



Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XIX No. 3 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 13th, 1972.

Fourth Session, 29th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Monday, March 13, 1972

MR. SPEAKER: Oh Eternal and Almighty God, from whom all power and wisdom come, we are assembled here before Thee to frame such laws as may tend to the welfare and prosperity of our province. Grant, Oh Merciful God, we pray Thee, that we may desire only that which is in accordance with Thy Will, that we may seek it with wisdom, know it with certainty, and accomplish it perfectly for the glory and honour of Thy Name and for the welfare of all our people. Amen

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements; Tabling of Reports; Notices of Motion; Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege because of having been incorrectly represented in the Winnipeg Tribune last Friday where I was described as the NDP M. L. A. for Fort Rouge. Since the public appears to be misled and I have received numerous phone calls and comments on my apparent defection, I feel that the record must be set straight. This misinformation might not be too helpful to my political career. Someone apparently didn't do his homework -- I am sure it wasn't anyone in the press gallery. I would be too disappointed if they didn't know by now who I was and what I stood for. But, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make it perfectly clear that I have not been offered any cabinet post, I have not been offered the leadership of any political party, and I have not crossed the floor.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. ED SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might, by leave, since we have passed the appropriate item on the Order Paper, if I may have leave of the House to table the 20th annual report of the Manitoba Hydro Electric Board.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and also the Minister of Highways. What response did the two ministers make to a letter or a submission from Mayor Kip Thompson of Ilford asking for them to visit and investigate the deplorable living conditions of the people working for the Manitoba . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I believe the honourable gentleman is well aware of our rules in regard to matters which are pertaining outside of this House, that he doesn't have to be reminded. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Education. I wonder if the Minister could tell me whether or not he has received a recommendation from the Building Projects Committee, calling for the construction of new school facilities in the community of Lundar, a request which the Lakeshore School Division has made now for some time.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): I'll take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOUGLAS WATT (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister of Agriculture tell the House if he is supporting all those organizations and people in Western Canada who are putting pressure for increased facilities for grain handling in the western ports, Vancouver particularly?

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Co-op Development) (Lac du Bonnet): Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is any reason to doubt that if there is need for increased facilities at Vancouver that we would be right behind the idea.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. WATT: Does the Minister now agree that in the handling of grain out of the port at Vancouver . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Whether the Minister agrees or disagrees is not a matter for the House. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I wish to direct a question to the First Minister. The Minister of Industry and Commerce is not in the House - I wish to direct it to the First Minister. The First Minister did state that there

(MR. PATRICK cont'd.) will be full investigation into the liquidation of assets of King Choy. I wonder if the First Minister can tell us who the directors are, or were, of King Choy and when will the report be tabled, or was there an investigation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, the question will be taken as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. R. (BUD) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the First Minister, and I ask him whether the position taken by his Ministers this week with federal Minister Andras on the Competition Act reflects endorsement of the Competition Act by this Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, not knowing what particular position the honourable member is referring to, it is impossible to answer the question.

MR. SHERMAN: A supplementary question to the First Minister - would the First Minister be kind enough to take the question as notice?

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. What is the Minister doing about the poor sanitary and living conditions at the Indian Workers Camp at Ilford?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, we are trying to do the best we possibly can to the health conditions in all of Manitoba, and that includes the site that the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie makes reference to; and when a report is submitted to me for decision, decisions will be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. What is the Minister of Labour doing about the poor working conditions in the Indian Workers Camp at Ilford?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, may I say that other than a few photostats of letters directed to others, no information has been directed toward the Department of Labour. I understand, Sir, that there was an individual who journeyed to Ilford recently, who considered for the first time the conditions under which some people are living in the north. I received that information today and I would be prepared to undertake any consideration of any criticisms directed as to the living conditions of people, workers or otherwise, in the north.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. GORDON W. BEARD (Churchill): I would like to direct a question to the Attorney-General. Is it the policy, when releasing prisoners, to make sure that they are transported home?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable the Attorney-General.

HON. A. H. MACKLING, Q. C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Honourable René Toupin is the Minister responsible for Corrections, and if you are referring to prisoners who have been incarcerated in a provincial institution, a provincial gaol, then I would defer in my answer to him, I believe that prisoners are given a certain sum of money upon their release with which they can provide transportation, and in most cases as well they are transported into the city, into the largest centre close by.

If you are talking about prisoners who have been merely detained in custody overnight pending review of the case, I would have to take that as notice because I am not certain whether in all instances we afford, or the police authorities afford transportation to the place where they were first detained.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. BEARD: I would like to, then, re-direct my question to the Minister of Social Development. With respect to those prisoners retained in the gaol at The Pas, is it the policy of government to make sure that they are transported directly back to the area in which they reside? And if so, are their meals and accommodations paid for between The Pas and the Reservation on which they reside?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, to answer more adequately the question from the Member for Churchill, I will take his question as notice and bring a more detailed answer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. LEONARD A. BARKMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I understand that this department is postponing plans for closing permanent trailer villages in the Whiteshell Provincial Park area, and my question is this: what length of postponement is expected?

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs) (St. Boniface): Two years, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BARKMAN: I have a supplementary question. To what extent are the two new camping areas at Hadashville and close to the Ontario border completed?

MR. DESJARDINS: The parking lot should be open this year and I can't give you the answer, Mr. Speaker, exactly when the next one will be open.

MR. SPEAKER: I should like to once again indicate to all members, until you are recognized your microphone is not open, so the eager beavers are going to have half their answers missing. I would suggest that everyone take this under advisement to wait for the introduction. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Acting Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, I direct a question to the First Minister perhaps, having to do with the Department of Water Control. Despite the recent critical comment, both on his behalf and on the part of my leader, can the First Minister assure my constituents that the Portage Diversion will be used to its full extent to prevent any flooding? The question is brought upon, of course, by the very nice weather we are having right now.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that nothing in my statement could have been taken to mean that we would not want to continue the operation of the Portage Diversion for the purpose for which it was built. I believe \$21 million were expended on the construction of that particular channel and, having spent it, Sir, it's obvious that it must be made the best possible use of.

A MEMBER: Thrown down the drain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: A supplementary question. Then, Mr. Speaker, I take it that there will be a change of policy; that the Diversion will be used to its full extent this year as was not the case last year, which . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I would like to remind honourable members that a question should not be phrased which is one that carried information and makes a statement. The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, if you were cautioning no response on my part, but assuming that the honourable member's question was meant in a serious way, I would indicate to him that my information is that last year the Portage la Prairie Diversion was used to the full extent it was needed. He may have had in mind the period of the previous spring of 1970 when there were impinging problems deriving from possible pollution hazards, etc. So may I say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that there is nothing in my previous statement that could be interpreted to mean that we would not use the Diversion after \$21 million of public monies had already been spent on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Is the government giving any consideration to the extension of Medicare coverage to include drugs and medicines during this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter for policy decision by cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, will there be any consideration given to the extension of medicines and drugs for the senior citizens, during the session?

MR. TOUPIN: This is still a matter of policy, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the matter of privilege affecting this House and I do so, Sir, with some reluctance inasmuch as the nature of the subject matter I will

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd.) . . . refer to has to do with your domain, but I rise simply because it should be so clearly understood by all that the position of Speaker of this House is and ought to be recognized as being independent of the wishes of any one side, and therefore I wish to draw attention of members of the House to a newspaper account this last Saturday which gave the impression that the decision as to the placing of members of the press in this Chamber, or in the galleries of this Chamber, was a matter which somehow, some way, was decided by someone other than Mr. Speaker. May I simply conclude, Sir, by stating the obvious, that the rules and decorum of this House are determined by you, Sir, with the advice and guidance of the Rules Committee of this House, and no one else.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank the Honourable First Minister. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Transportation. Has the Minister received a brief from the citizens of Headingley in connection with toll charges, long distance toll charges?

HON. PETER BURTNIAK (Minister of Highways) (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I felt that this question might be asked today. Yes, we have had quite a bit of correspondence between the Department and the people of Headingley, and we are awaiting the final results of the survey that was taken during the last few months and something definite will be forthcoming in a week or two.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, in view of the present weather, I wonder if the Premier could advise us with regard to the next possible flood forecast we can expect.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is due soon in the normal course and I'll make enquiry as soon as possible to see if it can be made available to honourable members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I wonder if he can advise whether his department is prepared to give financial assistance to junior teams that have to travel outside of Manitoba for national competitions?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, there is no such policy at this moment but the policy of grants comes under my department and is under review at this time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us if funds are directed from the Manitoba Lotteries Commission into activities of his department?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, this is the policy that will be announced fairly soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GIRARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable Minister of Youth and Education - that is lower education. I wonder if he could advise the House of the approximate cost at present for the cost per pupil of grades one to twelve, the education cost.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is familiar with the procedure and the manner in which such information can be obtained.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for St. Vital. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK, Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, my first words are to you, Sir, and I would hope in the next few moments to deal with your office in a few general ways, but I would like to at the outset express my congratulations to the mover and the seconder for having the honour of moving and seconding the Speech from the Throne. I would like to as well, Mr. Speaker, pay tribute - and I know there will be a more appropriate time - to the memory of Leonard Claydon, the former Member from Wolseley who sat in this Chamber and sat as a colleague of ours. I know how much his friends in this Assembly miss him and I know we shared his trial and ordeal during his period of illness.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd).

I'd like to as well, Mr. Speaker, make reference to the fact that we have the new Member for Minnedosa sitting in our caucus who will very shortly make his first presentation to the Assembly, and who I know will make a contribution to the dialogue and affairs that will be discussed in this Chamber.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was concerned as to how I would commence my address. I have watched the members of the opposite side through the past few months on various occasions. I watched them during the presentation of the Speech from the Throne and when the mover and seconder made their presentations, and in many respects it resembled a Shakespearian tragedy. However, I tried to, if I could, relate it to one recent movie - not so recent, but a movie which I think many of you are familiar with - which I think adequately describes members opposite -- (Interjection) -- not The Stewardesses but rather, for the benefit of the Member from Inkster, the Misfits. The Misfits starred Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable and Thelma Ritter. We have in the Member from St. Boniface our own Marilyn Monroe who wants to be loved by everybody; we have in the presence of the Member from Inkster and from the Member of Thompson, the character played by Thelma Ritter; and we had our own Clark Gable in the person of the First Minister, who unfortunately because of the way, of the wording of the Speech from the Throne and the music that was played when the Lieutenant-Governor walked in, now resembled Lawrence Welk rather than Clark Gable. And of course the rest of the stars in The Misfits were the horses, and that I think would apply to our friends opposite.

Now all of us, as we assemble here, bear heavy responsibilities, but none more than you, Sir. You are commencing your second session in a very important and, I suspect, often uncomfortable chair. I once again wish you well, and promise that you will enjoy the active cooperation of myself and my colleagues as you strive for the maintenance of proper order and dignity in this Chamber.

Now I note a few changes on the Treasury benches, Mr. Speaker. Since last we met, the Honourable Member for Elmwood has been elevated from his former position as a Minister Without Portfolio. He is now Acting Minister of Public Works. An Acting Minister, Mr. Speaker, enjoys perhaps a few less advantages and a little less authority than a Minister who has been confirmed in his Cabinet responsibilities, but it's earnestly hoped that the Minister's performance and voting record on those questions facing the House during the Session will be such that the First Minister will be moved to offer him that confirmation. In the meantime, I would like to congratulate the Minister on taking his title seriously. He has indeed proven that he is a Minister capable of acting to meet the full range of his responsibilities - an ability that must make him an object of some envy from his colleagues on the Executive Council.

And there have been two additions to the Cabinet since last we met. The Honourable Member from The Pas is now a Minister without Portfolio, and will doubtless do his best to persuade his colleagues to take action on the many problems and opportunities facing Manitoba's North. I wish him luck in that endeavour - better luck than has been enjoyed by others who have approached this government seeking imaginative action. And I understand that, in the view of many of the members of the government's back benches, the appointment of the other new Cabinet Minister, the Honourable Member from St. Boniface, was not an unmixed blessing. I understand that some of those honest members even made so bold as to approach the First Minister and suggest to him that this was not an appropriate appointment. The First Minister quite properly -- and we must acknowledge "quite properly" -- pointed out that the selection of the members of the Executive Council was his personal prerogative, that he did not seek their advice or their approval in exercising that authority.

To those members who have perhaps been a little resentful of the new Minister's meteoric rise to influence in their political party, I would ask that you be understanding of the position of the First Minister. In his efforts to assure cabinet solidarity, it must be a great comfort to him to have at least one Minister that he can be sure will never resign on a point of principle.

Two other Ministers who met with us last session have proven less malleable. They have chosen to follow their principles off the Treasury Benches and into what must be the relatively frustrating position of private members. I greet them both, and I assure them that we, on this side of the House, are sensitive to the very difficult decisions they have made.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) I assure them, if not of our agreement, certainly of our respectful attention as they put forward the views which they hold so strongly.

And I acknowledge one last change, Mr. Speaker: the Honourable Minister of Labour who will once again bear the burden of being government House Leader, a role that he is capable of playing with considerable elan and dependable high spirits. We think he will welcome the return of this responsibility as a breathing space, if you will, in the normal responsibilities of his important government department. The Minister has had a difficult time of it over the past year. At one point he was renounced by some of the members of his own party for being neutral in questions of labour-management disagreements in Manitoba. And I believe he has been fair and neutral, and he has done his utmost to fulfill the high responsibilities laid on him, even in the face of such unreasonable and self-serving criticism. It will be a relief to him, I know, when we assure him that, in his role as government House Leader, we will expect no such neutrality.

And I greet my honourable friends opposite whose positions are more or less unchanged since last we met. When I replied to the last Throne Speech in this Chamber, I chided some of them - perhaps unkindly - and I would feel that I had been remiss in making this reply if I did not offer at least a few personal greetings.

I suggested last year that the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development was the best Executive Assistant any Deputy Minister ever had. But that situation has changed, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Honourable Minister no longer gets his instructions from his deputy, but instead he has joined the Honourable Minister of Lower Education and performs now as the protege of the very capable Minister of Colleges and Universities, and that, too, Mr. Speaker, must rate as a promotion.

And to my friend, the Minister of Higher Education, I offer my sympathies. Having charge of three government departments, even with such amiable executive assistants, must be a heavy load indeed.

And I greet my friend who is absent today, the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Development Corporation. I know that he has another, secondary title, but it escapes me for the moment. His outstanding success as a captain of Manitoba industry has led the First Minister to entrust him also with the responsibility of the Water Commission and Hydro. I wonder if the fact that he owns a very large cruise ship does not represent a conflict of interest for the Minister. His ship - although he cannot seem to make it earn money - his ship will float, regardless of how high the water rises. I understand that the Town of Gimli will not, and I would merely recommend that he remain aware of that distinction.

And my friend the Attorney-General. The Honourable Attorney-General finds himself, as this session opens, in the by now familiar position of trying to explain the courts and the law to the Honourable Member from Thompson. His department failed to gain a conviction against a dirty move, Mr. Speaker, and our northern friend cannot understand that. I know that the Attorney will answer him, will explain the matter clearly. The courts in effect have said, Mr. Speaker, they've informed the Attorney-General that the government has a responsibility to enforce all the laws of Manitoba, that they cannot pick and choose as the spirit moves them, that if they wish to enforce the obscenity sections of the Criminal Code, they must also enforce those sections of the Amusements Act governing the operation of the Censor Board.

But that rule, that the government must enforce all the laws of Manitoba, that rule too can be bent, and has been. The Minister in charge of Autopac has found it necessary to beg the indulgence of the Attorney-General, to ask that he not arrest all those Manitobans, who, through no fault of their own, have not yet been permitted to purchase their 1972 registration.

Some of us in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, made the mistake of taking the Minister's promises about Autopac literally. He said it would provide better and cheaper service to Manitobans. And of course it has not. But, no doubt through the Minister's intervention, we are once again assured in the Throne Speech that Autopac will soon be "A-Okay". The Minister is so confident that his language has become positively jaunty. A-Okay. Now isn't that nice? Of course it is probably necessary to use such colourful language since there's no other way that Manitobans will ever listen to more promises about Autopac, and it's certain that the language being used by motorists all across Manitoba to describe Autopac is even more colourful than the Minister's jaunty A-Okay.

I'll say nothing to the other Ministers, Mr. Speaker. Their antics in the last year are

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . . really no source of amusement to anyone in Manitoba. But I will speak, if I may, to the First Minister.

Last year, as I made jokes about his colleagues, I indicted the Premier for failure in leadership. Last year, as I exchanged the kind of pleasantries with his colleagues that have always marked the debate in this House, I had no cheerful work for him, and nor have I any this year. And yet, like many in Manitoba, I do have sympathy for him. He complains that he is tired, and he has a right to be tired. The effort required to shore up the government that is collapsing around him is a very considerable effort indeed. For that government is collapsing and my friends opposite know that. They know that they have lost their will and the ability to govern. They know that even two years ago, when this government was young, they would have been ashamed to come before this House and before the people of Manitoba with the ringing emptiness of this parody of a Throne Speech. They know that they have sapped their will and sapped their financial ability to govern Manitoba as even they know it ought to be governed. They know that they no longer speak for or to the people of Manitoba, that they are increasingly retreating into their own futile theories and empty phrases. And now this First Minister, this man who had, I know, such high hopes for this province and for his government, now this man declares that he will not be "suckered" - and I believe that's his phrase - that he will not be suckered into assuring the people of Wolseley constituency the right to select a person to represent them in this House.

I ask my friend to compare this - his very own statement - with what he had said only two years ago when his government was young, when they still believed they could govern. I ask him whether or not he would have found that statement to be shameful and reprehensible.

In 1969 the people of Manitoba voted for the First Minister; they voted for his hope, for his determination to make things better in Manitoba, for his sincere wish to make a significant contribution to the public life within our province. And I say now to the First Minister you have betrayed that hope, you have betrayed those people, and you have lost that determination.

The speech that the First Minister asked His Honour to read to this House is documentary proof of this government's collapse. And for those members opposite who have felt the change in their government, who have felt it decline, who are troubled by the fatigue that marks its every movement, I would recommend as instructive reading the Speech from the Throne from the last session of this House.

That speech was the first real program of this government. Look at its promises. Look at the direction charted in it, and you will see that this collapsing shambles of a government has lost its way.

Last year's Throne Speech promised new programs for the farm economy. It promised an active and strong effort to seek and to develop new markets. I ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture if he is satisfied that those things have been done, that the promises have been kept, that the government has truly followed that direction.

Last year's Throne Speech stated that the chaos of our welfare system would be replaced by an integrated income security system. It promised a White Paper on Corrections. I ask my friend the Minister of Health and Social Development if those promises have been kept. I ask him if he and his colleagues are satisfied with the vague and empty promise of an offer of reform that is all we have in this year's speech. I ask him if the sheer cost in human tragedy of our current out-moded system is not too great for him to sit idly by while this initiative too vanishes, buried beneath the rubble of this collapsing government.

Last year's Throne Speech promised that the government would act to remove or reduce regional economic disparities in Manitoba, and I ask the Members from Gimli, from St. George, from Rupertsland, from Ste. Rose, from Lac du Bonnet; have these promises been kept? Are you satisfied that these solemn undertakings to the people of your regions have been honoured, or have they been forgotten as this government has lost its way?

That is one proof of the collapse of this government, Mr. Speaker. The retreat from their own hopes and plans for Manitoba. And it is a proof that I know hurts many of my friends opposite. I know that this knowledge of their failure adds to their fatigue, weakens further their resolve. And so we feel sympathy, Mr. Speaker, for the First Minister, who must ultimately account to the people of Manitoba and even to the members of his own caucus for the failure of his government, for the death of their idealism, for the collapse of their ability to govern.

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd).

And so the First Minister is tired. There are other reasons. He has seen his plan for hydro development involving Lake Winnipeg attacked by all who understand it. Not even the considerable debating ability of the Honourable Member for Inkster -- let me repeat, Mr. Speaker -- not even the considerable debating ability of the Honourable Member for Inkster has succeeded in making a single convert to the plan. And he has seen men of unquestionable integrity, men like The Honourable D. L. Campbell, Dr. Kris Kristjanson; former ministers of the Crown like Dr. George Johnston and Sterling Lyon; former supporters of his own policy, like Professor Robert Newbury who resigned from the Water Commission - he has seen those men try to reason with him, try to persuade him to abandon a course of action that holds seeds of disaster for Manitoba. He has been forced to destroy the Water Commission by removing its ability to hold real hearings. He has been forced to adopt all the shallow and dangerous stratagems of a wily politician who is making a cynical blunder.

And I ask him again, what would he have said of his own behaviour two short years ago when his government was young. Would he have countenanced the compulsive secrecy, the deliberate misrepresentations made by his chairman of Hydro, the shallow political footwork of his entire government? Would he have dismissed - as he is now dismissing - the doubts and the questions of those Manitobans who will be most affected? Would he have retreated into personal abuse of those who question him?

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the man the people of Manitoba elected two and one half years ago would have found all of that to be shameful.

A last index of collapse. This parody of a Throne Speech contains a reference to the public service of Manitoba. In 1969 that was one of the best public services in Canada. It stood willing and able to put into effect the policies of any duly elected government, but the first Minister and his friends have weakened it with the infection of uncontrolled patronage of venality and nepotism. They have ignored and by-passed ability in favour of political compliance; and they have failed to offer the kind of leadership and management the public service requires.

The Throne Speech says that the public service is tired. Yes, it is tired; it's tired of the abuse and the mismanagement and the pointless, childish and malicious interference of the First Minister and his colleagues.

The First Minister is tired - not from all the things he has achieved, not as he would like us to believe, from all the hard work of his government that he has done on our behalf. He is tired from the erosion of his authority, the decline of his government's ability, the desertion of his promises to Manitoba and from the struggle to defend his collapsing government; and so he brings us this empty parody of a Throne Speech - reflecting that all he has left is this empty parody of a government.

This session of the Legislative Assembly finds the affairs of Manitoba in chaos. We have a government that has failed to manage the simplest of government programs; a government that complains that it is tired; a government that shows no sensitivity to the problems and the opportunities facing Manitobans.

We are faced with a reckless disregard of the simplest economies in government spending. We see the public treasury being squandered by demoralized ministers; we see much of it falling into the hands of political supporters who have flocked to Manitoba from all over Canada. In the centre of a continent-wide pattern of economic growth, the economy of this province is faltering. We have excessive taxation, a rapidly growing public debt load and a lack of direction and determination on the part of the government. We have seen repeated statements of obsolete class theories used to divide the citizens of this province. We are confronted with all of these things. We can see them doing harm to the lives of Manitobans; we see them threatening the prosperity and independence of all our citizens. Mr. Speaker, we are leaderless in Manitoba.

And that situation, Mr. Speaker, demands that the role of the Opposition change. It demands that we provide, besides the kind of constructive criticism we have striven for until now, a degree of leadership and direction. It demands that our actions and our words in this House make clear the areas where the government must act.

In the time available to me today, Mr. Speaker, I propose to take the first steps in outlining alternative policies. I will not content myself with railing against the failures and the foibles of the government. Rather I intend to suggest alternatives to their inaction and I

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) intend to indicate policies that should be followed. I intend to put before all the members of this House the first steps in a program for government - a program that the members of the Progressive Conservative Party urge the government to adopt - a program that we will ourselves adopt next year when we come to form the Government of Manitoba.

In this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, we make important decisions affecting all of the people of Manitoba. For almost three years the pattern of those decisions have been restrictive, parochial and inward-looking. We must become, once more, progressive, expansive and direct ourselves to the development of opportunity. From this Chamber must come the initiative for change, for growth, for improvement in the lives of each of us.

Mr. Speaker, the government is failing to provide the initiative. The government is not progressive. The government is tired. The government is not pausing to consolidate. It fell in disarray several months ago and now it is in full retreat and so we will provide the leadership and the imagination and the determination that Manitoba needs.

I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to review at length the progress to disaster down which Manitoba has been led during the last year, and indeed, the last three years. The people of this province, my colleagues on this side of the House and my honourable friends opposite, all know of the difficulties and the problems and the confusion which has occurred. We all know that the agricultural policies of this government are leading nowhere, that farm income continues to decline and that the situation on our farms and in our rural communities are the most critical problem faced by Manitobans today. We all know of the reckless and disastrously inept resource management policies which currently focus on the proposal to waste more than \$100 million on a scheme of regulation of Lake Winnipeg - a scheme which is opposed by everyone who understands it. And we all know that in scores of little ways, Mr. Speaker, new regulations are being fostered, personal freedom is being limited, private initiative is being thwarted and discouraged.

A recitation of the detail of these and other faults would accomplish little. Let us instead appraise our condition and consider what we, as a community, we the one million people of Manitoba, may do in order to achieve our own individual goals and our collective and community goals with a minimum of conflict, with a minimum of division among ourselves, and with a maximum of effective community action.

Mr. Speaker, as I turn to this discussion I realize that I could commence with many things; with Unicity, with the adequacy and potentials of our health and hospital systems, with the general pattern of economic management, with taxation, with the frustration of the rising expectations of our Indian and Metis citizens, or with any number of subjects. However, I think it's appropriate to begin with agriculture. The farmers of this province, some 40,000 of them, have been the worst betrayed, and are in the most desperate circumstances of any large group.

Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues will speak at some length on this subject in the course of the next few days and will propose action appropriate to the needs of the agricultural community, so I will confine my remarks to reminding my honourable friends of the plight of the farm people, a plight which they can find in their own statistics, which they can discover in the records of unpaid taxes in the rural municipalities, and which they can find reiterated in the statements of the leaders of the farm organizations of the province.

The economic condition of our farming industry presents a terrible, needless waste of opportunity. It is the result, in part, of the determined efforts of the present government to balkanize the Canadian agricultural market to the disadvantage of our producers of livestock and poultry and eggs and milk and other products, and it is also a result, in part, of the failure of the government to develop aggressive policies to expand the output of beef and pork and poultry and other farm commodities and, in part, it derives from the failure to understand the importance of wheat in the development of farm policy and the necessity to ensure that wheat from this province, and from our sister provinces to the west, is moved efficiently to markets and sold aggressively at the best possible price.

Mr. Speaker, in the days ahead we will be proposing policies to deal with these opportunities. We will be proposing policies to stabilize the supply and price of forage and feed grains without government intervention, without foolish regulation, without restrictions on individual initiative. We will propose a system of feed banks.

And finally on the subject, Mr. Speaker, let me state clearly that we do not believe that

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . . there are any redundant farms in Manitoba. We do not believe that there are any redundant farmers in Manitoba. We see no reason why the number of farms in Manitoba should continue to shrink. We do not believe that any policy, federal or provincial, should be aimed at further reducing the number of farms in Manitoba, reducing the output of any commodity produced by any farmer in Manitoba, or restricting the opportunity, except in most exceptional circumstances, for any farmer to produce any product for which he believes there is a market. The agricultural policy of Manitoba must be an expansionist policy designed to ensure, so far as it is within the power of government to do so, the survival of all farms in this province.

In harmony with this philosophy, Mr. Speaker, let me add a few comments on the matter of rail line abandonment and grain elevator rationalization. Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to listen, with some skepticism, but to listen to proposals for rail line abandonment. We are prepared also to listen, and again skeptically, to proposals for abandonment of substantial numbers of grain delivery points. But we are not prepared to accept the abandonment of communities, the abandonment of homes and businesses and schools and public utilities. We will consider the problems of the railways, but we will protect the interests of the people in the communities which might be affected.

Mr. Speaker, I have mentioned agriculture first for two reasons. One of those reasons is the plight of the farmer at the present time. The other is the opportunity which an expanded agricultural economy provides for the growth of employment, income and prosperity in our factories and shops and offices. The first way and the best way to expand the economy of Manitoba and to produce all of the benefits which derive from such expansion, is to foster growth of farm income and to restore health to the farm economy.

Our regional self sufficiency is growing slowly but steadily. Year by year our factories, our offices, our commercial outlets handle more and more of the output of the agricultural industry and supply more and more of the needs of the agricultural industry. As this process of maturing takes place in our economy, a boost in farm income has a more important set of consequences for all of us. Let us not forget that the dollars our farmers can earn by shipping hogs to Japan, beef to the United States or wheat to China are dollars that travel quickly into the hands of those who are employed in retail stores and tractor factories, in banks and in schools, and indeed in the pursuit of whatever career they have chosen.

Three years of ever-increasing restrictions have damaged our capacity to earn those dollars and three years have been wasted in time in which we might have been looking for new markets and new sources of farm income.

Mr. Speaker, I now turn to the second area of opportunity which is being missed, the opportunity to expand the tourist business in Manitoba. The major thrust which can create, more or less immediately, many thousands of man years of employment, Manitoba lies on one of the major crossroads in North America. There are now millions of tourists travelling through our province and stopping here for recreational purposes. More millions can be attracted. Those who come can be kept for longer.

Again, Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues will be dealing with this subject in greater detail, in greater depth, in the course of the next few days. Let me merely point out one or two major characteristics of this great opportunity. The development of tourism in Manitoba will generate employment quickly and most of the employment will occur during the summer months. Much of that employment will be open to young people; high school students taking their annual vacations and university and college students taking their four and one-half month break each summer. The employment will be created not only in the tourist resorts and hotels and service stations, but in many of the factories and commercial outlets and administrative offices in the province. Expansion of economic activity during the summer months becomes a continuing part of economic activity on a year-round basis and many of the jobs created are stable, full-time and a rewarding career opportunities. The seasonal jobs provide opportunities for work and for independence for young people and can augment and increase family incomes throughout the province.

There is a second characteristic of this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, which we must keep in mind. It will require certain forms of government action. Major attractions are necessary in order to draw more visitors to this province and to keep them here for longer periods of time. These major attractions, things like musical festivals, drama festivals, things like auto racing and horse racing, rodeos, fairs, festivals, things like parks and summer theatre

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd) are not always capable of self-financing. But the spending of tourists on gasoline, food and beverage, hotel accommodation and other goods and services produces a stream of tax revenue which the treasury of the province would not otherwise accumulate. We must be prepared to invest a portion of that stream of revenue in order to expand our opportunity. We must be prepared to act. Mr. Speaker, there is an important economic fact here which has apparently escaped my honourable friends who occupy the benches opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I have suggested two ways in which we can immediately expand the economy of this province and thereby create opportunities of many kinds for our citizens. Let me now turn to one area of economic potential which is less clear, but which may have the greatest significance for all of us. The huge, recently discovered natural gas resources of the central Arctic lie almost due north of us. The market lies south and a little east of us. A corridor through which this gas might move cuts across this province from the boundary of the Northwest Territories to Emerson. A pipeline to move the natural gas would cost, it is estimated, some \$7 billion. Mr. Speaker, some \$7 billion. The reserves are among the largest ever discovered. The market will absorb more gas in the next ten years than it has absorbed in the entire history of mankind. The construction, maintenance and operation of that pipeline could become one of the largest single industries in this province.

The newly discovered oil reserves which lie under Ellesmere Island and probably in other areas of the Arctic are almost due north of Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, what opportunity for the supply of goods and services will that oil discovery create for individuals and businesses in Manitoba? Will the beef that the oil crews eat be raised and processed in Manitoba? Will it be carried north on trucks or trains originating in Winnipeg? Will Manitoba based aircraft fly it from Churchill or Lynn Lake north into the Arctic? Will those planes be overhauled in Winnipeg? Will we capture this opportunity as we captured the opportunities to supply the DEW line or will we let it slip by? Mr. Speaker, the scale of this opportunity boggles the mind.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for Manitobans to analyze very carefully the meaning, the potential and the potential problems which these Arctic petroleum finds create for Manitoba and Manitobans. A full, thorough, investigation of all of the implications is urgently required. Within three or four years we may find ourselves either directly by-passed or deeply involved in the developments which are just now emerging in the Canadian Arctic. Let us analyze now and let us begin the process of planning for these opportunities. And as we do so, Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that a 60-inch gas pipeline stretching from our boundary with the Northwest Territories south across our tundra and forest lands and down through the Interlake would not be an unmixed blessing. Let us give due consideration to the ecological and economic problems which such a pipeline and such a corridor create.

This development presents a challenge, Mr. Speaker, and an opportunity to Manitoba; an opportunity for the future. The government must take action to meet this challenge. Mr. Speaker, the full development of these resources may be three years, may be five years away or it may take longer yet, although I doubt it. The Arctic resources do not create the immediate opportunity that is created in agriculture or tourism but the magnitude is huge and the time to plan is upon us.

Mr. Speaker, the Nelson River is one of our greatest resources. The present and potential power dams on the Nelson River represent a major economic opportunity. Manitoba Hydro has been, and once again can become a major tool for development of this province. But first, Mr. Speaker, we must wrest control of this Crown Corporation from those who are using it for narrowly partisan purposes and return control to the owners of the utility, the people of Manitoba. Before we can commence the realization of the development opportunities which hydro and our water resources offer us, we must abandon the incredible waste of money and resources inherent in the proposed Lake Winnipeg regulation scheme and return it to its sane development policy.

When these things are done, Mr. Speaker, it will become possible for us to start negotiations necessary to the development of a regional power grid. It is our firm conviction that we can produce power on the Nelson River and sell it in Saskatchewan and perhaps Alberta to the advantage of the people of those provinces. We envisage the possibility of a regional power grid encompassing Western Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta tied in with a regional power grid in the adjacent area of the United States. We believe, therefore, that we can export increased amounts of power to the United States and that we should do so. We envisage the rapid development of the downstream resources of the Nelson River in order to

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd). . . . generate power to supply the needs of these regions. We also anticipate the probability that we can arrange for the supplying of peaking power from thermal stations located in the United States and in the province to the west of us; and, Mr. Speaker, this will reduce the detrimental effects of water storage in Southern Indian Lake. And let me make it clear, that under this or any other rational scheme it is not necessary to flood Lake Winnipeg. In short, we envisage the use of Manitoba Hydro as an instrument of growth and we envisage the development and use of the resources of the Nelson River for the advantages of all Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, I've been speaking of resource development and northern development. So has the First Minister.

During his recent trip to northern Manitoba he indicated that the government would spend a total of \$60 million in the north in the next fiscal year. The Planning and Priorities Committee of Cabinet and the two Secretariats - the Secretariat for Planning and the Secretariat for Continuing Programs - will presumably oversee the spending of \$60 million by the departments and agencies on a variety of programs. These programs range all the way from highways and construction to the townsite development at Leaf Rapids to the activities of the Manitoba Northern Manpower Corps. Many of the programs are cost-shared with the Federal Government.

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MR. SPIVAK: (Cont.)

Northern Manitoba needs development - of its potential - its people and its resources. With the slowdown in the demand for Canadian nickel and the cutbacks in employment in mining and related activities, it is all the more urgent to diversify the economic structure of our North. New industries and new service enterprises and the tourist and accommodation industries in particular, all offer promise for economic growth, expansion and jobs for northerners.

But will the government's present program do the job? We need much more information on these programs, on their results, on their direction. We need an objective assessment of those programs.

Will the Planning Secretariat report on policy guidelines - "Signposts for the Seventies" - provide this objective and meaningful evaluation of the programs for the North? One cannot get much encouragement in this connection from the proposed draft report prepared by the Secretariat for Planning for the Legislature's Northern Task Force. The task force rejected the proposed draft report outlining a five-year plan for northern development. The report provided little by way of meaningful concrete development action guidelines -- only a recital of the existing provincial programs, generalized guidelines, intentions and expectations.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other important but perhaps smaller elements in an economic growth and development policy. All of them will require government action in the years to come and in the next few days and weeks we will be talking of some of them. We need and can have a new National Park. We must preserve the beaches of Lake Winnipeg from those who would destroy them. We have an opportunity to manufacture and export more clothing; and there are other opportunities. But at this time I should like to turn to the question of the distribution of wealth which can be produced in this province and which can be made a source of social and individual opportunity for the advantage of all the citizens of this province.

Allow me to briefly review our current situation. In the absence of coherent development policies in the face of growing competition from government enterprises, as a result of increasing regulations and restrictions, the economy of this province is not expanding as rapidly as it should. We should not therefore be surprised that unemployment is at an unacceptably high level. It is true, of course, that unemployment is worse in Quebec than it is in Manitoba. We must all regret the problems that confront the people of Quebec. But we must also realize that the level of unemployment in Manitoba is needlessly high. The nature of our economy is such that it rarely booms when there is rapid expansion across the country. But it is equally true that our economy need not decline as rapidly in a period of recession or slump as does the economy of Ontario or Quebec.

The failure to achieve the level of wealth creation which was our potential and which was our opportunity during the last three years has reduced the extent to which additional resources were available for distribution in the province. The high levels of unemployment which have prevailed have forced the use of such funds as were available to provide welfare payments to those who could not find employment and in turn to provide emergency public works programs. Finally, the waste, extravagance and foolishness of unco-ordinated government programs has further dissipated the resources available.

Consequently little or nothing of a constructive, long-term nature has been done to aid the disadvantaged. Taxes have been increased to a punitive level and have succeeded in diminishing the real income of many, probably most, of the families in Manitoba. The middle income family is suffering from the effects of failure to bring about economic expansion and from the effects of increased taxation. They are required, year by year to provide more money to be poured by the government into programs to sustain the unemployed and their families and into programs of broad, general application which waste the treasury of the province and create unnecessary burden on the taxpayers.

And once again, Mr. Speaker, we must express major concern for our rural community. Income levels among the 350,000 people who live in Southern Manitoba outside the Metropolitan Winnipeg area are only on the average a little better than half the levels of income enjoyed on the average by people in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area and in our new cities in the North. Consequently, tax relief for the farmers is essential. Tax relief coupled with an expansionist program will go some considerable distance to improving the economy of the rural area.

We suggest one additional program, Mr. Speaker. The decentralization of government services and the movement of a good portion of government spending into some of the growth centers of Manitoba. We propose that at least 2,000 of the civil servants currently employed

(MR. SPIVAK Cont'd)

in Winnipeg be transferred in order to make more equitable the redistribution of wealth which derives from government spending. We propose that the gap in employment that this would create in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area be filled by the expansion of all portions of the commercial, financial, industrial, educational and other service sectors of the economy of Winnipeg and by the development of tourism. We anticipate the probability that the economy of the Metropolitan Winnipeg area will be further bolstered in the next few years by the emerging resource industries of the Arctic.

The economic policies which we suggest, Mr. Speaker, as an alternative to the absence of policy --(Interjection)-- Mr. Speaker, I assure the First Minister that I am prepared to talk the next three months on what I'm saying today. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to, you know, exchange jibes with him. I only hope that he will not become his abusive self and will at least deal with facts and figures and allow me to make my presentation. I listened with interest to his Speech from the Throne; I present a program that we are prepared to put into action. If he's not prepared to put this in action, let him explain that to the people.

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, for the edification of the First Minister that within a five-year period that 2,000 civil servants can in fact be dispersed out of Winnipeg. I suggest that the likelihood is within a five-year period the development of the Arctic will have taken place and the pipeline will have been more than just in the dream stage. It will have started to become a reality and Manitoba and Winnipeg will either gain or will lose and to a large extent it will be dependent on the course of action that the government, this government will take in the next period of time, or the course of action we will take when we form the government next year .

Mr. Speaker, the economic policies we suggest as an alternative to the absence of policies, and the rules and regulations and the proliferation of Crown Corporations which we currently have, may be summed up in a few words - encouragement of individual initiative, reduction in certain taxes, expansion of agriculture, of the resource industries and hydro, expansion of tourism and the gradual equalization of income levels throughout the province. The major thrusts which we propose in tourism, and agriculture, northern development and certain minor thrusts in other areas would combine to ensure steady and continuing growth of our manufacturing sector, our commercial sector and our service sector. No gifts, no gimmicks, no giveaways, no Crown Corporations; a dismantling of unnecessary regulations and control, winding up the affairs of the Manitoba Development Corporation, and an end to the crippling suspicion of private initiative and private enterprise. Let us abandon the dogmatic attitudes adopted during the last three years.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the matters of health and education. These functions which touch on the lives of so many of our citizens are, of course, and inevitably, the most costly of services provided by the government and it follows that because they are the most costly, they require the closest managerial attention. They require the greatest technical skills and the most sophisticated and sensitive systems of control to ensure that the vast costs which are inevitable are not augmented and increased by inefficiency, disincentives to economize, and petty, partisan interference in the management process. Simultaneously, each of these major services in its own right require great managerial skills to ensure the process of education is carried out intelligently, progressively and with sophistication, and that the process of providing medical and health care, hospitals and professional treatment also advance year by year as technology improves so that the quality of service is second to none.

These dual requirements are not easily met, Mr. Speaker. Good service is often costly service. Excellence in education or medical treatment or hospitalization is achieved only at high cost. That does not mean, however, that we can proceed recklessly with the expenditures of the monies which we collect from the people of the province. The fact that some 26 to 27% of the people of this province are in institutions of education of one sort or another, and the fact that every citizen sooner or later requires medical treatment does not justify extravagance or inefficiency in financial management. Adventures such as the premature community clinic proposals which floated around Manitoba all summer and through the last few months, do nothing to improve the quality of medical care and do nothing to reduce costs. They merely create confusion. There is indeed good reason to believe that the delivery of medical services in certain areas is not the most efficient and that improvement could be made. It is possible, even probable, that in some cases, in certain areas--and I can think of such locations as

(MR. SPIVAK (cont'd)

Churchill and the north end of Winnipeg--some new or additional facility may be appropriate.

But, Mr. Speaker, changes in the system of delivery of health care do not emerge from brief flashes of genius or from political ideology. The mere copying of some schemes from Ontario or Saskatchewan, beloved of its creators, but unpopular with its users, will do nothing to improve the quality or delivery of medical service in Manitoba.

Coherent planning is necessary, but again let me reiterate, there is a vast difference between coherent planning and political pronouncement. Our analysis must be pragmatic and non-ideological. Our analysts must be chosen for technical competence and not for political affiliation. And finally, the most important step in the planning process is consultation with the community at large. If we are planning changes in our system of higher education then let us consult with those who are attending our universities and colleges, those who work there, those who pay for them and those who propose that their children will in the future use these services. Let us not delude ourselves into believing that our understanding of some political ideology prepares us as philosopher kings whose task it is to inform the citizens as to what will be good for them. The people of this province pay for education and obtain education from the institutions which we run. Let us run them to the satisfaction of the taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, governments must come to grip with the continuing and staggering human and social cost of poverty. We do not have any cure-all to propose, any single program that will eliminate this blight from Manitoba. But we believe firmly that no effort to improve systems of welfare or income support will be successful unless they are accompanied by an expansion in the economic opportunities facing all of us in Manitoba.

We must address ourselves in a specific way to the economic problems of those groups who have not shared in our prosperity - to pensioners, residents of many of our smaller and isolated communities, the Indian and Metis people of Manitoba - those whose lives have been blighted by criminality and imprisonment. We must be prepared as a community to offer simple financial assistance to those people when that is required, but we have a more important obligation to offer the prospect of a full and healthy economic independence, of employment opportunities, of the dignity of paying your own way.

This is not an easy problem, but it is a problem calling for a government that is willing to act, that understands the importance of personal independence. And it calls for responsible administration. To the poor and the disadvantaged we owe support and we owe opportunity. But to the taxpayers of Manitoba we owe prudence and economy. I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that the two need be in conflict. I do not believe that the chaos that marks our current welfare system need be tolerated.

My colleagues, over the next few days, will be suggesting specific policy initiatives in this crucial area. We do not pretend to have all the answers, but unlike the government, we have the will to find the answers and to assure all Manitobans of participation in the social and economic life of this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is less than a year since this House passed the legislation which changed the form of government in the Metropolitan Winnipeg area. Since that time we have seen a new City Council elected and, for some two months now the affairs of Winnipeg have been managed by the new Council under the new legislation.

I should like to make two or three points with respect to the new government and to the new form of government. First, I think it is clear to everyone in the city that the new Council are to be commended for the smoothness, the efficiency and ease with which they achieved the very difficult transfer of responsibilities from the municipalities which had existed heretofore to the present government.

This smoothness and efficiency and lack of confusion must surely be compared to the institution of a much smaller change which we have also observed this year - the establishment of Autopac. I'll not reiterate or bore you with a lengthy recitation of the details of the Autopac fiasco. We all know so much about them. But I should like to make the point that the transition from private automobile insurance to public automobile insurance was a small one and a very simple one by comparison to the transition from the many governments which formerly managed the affairs of Winnipeg to the present government, and I should like to remark upon the contrast between the efficiency with which the new city government elected only a few short weeks before the transition took place, achieved the changeover, and the mad, often amusing, always frustrating confusion which characterizes and still characterizes the transfer from

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

private insurance to public insurance. And again I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the Unicity Council have been in office and assembled for only a few weeks - not for two and one-half years.

There is another aspect of the Unicity business which is, I'm afraid, not a subject of congratulations to anyone, and least of all to my friends opposite. I suspect that the structure of the new government is frustrating the attempts of the very capable new Council to establish new policy and carry it out. While they have been able to effect the transition from the old form of government to the new, while they've been able to establish coherent administration, they appear to be frustrated in their attempts to make policy by the structure of the government and as we forecast in this House only a few months ago, it is becoming increasingly clear that the major changes will be necessary if this government is to be an effective one. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that those changes will be brought forth either this session or in the next session of the Legislature.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we have not yet seen the tax bills from Unicity. It's my understanding that they are likely to appear while this House is still in session. I should like to make it clear right now that any increase in taxes in the Unicity area would be clearly and unmistakably the responsibility of the provincial government. It was this government which designed the Unicity system. It was this government which established the pattern of government for the city and, at least in the first year the budget of the new Council will be the inevitable product of the pattern of government and of the ideology of the present provincial administration. And, Mr. Speaker, if there are increases in the taxation of the City of Winnipeg you may be sure that it will not escape our notice and we will not allow it to escape the notice of my honourable friends opposite to whom all the responsibility for tax increases must be attached.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to another subject - one to which I have already alluded - the subject of the management of the affairs of the province. Occasionally in public administration and in policy-making it is necessary to utterly reverse a trend, a pattern, a policy or a pattern of activity. Mr. Speaker, such circumstances confront us now. The basic pattern of exploding public sector costs, rapidly increasing numbers of public servants, ever-increasing quantities of automobiles, typewriters, aircraft, office space and so on - the whole pattern, Mr. Speaker, must be reversed. The resources and treasury of Manitoba are being wasted by the ungoverned expansion of spending, hiring, and by general waste and confusion, and this must be stopped and reversed.

May I cite a few statistics, Mr. Speaker, to indicate the extent to which we are overburdened. Manitoba has 33.7 public employees per 1,000 population. That figure is a combination of municipal and provincial employees. It does not count the universities of Brandon and Winnipeg.

It is the second highest per capita rate in Canada, following only Alberta. It compares with 26.3 in Ontario and a national average of 27. We have some six thousand, seven hundred more people living on the public purse than we would have if we were at the national average.

Last year the Government of Manitoba borrowed more per capita than any other province in Canada. In fact, the government borrowed in the name of the people of Manitoba more than \$1000 per family. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, this is the highest rate of borrowing to be found anywhere in Canada; and part of that borrowing was used to finance the burgeoning growth of government in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba do not want bigger government. They do not want more civil servants. They do not want more government cars. They do not want more government aircraft. They do not want more government office buildings. They do not want higher taxes. They do not want higher borrowing and they do not want the present government.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me summarize the contrast between what Manitoba needs, and what my honourable friends opposite propose; let me summarize the contrast between measures which we propose and measures which they propose.

We propose a coherent plan of economic development. They offer no development policy. We propose to foster private initiative and protect it from the bureaucratic predators. We propose to offer major thrusts in key areas to foster economic growth. They propose control and management of private affairs and competition between public and private endeavour. We propose opportunity for our farmers. They propose production controls. We

(MR. SPIVAK cont'd)

propose to seize the opportunities in the North. They propose an array of unco-ordinated programs. We propose to develop tourism. They have ignored tourism. We propose to expand the economy so that taxes can be reduced. They propose to expand government and, inevitably, to increase taxes. We propose advances in social policy. Mr. Speaker, they are in retreat. We propose more money in the hands of the people. They propose more hands in the money of the people. Mr. Speaker, we have a program. They have a dogma. We are ready to act. They whine of fatigue.

Mr. Speaker, we are ready to work. They are ready to retire.

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

That this House regrets;

- (a) the determination of this government to proceed with the Lake Wi nipeg Hydro development scheme and with the resulting waste of more than one hundred million dollars, and the destruction of shoreline resources; and
- (b) the continuation of excessive increases in government spending and the continuing failure to economize in all areas of public expenditure; and
- (c) the continuing absence of coherent policies and programs to foster and encourage the growth of opportunity in Manitoba; and
- (d) the retreat of the government from its solemn promises to establish a progressive program to reform the welfare system, the corrections system, and other aspects of social adjustment policy; and
- (e) the painfully evident disintegration of the capacity of the government to fulfill its responsibility to manage the public affairs of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

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

MR. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could assist me. I would like to take the adjournment but if others may wish to speak I would have no objection.

I move, seconded by the Member for Assiniboia, that the debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion and after a voice vote declared the motion carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Tuesday afternoon.