

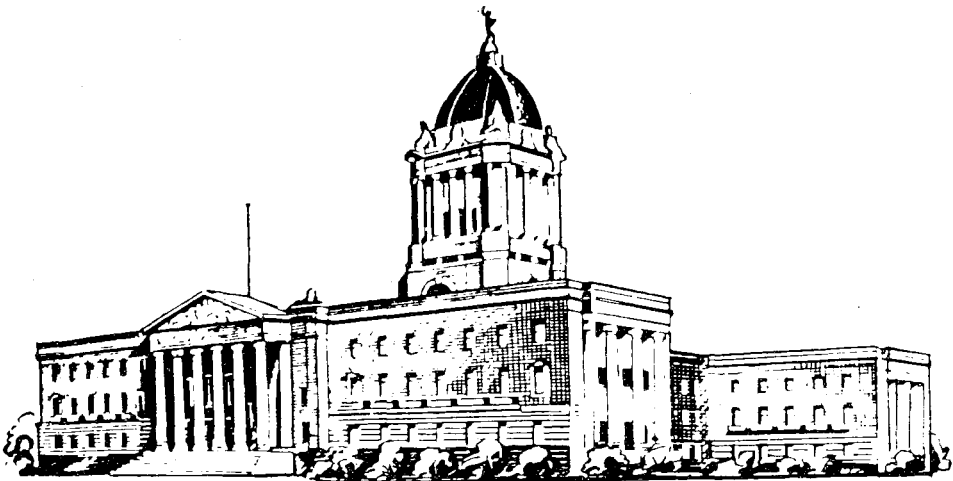


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XX No. 4 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 27th, 1973. Fifth Session, 29th Legislature.

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ARTHUR	J. Douglas Watt	P.C.	Reston, Man.	ROM 1X0
ASSINIBOIA	Steve Patrick	Lib.	10 Red Robin Pl., Winnipeg	R3J 3L8
BIRTLE-RUSSELL	Harry E. Graham	P.C.	Binscarth, Man.	ROJ 0G0
BRANDON EAST	Hon. Leonard S. Evans	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
BRANDON WEST	Edward McGILL	P.C.	2228 Princess Ave., Brandon	R7B 0H9
BURROWS	Hon. Ben Hanuschak	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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FORT GARRY	L.R. (Bud) Sherman	P.C.	86 Niagara St., Winnipeg	R3N 0T9
FORT ROUGE	Mrs. Inez Trueman	P.C.	179 Oxford St., Winnipeg	R3M 3H8
GIMLI	John C. Gottfried	NDP	44 - 3rd Ave., Gimli, Man.	ROC 1B0
GLADSTONE	James R. Ferguson	P.C.	Gladstone, Man.	ROJ 0T0
INKSTER	Hon. Sidney Green, Q.C.	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
KILDONAN	Hon. Peter Fox	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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LOGAN	William Jenkins	NDP	1294 Erin St., Winnipeg	R3E 2S6
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PEMBINA	George Henderson	P.C.	Manitou, Man.	ROG 1G0
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RIVER HEIGHTS	Sidney Spivak, Q.C.	P.C.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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ROSSMERE	Hon. Ed. Schreyer	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
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THE PAS	Hon. Ron McBryde	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
THOMPSON	Joseph P. Borowski	Ind. NDP	La Salle, Man.	ROG 1B0
TRANSCONA	Hon. Russell Paulley	NDP	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8
VIRDEN	Morris McGregor	P.C.	Kenton, Man.	ROM 0Z0
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WOLSELEY	I.H. Asper	Lib.	Legislative Bldg., Winnipeg	R3C 0V8

## THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

2:30 o'clock, Tuesday, February 27, 1973

Opening Prayer by Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we proceed, I should like to direct the attention of the honourable members to the Gallery where we have 30 students of Grade Eleven standing of Garden City Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mr. A. S. Jarowski. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, the Minister of Colleges and Universities. On behalf of all the honourable members of the Legislative Assembly I welcome you here today.

Presenting Petitions; Reading and Receiving Petitions; Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees; Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. The Honourable Attorney-General.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

HON. A. H. MACKLING Q.C. (Attorney-General) (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of the regulations under the Regulations Act as required in the rules.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other ministerial statements? The Honourable First Minister.

HON. EDWARD SCHREYER (Premier) (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I have a report to table, a report on natural resources policy in Manitoba. I believe that the Clerk has copies for all members.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the ...

GRIEVANCE

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. For some time this government has shown its contempt for the people of this province and again it has indicated that contempt by the manner in which this report is being tabled. Yesterday in the House the Member for Riel asked the First Minister, and I'll read the question into the record, Sir. "Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the First Minister. There is a report in today's Tribune that we can expect a report on Manitoba's mining industry by Mr. Eric Kierans. Can the Minister advise the House whether this is true and when we might receive a report." "Mr. Schreyer: Well, Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is referring to a report in the Tribune. I have no knowledge of such a report in the newspapers but there is a report to be tabled, and I would think certainly some time this week and probably even tomorrow, but I won't undertake that it'll be tomorrow." Sir, within minutes after the First Minister made that statement he had handed to the press a copy of that report when it could well have been tabled in this House. Today in the Toronto papers, the report was released in the papers on the 12:30 Toronto Star. The First Minister denies the right of the members of this Chamber to receive a report that was commissioned by the government, paid for by the taxpayers of this country, and yet has the supreme audacity to allow that report to get into the Toronto newspapers before the members of this House had an opportunity to see it. Sir, that is contempt not only of the members of this Chamber but it is contempt of the people of this province. And that is not the first time that this has happened. The Minister of Industry and Commerce on several occasions during the past year during the last session, similarly tabled reports in that fashion, and Sir, it has been a longstanding practice of this Legislature before these gentlemen came in for the members of the Chamber to be the first to have copies of a report that was commissioned by the government and tabled in the House and paid for by the taxpayers. (Interjections)-- My honourable friend the Ex-House Leader is in his usual form, his usual form in spite of the fact that he has been relieved of the responsibilities because of his incapability of keeping his mouth shut, is now at it again. Sir, I think this is a question of privilege and it should be dealt with. This practice has got to cease forthwith.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, if the Honourable Member for Morris was rising on a point of privilege I would like to do likewise. He has just read on the record the reply which I gave to the Honourable the Member for Riel yesterday and the statement is self-explanatory. I indicated that if it would be possible the report would be tabled today, and I have tabled it today. My honourable friend the Member for Morris should be aware that there is a practice, and a rather longstanding parliamentary practice at that, that from time to time certain

(MR. SCHREYER cont'd) . . . . . reports or summaries therefore are made available with an embargo to the news media and the embargo is to have effect until after the tabling in the House of the document in question. It may be that on rare occasion this embargo has not been respected. I can only assure my honourable friend and if he does not wish to take my word for it there's nothing I can do about that, that it was made very clear that if any summary material of the report was made available it was with an embargo on it just as with budget speeches and budget documents which the Ministers of Finance in Ottawa and here are in the practice of doing from time to time. I believe I've been perfectly consistent with longstanding parliamentary practice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: One thing that the Premier has avoided is mention of the reasons why that report appeared in the Toronto newspapers at 12:30 Toronto time.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I can only check back on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion. Introduction of Bills; Oral Questions.  
The Honourable leader of the Opposition.

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SIDNEY SPIVAK Q. C. (Leader of the Opposition) (River Heights): Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I have a question for the First Minister. I wonder if he could indicate to the House whether any parts of Mr. Kierans' manifesto on the resource industries will be adopted by his government.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the evaluation of the report and the proposals or suggestions in that report will be undertaken by a Task Force which the Minister of Mines and Resources will be in a position to report to the House on at some future date. I'll only add to that, Mr. Speaker, that the document that the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is referring to is an attempt to make some systematic analysis of Manitoba's resource potential and resource riches and the best way to go about the exploitation and development of those resources in the interests of the people of Manitoba, which is something a little more than my honourable friends did when they were in office.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have another question to the First Minister. Will any legislation deriving from his recommendations - that's Mr. Kierans' recommendations - be submitted to this Assembly during this session?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I've already indicated that there will be an interdepartmental or multi-disciplinary task force the Minister of Mines will be reporting in due course as he sees fit.

MR. SPIVAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the first Minister. Is a two tax system based on the nationality of ownership being contemplated either for the mining or any other industry in Manitoba?

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, the reply to that question is subsumed in my previous two answers.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MORRIS MCGREGOR (Virden): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, having given him notice of this question. Under the present year's PEP program, applications have been submitted which have totalled \$3 1/2 million. To date the Provincial Government has allocated \$1 3/4 million. The question being is there further consideration of the extension of the . . . in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry and Commerce.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Minister of Industry and Commerce) (Brandon East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I received the honourable member's question on my desk just prior to coming into the House. I'm not sure where he gets his figures from. The allocation for PEP exceeds 14 - it's between 13 and \$14 million approximately and there are various elements to the PEP Program involving community associations, farmers, municipalities, school boards, local hospital districts etc. I'm not quite sure which element of that program the honourable member is speaking of. I can inform him though, or remind him of the statement made by the Honourable First Minister a few days ago that the PEP Program has had added to it \$150,000 additional for municipal PEP projects and \$350,000 for farm PEP projects. So there's an

(MR. LEONARD S. EVANS cont'd)... additional half a million dollars which has now been allocated.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MCGREGOR: Just to clarify, the question was regarding community clubs, rinks, and that area, and I was talking to Mr. Fedoruk at the Manpower; he gave me these figures in this particular field.

MR. EVANS: Yes. Well, Mr. Speaker, there was an additional \$750,000 added to the original allotment and we are doing our very best to allocate on an equitable basis to all parts of the province, and I think most community associations have been accommodated in one way or the other, but as you will understand there is a limit to the amount of money at any one point in time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. INEZ TRUEMAN (Fort Rouge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Labour. Could the Minister inform the House what the present rate of unemployment is amongst people in the 17 to 19 year age group?

HON. RUSSELL PAULLEY (Minister of Labour) (Transcona): I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I can't give the answer in precise figures but I would suggest that in Manitoba it's lower than anywhere else in Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. MCGREGOR: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the recent action of a buckled boom in a housing project in Edgeland Blvd. in Tuxedo, what regulations under the provisions of labour laws would apply to make sure that safe equipment is being used. If there are no regulations affecting such matters does the government contemplate drafting such legislation?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, may I first of all compliment the Honourable Member for Virden in giving me prior notice of the question that he asked. This was incidently, Mr. Speaker, a custom of this House prior to the transfer from that group to ours and I compliment and I appreciate the concern of the Honourable Member for Virden. My answer to his question is that there is an investigation going on at the present time, both within the Department of Labour and also with the Workmen's Compensation Board who are basically charged, Mr. Speaker, with safety regulations in Manitoba, and I would be glad in due course to announce or give the information to the House as to the conclusions reached by the investigation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. IAN TURNBULL (Osborne): I have a question for the Minister responsible for Hydro. Is it correct, Mr. Premier, that the proposed increase of seven feet at South Indian Lake will not result in the flooding of a single living quarter?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well Mr. Speaker, I hadn't received notice of that question but, Mr. Speaker, I could only repeat in reply to the Honourable Member for Osborne what I have indicated on a number of occasions, that according to the best advice available to us that the raising of the level of the lake by that number of feet will not result in the flooding of any homes. Now if out of 300 homes approximately there are, let us say, two or three that will have problems of water levels being very near the house -- I couldn't vouch for that, but the advice given is that it will not result in inundation of the community, which of course was not the case with respect to the original proposal.

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

MR. GORDON E. JOHNSTON (Portage la Prairie): Mr. Speaker, my question...

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Each individual makes -- Order please. Let me get it straight again. I think I've said this last year. Another individual cannot have a supplement to someone else's question. He may ask his own. Order please! I will repeat again. Another individual cannot ask a supplementary question to another, otherwise it will involve our rules where we will be limited to three questions, period, on any one subject, and I'm sure you gentlemen don't wish to have that. So if you have a question each of you will have your own specific turn but a member is entitled to two supplementaries on his particular question. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie. The Honourable Member for Osborne.

MR. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, could the First Minister advise the House if the increase of seven feet on South Indian Lake will in fact mean that no residents of the village of South Indian Lake will be relocated?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I suppose prudence would dictate that I check this in a most precise way with officials of Manitoba Hydro. My information is that literally there will be no need for relocation of any homes with the possible exception of two or three, which is of course quite different from the proposal under which all of the homes would have been under twenty feet of water or thereabouts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Osborne. Last supplementary.

MR. TURNBULL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question, Mr. Premier, related to the relocation of persons rather than buildings, and I would ask again if the increase in the level would in fact mean no relocation of a person.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well in that respect, Mr. Speaker, the answer is an unequivocal no. There will be absolutely no need for relocating of any person or family out of that community to some other community.

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

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister. It has to do with the ongoing study of the Federal/Provincial group which are studying the Nelson River System usage. Has there been an interim report made by this committee?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to refer this question to the Minister of Mines. The study group in question was commissioned with terms of reference through the Department of Mines and Resources. I believe that's correct.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

HON. SIDNEY GREEN Q.C. (Minister of Mines and Resources) (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I checked this matter most recently last week and at that time a report had not yet been received.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister arises out of the series of questions that the Member for Osborne just asked him. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the First Minister would indicate whether or not these persons and houses at the community of South Indian Lake will not have to be moved, how they will be making their livelihood after the flooding which his own expert, Mr. Cass-Beggs, indicated the resource damage would be 85 to 90 percent the same as on any previously announced plan.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that I understand the honourable member's question but it is expected, Sir, that with respect to the fisheries resource that it will be possible for persons of Southern Indian Lake to continue to earn their livelihood from fishing. At worst what is expected is the invoking of a formula which may require some price stabilization support, but even that is looking at the worst of the contingencies and certainly the people will be able to continue to live in that community from which they will go out to fish. Under the original proposal they would not have been in that community and therefore there would have been no community there as a base from which they could go out to fish.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. JACOB M. FROESE (Rhineland): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Could he indicate to the House to what extent will Manitoba farmers, particularly those in the Red River Valley who form part of the area that has the second lowest protein content in wheat, to what extent will they be penalized on a per bushel basis in their sale of the new crop?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Minister of Agriculture) (Lac du Bonnet): Mr. Speaker, I couldn't give the specific details on that. I'll have to take that as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland - a supplementary?

MR. FROESE: Yes, a supplementary then. Has the Manitoba Government launched a protest to the Federal Government in this connection or are they endorsing this type of program?

MR. USKIW: I think, Mr. Speaker, I will have a full reply for the Member for Rhineland in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK (Riel): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Resources. Can he indicate whether there has been a clamp-down on the assignment of mineral rights to the mining corporations in Manitoba other than the Manitoba Mineral Corporations?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the same rules that apply to the Manitoba Mineral Resources Limited apply to all of the mining companies in Manitoba. I indicated in the House last year, I believe -- I'm not certain but I believe I did indicate it, that I have not signed a renewal of mining leases under the giveaway system that had been previously in existence by the previous administration.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, I haven't had the chance to rehearse the questions with the Cabinet Ministers to the extent that's happened here previously. Can I then ask directly a question as to whether or not there has been any assignment of mineral rights on Crown property to mining companies in the last year?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the practice with regard to claims and existing mining companies which are working existing mines has not changed. The only practice that was changed, which I indicated I believe a year ago, was that we were not renewing automatically a lease which had been held for 21 years and which had expired and which was previously automatically renewed regardless of whether any work had been done on the lease or not. We have not renewed under those circumstances.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, my question was whether any new mineral rights had been assigned, not whether there had been any renewals of old ones.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that there has been exploration in Manitoba, that people have filed claims and have done work which have entitled them to leases. That has gone on with no change. What did change is that we did not renew a lease which somebody kept for 21 years, didn't do anything on, and then came in and asked for an automatic renewal. We did not renew those leases. They cannot be assigned if they don't exist. If they haven't been renewed, they cannot be assigned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel has had two supplementaries. The Member for Thompson.

MR. JOSEPH P. BOROWSKI (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister. I wonder if the First Minister could indicate to the House that, in view of the shortage of washrooms in this building, how they can justify spending \$100,000 putting a washroom in Memorial Park which would be largely used by hobos and transients.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, the question I think really divides itself in two parts -- (laughter) -- that is not what I meant.

A MEMBER: Don't get yourself more involved.

MR. SCHREYER: The Honourable Member for Thompson alleges that there is a shortage of washrooms in this building and I don't know if that's an opinion shared by members of this Assembly and those who work in the building ...

MR. BOROWSKI: Ask the press.

MR. SCHREYER: ... but with respect to the construction of a public washroom facility on the I suppose what could be described as the northwestern extremity of Memorial Park area, it was proceeded with for the reason that there is this need and I do believe that it is of some value and of some practical value to those businesses and other operations along Osborne Street. It is a public facility in much the same way as in other locations in Metropolitan Winnipeg.

MR. BOROWSKI: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Premier could indicate to the House what group, private or public group, has asked for these facilities. I have heard of no demands from the city or from any group.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps it would be advisable to refer this to the Minister of Public Works. Perhaps he can reply now or take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

HON. RUSSELL DOERN (Minister of Public Works) (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, I'd just

(MR. DOERN cont'd)...like to draw to the attention of the Member for Thompson that we recently had a Manisnow Exhibit for the past month on our grounds and there were portable washrooms placed on the park at that time. There are thousands of people in the summertime, young people many of whom are very respectable, who use our parks, senior citizens, employees, thousands of people who use our park. I think it's only fitting that we have the proper amenities. These people are presently using our building and buildings nearby, etc. I think that any park should have proper facilities which includes a washroom.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Mines and Resources.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I apologize for taking the floor again with regard to a previous question but I wanted to sort of make sure that I am not inadvertently making any misstatements. I want honourable members to understand that leases expire after 21 years; that it was my policy not to renew them until we developed a policy for renewal of those leases. To my knowledge I have personally not renewed any leases under those circumstances and I would be surprised if one turned up. I do not believe I have renewed any. With regard to the policy of when we will renew or how lands will be held, that has been under active discussion with the mining corporations in Manitoba, with the Mineral Consultative Committee which consists of the members of the industry, mining personnel in the Geology Department at the University and members of the Prospectors Association, but during that discussion we have deliberately not renewed. Now if one was renewed it would be something that I have overlooked.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, might I ask a question then as to whether the following has been instituted at this point: "...the Government of Manitoba abandon the practice of assigning mineral rights to the private sector for exploration mining and development purposes and that it enact legislation forbidding the transfer of existing exploration, reservations, mining claims and leases. Upon termination, existing rights would revert to the Crown," which is recommendation No. 2 of Mr. Kierans' report. Now I was trying to determine from the Minister as to whether in fact this segment has not already been instituted which is abandon the practice of assigning mineral rights to the private sector for exploration.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, the words as they have read them - as the honourable member has read - do not correspond with the practice that I have enunciated here today. In that respect there would be a difference. Some of the things that Mr. Kierans has recommended we have done, other things that he has recommended - as indicated by the First Minister - will be looked at, and in this respect may I say, Mr. Speaker, that some people may regard Mr. Kierans as being a New Democrat in a hurry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question ...

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I wonder in view of the statement made by the Minister of Public Works, could we understand that the government will go into washroom building facilities - provincial washroom facilities - in other centres in Manitoba, particularly Thompson, Flin Flon, at provincial expense rather than city expense?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I assume that where the Provincial Government has provided a park for the enjoyment of its citizens it will also provide proper facilities in those parks, which includes washrooms.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. STEVE PATRICK (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services. Had the Minister any reports to the effect that adoption process in one part of the City of Winnipeg takes anywhere between three and six months while the other part of the City of Winnipeg takes anywhere between two and four years - specifically Assiniboia?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. RENE E. TOUPIN (Minister of Health & Social Development) (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, there are problems in adoption in different areas of the Province of Manitoba depending on cases, and in the City of Winnipeg or in Unicity itself. Now I've had two previous meetings with the Children's Aid Society; I'm meeting with them again tomorrow evening. Most of these problems will be discussed with them and hopefully we can open boundaries of



(MR. TOUPIN cont'd)... Children's Aid Societies across Manitoba making it much more flexible pertaining to adoption of the child desired by the parents in question.

MR. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd like to answer a question posed to me yesterday by the Honourable Member for Fort Rought in regards to alleged welfare abuse. In the past year, that is from February 1972 to February 1973, there have been 64 charges; out of these 64 charges there have been 18 convictions; currently there are 75 investigations being pursued.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Will the Minister undertake to see that all parts of the City of Winnipeg are treated the same?

MR. TOUPIN: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of this government to treat all Manitobans on an equal basis when they have the same desire but it is not always possible to meet the needs of individuals when we haven't got the children that are required.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member of Assiniboia - last supplementary.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware that this practice has been continuing for years, that Assiniboia had to wait much longer - that part of the City of Winnipeg - than any part, any other part of the city? Is he aware of that?

MR. TOUPIN: Mr. Speaker, I have been informed of the difficulties in that region of Unicity based back way beyond 1969, and this is one of the reasons why we wanted to meet with the particular Children's Aid Society to help solve some of these problems.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if he is prepared to answer the question that was asked of him yesterday by the Member for Morris having to do with the operation of the Milk Control Board?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: I was attempting to for the last five minutes, Mr. Speaker. The question that was put by the Member for Morris yesterday was whether or not I was prepared to advise dairy farmers as to the reason for a one dollar holdback on their shipments of milk. Well, I want to indicate to the members opposite that the Milk Control Board is in continuing communication with the farmers and have advised them, and have been in consultation with them so that that advice has been given.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: Will the Minister undertake to give that advice to the House if the question was asked here, and I wonder if the Minister would answer the question here?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, the Member from Morris yesterday asked if I would advise the dairy farmers; he did not ask that I advise the House. My answer is that I did advise the farmers through the Milk Control Board. Now if the member wants to know the full story I will indicate to the House, Sir, that the Milk Control Board is in a state of transition in their new pooling arrangement in the handling of milk for the people of Manitoba, for the producers and the consumers, and that their payouts were based on estimates, estimates not based on actual figures that they were able to depend on but just based on a guesstimate at best, and experience will bring about a resolve to that problem as they get along with the administration of the board and the pooling arrangements that are involved. However, tomorrow there is an interim payment going out of some 70 cents per cwt. and subsequently there will likely be further arrangements for the balance of that particular holdback.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A supplementary question or a new question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the apparent, you know, misunderstanding or some confusion, while this is occurring at the Milk Control Board would the Minister consider having the commissioners, the Milk Board people - Mr. Kristjanson particularly - consider appearing before the Agricultural Committee during this session when the new operations of the Milk Control Board can be fully explained to those members interested?

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the matter is not a matter of misunderstanding, it's a matter of a new procedure and that there is no question on the part of the dairy farmers through their organization as to what is taking place. I have not had any communication and it appears that they are satisfied that they are being fully informed on the matter.

MR. ENNS: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister not consider when upwards to 10 to 14 percent, upwards to \$500 to \$600 of a man's income - monthly income - is being withheld by a government agency for a period up to three months with no interest paid, is not a question of severe misunderstanding or severe concern?

MR. USKIW: Well gain I want to repeat, Mr. Speaker, that the program is new and the producers and the board did expect to have some difficulties in introducing the new concept but that the producers, through their organization, have not complained to my office, as I've had no letters from any individual producers, and I would imagine that the real problem is in the minds of members opposite.

A MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation and ask him if he is going to cause an inquiry to be made into the reasons why two guests from the government from a penal institution left the Jets hockey game prematurely last week, and will he undertake to ensure that accommodation and entertainment, that those games will be sufficient to ensure their continued patronage, and I use that word in its commercial rather than its political sense.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (Minister of Tourism and Recreation) (St. Boniface): Mr. Chairman, I'll have a statement for my honourable friend and the rest of the members of the House fairly soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. PETE (A. R.) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and I wonder if he could indicate if there are any negotiations taking place at the present time with regard to increased usage of the Port of Churchill for the export of grain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, that particular problem and concern has been one matter of negotiation for a long, long time on the part of various departments within the government, and is ongoing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the privilege of paying tribute to the new Canadian Senior Men's Curling Champions who were from Elmwood, the McTavish rink. I would also like to pay tribute to the new Manitoba Senior Ladies' Champions who won that title in mid February in Swan River, another Elmwood rink skipped by Edith Tipping, third Gladys Innis, second Lura McLuckie, and lead Joan Birt. On behalf of the members of the House I would like to congratulate them on their victory and wish them good luck in the first national play-offs in Ottawa next month.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works and ask him when he is going to announce a clear statement of government washroom policy, rather than the bandied approach he is using at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of questions, the first one for the Minister of Health. Could he indicate how much money was recovered from those prosecutions - I think it was eighteen he listed - prosecutions for welfare cheating. How much money was recovered as a result?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health & Social Development.

MR. TOUPIN: No, Mr. Speaker, but I'll endeavour to get the information for the honourable member.

MR. BOROWSKI: A question for the First Minister. In view of the far-reaching implications of the document just tabled on natural resources, I wonder if the First Minister would think it's a good idea for us to hold onto Manitoba stock.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree that the document that has been tabled, although it appears to be relatively brief, is actually quite important in the subject matter that it deals with and I would like to share the optimism with the Honourable Member from Thompson that the natural resources of our province still exist in plenitude and therefore it's important to adopt a more adequate resource policy than in years gone by.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. Does the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge have another question?

MRS. TRUEMAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Honourable First Minister. Would he have any information as to whether investors in Toronto, who may have held Manitoba stocks,

(MRS. TRUEMAN cont'd)... would have had a little advantage today?

MR. SCHREYER: No, I don't see how there could be any smallest possibility of that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could the Minister indicate what organization in Manitoba has presented a brief to the National Marketing Council asking for a national Hog Marketing Board?

MR. USKIW: I'm not aware of who it may have been, Mr. Speaker. It could have been anyone. I have no knowledge of it.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that an organization met with the federal Minister of Agriculture, has he had no correspondence with the federal Minister in this regard?

MR. USKIW: Well Mr. Speaker, we have had correspondence and meetings for the last two or three years on the question of marketing in this country, that is the marketing of agricultural products, so that I would have to say yes, we have had discussions and correspondence.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. GABRIEL GIRARD (Emerson): Yes, I'd like to ask a question of the Honourable Minister of Education. I wonder if he could advise the people of Manitoba at what rate the general foundation mill rate has been levied for this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. BEN HANUSCHAK (Minister of Education) (Burrows): Yes Mr. Speaker, in due course - in ample time for the School Division Boards and Administration to complete their budgets.

MR. GIRARD: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if he could give us the date by which the School Division are supposed to have finalized their budget.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe, Mr. Speaker, that they are to be in the hands of the municipal councils by March 15th.

MR. GIRARD: Well in view of that suggestion, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if it would be advisable for School Divisions to know that well in advance of March 15th.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I am advised, Mr. Speaker, that all School Divisions have very competent secretary-treasurers and they will have no difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Has the Minister of Education made representation to the Federal Government in support of the suggested changes to the Broadcasting Act making it possible for schools to have access to reproduction and rights of educational CBC programs without paying royalty fees?

MR. HANUSCHAK: This matter, Mr. Speaker, is one of concern not only to us in Manitoba but to other provinces, and I do believe that the problem which had arisen as a result of the acquisition by another firm of some of the films produced by the CBC for public viewing, that this either is in the process of being resolved or has been resolved. However, I will take this question as notice and provide the honourable member with a more detailed answer.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister in fact in support of changes so that the schools will not have to pay royalty fees?

MR. HANUSCHAK: It's a question of handling this matter in the most equitable manner possible, Mr. Speaker, to all concerned, the users and the producers.

MR. FRANK JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, my last supplementary question - Does the Minister not agree that a change in this policy would save the taxpayers of Manitoba an awful lot of money if they did not have to pay royalty fees?

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe, Mr. Speaker, this government has demonstrated that desire on its part and has moved in that direction.

MR. BOROWSKI: Mr. Speaker, I have one last question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. BOROWSKI: It's a question for the First Minister. I wonder if the First Minister or the government has arrived at a policy of grants on a per mile basis for the city in view of the recommendation made of giving all the work over to private contractors which will probably raise the cost.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. SCHREYER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think I'll take that question as notice and perhaps the Minister of Highways could reply in a matter of a few days.

ORDERS OF THE DAY - THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

MR. SPEAKER: The proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon. The Honourable Member for Wolseley, Leader of the Liberal Party.

MR. I. H. ASPER (Leader of the Liberal Party) (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, as this is the first occasion on which I have had personally the opportunity to address this House in any debate on the Speech from the Throne, you can appreciate that I have reflected with more than the usual care on the speech delivered last Thursday. Indeed, all Manitoba watched with interest, for this was no ordinary speech. It was a speech from a government that has met this House now five times since its election in 1969. It may well be the last Speech from the Throne before all of us face a general election. I am able to say that I am happy to acknowledge that on the specific proposals made in the Speech from the Throne, a substantial majority of them are in accordance with previously stated Liberal Party policy and, subject to the specific legislation which is brought forward, will receive the enthusiastic support of the Liberal Party.

I am not able to begin my commentary today, Mr. Speaker, without expressing the sense of loss that I am sure all members share, when we note that the seat formerly occupied by the Honourable Member from Churchill is vacant. I wish at this time to record my tribute and that of my Party and my caucus to the late Gordon Beard who is no longer with us.

My own association with Gordon Beard, Mr. Speaker, goes back to childhood days in Neepawa and we all knew him in this Chamber to be an outstanding public servant, one who served this Assembly and his community with distinction; a man of great courage, honour and dedication to his cause. His voice and his counsel will be missed not only in this Chamber but throughout the province of Manitoba, and I wish to record our sorrow at his passing at such an early stage of his life. And while we mark his absence, Mr. Speaker, we must also express our surprise and disappointment that the First Minister has seen fit to deny the people of his constituency a new representative to speak for them during this most important final session of the Legislature.

May I also, Mr. Speaker, congratulate at this time the Honourable Member from Flin Flon, the Honourable Member from Radisson, who moved and seconded the motion. The contribution they made is . . . consideration. While it will appear obvious that I personally am unable to agree with the substance of what they said, nevertheless I respect the sincerity of the contribution they have offered.

Mr. Speaker, there are over three hundred policy points which the Liberal Party has evolved over the past few years and on which we have spoken on many occasions in this Assembly, all of which I could have catalogued and used as a basis for attack against the inadequacy of the Speech from the Throne. However, we have attempted to do this in the past to indicate to the government the directions in which it should be going, and for the most part any idea which this government has heard that does not originate with the NDP has generally fallen on deaf ears, at least from the government side of the House, and therefore I have decided today to refrain from telling the government what we believe the Speech from the Throne ought to have contained. On that issue, Sir, we'll take our case to the electors.

However, just because it is an election year there is no excuse for inaction on several currently pressing issues. It is the lack of action on the areas of vital and pressing concern in Manitoba and on one in particular on which I will elaborate at a later date, later time in my address. It's this lack of action that's the basis of our criticism of this speech. We might fault the speech, Mr. Speaker, because it provides no cohesive thrust, rather is a shotgun blast which scatters pellets over a wide range but fails to zero on the key problem areas of the province.

As in past Speeches from the Throne, we have now become accustomed to the speeches of this government with their constant repetition of government propaganda, which one must assume the government thinks that if repeated long enough, loud enough, often enough, will in spite of its inaccuracies eventually become to be accepted as truth. Let me say at the outset we have unreserved praise for the plan to terminate medical and hospital premiums for Manitoba's senior citizens. We welcome the proposal to include, finally, nursing home care for

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(MR. ASPER cont'd)... senior citizens in the Medicare package and the plan to broaden the Medicare coverage to include many of the drugs used by senior citizens. All of these things have been long advocated in this Chamber by the Liberal Party, and we can only express regret at the length of time it's taken the government to adopt these programs which are already in effect in other provinces and are only the basic elements of a new deal, a fair deal, a just deal for the senior citizens of this province who, having gone through two wars and a depression, have built for this generation that sits smugly in this Chamber, a great province only to be rewarded by the neglect of this and previous governments. We regret that the government did not adopt a full program, the full Liberal Party program, with respect to senior citizen remedies, and later in this session you'll have the opportunity to remedy this defect by supporting our resolution to institute a provincial income tax rebate plan on senior citizens' income where, if single, the first \$3,000 of income is to be exempt, and if married, the first \$4,500 of income is to be exempt from provincial tax.

We welcome also the provincial government's proposed abdication of its inadequate public housing program, wherein the government proposed originally to become the landlord to 21,000 Manitoba families. The Speech holds out the hope that we will now see a plan similar to that which is in effect in other provinces and one which has long been advocated by the Liberal Party in Manitoba, whereby the government will make the financial means available to all low income Manitobans whereby they can acquire and maintain their own homes or through income supplements find their own accommodation rather than being forced to live in state-owned institutions. It's unhealthy and frightening as well as totally unacceptable conduct that individuals in this society should be required to depend upon the largesse of the state as the biggest master landlord in the province. In this regard we look to the government's program with optimism in the hope that the NDP government has learned something from our criticism of its state ownership of housing programs.

We also note with interest, Mr. Speaker, the statement in the Speech to the effect that a study will be launched on children's denticare. We, the Liberal Party, ourselves insisted upon action in this area for the past two sessions but we are appalled that the government still talks of study rather than action. We submit that not studies are needed, but rather negotiations between the government and the dental profession, leading to the implementation of a comprehensive school children's plan, and we have filed a resolution to be debated at this session to that effect.

We agree with the government's statement to the effect that we must develop more recreation land in Manitoba, but how can we treat it with anything but the utmost skepticism? It's impossible for anyone to take seriously that pious proclamation in the Speech when only a few paragraphs later the government reaffirms its plan to flood 300 square miles of Southern Indian Lake area in the name of progress, and which is one of the most beautiful recreation potentialities we have in the province.

It is also ironic that after 4 years of government the NDP is going to launch another study on the feasibility of enacting a Bill of Rights for Manitoba. We consider the lack of a Bill of Rights in this province to be of paramount importance, perhaps the most damning indictment against this government for betraying even its own principle. We Liberals have twice introduced legislation into this House in support of our call for a Bill of Rights, for which the Human Rights Commission has also endorsed our position and in reward for which this government emasculated the Human Rights Commission even on the self evident need for a Bill of Rights. The government speaks of a study rather than action. This back to school lack of courage to act characterizes the government's recent performance of the past two years.

The government suggests that it will take the miniscule step of improving teacher retirement pensions but doesn't have the courage to join most of the other provinces of Canada in enacting portable pension legislation for all working people, and providing true vesting of pensions for not only teachers but for all government employees.

The Speech contains some vague reference to rural development. The Government of Manitoba has paid lip service to this for years, and as we all watch the continued decline of our rural communities, in this area we can do nothing but doubt both the competence and the goodwill and the good faith of the government; because how are we to do otherwise when we watch and observe the astonishing spectacle of the government committed to rural development,

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(MR. ASPER cont'd)...moving one of its own state-owned industries, Flyer Coach Industries, out of rural Manitoba and into urban Manitoba. So much for rural development.

Mr. Speaker, it serves no useful purpose, we know, because of the unwillingness of this government to do anything but that which is politically expedient, to catalogue the long list of things which the Speech from the Throne should have contained. The government has left behind it as it ends its first term, and its last term, a trail of broken promises: The promise of a Bill of Rights -- (Hear, Hear) -- the promise of a Bill of Rights that was contained in the first Speech from the Throne. The promise of legislation to provide for the registration of personal property from the 1971 Speech from the Throne. The promise of day care centres from the 1971 Speech from the Throne. The promise, and the most unacceptable betrayal of all, Mr. Speaker, the one which will damn this government historically, the abandonment of the promise to run an open government, to hold public hearings on the Southern Indian Lake flooding issue. A promise on which this government stood for office and was elected and which it has callously, aimlessly and cynically betrayed. In place of the great hope which was offered to the people of Manitoba when this government took office we have seen a proliferation of legislation and regulation which invade the privacy of more and more citizens. The creation of more boards, more tribunals, more regulatory agencies which inhibit individual freedom of action. We've seen an intensification of the brain-drain, an explosion of bureaucracy, an escalation of pork-barrel politics, and patronage; a senseless and mindless and purposeless takeover of business after business for no purpose other than perhaps the joy of public and state ownership.

We have witnessed the incredible spectacle again of a government repeating in connection with the City of Winnipeg the same blunder as was committed by the Roblin administration which also created a new city structure, then abandoned it having failed to give it the constitutional and fiscal authority with which to carry out its statutory responsibilities.

We have observed also the continued neglect of the native population, both Indian and Metis. We've observed a government which pays lip service to a rational welfare policy but which has in fact spawned the most colossal free-ride society known anywhere in Canada. A government which preached about reform of the political process and legislative proceedings but has been guilty of the most flagrant abuse at every turn and which has whipped and trampled upon the rights of this Legislature. Perhaps the lack of government in this province is a result of the absence of Crown Ministers from the province on a basis never before seen. And while we Manitobans are humbly left to fend for ourselves, our Ministers travel to Japan, Madagascar, Poland, Mexico, Malawi, the United States, Sweden, France and Russia, for purposes which remain obscure to most Manitobans. But perhaps, Mr. Speaker, we should not be so hard on our hard-working well travelled Ministers inasmuch as there is some indication that they will not long enjoy the free hand on the public purse which has enabled them to become the most well travelled ministry in this province's history.

Mr. Speaker, I said previously that we're not going to belabour the lack of bold, courageous or imaginative programs, --(Interjection)-- at my own expense, at my own expense, Sir. Try travelling at your own expense, you'll enjoy it. However, I also said that there are a number of crucially important matters facing this province with which we must deal immediately and which are most completely ignored in the Speech from the Throne. The first is taxes. I have said that the Government of Manitoba has the capacity in financial terms in the year 1973 to make a major tax cut for Manitoba's over taxed citizens. I estimated that we could reduce those taxes by an average of \$20.00 per month per family unit, as a minimum. It was no surprise to me, Mr. Speaker, that this assertion on my part was greeted by the usual stream of personal insult and invective from the Premier, because all of us have become used to the fact that this is his style and brand of political debate which is found on the rule - never deal rationally with the substance of what anyone says rather attack the personal integrity of anyone who criticizes.

Well Mr. Speaker, only a few days later, the Premier allowed somewhat coyly as how he just did happen to have an extra 26 million in his Treasury and maybe we weren't so far out and maybe we could have a major tax cut. We have little doubt, Mr. Speaker, that as we get closer to the election day, the Premier will suddenly and conveniently discover that we have been right all along and that he will then announce his major tax cuts, but we're left to

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . wonder how he will rationalize at that time his violent denial of the possibility given only a few days ago. It's difficult also to understand why the First Minister plays and continues to play political games with the people of Manitoba on the vital issue of tax cuts. For while he juggles his figures as to whether or not we are the highest, the second highest or amongst the highest taxed people in Canada, he conveniently ignores the other side of the equation which makes the problem even more difficult to endure for Manitobans. And that is that while we are amongst the highest taxed we are also significantly lower in income per capita. Particularly we are dramatically lower in income compared on an individual basis with our neighboring province of Ontario who also enjoy the lowest income taxes in Canada. It's this squeeze, not to mention, not to mention the constant erosion through inflation of the buying power that is intolerable to the average Manitoban who isn't lucky enough to be a ward of the State of Manitoba as so many more and more Manitobans are becoming every day.

The Manitoba people do not want government service except in those areas where there is an urgent need. They have learned through bitter experience with this government that when a dollar of tax is taken from them, they do not get a dollar of service in return. There are too many hands, too many overseas trips, too many trips to the Fort Garry Hotel cocktail lounge that . . . too many human bodies, too many bureaucrats, too many waste artists in the way. What we need, and what we must have, and we're entitled to demand is a tax reduction particularly in those areas where the average Manitoban is hit the hardest. And under those circumstances it is obvious that we have no alternative but to make those major tax cuts of which I've spoken in the field of school tax on residential and farming property. Based upon the most recent figures which are available to the public, we believe that our surplus this year and next would permit us to cut those taxes, the ones that choke our people, over the next year; those school financing taxes whether they're on rented apartments or on homes or on farms should be cut by approximately 50 percent. When we suggested it the Premier groaned, threw up his hands in helpless gestures; it boggled his mind. The thought when suggested, he responded by simply saying "couldn't do it." We respond by saying simply that if the job is too tough for him then we Liberals are not exhausted, not too bankrupt in our ideas to be able to say to the First Minister, if you can't do it, then move over and let us, because we will and we can do it. Perhaps if the Leader of the New Democratic Party, who also happens to be occupied with the job of being the MLA for Rossmere, who also has the minor job of spending \$2 billion of our money in the Hydro ministry, who also has the minor job of being the man who is responsible in the ministry of Dominion Provincial relations, who also happens to be the Premier of this province, which is another minor of his avocations, and who also happens to be the Minister of Finance, would simply give up one of those portfolios, preferably the Finance ministry, to someone who can do that job.

The second issue is jobs, Mr. Speaker. Because of the government's secrecy no one in this province except perhaps the ministry is able to know just how many jobs are actually required in Manitoba. We know that our official unemployed range between sixteen and 20,000 people, but we also know not included in those records maybe somewhere between five to 10,000 who are on welfare and who might be at least partially employed, and we know as well that there are many thousands of native population who are unemployed and who live on Federal assistance and who desire to enter the work force. And we also know not included in those figures that each year because of lack of government economic development many thousands of Manitobans leave the province to make their home elsewhere in search of jobs and careers which are lamentably not available to them in this province due to a lack of government economic development strategy. It's here that we see the total failure of the government. Anyone with any social conscience, any at all, can quickly identify the areas where social policy must be improved. And in this area this government has a record of considerable progress. But it takes a different kind of skill, a skill that is obviously missing in this government to create the most vital aspect of social policy and economic environment which people can find their own meaningful well-paid employment and thus not require social assistance and social programming. This is what is lacking and has been lacking for many years in this province.

The government offers in this speech not a single program that will capture the economic challenges and potentials of this province and turn them into jobs for our people. And it is inconceivable that at this time in Manitoba's economic history that we still do not have a government program which publicly sets annual targets for job creation and implement an annual strategy or a long-term strategy for the programs that will create the jobs and sets a series

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . . of programs for that purpose.

The government's answer to the job crisis in Manitoba is to create artificial temporary government-operated employment programs as a substitute for real, permanent and independent jobs in the private sector. The government strategy is not much different from the make-work soup kitchen operations of the 1930 depression. It is the epitome of the government's failure for four years that there has been no major industrial event other than State-owned industries since this government came to office. The tens of thousands of Manitobans who have had to leave this province in this tenure of four years in order to find work elsewhere do not thank this government for the pious hand wringing and the proclamations about improving the human conditions, because they know, as all of us know, that these words are hollow slogans and political gestures.

During the past two years the Liberal Party has offered not less than twelve policies for creating through industrial development new jobs, all of which has been successful in other jurisdictions, other states, other provinces that are similar to Manitoba. The government has seen fit to adopt none of them. But worse, the NDP has not substituted their own programs to replace others that are offered by us and other members in this Chamber. And we will once again elaborate on those proposals in the debate on the Estimates for the Department of Industry and Commerce, in the fading hope, Mr. Speaker, that that might prod the government into some constructive action on the job crisis.

And now the third issue. The third issue is open government .

A MEMBER: Oh -h-h !

MR. ASPER: There is no more example that is outstanding that characterizes the need for an end to government secrecy in this province and the opening and the allowing of fresh air into the political process than the tragic example of the Churchill River Diversion and the South Indian Lake flooding projects because here you see a government at its most arrogant. The Speech from the Throne says that that government is going to go ahead with the project and neither permit legislative debate nor genuine full-scale public hearings through which the public can be informed. And the government could be informed itself at such hearings.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. GREEN: I think, a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, that there shouldn't be on the record a statement that the Speech from the Throne said something which it doesn't say, and I'm sure that my honourable friend wanted to separate his words as to indicate his criticism and then not have the Speech from the Throne as alleging what he has alleged which, -- I say maybe on reflection he will see that it came out that way. Perhaps in his flight of oratory, which I am appreciating, he didn't realize that that's what he said.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne says that the government is going to go ahead with the project, and in this House the government has said, and certainly implied in the Speech from the Throne because of its absence, is a clear understanding that this government will not permit legislative debate, that it will not allow full-scale -- (Interjection)-- Fine, say so.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. ASPER: . . . and will not permit public hearings through which not only could the public be informed but the government could be informed, and where hydro experts would be required to prove their case. The government's refusal to hold these hearings is so incomprehensible, so beyond belief, so unreasonable, that one must conclude that the government has something to hide, that it has made a mistake, knows it, but it does not have the courage to reverse course; or perhaps the Honourable Mines Minister who appears to be the author of this inflexibility has once again intimidated his colleagues and frightened them into silence.

The Manitoba Liberal Party once again callson the First Minister and the NDP to immediately stop and withhold any further activity on the Churchill River diversion, the flooding of Southern Indian Lake, and to immediately launch an independent commission, complete with public hearings, into the entire program. Surely the thought that a growing body of independent and non-political experts from almost every field of endeavour who say this province is about to commit a tragic and costly as well as an irreparable mistake, makes it essential to hold public hearings.

When the present government was in opposition, this is precisely the position it took on the issue.



MR. PAULLEY: No, no. At no time.

MR. ASPER: Let the government now search its conscience . . .

A MEMBER: brought it in the House.

MR. ASPER: . . . as well as its memory and answer the question: why the about face? When this government was in opposition it stood shoulder to shoulder with the Liberal Opposition demanding public hearings on all major issues including the grant of timber rights over one-third of this province to CFI and the entire financial arrangement with CFI. Surely it cannot deny that if we had had public hearings on the CFI project where we had been able to call witnesses, crossexamine them, compare our alternatives and optional possibilities, that project . . .

MR. PAULLEY: That's nonsense.

MR. ASPER: . . . would not necessarily have gone ahead and things would be different today.

MR. PAULLEY: That's nonsense.

MR. ASPER: The South Indian Lake issue is no different. The members of this Legislature and the members of the public do not have the technical expertise on which to judge the vitally important issue and the government still steadfastly refuses to make that knowledge and information available to members of the public as it ought to have done, and the government consistently refuses to hold hearings on which members of the Legislature can judge the issue and perform our duties to the electorate. Yet we have already seen enough evidence to convince us that at the very least this project should be stopped immediately and publicly re-examined, and our insistence that the project be stopped is based on several grounds. First and foremost, the environmental pollution and ecological damage to one of our greatest and most precious natural resources; a group of untouched and unspoiled lakes, rivers and streams has not been adequately evaluated and taken into account, other than in token terms --(Interjection)-- token terms. The manner in which the government is proceeding through denial of natural justice, through the denial of public hearings to the people of South Indian Lake and Split Lake and Nelson House, violates the fundamental civil rights and principles of justice to which every Manitoba citizen is entitled.

The fact that even the economics of the whole project have been seriously questioned by some qualified experts who suggested that at the very least it may result in a waste of nearly \$200 million, which might cost every Manitoba family between \$100 and \$150 per year into eternity, and the fact that the constituency in which some 300 square miles of land will be flooded and 280 miles of untouched river will be damaged and several thousand residents will have their livelihood impaired and taken away from them and their lives psychologically damaged, is not even represented in the House at this time and cannot make its voice heard. There is ample individual and independent evidence to suggest that the project is premature at this time because both, there is no urgency and, more important, because the whole issue is the subject of a federal-provincial study on which the taxpayers of this province are spending a million dollars at least and which has not been completed and upon which there can be no reasoned judgment until the report is issued, and even the legality of this project has been challenged and indeed is the subject of a lawsuit for an injunction in the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba at this very point.

Mr. Speaker, on top and more important to us in the profession of politics, this government has no mandate from the people of Manitoba to carry out the flooding and diversion project. Rather the reverse is true, for regardless of what project and howls will come from the government side of this House in defence of their indefensible action in refusing to hold public hearings, the public of Manitoba voted for this government in 1969 in the belief that it was committed to holding public hearings, examining the alternatives, and placing a higher value on our natural resource, our natural heritage - the environment - than the previous administration had done.

A MEMBER: You're right there, Izzy.

MR. ASPER: But the government remains intransigent; it rushes blindly ahead crushing all opposition, ignoring all advice. Only a few weeks ago the government's own appointed environmental council did hold hearings on this issue, did hear all interested parties, and voted 26 to 1 against the project, to stop the construction and call off the public hearings.

Mr. Speaker, hardly a week goes by that doesn't see another responsible group in our

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . . community of Manitoba call for public hearings, because if they're concerned over the mounting body of evidence that indicates that something is drastically wrong, the government's answer is to launch a propaganda program, shout down the critics, fire anyone who ventures to suggest that a monumental error is about to be committed. Dr. Cass-Booy, the former head of the Manitoba Water Commission, and Dr. Robert Newbury, a former member of the Water Commission who resigned in protest over the government's callous disregard over the environment, and others, who have the technical data have convinced, along with people of economic skills, environmental skills, and others of independent political thought, have convinced a wide body of Manitoba opinion that there is enough evidence to warrant a suspension of immediate action if for no other reason- and apparently there are many others - than we are possibly on the brink of committing a tragic and irreparable disservice to future generations --(Interjection)-- I do not. No, I don't have the arrogance to say I know. I say I want public hearings where I can be informed. I don't intend, Mr. Speaker, to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order !

MR. ASPER: I do not intend to debate the Southern Indian Lake flooding issue today; we will debate it as the opportunities arise, if they arise and we are not further stifled as we have been today.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I would like to indicate to the honourable member there is no stifling of debate. I do not believe that the Chair has done any stifling and I am the one in charge of what is proceeding in the House. I would like to ask that he not reflect on the Chair.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, my observation was not meant with any disrespect to the Chair whatever. The stifling of debate to which I refer, the muzzling of opposition to which I refer, lies entirely with the government side of this House, not with the Chair.

MR. GREEN: . . . he has identified us, I would like to know on what occasion the government in this House stopped debate on this question. . .

A MEMBER: Outside of this House.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Will the honourable gentlemen sit down please. Let me indicate that I am the keeper of your rules and if there will be any stifling it will be through my error, not through any other one's error, an oversight by me only. I want to indicate again, I shall do my utmost to be fair and equitable to all parties so that there is no infringement of any of your rules - they are your rules - and our rules at the present time indicate there is no opportunity to stifle debate. I want that made quite clear. The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ASPER: Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but condemn, as reasonable Manitobans do, the campaign by this government of fear, distortion and use of scare tactics in order to drown out the opposition to this project. The government says that it's too late, that we're already committed. This is nonsense. We are committed only to develop the Nelson River and there is no quarrel with that, but the Nelson River can be developed without the Churchill River diversion and without the Southern Indian Lake flooding according to many experts who say in fact that the flooding project and the diversion will only give us power for an additional four years before we again have to find an alternative scheme.

The government tells the people that if we don't proceed with the Churchill River diversion and the Southern Indian Lake flooding, thousands of jobs will be lost in Manitoba. The fact is that many of these jobs would be temporary jobs filled by out-of-province people and they're only temporary until the project is completed. But how many jobs will be permanently lost through the loss of a major tourist potential? The government gives us no answer to that question. The government attempts to intimidate Manitobans by saying that if we don't do it there will be power shortages in Manitoba by 1975.

Mr. Speaker, this is the same propaganda that the previous administration spokesmen in hydro used in 1969 when they threatened us by saying that if we didn't flood Southern Indian Lake by 30 feet in 1969 there would be brown-outs and power shortages in 1972/73. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult for us to believe the government propagandists and the hydro propagandists because here we are in 1973 with power consumption up 30 percent and there is no brown-out and no power shortage. On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, independent professional consultants have indicated to this government that we do not face any serious threats of

(MR. ASPER cont'd). . . power shortages until 1991 if we simply develop the Nelson River to its full potential and leave the Churchill River alone. But the NDP screams that we Liberals, who now stand alone in demanding public hearings in this House, are political opportunists seizing an issue for political gain, and we respond to them by pointing out that we have maintained this same position since the project was first announced in 1969. We have never varied it, we have never altered it, and every statement I have personally made as Leader of the Party since that time has been to demand public hearings. The Liberal Party has not changed its mind but apparently the NDP has, and it is this betrayal, this reversal which discredits the profession of politics.

Yesterday, you heard me ask the Honourable Minister of Mines whether or not his position in 1969 had been to oppose the flooding of Southern Indian Lake, and with his usual vigor, and with his usual vigor . . .

A MEMBER: Can I quote that?

MR. ASPER: . . . he falsely denied it. Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the four years in office have dulled the memory of the Minister of Mines for I'm sure he would not want to have knowingly misled this House, but I must insist that he reconsider the answer he gave yesterday because it appears on page 1259 of the Hansard of April 14, 1969 as follows:

"Mr. Green: We have reason to believe that the same project that the Minister wishes to go ahead with, one of the world's greatest hydro electric projects, can be proceeded without the flooding of Southern Indian Lake." And now he proposes to flood by 10 feet. It's like flood, floodier, floodiest, Mr. Speaker; it's like dead, deader, deadest. Indeed, when the Conservative administration wished to proceed with the project and to flood the lake by 30 feet, the same man who now denies the public the right to public hearings, when he's about to flood the lake, made a most eloquent argument in this House in favor of public hearings.

I refer to Hansard, March 20, 1969, Page 585, where Mr. Green says: "I think the Minister would agree that the proper way of determining in a case of this kind whether a license should or should not be granted, would be to have technical people providing an independent tribunal with the facts so that those facts could at least be recommended in some independent form to the Legislature. That's why we have such things as Royal Commissions from time to time because it is recognized that the subject matter at hand is too difficult to be discussed by normal debate in the Legislature without some preliminary fact-finding."

Mr. Speaker, we are not going to debate Southern Indian Lake any further today. I merely make reference to it and the government's unforgivable action in attempting to muzzle the critics, ride roughshod over anyone who had the boldness to point out that the king is not wearing any clothes, is a further example of this government's failure to introduce open government.

And now, Mr. Speaker, I come to the real and most essential ingredient of what I have to say today. The fourth and most profound failure of the Speech from the Throne is that it fails to come to grips with the most crucially important issue facing us at this time, the re-negotiation of Manitoba's place within Confederation, within the Canadian union, in order to ensure a new deal and a fair deal for Canada for the western provinces and particularly Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, I am turning to the most challenging and the most important issue, I said.

A MEMBER: At long last.

MR. ASPER: Nothing I have said up to now equals its importance to all of us. Because of that the failure of the government to understand, identify with and begin to solve the western fact as it applies to Manitoba, is all the more astonishing. Because this government is afraid or unprepared to lead, unwilling to seize the opportunity that now lies before us and has failed for four years to even recognize the existence of growing western Canadian discontent, I can no longer think optimistically about life in this province if this government should continue in office much longer.

Four months from now an unprecedented conference will take place, a conference which for Manitoba may very well be one of the most important and critical meetings in our history. I'm referring to the Conference on Western Economic Opportunities to be held between the Prime Minister of Canada and the four western Premiers and referred to in the Speech from the Throne. This conference has as its objective the evolution of an economic policy for Western Canada which includes Manitoba, but it is much much more. It is the first step in a serious attempt by any government in Canada to re-negotiate Confederation

(MR. ASPER cont'd) . . . . . in a manner which will stem the growing tide of western anger and I have now, after reading the Speech from the Throne, having heard of no plan by this government to debate an evolving unanimous all-party Manitoba position for these conferences, reached the conclusion that the present government has no intention of safeguarding Manitoba's position . However, what concerns us more and what has become more and more apparent to us as the issue of western alienation has become of more national concern, is that the government of Manitoba does not grasp the significance of the western fact, nor the renegotiation of this country's confederation that must now take place. I say that Manitoba has more at stake in this conference and the ongoing renegotiation of Confederation than has any other province in Canada. The outcome of these negotiations and others that must follow will tell us whether or not this country is prepared to accommodate itself to the fact the west must have a new deal. We must now become fully equal partners with the other provinces of Canada if Confederation is to remain a reality. It is a matter of profound regret to me that the NDP Government of Manitoba is not committed to insisting upon a complete renegotiation of Confederation, of the ground rules of Canada as they apply to Manitoba.

. . . . . continue on next page.

(MR. ASPER cont'd.) . . . . I believe this issue is of such fundamental and long-term importance to all Manitobans that the NDP and all other parties in this House should put provincial politics aside on the matter. It's an issue which transcends all political parties. The negotiating team that represents Manitoba from this day forward should represent the views of all Manitobans, of all political thought. It was therefore considerably disappointing to me that the team that -- Mr. Speaker, it was of considerable disappointment to me that the First Minister has failed to establish in the Speech from the Throne, an all party committee of this House, and an all party negotiating team which would devise a position that Manitoba is to take at these and all subsequent discussions. The NDP seems to recognize, or refuse rather, to recognize that the leaders and the members of the opposition parties represent over sixty per cent of the popular vote in this province; and I say this, that this is unfortunate because the issue of Manitoba's relationship to the rest of Canada, the designing of a new national policy for Canada, the new Canada that we leave to our children, on the prairies, is so important that the minds and the ideas of all political parties within the province should be applied to and united in this endeavour, rather than only the NDP point of view being presented to Canada.

In 1971 we asked the Premier in this House, whether before going to the crucial Victoria Constitutional Conference he would table a position paper so that we could debate -- and he failed to do it. He went to the Constitutional Conference and did not express the views of this House, he expressed the views of the NDP party. And now, with western discontent at its highest, and with Canada's sympathy for our problems and a willingness to negotiate with us at a peak, it would have been a healthy and productive thing for the government to put forward a policy, a position paper to this House, form this all party committee to formulate the policy and go to the bargaining table in a position to say to the rest of Canada, that the Provincial Government and the negotiators are expressing not just the views of the NDP but the views of all Manitobans.

The sad fact that emerges from the Speech from the Throne is that the government is going to report to the House after the conference, not before. The representative sixty percent of the people of this province will have no way of commenting on or reflecting upon the NDP provincial position until it's too late. It may very well be that the performance of Mr. Schreyer and his colleagues at these conferences could very well determine our future for many years after the NDP is gone and forgotten, and for that reason it is incumbent upon the government to allow people outside its own party to take part in the debate and in the conference. But true to form, the Premier is incapable of accepting non-partisanship. He rejects a non-partisan approach. It therefore is incumbent upon me to say as I have been saying to the people of Manitoba and to the people of Canada, that should we form a government at some time in the future, and we feel this province has been sold out or badly represented in the renegotiation, that we will not feel ourselves bound and we will have no alternative but to insist at that point on a further renegotiation, and make no mistake about it Mr. Speaker. Our generation of Manitobans will no longer accept a second class or colonial status for our people within the federal union, and it's very clear that on any analysis the root cause of our economic and social problems here in Manitoba can be traced to the constitutional structure of Canada and the laws and the systems that the Parliament of Canada has made that flow from our constitution, unless western alienation is arrested and reversed and unless Manitoba renegotiates her place within the Canadian union, there is little reason for any optimism as to what we might be able to do, to accomplish for our people within Manitoba.

Given the straitjacket into which Canada has placed the west, governments such as those in Manitoba, whether they're Liberal, Conservative, or New Democrat, have little flexibility, little elbow room, but if we break out of the straitjacket, if we cut the chains that have bound us for 100 years, to a colonial status within Canada, then the future prospects for the people of this province is incalculable. For many years now many of us on this side, unfortunately no one from the government side of this House, have been insisting on a new deal for Manitoba and for western Canada. We have patiently written, travelled, spoken across this country, attempting to gain sympathy for the legitimate grievances of Manitoba and the west, and in recent months a major change has occurred. Canada is listening. This country is saying to the west that we have enjoyed as a nation, we have suffered as a nation, an agonizing, an anguished decade, learning to live with and accommodate towards the French fact of the 1960's. Canada does not wish to go through another round dealing with the western fact. This country

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(MR. ASPER cont'd.) . . . . has never been more ready to accede to a reasonable western Canadian request for a new deal. It will take the greatest of skill, the broadest of talent and blending of talents from all points of view to achieve a peaceful solution or conclusion to the dispute.

That skill and that commitment to this most important endeavour in our time is neither understood nor in existence on the government side of this House. This government stands idly while one-third of our province's population live -- fifty percent of the rural non-farm families live below the Canada Economic Council accepted poverty line. Those in rural Manitoba are suffering under income levels that are only on average half the income levels of the City of Winnipeg and three-quarters the national average. Our growth rate in this province is not through NDP neglect and not through Liberal and Conservative neglect but through the very structure of this country, one-third the national average. We suffer an annual brain drain concurrently running at about 1,000 people a month, and one need only travel this province to see the literally dozens of rural towns that face economic collapse. Empty homes, empty schools, empty churches, closed down firehalls, empty places of former business. I could go at some length as we all know cataloguing what western grievance consists of and the economic problems that face us.

When you look at a map you would make a logical assumption as to what Manitoba could be within Canada only to find that it's quite the reverse. We all ask how come? And the more you dig, the more you research, the more you think, the more you analyze, it all goes back to the conference table in Charlottetown in 1867 when Canada was born, and when Manitoba was not represented at the bargaining table, when we and the rest of Canada were merely a colony. The Fathers of Confederation of this country began and designed a system which was to be a federal scheme, a partnership of ten equal participating states, but they never took into account the eventual entry into Canada of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C., and the structure that was foisted upon the western provinces when we came in did not have anyone speaking on our behalf in the bargaining and as a result we entered a situation which has shaped the disparity and economic colonialism which we have endured for a hundred years in the west.

The result of that Constitutional Conference and the lack of western participation in the structuring of Canada at the time was that the key laws that have been passed in this country established an Imperial system of governing, a centralization of power in Ontario and Quebec, plus banking laws, immigration laws, taxation laws, tariff laws, freight rate laws, structures, the broadcasting laws, the political representation laws and a host of key factors which make up this country and which support and design the economic and political supremacy of eastern Canada, Ontario and Quebec, the supremacy of the original partners in Confederation. And so today, economics and political power in Canada remain concentrated in two provinces, Ontario and Quebec. Together these two provinces control more than 60 percent of the seats in the House of Commons, more than 74 percent of the seats in the Senate and a far higher percentage than that in the business and labour establishment of Canada. Given this domination of the country's power structure, Ontario in particular reaps the benefit of an unfair political and economic advantage. The result is economic disparity for Manitoba as well as the western provinces. The tragedy is that we live in a province that has phenomenal untapped potential, a hard-working, a skilled population, yet we are deprived of the economic framework within Canada within which we can realize that potential. This is the challenge that faces this generation regardless of political stripe, and this is the challenge that this government has failed to assume, to seize. Manitobans have suffered this defect for too long. As I say, our generation of Manitobans and westerners will not accept its continuance as an inevitable fact of our lives, thus we must achieve reform of Canada's parliamentary system if we are to be able to pass the laws that will allow the underpopulated provinces of Canada such as Manitoba to become equal partners in Confederation. If Manitobans are to share the affluence, the job opportunities, the career possibilities that are available in this country, then regardless of political stripe those Manitobans must all lend their support and their efforts to the renegotiation of Confederation. For unless and until the people of the four western provinces can truly believe that the Parliament in Ottawa is really their Parliament, pressures that weaken the concept of the federal state and balkanize Canada will undoubtedly continue.

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(MR. ASPER cont'd.)

To this end I have been proposing and I call upon the NDP government to join in proposing a comprehensive reform of Canada's constitutional framework, the aim of which would be to insure that federal programs will never again be allowed to create regional political weakness and economic disparity that follows from it and which threatens this country's integrity. There is no more important issue facing Manitoba than this Mr. Speaker. Renegotiate Confederation and our potential is staggering to behold. Fail or ignore in that endeavour and we consign our people to another 100 years of economic domination from Toronto and Montreal. And where is the leadership in this great cause, Mr. Speaker? Certainly not on the government side of the House. We are tired of hearing NDP politicians simply whine and complain about economic problems and continually go cap in hand to Ottawa asking for more handouts. We do not need, we do not want, we are not prepared to throw in the towel and cry about being a have-not province, for given a fair deal within the economic laws of Canada, we need nothing from anyone except the opportunity to compete for our share of the national wealth, unimpeded by anachronistic laws which load the dice against Manitoba and the west. Without the reform of the constitutional system under which we live, and without a major gesture being made to Manitoba and the west by eastern provinces, a gesture which must be negotiated with greater skill and perseverance than has yet been shown by the government, Manitoba will continue to face the stark reality of regional economic disparity and political weakness along with our sister provinces in western Canada.

In short, Mr. Speaker, I'm saying that the existing inequality of income and opportunity is a smear on Canada and a smear which must be removed before federalism itself disintegrates. Such a situation in the system that allows this situation to exist is unjust. It has no place in the constitutional make-up of a federal state. We have come to a moment of truth in Canadian history where Canada is listening. We did not arrive at this moment, those of us who have been speaking on this issue for the past decade, we did not arrive at this entirely without some bitterness, violence and at times perhaps, even fatal pressures being exerted against the bonds of Confederation itself. And I speak, let it be clear, as a confirmed federalist, a person, a patriot who loves his country no less than anyone else, but does not wish to see it torn apart by inter-regional dissent. And as I have travelled this province and our region, seeing the injustices that are suffered provincially and across the west, I am alarmed, as should this House, by the fact that this government has not grasped the depth of frustration and tends to treat the legitimate complaints of westerners, and particularly Manitobans, as mere parochial grumbling.

We do not want our province to be represented by people who hold that view when they are negotiating for us with the rest of this country. We want this province to be represented by a party that speaks with one voice for all Manitobans, that is capable of identifying and dealing with and negotiating on the most crucial and self evident issues. Time, Mr. Speaker, today doesn't allow me to list the negotiating list, perhaps we will have an opportunity later in the session to . . .

A MEMBER: Ah forget time . . . maybe the honourable member . . . Oh yes, sure go ahead with your . . .

MR. ASPER: I'm glad that the invitation comes from the most virulent critic of a western position on the government side. Then I'll say, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker I will say that what we want is to be represented in this renegotiation by a government that will tell this country in clear, unmistakable terms, one - that we insist that we in the west who represent 40 percent of the provinces of Canada must therefore have 40 percent of the political power and 40 percent of the influence in national decision-making. And if that requires new immigration policies to deflect the population to the underpopulated regions and new industrial strategy to create jobs for those people when they come to the underpopulated regions, then that is the price Canada must pay for Confederation.

We have called and again called for a new political structure in Canada, one where the Senate of Canada, as in other great federalisms, would become an elective body and would have representation of equal members from each of the ten provinces, a policy which has been adopted by the Liberal Party in Canada --(Interjection)-- yes, by the Liberal Party National Conference in Ottawa December 5, 1970. Because the ten provinces --Interjection-- The First Minister asks why is it not done? Because in the myopia that this government

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(MR. ASPER cont'd.) . . . . exhibits on this issue, it seems that the First Minister considers that it is going to be a negotiation with Ottawa. The First Minister, being a former teacher in political science, should know that the renegotiation of Confederation must be with the ten provinces. That's who has to move over. --(Interjection)-- Accepted by Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, we require changes in our banking laws where the banking laws permit the banking establishments to be located in nine out of ten banks in Toronto and Montreal but no regional decentralization of the banking system. We want somebody who will tell the people of this country very clearly that we in Manitoba and in the west are a multi-cultural society not a bicultural society and that we must have from this country programs which foster and encourage cultural minority groups to maintain and identify their heritage, someone who will insist that Canada will come to grips with and do justice by the native population, which in Manitoba alone will by 1970 represent nine percent of our labour force, our potential work force; someone that will negotiate a new national transportation policy which will see freight equalization brought in to such an extent that industry can locate in Manitoba and compete with any industry in Canada for national and international markets to the end that Manitoba's growth rate which was only one-third the national average last year will at least be equal to the national average. A government which will insist that the tariff laws will be broken down, the tariff laws which in effect force Manitoba consumers to pay an average of \$700 per year, per family more for their consumer goods because we are protecting the prices paid to eastern established manufacturing industries. Someone who will negotiate a new tax system for Canada, one which allows selective tax programs on a regional basis and shall be designed to act as an incentive and an inducement for growth and job creating development in the slow growth area such as Manitoba is known as. One that will insist that the other provinces of Canada recognize the problem of our farmers who are forced to buy everything they need from protected eastern markets and are forced to sell everything they produce in fluctuating world markets. To the end that our farmers will receive guaranteed pricing from Canada on their basic product so as to assure them a fair return for their work, their sacrifice and their investment.

A government which will insist on the negotiation of new laws that will see federal spending and Federal Government department and job opportunities spread proportionately across all regions of Canada; an act which alone would see several hundreds of millions of dollars per year injected into the Manitoba economy. A government which will establish genuine regional economic expansion programs and which will through a series of tax credits see the less affluent provinces such as Manitoba not only keep pace with but actually catch up to the affluent provinces. One that will negotiate so that the freight system will see major revolution, major change so that the average freight rate paid by Manitobans will no longer be 50 percent over the Canadian national average, even taking into account the Crow's Nest Pass rate, and the Manitoba average truck rate being more than double the national average, all of which is easy to understand why we do not have development of secondary industry in this province. A government that will demand that the National Broadcasting System, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, will be operated in such a manner as to guarantee that western Canadians will be properly represented to themselves and to this country and that production of radio and television programs will occur not only in Toronto but in Manitoba as well.

I don't pretend, Mr. Speaker, that this is an exhaustive list, rather it's only demonstrative of the kind of thing that the Government of Manitoba must set as its top priority on that negotiating list. We in the west are not after new concessions; rather we are adults within confederation. We simply want to be given a challenge to participate. The power to create a Canada which reflects our distinctive features. The west has never said it wants to dominate but neither will it be willing to let Canadian policies be dominated by the current Canadian power structure which in effect forces we westerners to rely upon eastern fraternalism. We believe that the structures that chain Manitoba to economic colonialism can be broken and adapted to meet our needs. Canada, her Prime Minister and people throughout this nation are asking the question: what does the west want? And this government has no answer.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat that this issue transcends all party lines in the west and it's for these reasons that I express these views to you. The Speech from the Throne indicates that



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(MR. ASPER cont'd.) . . . . this government fails to understand its responsibility in this regard. If there is a Liberal Government in this province after the next election we will call an all-party conference to settle and negotiate through a legislative committee the position on the renegotiation of Confederation that Manitoba is to take. The purpose of the all-party participation would be to demonstrate conclusively to the rest of Canada that whoever speaks for Manitoba is speaking for all Manitoba, and if we Liberals form a government in this province we would then call a full ten premier conference to be held here in Winnipeg to begin the process of the renegotiation of Confederation in order to eliminate the inequities we suffer under the present system. And if a Liberal Government is formed in this province we shall apply such techniques, such skills and such pressures as are required to win a new deal, a fair deal for Manitoba. Because the NDP Government has demonstrated for the past four years that it has no feeling for nor any policy in regards to western Canadian alienation, national unity, or the national renegotiation of our place within Confederation; and because the moment of renegotiation has now been presented to us, if for no other reason, then because of the NDPs bankruptcy on this vital issue, we cannot support the continued existence of this government.

I am sure we will hear the usual decent from the NDP government members; they will take their normal delight in evading the responsibility by saying ah, why don't you just talk to your Federal colleagues in Ottawa, everything you speak of is their fault. But that is a shallow view, I've heard it abound from that side of the House all afternoon, but that is the shallow view, Mr. Speaker, for no government in Ottawa, whether Federal-Liberal or Federal-Conservative has ever really tackled the problem of western alienation with a determination to solve it. Nor have we ever seen any leadership or pro-western commitments or legislation from the NDP Leader in Ottawa who because of his affiliation with eastern based labour union and his constant attempts to break in politically into Quebec is unable to become a spokesman for western rights.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not all the sole response, because as I said earlier Manitoba's job is not so much to renegotiate with the Federal Government as it is to negotiate and reach an accommodation with the other ten provinces for it is only with the consent of those ten provinces that major economic and constitutional change can come about. It's easy to blame Ottawa, as the NDP always does, as I do on occasion, whether it's a Liberal or a Conservative or a New Democratic move in Ottawa, but it must be remembered that Ottawa cannot change the constitution of Canada without the consent of the ten provinces. This is something for which provincial consent is required. I believe that when those ten provinces reach an accord on this issue through the renegotiation, it will then be easily ratified by Ottawa; whoever is in office at that time.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, we applaud and welcome the long overdue and the desirable social reform programs that are contained in the Speech from the Throne. There is little to quarrel with in what it says except for the length of time it took the NDP to say it, even though we Liberals have been offering these policies for years.

MR. PAULLEY: Oh brother!

MR. ASPER: If the changes go as far as they ought to go . . .

MR. PAULLEY: How long have you been dead?

MR. ASPER: . . . they will have our full support. But we'll be watching these specific legislations very carefully and if it fails to accomplish the goals of the Speech itself, we will be fighting for improvement. In spite of the good though, we must regret that after four years of government, the NDP is still floundering, is failing to come to grips with the key issues of the day. Two years ago we referred this House to a study conducted by the Government of Canada on the prognosis of where we will be 27 years from today in 2000 A.D. Mr. Speaker, we are not spreaders of gloom but we are realists. That study shows that unless dramatic reversal occurs, this province will be an insignificant backwater obscure and meaningless and irrelevant in Canada by 2000 unless dramatic, bold and aggressive steps are taken. The Throne Speech we have recently heard gives no guidance to Manitobans in this direction. It fails to motivate, it fails to innovate, it fails to inspire, it fails to lead. It adopts a pessimistic dead-end approach.

The Liberal Party in Manitoba believes and is convinced that Manitoba can, must and shall do better. We shall not succeed while we are governed by a party which is bent on fighting and refighting old wars which have long been won in a party which does not have the

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(MR. ASPER cont'd.) . . . . inventory of ideas, the imagination and the capability of leading us into the 21st Century.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage La Prairie that the motion be further amended by adding to it the following words: That this House regrets (a) that the government has failed to introduce a comprehensive economic strategy which produced at least 20,000 jobs required in 1973; and (b) that the government has failed to introduce any major tax cut for all Manitoba citizens which it had the financial capacity to do in 1973; and (c) the government continues to violate the fundamental principles of natural justice and open government by refusing to permit public hearings to be held on the Churchill River Diversion and South Indian Lake Flooding project which it is permitting Hydro to underake in spite of the mounting evidence from independent observers that indicate that public hearings are required to clear the air; and (d) that the government has failed to offer a positive strategy or take any leadership whatsoever in renegotiating Manitoba's place within Confederation and the western region of this country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER presented the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. FROESE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Thompson that debate be adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. Order, please. There are other members who wish to speak before I accept the adjournment. The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like at this time to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon and the Honourable Member for Radisson. I commend them on the good job that they did.

While I'm in the congratulating mood I would like to also congratulate a community club in my constituency, the Western Community Club Hockey team for 13 year olds and under who were the winners of the Christmas knock-out tournament and represented the City of Winnipeg in Grand Forks in an international tournament. I just wish, Mr. Speaker, that I could say that they won, unfortunately they lost seven-five, but winning is not everything in sports, it's the way that you play the game.

I would also at this time like to thank the First Minister and members of this House for the confidence that you have shown in me in electing me your Deputy Speaker, Chairman of House committees for the current session. I shall try to carry out the duties as fairly and unbiasly as possible.

I'd like to at this time, Mr. Speaker, deal briefly with some of the items in the Throne Speech that I find of particular interest to my constituents. I think the help for our old age pensioners in reduction of Medicare premiums and the partial payment of the cost of drugs which I think is something that is long overdue, and I look forward to the day, Mr. Speaker, when we can pick up all the costs. However, at the present time we must cut our coat according to our cloth and I think that the abolishment of Medicare and Hospital premiums for people over the age of 65 also for bringing the nursing home cost under the proviso of Medicare and the Manitoba Hospital Association. Even though the Federal Government are not giving any grant towards this portion, this is the portion that the Provincial Government in itself is picking up, we hope that we will be able to persuade the Federal Government that they should come in and share with us in this program.

Perhaps the Honourable Member for Wolseley who I see has left the Chamber, the Leader of the Liberal Party can use his good graces and offices with the Prime Minister of Canada and perhaps the Health Minister to put some pressure on that perhaps we can have this come about. But after the speech that he made here this afternoon I wasn't sure whether he was Rene Levesque speaking for the Party Quebecois separatism or whether he was speaking for the Liberal Party here in Manitoba.

The Leader of the Official Opposition I see is leaving the room. I wish to congratulate him before he leaves the room, on his successful retention as Party Leader even though the night of the long knives may be closer than he thinks because there seems to be a particular game that the Conservative Party plays, so I congratulate the Leader of the Conservative Party in his retention of the office as Leader of the Official Opposition.

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd.) . . . . I am not, I must confess, Mr. Speaker, and members of this Chamber, I wasn't too impressed with the speech that the honourable member made the other day because it seemed to me it was just a rehash of some of the things that he has said in the past.

There was one thing though that I thought he said that, dealing with -- oh yes, the Provincial Government to take over and prosecute or I think was it - not prosecute - was to enforce the maintenance allowance of deserted wives. Now this is a very noble thing, I think it's great. But unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have people within our society, and I have had numerous letters from widows - well not widows - deserted wives, and one in particular, one in particular whose husband has gone to jail in Headingley three times rather than to pay the maintenance allowance, and he's still not paying it. This woman has seven children, aged 8 to 16. Now what are we going to do with a case like this? Are we going to just throw up our hands or are we going to involve ourselves in needless legal costs? If we incarcerate this person we not only have to pay the mothers' allowance and social welfare for the family we also have to pick up the costs of incarcerating him, plus the costs of prosecuting him. I'm not saying that we should wipe our hands off it just like that, but for the Leader of the Opposition to say that, Oh wave a magic wand and we solve this problem.

A MEMBER: Take him over to Joe, he'll look after him.

MR. JENKINS: It just isn't quite that easy. And of course we hear the cry of the poor, middle income poor, I guess, Mr. Speaker, I'm one of the middle income poor and I'm not crying about the taxes that I have to pay. I don't think that anybody really, Mr. Speaker, likes paying taxes but when we look at others in our society who are in much more dire circumstances than some of the middle income poor -- I heard the other day, I believe it was this chap on CJOB on that hot line of his - what's his name? - Warren . . .

A MEMBER: Corporal Malone. Don't mention his name in vain.

MR. JENKINS: . . . who said he was one of the income poor and someone phoned in and asked him for a definition of income poor which was - middle income poor that was right - somewhere between \$7,500 and \$20,000 -- so the person phoning in asked Mr. Warren, even though he seemed to like to pry into other people's affairs, how much he earned and he told him, it was none of his damn business, which I quite agree, it is none of his damn business.

We have heard so much about the high taxation in this province. I can tell you that Medicare premiums, and I think subject to verification by the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, he isn't here, I think in Ontario, are somewhere around \$15 or \$16 per month --(Interjection)-- are they much more? - \$18, which brings it to almost \$300 a year as opposed to some \$99 or roughly \$100 per married family in the Province of Manitoba.

We also find, and I can say this with some authority, my son happened to be transferred down to Toronto where he had automobile insurance coverage here in Manitoba - it was basic - \$93 including the vehicle registration. Lo and behold in the Province of Ontario it's \$168 for six months. And also, vehicle registration not based on wheel base as we have in Manitoba but on horsepower and the highest horsepower in the Province of Ontario is \$50 - not \$24.

A MEMBER: Who's in power out there?

MR. JENKINS: I might say I was speaking to him the other day and he's thinking of moving back to Manitoba this summer because of the high cost of living in the fair city of Toronto. --(Interjection)-- I hope so too.

Now the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Honourable Member for River Heights also called for more public disclosures, public disclosures, and I guess this one -- one in particular I remember last year because a resolution appeared -- I believe the Honourable Member for Crescentwood put it forward that there should be public disclosure in Public Accounts of the money that was paid out by the Manitoba Hospital Services Association to doctors. I'm glad to see that the Leader of the Opposition wants that made public. I think that I would even have to agree with him on that.

A MEMBER: Yes, a good point.

MR. JENKINS: Now we have heard and we still get it every session and even people on the hot line shows decrying the welfare bums that we have on supposedly welfare. We have the Barber Commission Report which carried out a study on welfare abuse and it ties in Manitoba just about I guess with pretty well anywhere else in North America, the welfare abuse runs between 4 and 5 percent. We have, I'm sure, equal amounts of people who cheat

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd) . . . . on their income tax, at least 4 or 5 percent or try to.

A MEMBER: Even more.

MR. JENKINS: There might even be more, but because 4 or 5 percent of welfare recipients are caught cheating, there are members within our society who say that they're all cheating. Well if we have a few people that are cheating on paying their income tax and I defy the Opposition and the critics of the welfare system over there to go around and call all the taxpayers of Manitoba a bunch of crooks because if it applies to one it is equally applicable to another. And you know it's particularly despicable when I think that people attack these people who are the least able to defend themselves. In most cases they are the least able to defend themselves. They're not members of political parties, they're too busy being mothers who have been deserted or husbands who have -- (Interjection)-- well in some cases that's quite true what the Honourable Member for Rupertsland says. In fact there was a case just the other day where a court order, I believe in the United States, awarded I think for the first time, maintenance to the husband . . .

A MEMBER: Hooray for husbands.

MR. JENKINS: And so much for the Women's Lib. But we've seen the same thing happen to the unemployed. I say particularly of the Progressive Conservative Party, federally and in this province, who have attacked people who are unemployed. Now if you don't want to pay people unemployment insurance we should never have been collecting money off them in the first place -- (Interjection)-- and that may be true but I can recall that when Mr. Diefenbaker was Prime Minister of this country that they dribbled the Unemployment Insurance Fund of over a billion dollars. They paid it to people who had never contributed to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. And I'm not saying that two wrongs makes a right, but the fact that when people pay into unemployment insurance they are entitled to insurance.

MR. GEORGE HENDERSON (Pembina): Why make them pay when they don't want it?

MR. JENKINS: Now I can understand the Honourable Member from Pembina, he's one of those who likes to attack the people on welfare, people on unemployment and he's entitled to his opinion, and he's perhaps one of the middle income poor, the same as the rest of us, middle income poor in this Legislature . . .

MR. TURNBULL: I'm just poor.

MR. JENKINS: The Honourable Member for Osborne says he's just poor.

MR. TURNBULL: There's more than one way of being poor?

MR. JENKINS: But, you know, Mr. Speaker, we have striven since we've been government in this province to try and pick up some of the tab that the poor in this province have had to suffer, some of the tab. You know it's pretty tough trying to raise a family on the minimum wage, pretty tough trying to raise a family on . . .

MR. BOROWSKI: \$1.85 an hour.

MR. JENKINS: . . . \$1.85 an hour and I'm glad to see that within the Throne Speech that there is mention made and I hope that -- I see the Minister of Labour is not here -- but I hope it will go up to \$2.50 an hour at least.

And while I'm speaking on labour legislation, you know, it might be interesting to members of the Legislative Assembly in view of some of the proposed resolutions or perhaps it's Private Members' legislation dealing with the new labour legislation, I'm happy to report that under the new labour legislation that we enacted last year that we've had the first settlement in Manitoba. At Inco at Thompson. I think the Honourable Member for Thompson said that perhaps it's the best contract that they signed since the inception of Inco at that place. But we have already the critics on the Opposition side who want to take and emasculate the legislation. They don't want even to give it a chance to see if it will operate. I can remember the Member from Wolesey last year when we were in the final throes of dealing with the Labour Legislation Bill and he asked me -- I can recall him asking me at that time -- that if I thought certain aspects of the bill if they wouldn't work whether I would support change. And I said then I would, but I'm prepared to let that legislation at least have a chance to see if it will work. But lo and behold we have both Liberal and Conservatives over there who are telling us they're going to change the labour legislation without even giving it a chance.

Then this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, we were really treated to something. I really don't know whether I was like Alice Through the Looking Glass or Alice in Wonderland or fairyland, because we got one of the most mixed up speeches that I have ever seen. We had first the -- oh yes he called upon the Provincial Government to make fantastic cuts in income tax,

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd.) . . . . provincial income tax. I believe he called upon \$3,000 single, \$4,500 for married - I wish he could have spoken to Mr. Turner in Ottawa and perhaps got the similar exemptions under the federal income tax because I believe their single is only \$1600.00.

You know, Mr. Speaker, we have the Honourable Member for Wolseley talking about this government using a shotgun approach. Well he used a pretty good shotgun approach himself. He went from income tax, bill of rights, portable pensions, monorail -- oh, pardon me, I didn't hear monorail -- the movement of rural industry to urban industry, Unicity and no more government services. And you know speaking of Unicity, and it's now in its second year, one thing that disappoints me, Mr. Speaker, is the lack of broad outlook of the members of the present Unicity Council. The vehicle is there for them to use but unfortunately they have remained very parochial in their thinking. And I think this applies to most of the Council - parochial and lo and behold political - from a non-political group. The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs says which group is that, I would say that's the group who claim that they are not political. They seem to be the ones who have said that they were the non-political ones.

Then he said well he was just going to comment briefly on the proposed flooding of Southern Indian Lake. It's too bad that the honourable member's not here. He's talking about flooding of Southern Indian Lake or the proposed flooding or low level diversion as something that has just happened overnight. Well, Mr. Speaker, the decision on the low level diversion was made in September of 1970, almost two and a half years ago, and in fact it's an alternative plan to what was originally proposed in this Legislature and what took part in some of the most, I guess, quite bitter debate that took place in this House. But basically I would ask the members of this House, the members of the public to realize one thing, that the original plan that was brought in by the then former Premier of the province - Premier Roblin - called for both Lake Winnipeg regulation and diversion or flooding of Southern Indian Lake.

Members of the opposition have said that they've had no opportunity to debate. Well I don't know what they've been doing for the last one, two, three, four years, if they haven't been debating, they've debated in the Public Utilities Committee and if they didn't get enough time there I can only say that perhaps some of the lost time that they suffered in Public Utilities was taken up by their insistence upon different points of order which I have seen go on for as long as an hour and a half before we even heard the witnesses. But in September of 1970 the Premier announced that we would have flooding, or minor flooding, up to seven feet on Southern Indian Lake and we would have Lake Winnipeg regulation, and the figure 55,000 cubic feet of waterflow, and that figure I say to you, Mr. Speaker and members of this House, if we want to produce the maximum amount of power that is required, that's the figure that you must keep in mind. The former administration proposed to take 55,000 cubic feet of water out of Southern Indian Lake; what this government has issued a license for is to take 30,000 cubic feet of water out of Southern Indian Lake and have an extra 25,000 cubic feet of water from the Lake Winnipeg regulation. The parameters of the control of Lake Winnipeg regulation are more favourable than the ones that were introduced by the former premier of this province, because his parameters of high and low levels of the lake were 709 to 717 feet above sea level. The plan that the government has brought in, and what was discussed and I think entailed ten different schemes, and if members of the Opposition say that they were not able to understand it well then I feel sorry for their lack of comprehension, but the parameters of Lake Winnipeg regulation are between 711 and 715 which are far more favourable in dry and wet periods of time in our cycles of waterflow.

Instead of 29 feet of water spreading over 11, 1200 square miles we are now at a maximum of 7 feet to 847, hopefully it may not even be that high. Nobody at Southern Indian Lake is going to be flooded out and I would say to the Honourable Member for Wolseley -- he's not here -- but I would say that to say that the people of Manitoba have not had chance to make representation -- I believe that his former, or the former premier of the party that he belongs to, and other members appeared at the least, three or four occasions of the hearings of the Manitoba Water Commission, and I believe that's fairly common knowledge. They reiterated the same statement. We have people on one hand who say flood to the high level; we have people on the other hand who say don't flood; we have people who say we don't want you to regulate Lake Winnipeg. In other words the Opposition are trying to make this a political

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd.) . . . . football. They are hoping that when they go out on the hustings in a few months' time that they are going to be able to use this as a political platform. Well I can tell you, through you, Mr. Speaker, to the members of the Opposition, we'll be glad to meet you on the hustlings; we'll be glad to meet you on that issue. We're prepared to defend our record, and it's a good record.

Now the Honourable Leader of the Liberal party he said that we were using scare tactics, intimidation, stiflement -- oh yes, even -- all sorts of things that we were -- and we were frightening the people of Manitoba into silence by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

A MEMBER: The great silencer.

MR. JENKINS: I know that the Honourable Minister of Mines and Natural Resources is a pretty tough character, but he doesn't scare me I can assure you. Well he doesn't scare me, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think that he's frightened into silence the former Premier of this province, or the former Attorney-General of the previous administration, or the former administrative staff of Manitoba Hydro -- they are still making lots of noises. You know for someone who was accused of being a person who stifles and scares people into silence, he's doing a very poor job, and I'll have to speak to him about that.

And you know we hear talk about the loss of resource value, especially in the tourist industry at the Southern Indian Lake development. You know I would recommend as reading to members of the Opposition, a little pamphlet put out by the Manitoba Hydro, and I guess of course you'll call it propaganda, but they are speaking of the power developments on the Winnipeg River. I believe it's six dams in 175 miles, six power sites, and the booklet is called "Playground for Half a Million People". Now I don't think anybody who has enjoyed the wonders of going through the Whiteshell will say that the Hydro power developments in that area has destroyed the environment. If anything, I would say that they have enhanced the environment and you know, if we are going to remain so Simon-pure in our protection of the environment, then I would say to some of the critics of the government and its proposed development on Southern Indian Lake, and Lake Winnipeg regulation that some of these people who live in the Whiteshell and have their summer cottages there, that perhaps they should, if they want to be so Simon-pure then they should say, let's destroy all the power sites and let's move all the summer cottages out with all their polluting effects upon the environment. I don't think anybody wants to see destruction of our natural environment but if there have been any scare tactics, Mr. Speaker, advanced, I think the exhibition that we saw this afternoon of some of the scare tactics by the Member for Wolseley, he scares me, Mr. Speaker, far more so than the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. He's going to renegotiate Manitoba's place in Confederation -- you know it's -- and he calls for an all party committee in Manitoba to get together with all party committees in the other three western provinces. You know it's a very interesting note that in not one of those provinces does the Liberal party form the administration, Manitoba is not governed by a Liberal government. I don't believe Saskatchewan is. The last I heard the Tories were in power in Alberta, and in British Columbia the New Democratic Party. And so we are getting this great call for renegotiation with the ten provinces. He was very careful to skirt away from renegotiating with Ottawa and Ottawa is going to be sort of, somehow or other, just shunted aside and we are going to renegotiate Confederation with lo and behold Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes, and of course the western provinces. He says that Manitoba unfortunately was not in on the writing of the original constitution -- we came in in 1870 as opposed to 1867. I believe that one or two of the Maritime provinces who also seemed to be economically deprived came in in 1867, and if the Honourable Member for Wolseley is right in his assumption then the people who represented the people in the Maritimes -- and I know my friend from Flin Flon who is a former Maritimer is going to feel very bad that these people did a very poor job on behalf of the people of the Maritimes, that somehow Quebec and Ontario pulled a fast one on them. Well I guess that's -- what do they call history written the way that some people see it, you know, they have a name for it. I think its "fractured fairytales", or something like that.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you know, Mr. Speaker, all joking aside I think that this government has shown a concern for people, and shows a continuing concern for people, that when the election comes will stand it in very good stead. There was an old

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(MR. JENKINS cont'd). . . . slogan that the old CCF had and it's one that I'm glad to say still carries on in the New Democratic Party and that is Humanity First, and I think that our legislation, our programs that we've carried on in the four, or nearly four years we've been in office have been geared to humanity first and especially to those, and I want to emphasize it again very strongly, and I get lots of mail from retired people who say, "God Bless You. If it hadn't been for your PEP Program for the winter works, we wouldn't have a roof over our head. We would have had to mortgage it or sell it." And you know, it really touches you to think of these people and the deprivation that they've had to go through. One thing I will say I'm glad to see that the Federal Government and though I think it should have been much more, and they would not have moved unless they would have had a shotgun to their heads to increase the Old Age pension, and I think they should have moved a lot more than they did but at least it's a step in the right direction.

And so, Mr. Speaker, once again I want to say that I think we as a government have done a pretty good job and I know that it sounds like blowing our own horn but we will not get any credit and I think it was stated very well by the President of Monarch Life, no credit from that side. What did he accuse them of? Carping.

A MEMBER: Carpers.

MR. JENKINS: Carpers one and two. It didn't matter what this government did, whether it was good or whether it was bad, they still carped, and regardless, I don't expect them in the dying days of this government or this Legislature, to change their tune. I certainly don't expect them to change their tune; in fact I expect, Mr. Speaker, that their attacks will be even more virulent than they have been in the past - in fact, the Honourable Member for Lakeside has assured us that he's going to put us through the wringer. He scares me too.

A MEMBER: Oh come on, that big actor?

MR. JENKINS: And with those few words, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Could we call it 5:30? I shall leave the Chair and return at 8:00 o'clock tonight.