects of the drought, and I congratulate them for that, as has the Member for Fort Garry (Mr. Evans). I hope that we can continue to see that help as the situation continues.

Along the Winnipeg River portion of my constituency one becomes very close to the natural resources of our province. If I may for a moment read an excerpt from a local history that was prepared and written by Elizabeth Caroline Lange of my constituency, and she talks of the Winnipeg River. "As for the lines," she said, "the list is endless. To name a few, there are traplines, fish lines, survey lines, airlines, hydro lines, railroad lines, telephone lines and written lines, all connecting our lives to the Winnipeg River."

Indeed, forestry plays a major role in the Lac du Bonnet constituency, being the employer of many many families with Abitibi Price in Pine Falls. Mining is another important element in the economy of the Lac du Bonnet-Winnipeg River district. Tanco Mines in the Lac du Bonnet region will be producing spodumene and tantalum and shipping it to points east. So the next time you receive a Corningware dish for Christmas, there will be a little bit of Lac du Bonnet in that dish in the form of the tantalum that goes into it.

Tourism — I would think that, along with my colleagues, the Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer) and the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch), our three constituencies, are probably more dependent on the tourism industry than perhaps the rest of Manitoba. We have large areas of cottage developments, of attractions for tourists, and it is an expanding and growing area in our part of the world, and one that I have begun to work very closely with the tourist groups since my election on the 26th of April. I would like to extend an invitation to all Members of this House, when they have the time, to visit us in that part of the world.

As well, along the Winnipeg River within my constituency, are five power dams. In fact, the first power dam in Manitoba, old Pinawa, is located just to the east of Lac du Bonnet. So the role of Hydro in supplying Winnipeg and Manitoba with its hydro-electric needs has always had a major role in the economy of our constituency.

In Pinawa, home of western Canada's premier research facility, I must say that I am very proud to represent Whiteshell Research and have it in my constituency. It is the largest employer in eastern Manitoba, employing some 1,200 people. Some of those employees live in the constituencies of Members opposite as they commute from Winnipeg. That facility, despite often being caught in the middle of wars between competing environmental groups, has been providing a tremendous amount of research and economic opportunities for this province.

The work that is carried on there in the area of waste management — and not just nuclear waste management but, of course, toxic waste management — the type of products that have been developed there, a generic alternative to Roundup for one example, all can provide our province, and my particular part of it, with some very sound economic base in the years ahead. As the Member for Lac du Bonnet, I intend to work very closely with them to develop those opportunities.

As well, the community of Pinawa has just recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of incorporation, which I think is a milestone for any community.

But of course, the constituency of Lac du Bonnet, since the election on the 26th of April, has really suffered three catastrophes or disasters. The first one with which I had to deal following my election was the fires that swept through the northern part of my constituency and the constituency of the Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer) and I would like at this time to pay tribute to all of the crews of the Department of Natural Resources and the volunteers who worked so diligently to fight those fires to preserve property and life.

Several weeks ago, we also suffered a tremendous wind storm. Although the television cameras covered the severe damage to the community of Gimli, the northern part of Lac du Bonnet constituency, on the east side of the lake, received tremendous damage from wind — house trailers overturned, barns pushed down, fences torn up, livestock lost — and as I toured that area with the Local Government District of Alexander council it became very evident just how fragile our world really is when put up against the forces of nature and, of course, the pervasiveness of the drought which is affecting again my constituency terribly, as agriculture plays an important role.

All three of these problems, as I have said, reinforce the belief, reinforce the realization of just how very fragile our whole world is before the workings of nature and just how much we are dependent or how often we take for granted what is there when it can be wiped away so easily, whether it be by fire, flood or by drought.

The people of Lac du Bonnet constituency are just as diverse as the terrain and the economic activity. They are people of all different backgrounds. Thousands of them, their ancestors, their family came from Eastern Europe to settle there. There is a First Nations community — Fort Alexander. I have the privilege and honour of representing some 1,200 Metis people. We have scientists and researchers from all over the world. They work hard and indeed are a strong community. There is much community involvement in projects and development and we work hard to ensure that our quality of life is there.

This community has a deep sense of its past, of where it is, how it struggles to be part of the Canadian mainstream, and if the House would indulge me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read an insertion into the local history of the Brokenhead-Beausejour district, a history entitled "They Stopped at a Good Place." This insertion is entitled "Our People" by one Mr. Michael Czuboka, and I think, if you bear with me, it very much epitomizes much of the background of the people that I represent.

### **Our People by Michael Czuboka**

Hundreds of hours have I spent, writing,  
Reading and rewriting these plaintive histories,  
Of these people, my people, whose exotic blood  
is in my veins;  
The Ukrainians, Poles and Germans, and even  
Anglo-Saxons, Romans, Celts and Scandinavians  
from distant centuries,  
When all of us wandered the misty, wild,  
uncivilized plains  
Of Europe as one tribe, the Europeans, one  
people, our people.  
And my heart was deeply touched and moved  
as I read their stories,  
Suffered their agonies, shared their triumphs,  
and understood their genius;  
And I remembered that my people, my own  
parents, were illiterate  
Galician-Ukrainian peasants, humble, scarcely  
knowing who they were,  
Humiliated, oppressed, virtually enslaved by  
harsh masters,

Until they came to Canada, the promised land  
of my own birth;  
Where they taught me to be proud to be a free  
Ukrainian and Canadian.  
The Austrian and other rotten empires from  
whence they came  
Have gone into merciful oblivion, into the stinking  
garbage cans  
Of history, fates well-deserved, but our people  
remain;  
In Canada we have thrived, gained freedom,  
nurtured our cultures,  
And helped to build the most blessed nation on  
Earth.  
Our Canada, with our people now spread across  
its wide face;  
And to those in early and later years who called  
us "bohunks",  
Or "dirty Galicians", or "square heads", and  
other names  
That were meant to hurt, I extend forgiveness,  
on behalf of our people;  
For we are now almost one people, the  
Canadians,  
And in the veins of my children flows the blood  
of Europeans,  
Celts, and Anglo-Saxons, and in the generations  
to come  
We will all share our blood even more completely.  
But we will remember our origins, the distant  
and mysterious  
Places from which we came, two, three and four  
generations ago;  
And we will express admiration for our sturdy  
forefathers,  
The salt of the Earth, who cleared the land, built  
the railways  
And cut the forests so that our children could  
lead better lives.  
All of us are destined to stop briefly at this good  
place only once,  
But we have really been here before, and will  
remain forever  
In the lives we lead, in the stories we tell, in the  
histories we write,  
In the children we leave, in the faith in God we  
hold,  
In this country, Canada, the land of our people,  
my people.

\* (1140)

Mr. Speaker, the people of my constituency have worked long and hard over many generations to be part of this country, and I would like to just reiterate briefly a story that had a profound effect on my life and perhaps explains why I sit on this side of the House today and not on the other side.

When I was a young man in high school, I had the opportunity to attend the Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa. It was at a time in our nation's history shortly after the election of the Parti Quebecois in Quebec and the Liberal federal Government of the Day was very strong on national unity. In fact, it had created a National Unity Office in Ottawa to stir up support and unite our country.

While I was down in Ottawa, one evening we had a session, the hundred of us who had been brought in from across Canada, to discuss the concerns of the nation. The lady who chaired this was from the National Unity Office. What angered me during the course of that discussion was the continual comment that we live not just in a bilingual nation - that does not bother me; I recognize and support that — but in a bicultural nation. Here was a representative of that Government saying very clearly to me, a Manitoban of English and Ukrainian and Polish background in a province where over half of our people claim ancestry that is neither French nor English, that this was a bicultural country.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in my life, I did not feel a Canadian. I had been eliminated from the Canadian family, and that is a feeling that many of my constituents and their fathers and grandfathers and mothers and grandmothers have felt for generations. It is one thing to talk about being Canadian; it is another to really be part of the whole.

I am proud to be part of this administration and to hear in the Throne Speech that this Government will introduce the Meech Lake Accord for debate in this House, because I think any effort and constitutional train that comes to bring in the regions, to bring in a Manitoba and a western Canada and make us a real part of the Government of this country is a noble and worthwhile effort. It is one thing to be told we are Canadians as I was on that evening a long time ago in Ottawa; it is another to truly be a fair partner in this country. I welcome the initiative of this Government to bring this piece of legislation to the House and I look forward to the public hearings and the comments and I look forward to the debate.

I know, as I have chatted with many Members opposite and on this side, that it will be an interesting debate. I know there are very different visions of this country and there are many different concerns and we all come to it from different backgrounds, but it is a debate that must happen and the place for it to happen is here and in the public hearings that are part of this legislative process. I, as a Member of this Legislature, have great concern when it is urged that process not happen because this is the place for it to happen. So I welcome that initiative and look forward to hearing the people of Manitoba speak and to debating that particular constitutional amendment for Canada.

There are also a number of other observations that my constituency grants to me. One of them is about how important wealth generation is to our society. People of my generation have come, and I admit this freely, to take for granted health care, education, roads and sewers, all of those basic building blocks on which our society rests. We have come to expect that they will happen. Even the rhetoric of our day — and I fault no one in this — has come to say these are mom-and-apple-pie issues. That is fair. I think that view has come across in many jurisdictions and from all parties, but the reality of it is we have forgotten about those building blocks. We have forgotten how important they are.

Marshall McLuhan once wrote, he said that affluence breeds poverty. The more I travelled around Manitoba in the two years I served with the Honourable Jake

Epp, Minister of National Health, that particular view, that particular concern, comes home to me time and time again.

Just this morning, prior to coming into the House, I had a telephone conversation with a gentleman in one of the poorest areas of my constituency, Poplar Avenue in Great Falls, and there we are working to bring in a water co-op line to some of the poorest people in our province who do not have clean running water. Imagine that! They do not have clean running water because the water under their turf is very polluted or just not capable of being consumed. So we work to bring in a basic service as water and yet each of us go home at night and we turn on our tap and there it is and we forget about it.

The councils in my community come to me time and time again when we meet. What is the No. 1 concern? Sewer and water replacement. Our lines are getting old; we are going to have to replace them, so again those basic building blocks. We must, as legislators, pay attention to them.

I said a little bit earlier about the importance of wealth generation. We must always remember that the social programs we enjoy, those building blocks of sewer and water, all must be paid for, that the wealth that pays for them has to be generated. That is a problem that faces all jurisdictions and all parties and one that all Legislatures have to come to grips with. I see that in my riding, as the drought dries up crops, that the wealth is not there. When it is not there, the taxes are not paid, the water and sewer is not built, the roads are not repaired and we get down to those basic fundamentals.

So one of my concerns that I come to this House with and that I think we have to look at is how we generate the wealth to ensure that those basics are there, and not to annoy them and not to have Marshall McLuhan's prophecy that affluence breeds poverty come true.

There is one other particular area of interest that I would like to comment on because I think it is not only a major area of concern for legislators today but will be perhaps the dominant issue in the late 1990s, and that is the issue of the environment — acid rain, the greenhouse effect, quality of drinking water. I would like to indicate that I welcome the initiatives of this Government to assess Manitoba's water supply because that is something that must be done and is of great importance to many areas of my constituency.

We also must look at how we dispose of our waste, the air we breathe, all of those basic, basic things that must be dealt with. So it is an area that I am sure that, as we as legislators, progress in this Legislature, we will have to come to grips with and the Legislatures of the years to come will also have to deal with. It is an area in which I think our concern is all shared.

We 57 Members have assembled to legislate and govern our province, and as we are all keenly aware every day, no party has a majority in this House and that is a first for many years. This puts all of us in a very special place of responsibility.

\* (1150)

I am reminded of a university professor who I had the privilege of learning under, Professor Emmett Mulvaney of the University of Winnipeg, who had a simple analysis or a very interesting observation of government. He said that, when elections occurred, the Opposition would close their files, walk across the House, pick up the government's files that had been left by the outgoing Ministers, open them and carry on, whereas the defeated government would cross the floor and open up the Opposition files and carry on. That is an observation that I hope is not the case in this House. I would hope — and I see from our Throne Speech that it will not be. But that responsibility is incumbent upon all Members to work together in a spirit of cooperation more than has ever occurred before.

I would like to read to the House the words of Winston Churchill speaking on democracy because I think that makes an important point. I am sure my friend, the Member for Interlake (Mr. Uruski), will enjoy this. At the bottom of the tributes paid to democracy is the little person walking into the little booth with a little pencil making a little cross on a little bit of paper. No amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion can possibly diminish the overwhelming importance of that point.

On the 26th of April the people of Manitoba went to the polls, hundreds of thousands of little people in little booths with little pencils marking little pieces of paper. In doing so, they rejected the previous administration and sent to the Legislature 25 Conservatives, 20 Liberals and 12 New Democrats. They have charged all of us with the responsibility - (Interjection)- Members are sure aware now that the Honourable Member for Pembina (Mr. Orchard) did not help me write my speech.

Mr. Speaker, they have charged us with the responsibility to govern. I hope that all of us of whatever political stripe accept that charge in the days and weeks and months ahead and not pursue only our short-term political interests or act only on the bitterness of electoral disappointment. I hope that we, as Members of this Legislature, do not disappoint the people of Manitoba and get on the task of governing that they charged us with on the 26th of April.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this House, and I am certainly looking forward to the debates that I know will occur here in the days and weeks and months ahead. Thank you.

**Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa):** Mr. Speaker, may I add my congratulations to the many you have received on your election to the highest office in the Legislature.

As a new Member of this House, I look forward to your advice and guidance as to the rules and procedures of the House. You have established a reputation of impartiality and fairness that I am sure will be enhanced in the coming months.

I would at this time extend my sincere thanks to the Premier and to the Executive Council for granting me



the privilege of seconding the Speech from the Throne. I would like to also congratulate the other 56 Members who were elected on April 26. I have met many of you and truly appreciate the welcome extended to me as a new Member. I would hope that collectively we can ensure good government and the type of legislation that is good for our province.

As a new Member, one of the rewarding aspects of the job to date has been the welcoming of school children from my constituency to the Legislature. As an educator, I have on a number of occasions brought groups of young people to the Legislature to tour the building and to observe the legislators of this province in action. It is both an exciting and humbling experience to have switched these roles.

As is customary at this time, I would like to say a few words about the constituency of Minnedosa. I am very proud to represent a constituency that has been ably represented for the last 17 years by Mr. Dave Blake. I would like to report that he is alive and well and can be found on the golf courses of western Manitoba or at one of the popular fishing spots in the province.

Prior to Mr. Blake, our constituency was represented for 14 years by the late Walter Weir, a former Premier of our great province and a man whose company and counsel I had the privilege to enjoy. The members of Minnedosa Constituency will be pleased to learn that the new provincial Government building on Portage Avenue has been named in his honour.

Minnedosa constituency can rightfully boast of some of the finest natural beauty in this province. This is the area of the province where the prairie meets the parkland. This combination of land forms, with its rivers, valleys and many lakes, boasts both a provincial park and a national park, as well as other lakes with cottage and recreational developments.

My constituency surrounds the City of Brandon and generally follows the Trans-Canada Highway on its southern boundary and stretches northward to include Riding Mountain National Park, the only national park in Manitoba and the second most popular national park in Canada.

The western area of my constituency includes the villages of Sandy Lake, Newdale, Oak River and Alexander, while the eastern boundary stretches from CFB Shilo to Douglas, Moore Park, Franklin and Scandinavia.

The larger towns in this constituency include my home Town of Erickson, the Town of Rivers, where I started my teaching career, and the Town of Minnedosa where I currently reside.

The constituency encompasses 11 rural municipalities with their municipal councillors and reeves who ably reflect the thoughts and feelings of the grass roots of the constituency.

The constituency has a diverse economy, not unlike other rural constituencies, ranging from small businesses to government services, to light industry, professional services and, of course, agriculture.

Recreational facilities such as curling, hockey rinks, golf courses and ball diamonds are plentiful, and halls and auditoriums for concerts and cultural events exist in all the major communities.

The quality of life is generally good. The majority of the people do not ask for a lot from government but they do reflect strong feelings that the traditional purposes of governments should be examined, that government be made more effective and more accountable. No government can function effectively without a clear sense of direction, without a clear set of goals, without a clear understanding of what it wants to accomplish. To drift aimlessly through a mandate without a desired end result in mind would not only be ineffective, it would be irresponsible as well.

This Government has a clear direction. It has clearly identified aims and objectives. These goals were outlined in yesterday's Throne Speech, as they were earlier outlined to the people of Manitoba during the recent provincial election campaign. This is a Government formed of compassionate, responsible men and women. We know and understand the desperate need to maintain and enhance essential services to Manitobans. We recognize the extreme importance Manitobans place on proper health care, education, roads, communications, hydro and a wide variety of other services. We wish to guard and preserve the integrity of those services. We do not wish to see them put at risk or put in jeopardy because of lack of funds.

We know that so long as this Government is forced to continue putting \$580 million a year toward interest payments instead of health care, as long as this Government is forced to continue putting \$1.6 million a day toward interest payments instead of educating our young people, as long as this Government is forced to continue carrying the crippling burden of debt that it carries instead of being able to direct tax dollars back to the people in the form of tangible, real and useful services, then we in the long term will perpetuate a disservice rather than a service to those who have put us in their trust.

It is like a household budget. The family is overburdened with personal debt and it is sometimes impossible to buy the groceries. I want to see the groceries bought. I want to see the bulk of the money collected from our taxpayers freed up so that it can be spent on the people's needs instead of on massive interest charges. I want to see our credit rating rise to its former respectable standard so that those interest payments we cannot avoid are smaller interest payments. I want, in short, more disposable income materializing in our provincial coffers. That is why I support this Government's thrust towards debt reduction.

This debt reduction cannot be accomplished overnight, but it can be accomplished and it must be accomplished if we are to be able to continue providing for our children and grandchildren the privileges that we as citizens have come to expect and enjoy. This reduction must take place without hampering the maintenance and enhancement of essential services.

Having established a primary goal, it is important to secure a concrete plan of action in order to accomplish

this goal. We have a plan, Mr. Speaker, and it is a plan that reflects good plain old-fashioned common sense. We must first identify in detail the magnitude of the problem. No problem can be properly tackled without an intimate understanding of its complexities. From an analysis of those complexities, battle strategy will be mapped out. It is a battle, to be won by those who are willing to pause long enough to look before leaping so there is no impulsive jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

We intend to move prudently, cautiously, carefully and firmly towards the accomplishment of our goal, a goal which we know is in the best interests of the people of this province. The Finance Minister has ordered a full-scale audit of Government finances. As a result of such analysis, we intend to bring sound fiscal management back into our Crown corporations so that they do not continue to be big money losers. We want to return Crown corporations to their basic mandates and keep them from deviating from their intended purposes.

We are concerned with the massive swing of rates evident in areas such as Autopac insurance. We believe that such rates should be approved by the Public Utilities Board before being adopted.

I am familiar with inequities that exist through Manitoba regarding other areas of concern, one that was raised earlier such as phone service. In my area, phone exchanges are small and close together. People who live within easy driving distance of their nearest trading centre complain, and rightly so, for having to pay long-distance charges to phone that nearby trading centre. They do not want to pay those charges, and I do not want them to pay those charges. I will work to help in this area so that these charges can be eliminated.

Those same citizens object to having to share a line with other people. They wish privacy, they wish access to communications opportunities without having to wait until people in other households complete their calls. I recognize that the world cannot be changed with the blinking of an eye, but I do identify a desire for equity and telephone communications as a concern that ultimately needs addressing.

I would like to touch, Mr. Speaker, on a few of the concerns that are of particular interest to me. The economic concerns of rural Manitoba are of vital importance to this province as a whole. The agricultural economy affects in every way conceivable the rest of the economy of the province. We need a diversification in rural Manitoba. We need agriculturally related light industry in our rural centres. Government and industry working hand in hand can help create opportunities for growth and employment relating to the agricultural community.

In Minnedosa, there exists three such examples of the kind of agriculturally related industries to which I refer. There is the Mohawk Gasohol plant, there is the Alpha Mills plant, and there is the Morris Rod-Weeder plant. These three plants are located in an industrial park in Minnedosa. They each provide employment for the local people. Two of them utilize local crops in their

production, making them both consumers and producers. They benefit the local economy and hence improve the overall economy. They exemplify the kind of small agriculturally related industry which can help to create a better Manitoba.

This Government is acutely aware of our agricultural problems. This Government is prepared to respond to those problems with needed changes, for example, to the Beef Stabilization Plan, changes which should result in improved conditions for our cattle producers. This Government is tuned into the needs of farmers affected by drought, flooding and other accidents and conditions of nature which from time to time beset those whose livelihood depends ultimately upon the climate and the environment.

\* (1200)

In our province, Mr. Speaker, the roads and highways have been allowed to deteriorate. The previous administration froze the budget on road maintenance and construction. We know and understand that the widespread rail line abandonment which has occurred in Manitoba has meant an increase in the amount of traffic utilizing our highways and roads. Goods which were previously transported by train now add to a burden of weight impacting on the overland transportation system. This increased use has accelerated the deterioration of roadways which are not even being maintained let alone being improved. This is a problem which will not go away, Mr. Speaker, and the longer it is ignored the greater the bill will be in the final analysis.

I have just returned from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, where I was privileged to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting. PEI has consciously and carefully made tourism their No. 1 industry to the very great economic benefit of the people of that province.

I would like to take a moment to emphasize my desire to see a better tourist trade here in Manitoba. My riding of Minnedosa has the only national park in Manitoba, Riding Mountain National Park. It is a beautiful place and I invite all Members to visit at their convenience. But we have other parks in Manitoba that need to be developed and promoted, like the provincial park in Rivers. We need to ensure the best water quality for fishing, swimming and other recreational activities. We need to upgrade golf courses, picnic and camping grounds. We should all make careful note of the fact that there is virtually no unemployment in the Clear Lake area during the summertime. This is a popular vacation spot, well cared for and appealing. It provides rest and relaxation to a weary populace and money for those who service the visitors.

Many of our parks could become year-round tourist attractions with opportunities for winter sport in areas such as Mount Agassiz and Ski Valley in Minnedosa, to name but two.

If we encourage developers to enhance their surroundings and facilities, there is no reason that we could not create a booming tourist industry in this magnificent province. An infusion of dollars into

Manitoba's economy through the building of a strong and viable tourism industry will help improve our financial strength and stability. We need to think of ways to generate revenue if we seek to maintain our essential services while working on debt reduction.

I would like to say a few words about the No. 1 essential, our health care system. Again, I will be making specific references to my own area of Minnedosa. We have a hospital in the Town of Minnedosa. We have a good personal care home facility. We have a well-qualified medical staff available to respond to the needs of the people living in the town as well as those who live in the surrounding area. We must remember that those medical facilities in rural regional centres accommodate the needs of a wide area. We remain committed to improving the availability of high-quality medical care to all Manitobans. The Government must find ways to attract medical staff to rural areas which currently experience difficulty attracting doctors. The Government must make every effort to ensure that regional medical centres like Brandon are able to acquire high-cost specialty medical equipment but that there will be no tragic consequences to emergency health situations as a result of delay caused by distance.

I could not end this dissertation, Mr. Speaker, without some passing reference to my specialty area, which is education. I believe that we have an extremely high quality of public schools in the Province of Manitoba. This can be verified by examining the record of accomplishments of our graduates. Every good thing can always be improved however and, while we can identify areas which we seek to improve, I am especially interested in seeing increased access to specialty programs such as vocational education in the more remote areas of our province. I am convinced, as are many, that the first problem which this Government must face regarding education is the funding formula. There are great inequities in the current formula. School divisions which have a natural desire to be prudent find that there is no incentive to be thrifty, and this is a concern that needs to be addressed.

I support the Government's intention to move to 80 percent funding of our public schools. I am concerned, however, that we currently raise much of our money for education in ways that some ratepayers consider unfair. Farmers, for example, must contribute to the special school levy based on the total amount of land they own. They feel, with some justification, that their situation does not compare in a fair and equitable manner with others who dwell in towns and villages. They complain that some villagers pay so little on their property tax that the rebate they receive reimburses them entirely and completely while the farmers' rebate does not make a dent in the total amount paid on farm property.

They argue fairly, it seems to me, that those on the farm should only have to pay taxes for education based on the home quarter or the residential portion of their property. Perhaps a portion of the homeowners' rebate could be redirected to help reach the 80 percent funding goal. We have to recognize that, if we fail to properly educate our future generation, the future will be bleak for us all. It takes money, fairly collected and fairly distributed, to achieve a better educated populace.

I believe that the time has come for the Government of Manitoba to take action on recommendations surfacing from the High School Review Committee. It is time that we began to consider the implementation of items from that review which we believe to be applicable to our needs. I urge the Government to continue seeking the cooperation and input offered by organizations made up of teachers, trustees, school business officials, superintendents, principals and parents. These groups are stakeholders in education and partners with us in seeking to provide the highest quality of education at the lowest possible price.

I cannot leave the area of education without emphasizing one general concern regarding curricula. I read an article recently in an educational magazine published here in Manitoba comparing the problems identified by teachers in the 1950s with problems identified by teachers in the 1980s. The 1950 era identified as two of their concerns gum chewing and getting students to line up properly. The 1980 era identified drug abuse, the use of alcohol and teenage suicide. Think about it! The old rules do not apply anymore. I wish they did but they do not. We have to be concerned, like it or not, about AIDS education and about the need for increased counselling services in our schools. We have a captive audience in our schools. Community service dollars currently spent on cure might be better spent on prevention by allocating some of those dollars to the most vulnerable and most malleable of our citizens before they get pulled into the web of societal problems which have become so prevalent in this modern age. Our most precious resource lies in our young.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize my commitment to a unified House. I read in the media about the supposed rural, urban and northern polarization that exists in our Legislature. I believe that all MLAs should work towards an understanding of the unique problems faced by citizens of the North, faced by citizens who live inside the Perimeter Highway and citizens who live in the area that I represent. Indeed, I believe that all Members want to work toward that goal. As for me, I pledge myself to try and come to fully understand the problems and concerns of all Manitobans from whatever area they come. I would be happy to elaborate on my own feelings about rural Manitoba for the benefit of any of my fellow MLAs.

Thank you.

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr), that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

\* (1210)

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock), that the House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday.