



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

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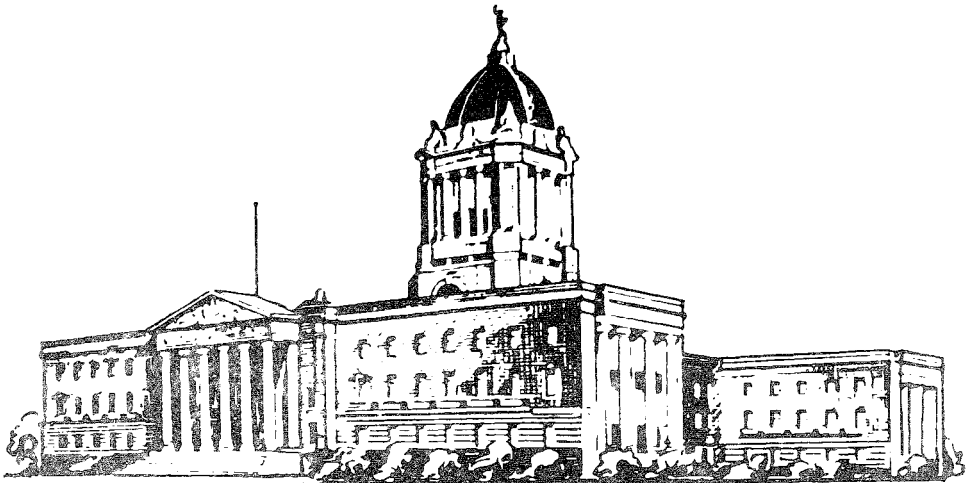
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

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*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan  
Speaker*



**VOL. XXXVII No. 8B - 8 p.m., TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1988.**

**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

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

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, August 2, 1988.

The House met at 8 p.m.

### THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** You have nine minutes remaining.

**Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood):** Mr. Speaker, when I finished, I was comparing the relationship between the United States and Canada as far as the Free Trade Agreement is concerned, and suggesting that it was a little like putting Mike Tyson in the ring with the Premier of the province (Mr. Filmon), and Mike Tyson representing the United States, of course.

I also was pointing out that 90 percent of Ontario exports go to the United States already, and that in itself demonstrates perhaps a slight overdependence on the United States already.

I did want to also say that in the area of energy, our Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) today has introduced a Bill which is an excellent Bill to deal with the problem that the Free Trade Agreement brings up. That is that in terms of energy, we will not be able to institute a two-price system in the future. That is once again a sad commentary on where things are headed in the country in terms of the supplies; and that, under the Free Trade Agreement, we are also prohibited from reducing supplies if there is a future energy shortage between the two countries.

If I wanted to merge the two countries, Mr. Speaker, I could not have negotiated a better deal. Few things are left out. Transportation is one of them, beer is another, and there is another that I will relate to you very shortly. In fact, every aspect of Canadian life is affected. A review of acquisitions under the Free Trade Agreement will be raised to \$150 million by 1992. So that, in effect, means that in the Province of Manitoba only six corporations would be subject to review in case of an American takeover. All other corporations in Manitoba could be taken over without a review, and that certainly is not the way I think we should be going.

I wanted to get to another group which is excluded under the Free Trade Agreement. I did want to tell a story, and I know the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger), I certainly want to make some comments to him later, but I did want to tell him a story about a blind rabbit and a blind snake who were talking one day and each wanted to find out what other kind of animal they were. The snake wrapped himself around the rabbit and the rabbit asked: "What kind of an animal am I?" The snake told him that he was warm, he was furry and he had long ears. The rabbit said: "I must be a rabbit." The snake said: "Okay, what kind of an animal am I?" The rabbit replied: "You are cold, you are slimy and you have a forked tongue." "Well," said the snake, "I must be a lawyer."

Lawyers who drew up the trade agreement managed to exclude themselves. They are another group who are excluded under the Free Trade Agreement.

As I said earlier, the trade deal is a very, very important deal that is going to basically tell us where in fact we are going to be headed as a country. The jury will be out on the trade deal for quite a while and then the verdict will come in and by then, of course, it will be absolutely too late.

I did want to bring to the attention of the Members that the Bank of Nova Scotia did a study of the agreements back in June 1987. This study, before we get into it, basically is being used by the Bank of Nova Scotia to design their credit policy and their credit terms. What will happen in any area of business that is not in a favourable position, vis-a-vis free trade, will in fact perhaps have its credits restricted or denied in that area. It is a very, very important area.

The fact that the confidential report of the Bank of Nova Scotia talks about the service sector being a net loser, and the manufacturing and agricultural sectors are a small negative under the Free Trade Agreement, the fact that they have gone so far as to do a study of this would indicate that, as sectors, these sectors are going to be dealt with by the banks in the course of time.

Any business that operates on credit, and you are probably aware of most businesses in our economy are in hock to the bank to a certain degree in terms of their day-to-day credit requirements, they are going to be hauled on the carpet because of the free trade deal. Of course, in terms of sovereignty, as I have indicated, it is already probably too late to save us from the continentalists in the Government. The Liberal Party is not pristine pure in this whole issue either. They are all over the map on free trade. In Quebec, Bourassa is in favour; Turner is opposed; Peterson, to his credit, is opposed. So there is not a lot of consistency in the Liberal Party, but we have grown to accept that over the years.

As a matter of fact, we have always been suspicious of the federal Government's disbanding of FIRA and bringing in the drug bills. We have always felt that they did that to show good will on the trade deal. What they in effect did was give away some of their good cards before they even started to negotiate.

Because of time, I have to skip to a couple of other important points here. I certainly will pick up on what I have missed in the Budget Address. I want to deal with the consistencies between the Liberal and Conservative Parties in the last election. The major election issue was the elimination of the payroll tax which by the way, at the current time, has a \$100,000 exemption. So most of the little businesses in Elmwood that employ less than five employees are exempted anyway.

\* (2010)

They were somehow stampeded into this idea that if they voted Liberal or if they voted Conservative that

they were somehow going to benefit by this reduction in the payroll tax. I was running around putting out all these little fires explaining to them that they were exempt anyway and that they were not going to benefit by this. The payroll tax relief would mean a loss and the Conservative front bench should be able to understand this. If you take \$200 million worth of revenue off of what you are getting right now, how are you going to make it up and still try to bring the Budget into balance? I will tell you how you are going to make it up. You are going to make it up by adding two and-a-half points on the sales tax. That two and-a-half points is going to affect every Elmwood resident, every Churchill resident, as they strive to buy goods and pay an extra two and-a-half points on the sales tax. Meanwhile, the businesses, most of which who are not paying this tax anyway, are scot-free.

As a matter of fact, I wanted to also point out, and you are aware, that in Quebec the so-called payroll tax has been at 3 percent for some time, and there has been no hue and cry about it. Again this illustrates once again that the Conservatives and the Liberals were in league on this during the campaign, that they were singing out of the same hymn book.

I wanted to deal, and I know I am running out of time, I wanted to deal with the whole issue of . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member's time has expired.

**Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs):** I will begin my address this evening by adding my congratulations on your election as the new Speaker of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the friendship that we developed in the first two years made it indeed a pleasure and a heart-warming experience to see you sit in that Chair at the opening of the Legislature. That is all I can say to you as premier président bilingue de cette assemblée.

**(Translation)**

The first bilingual Speaker of this House.

I also wish to congratulate the Leader of my Party (Mr. Filmon) on his election as the 20th Premier of the Province of Manitoba. I am indeed delighted and honoured to be part of Premier Filmon's administration, and look forward to working under his stewardship.

I would also at this time like to congratulate all the new Members and all the Members who have returned, and good luck in this particular Session of the Legislature.

It is indeed a great honour and, at the same time, a very humbling experience to have the decision-making powers of a Cabinet Minister. My guide will be what has gotten me here, listening to the people's concerns and balancing those concerns with other valid interests and taking action.

I would like to say a few words about my constituency and the constituents who elected me. I will take this opportunity to thank them for giving me the second

mandate as MLA for Riel. Although my Cabinet responsibilities will compete with my constituents for time, I will continue to ensure that their interests are looked after.

My constituency is located in southeast Winnipeg, and with development of the southeast part of the city, now is the true heart of St. Vital. I have lived there all my life, as did my father. The area has seen many changes, as other areas throughout Winnipeg, but I am happy to say it still possesses that sense of community which makes it a very special neighbourhood. It is in this neighbourhood, and because of this neighbourhood, that I learned the art of consultation, cooperation and compromise.

People in this part of the city work together to make things happen. I have seen examples of this countless times as a former member of the St. Vital School Board and as city councillor for that ward.

My constituency was named after the founder of the province, Louis Riel. It is indeed in this part of St. Vital, along the Red River, that he was born. The Riel family continued to occupy a home in the area until the mid-1960s. Riel House, a national historic site, is located off River Road in my constituency, and I would invite all MLAs who have not done so to visit the site, which deals with an important part of Manitoba history.

In the torrid pace of development and urbanization which characterizes this century, we sometimes forget those that first settled in this particular area. I am of course talking about our Native and Metis people.

My constituency has a cross-section of people of different ethnic backgrounds. We have many homeowners, as well as many renters. My riding encompasses many small businesses, senior citizen homes, etc. The Foyer Valade is the most recent facility, and my colleague, Mr. Orchard, was on hand as Minister of Health at the opening ceremonies on June 21. We also contain one of the largest parks in Winnipeg, a splendid park, the St. Vital Park.

As Minister of Urban Affairs, I have certain visions for the City of Winnipeg. A city the size of Winnipeg certainly has its share of problems; at the same time, its share of possibilities. Certainly, as a former member of City Council and chairman of the Executive Policy Committee, I have seen that city Government could use some reform.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) mentioned last week that I have not consulted with the city on proposed reduction of City Council. Nothing could be further from the truth. I discussed my proposals informally with at least half a dozen councillors and received, as it were, different opinions. As stated in the media some weeks ago, I see the paring down of the size of City Council as one of the many reforms to make city Government more effective. I would hope that the Opposition supports this Government's plan in this area.

We have many former city councillors sitting in this House, and I see this as a unique opportunity to be more useful and to have more effective reforms to The City of Winnipeg Act. Indeed, the Member for St. Vital

(Mr. Rose) mentioned some of his concerns in his speech on the Throne Speech Debate just recently.

Some of this Government's proposed reforms will be introduced in this Session, others are presently under consideration, and the proposed legislation will be brought forward the next Session.

One particular area of concern for this administration has been mentioned today by my colleague for Arthur (Mr. Downey), the situation of urban Natives in Winnipeg. The former Government had its approach to the problem—usually flowery rhetoric followed by a high-headed bureaucratic approach. We propose a new approach, one in which we will listen to the concerns of the urban Native leaders and work on what is one of the grave social concerns in this city. This will be a priority with me.

Certainly, we are at crossroads and our Native people are now at a stage where they are dissatisfied with the old approaches of the previous Government. They do not want to be dictated to. Although this is but one facet of my portfolio, my Government wishes to do its part in getting the Native community in Winnipeg participating more fully in the community.

As Minister of Housing, I wish to advise that this Government will ensure that housing reaches those that are most in need; that includes for the homeless and crisis centres. My department is presently assisting Osborne House in locating a new facility. I was pleased to assist back in June at the opening of a housing co-op which was Canada's first housing for seniors. Housing co-ops are an ideal housing arrangement for seniors as they are part owners of their homes but allows them more and gives them more flexibility.

As Minister of Urban Affairs, I see exciting things happening in our capital city. In the past week, we have seen the official kickoff of the public market in The Forks. This is truly a great beginning to The Forks development and will make Winnipeg's downtown core a magnet for tourists. The public market component is but one aspect of development of The Forks. I am pleased the development is being planned first and foremost with the thought of people in mind. When completed, The Forks project will be the showplace for the City of Winnipeg. I am looking forward to the day when the project is ultimately completed in this particular area, the birthplace of Winnipeg, and that birthplace is returned to the citizens of Winnipeg.

It is indeed a pleasure for myself as I remember the days when I was on City Council in November of '84, and the Mayor, Nick Diakiw, Jae Eadie and myself went to Ottawa in regard to this project. We talked to the Minister at the time, Mazankowski—very, very open.

\* (2020)

I would like to go on record at this time to congratulate the Minister at the time and the Conservative Government on doing something in the short while that they are in office and not just talking like the previous administration had done in Ottawa.

Much attention in the past weeks has focussed on our rivers. Certainly, this will be an important part of

my mandate as Minister of Urban Affairs. It is not a draft Bill that is required to clean up the problem of jurisdiction. The regulations are in place; the city has to act. I also will work with other levels of Government. I have already discussed with the federal M.P., Leo Duguay, for the St. Boniface area the problems relating to and the jurisdictions of the rivers.

There has been much media coverage on the Meech Lake Accord. This legislation we will be dealing with in this Session. The public hearings to be held this fall are a sign that this Government will not treat this matter in a high-handed fashion. Any constitutional amendment has to be carefully reviewed and public hearings will hopefully clarify the different concerns on this proposed amendment. Public hearings are an example of democracy and action. Public hearings on all constitutional amendments is something that the P.C. Party of Manitoba has always stood for and staunchly defended, which brings me to the position of the Liberal Party in Manitoba.

Speaking of democracy, I did read recently in the Globe and Mail, June 25, Orland French's (phonetic) column that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) had called on Allan McEachan for advice for operating a minority Legislature. So there you have it. The Leader of the Opposition has campaigned with Jean Chretien in the past election, supported and continues to support Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Donald Johnson in their anti-Meech Lake stand. Next thing we will know the Leader of the Opposition will be consulting with Marc Lalonde on economic issues. The Leader of the Opposition hobnobs with the old guard of the disposed Trudeau regime. It is not surprising to see where her reactionary views come from. If ever a Canadian political regime lost touch with the electorate, it is surely their Trudeau Liberals. In their arrogance, they believed that they, and only they, possessed all the answers.

In this light, the reactionary closed-minded positions of the Leader of the Opposition on Meech Lake and free trade are, if not explainable, at least understandable. In her speech from the debate, the Leader of the Opposition referred to lack of consultation between myself and the City of Winnipeg. Who has the Leader of the Opposition consulted on her Meech Lake stance other than the dispossessed Trudeau Liberals? Certainly not the people of Manitoba. She does not need public hearings.

Last month, speaking in her own province, she stated and I quote from a June 23 article in the Winnipeg Free Press. Referring to the Accord, she said, "If I do nothing else in my political career, I will be happy if I stop this particular Accord." So much for the open mind on an issue. She joins Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Parizeau, Leader of the Party Quebecois, in opposing the Accord outright.

Perhaps it is well that I remind the Leader of the Opposition that the people of Manitoba are foremost concerned with the responsible financial administration of the province. That is what the Autopac issue, in my mind, was all about. It was not about following a narrow political agenda about how Mr. Trudeau sees Canada.

Which brings me to speak about a very topical economic issue on the issue of free trade. I want to

go on record as one of those who believe that free trade is good for Canada and, indeed, to all nations who can overcome the narrow-minded purview of protectionism. The biggest myth and falsehood propagated in the whole debate is that somehow free trade and particularly the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement will somehow hinder Governments in Canada from providing essential services to the people of this country—services and programs such as Medicare, Unemployment Insurance and Old Age Security. Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact of the matter is that the 20th Century has been characterized by a lessening of protectionism measures by promoting freer trade. What we have seen at the time is a tremendous growth in social programs, valuable social programs such as Medicare, Old Age Security and Unemployment Insurance. The fact of the matter is that these social programs are not possible without healthy economics, economics that generate wealth.

The pie does not fall from the sky into our laps. Wealth creation is not a given. Before we can divvy up the pie to redistribute the wealth, the wealth has to exist. We have to have a pie to divvy up. It is basic economics which too many of us take for granted. Wealth creation is a precondition to wealth redistribution. The NDP has never understood this and it would seem that the Liberal Party has forgotten this basic premise.

Free trade has historically freed the reins of wealth creation. It is a proven engine of economic growth. Consequently, one of the reasons I support this agreement is precisely because I want this country to continue to be able to support and improve its social net and social programs. This is particularly so in the context of global world economy. Simply put, we have to keep up with the times.

I would like to make two other points: First, the other main argument of the Liberals and the N.D. Party against the Free Trade Agreement has to do with protection of cultural sovereignty. Mr. Speaker, I will not delve in specifics of the Free Trade Agreement, suffice to say that there are certain clauses specifically protecting and exempting Canadian cultural industries and institutions. But more importantly, in this century, Canada has emerged into a strong, independent nation capable of handling its own in world affairs.

We have left behind the shackles of colonialism, the last vestiges of which were left behind was when the Constitution was patriated in 1982. We evolved in a nation which can fend for itself. We need not fear of being swallowed up by the influence of any other country. That will not happen. That has not been the history of this great nation. Those who say we will simply live in the past and see Canada as a mere fledgling, I say to these people that is not the way I see our country. We have the people and the institutions which can and will prosper, given the opportunity to do so, and have proven that in the past.

Secondly, may I add, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition's federal counterparts have offered no

alternatives, none whatsoever. So we have the status quo, the reactionaries of the 1980s are indeed the NDP and the Liberals. The progressive agenda belongs to the Conservative Party, and I am happy to support it.

So it is in this backdrop which this Government today is marching forward. This province has been led by the NDP for the last seven years. Certain reforms will take place and indeed already have taken place.

In specific instances where the former Government was headed in the right direction, we will continue to press forward, but where they were headed in the wrong direction, we will steer the Government and the province back on course. We will encourage a climate for prosperity and wealth and we will prosper.

\* (2030)

Mr. Gilleshammer mentioned in his speech—seconded the moving of the Throne Speech—the chilling statistics of the debt load of this province. Although we emphasized it in the last couple of years, we will be conscious of this debt load and we will work to reduce it with wise and prudent management. Our ultimate goal is to use provincial tax revenues to fund health care, education and maintenance of our road system instead of using taxpayers' money to pay interest to Swiss and Japanese banks as was done under the previous administration.

We will guard the public purse from careless abuses and, more importantly, we will listen to the people who have elected us to this office. We will not be directed by ideology as the former Government was, but by common sense and a will to serve the people of Manitoba.

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** I am delighted to be able to participate in this Debate on the Speech from the Throne. As so many Members before me have indicated, it is an honour and a privilege to be able to take part in a debate on one of the most important all-embracing matters before this Chamber.

A Speech from the Throne, as all Members in this House know and realize, is an opportunity for a Government, the Government of the Day, to present its agenda, to present its view of the world, to present its vision, to present its plans and programs for the people of Manitoba. It is also an opportunity for all other Members in the Chamber to express their views about that speech, that agenda, that vision, and to declare whether or not it is consistent with their own vision, with the agenda upon which they were elected in the most recent election. So, on that basis, it is a privilege and one that must be highly respected by all of us in this Chamber, and it should be taken very seriously and with a great deal of concern and a great deal of attention.

Before I express my views on the speech, the agenda, the vision that has been presented by the present Government, I would like to embark upon a few introductory remarks as many of the other Members in this House have done to date.

First, it is a privilege and an honour to congratulate you on your appointment to this highest office in the

Chamber, this very important prestigious office, and we all want to congratulate you and wish you our very best. As many Members of this House have indicated, you hold in your hands a great deal of power in terms of the way in which this Chamber, all of us as politicians, are presented to the people of Manitoba—to those who elected us.

I think all of us want to be presented to the public, to the electorate, in the very best possible light, and to work very hard to try to remove some of the cynicism and skepticism that has characterized the electorate increasingly over the last number of years and probably over the last decade—a cynicism and a skepticism that probably has grown because of a lack of decorum, a lack of appropriate behaviour in a Chamber of such high repute, and I think, Mr. Speaker, we hold out hope that you will help us move in that direction, that you will help us achieve the greatest possible decorum in this Chamber, and thereby help reduce the cynicism and skepticism that has come to characterize so many in our population.

We know it will be a difficult job. I know from the two short, I guess almost three short years that I have been an elected Member and a participant in this Chamber, that it is not an easy task. I hold great respect for your predecessor who, as a woman, held a double challenge in trying to maintain decorum in this Chamber, and I believe, and I believe most Members in this Chamber believe, that she did an excellent job, that she helped move us in that direction of proper decorum and proper behaviour in a Chamber of such high esteem. I, having seen, over the last two years, how difficult that is, I hold even more respect for you, Mr. Speaker, in your new role, in your new office.

I was pleased to see some evidence that perhaps there will be more decorum in this particular Legislature when I saw that the Members of the Government, now that they have become the Government, have suddenly decided to refrain from stamping—or at least most of them—from stamping their desks and have followed the example of Members on this side, or at this end of the Chamber, of showing their appreciation by applauding the speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure you agree, and everyone here agrees, that is a long awaited, long overdue move in the right direction of achieving great decorum, or better decorum, in this Chamber.

Let me say also, as others have done before me in this Session, that it is a welcome sight for me and for many others to see so many women elected to this Chamber. I am particularly pleased to see that development because I believe that there is a very strong, very high correlation between achieving greater decorum in this Chamber and a greater number of women in this Chamber. I think all Members of this Chamber, particularly the men in this House, will note with me that it is generally the women that have led the way in trying to achieve a greater sense of decorum, a greater degree of order in this Chamber; and I think that as more and more women are elected to this Chamber, we will see less and less of the heckling and the name calling that has become so despicable in the minds of many members of the Manitoba public.

I, for one, will support any efforts on your part, Mr. Speaker, to try to reduce the amount of heckling and name calling and general nasty atmosphere in this Chamber that has so often typified the Manitoba Legislature.

I also look to women in this House to help this Government with its vision, and I raise that in the context of this debate on the Speech from the Throne because it is my belief, as some of my colleagues before me have expressed, that we are having a bit of a difficult time coming to grips with the vision of Members opposite, with the vision of the Members of the Government.

I raise this from a couple of different points of view. One, in my view, it is very hard to determine if there is a vision based on the Speech from the Throne that has been presented to us; and if one was to piece together the different components of the Speech from the Throne by referring to the headings as listed in the Speech from the Throne, it would, in my view, not amount to the kind of vision that the people in my constituency, and I believe the people in most constituencies, have expected from this Government.

In that context, I want to say I am very proud to have been re-elected by the constituents of St. Johns, to say that I am pleased that they have reaffirmed their faith in me as a representative and as a Member of a Party prepared to carry forward a vision that is consistent with their vision, a vision that is based on several very important factors, and factors and themes which I believe are missing from the speech. I would not want to call it the vision of the Conservative Government recently elected.

\* (2040)

I believe that Manitobans, and particularly the people of St. Johns constituency, are looking to the Government of the Day for ideas, for creative policies, for new programs that will help them deal with the pressures of the day—the pressures of trying to provide a good home, to be good parents, to be successful workers all on one hand; a vision of being able to combine responsible, caring parenting with responsible productive labour.

I think that is probably one of the most pressing issues facing Manitobans today and a vision that I do not believe is being felt by Members of the Conservative Government or certainly not expressed in the Speech from the Throne, because that kind of understanding and that kind of awareness of such a vision requires a commitment to programs and policies that are just not referred to in the Speech from the Throne, just not present at all in the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker, such an understanding would translate itself into legislation as had been committed by my colleagues in the past Government around improved employment standards. It would have translated itself into meaningful day care policies, not just the promise of more study, of another task force, of another review, of another analysis of the situation at hand. Yet that is what has been presented to us as legislators and to families in Manitoba—a commitment to study a

problem that has been long studied and where only action is required, where only a commitment to action already begun is required.

My biggest disappointment in the Speech from the Throne was that Members opposite, that Members of this newly-elected Conservative Government have not shown a basic understanding of the fundamental issues and problems facing Manitobans and Manitoba families at present. They have not shown any kind of ability to help those families and those individuals juggle the many responsibilities before them, to help them achieve that fundamental goal of being good parents and good productive members of the labour force.

What was required and what I will hold out hope for in the Budget Address of next week and in the legislative plans of the days and weeks ahead is precisely that—a vision to respond to the pressures facing families today in Manitoban society, a commitment, and that means a translation of that vision into a commitment to continue to expend major funds, major dollars in the direction of good quality universally accessible day care; a commitment to stand up to our federal Government and to say we as leaders in the field of day care, we as visionary legislators in Manitoba when it comes to the demands facing families today, we expect and we demand a national day care strategy, a national day care plan, national day care legislation, and national day care funding that will meet those needs and those demands here in this province.

All of us, I think, were disappointed not only in what is missing in the Speech from the Throne but also by the apparent lack of concern on the part of the Ministers of this Government. We all are concerned when the first opportunity to display that concern, to register Manitobans' concern, to carry forward the leadership that has been so apparent in this province to the federal level was missed—that opportunity being the Federal/Provincial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women Meeting shortly after the election of this Government.

All of us were sorely disappointed and grieved by the fact that Manitoba had taken a back seat to those issues that we have fought so long and hard for here in Manitoba, taken a back seat to the issues of day care and the issues of fighting for significantly approved services and programs for abused children and for abused women, and very saddened by the fact that we have seemed to have lost that fighting edge, that fighting spirit that had characterized Manitobans for so long and had kept us in the forefront of achieving division—that I have referred to—and of ensuring that Manitoba was able to continually meet the need that has been expressed and declared so often and so loudly by Manitobans everywhere.

The opportunity is not lost. The Session is early, and it is our hope that there will be great progress made yet in this Chamber and with this Government in negotiations with Ottawa. It will mean, though, some change on the part of Members of the Official Opposition, some greater understanding of what this vision is all about and what it means for Manitobans.

The record of Members of the Official Opposition of the Liberal Party in Manitoba is clear. They have stated

their position loudly and clearly when it comes to an issue such as day care. They have indicated to the Manitoba public a position very similar to that expressed by Members of the Conservative Government. They have indicated that they are prepared to give up that leadership position that Manitoba has held for so long in achieving universally accessible, fair, quality, publicly sponsored, cooperatively-run day care.

\* (2050)

I think the challenge for all of us in the days and weeks ahead will be to wrestle with that issue and to realize even if we cannot agree on philosophical grounds, even if we stay at some distance by virtue of the different philosophies in each of our political Parties, that we come together on the basis of sheer pragmatic grounds and will to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of people, greatest number of families, here in Manitoba. That will mean, on the part of Members on both sides of me, that scarce resources and long waiting lists by cooperative-run day cares, by non-profit community day cares will mean that it is just not possible to take taxpayers' money, to give taxpayers' money to commercial profit-making centres so that a few can make a profit on the backs of babies and children.

I hear concerns coming from the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and others on that side of the House. I sense a bit of defensiveness on their part about this important issue, but I trust and I am confident that when the Minister of Community Services and some of her other colleagues get a better handle of the budgetary situation and a better understanding of financial matters, which they have apparently not shown much knowledge of to date, given the Minister of Community Services' representation to Ottawa to date around the question of day care and around the question of access to the so-called \$4 billion fund to create new day care spaces in Canada; but I am sure that they will come to realize, as I am sure and trust that Members of the Official Opposition will, that at a time of scarce resources, at a time of difficult economic circumstances before all of us, we will work together to ensure that all of those non-profit, parent-run, cooperative-based day cares in this province will be able to, at long last, gain access to the necessary funding in order that they will be able to open their doors and serve the long, long waiting lists of families here in Manitoba.

That is an issue, Mr. Speaker, that is at the heart of any vision around helping families and parents here in Manitoba cope with the responsibilities of work and of family. It would be an indication to the women of this province that this Legislature, that the Government of Manitoba, is seriously committed to equality between the sexes, to equality between men and women. Any vision that focusses on meeting the needs of families in this province must also focus on the issue of true equality between women and men. That is another reason why I am disappointed in the Speech from the Throne.

I must say it is not devoid of reference to women and women's issues and women's equality as had been my worst fear—a fear based on the fact that when



Members opposite were in Opposition, hardly a mention, hardly a word was uttered around the issues of women and women's equality. In fact, I recall commenting on the speech of the then Leader of the Opposition, now Premier of the Province (Mr. Filmon), in response to the 1987 Speech from the Throne, in which I tallied that of a some-13,000 word speech, not once did he mention the word "woman." So it was with some relief and a great deal of surprise that my colleagues and I noted that women were indeed referenced in this Speech from the Throne; but that relief was soon dealt away with by the fact that the Speech from the Throne held out nothing but generalities and platitudes and empty promises relating to women and women's equality.

Let me refer to one example in the Speech from the Throne to make my point. There is, in the Speech from the Throne, a reference to the fact that the Women's Directorate has been given the mandate to analyze barriers facing women, to reduce those barriers facing women. If there ever was an empty generalization, then that was it. To begin with, it is the mandate of the Women's Directorate as established by Members on this side when we were in Government. It was established to do just that, to be always on top of the barriers facing women in this province, to be always cognizant of how every single policy and program of the Government of the Day impacted on women and whether or not it was a factor in encouraging or discouraging progress on the road to equality.

It has certainly caught me by surprise, and I am sure most of the women in this province by surprise, to read such a trite and empty generalization about women's equality. The women of this province have gone way beyond that point. We have analyzed the barriers. We know the barriers. We know the problems that are preventing women from achieving full and true equality with men of this province. We know that the time has come for action, and that action means forging ahead on a solid, sound program for universally accessible, publicly funded day care. It means forging ahead on achieving true pay equity in all sectors of our economy.

Another area where I regret to say that both the Members of this Government—the Conservative Government—and Members of the Official Opposition—the Liberal Party of Manitoba—have gone hand in hand in addressing this most difficult, this most pressing problem facing the women of this province and have not come to grips with the fact that it is our responsibility as legislators, the responsibility of the Government of the Day to show leadership, provide that leadership and ensure that the concept of pay equity is something that is enforced and is introduced and enforced in every aspect of our economy, including the private sector. It is another area that I hope and I believe that by working together over the next few weeks and months ahead, we will be able to achieve a better understanding and a coherent plan of action around that issue so that all women of this province are helped and aided by a meaningful, comprehensive pay equity program.

I could go on about the kind of vision that the constituents in St. Johns, and I believe the constituents

of many constituencies across this province, are looking for from this Government. I could talk about, in addition, a vision around helping families juggle their day-to-day responsibilities and about the pressures facing women in being responsible parents as well as equal and participating members of our labour force, and all aspects of our institutional fabric in Manitoba, and I could go on from there and talk about the desire on the part of constituents, at least in St. Johns, of living in safe, peaceful, environmentally safe neighbourhoods, of working together hand in hand with all members of that community, of seeking ways to ensure that the diversity upon which we pride ourselves is translated into meaningful living, working, learning situations.

\* (2100)

I could go on and say that I would have hoped that this Speech from the Throne would have outlined a vision for helping to make that mosaic possible by putting in place measures to reduce racism, to ensure better understanding at the very earliest ages in our educational system of our different cultures and races that is so characteristic of this province. I could go on from there and outline a vision that I believe constituents in St. Johns and constituents everywhere would like to see, about a health care system that is accessible and available in their own communities, with the expectation of a vision from this Government of addressing those major health care issues before us, of dealing with health care reform in a meaningful, serious way.

I could go on and talk about the need, at least on the part of constituents in St. Johns, for leadership from the Government of the Day for dealing with violence and abuse in our society, for generally seeking peaceful coexistence where a diverse and mixed society is able to live together in dignity and in peace. That would take me many, many more hours. I could go on for a much greater amount of time to outline the kind of vision that I believe the people in my constituency have about their own communities, about Manitoba as a whole, about Canada as a country, and about their disappointment in this Government's Speech from the Throne which is basically void of such a vision.

In the true spirit of the constituents of St. Johns who look always to the future, to work together, to forge new links, to find creative solutions, I, on behalf of them, say in this Chamber that I anticipate an ability to forge links here in this Chamber to look for creative solutions to the many challenges facing us and to achieve for everyone in this society equality and dignity and the hope for a bright and peaceful and just society for their own children.

**Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to those—or add my name to the list of those that have congratulated you thus far. I am sure that you will be fair and just to all sides of the House.

I would also like to acknowledge the appointment of the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko), my colleague from Seven Oaks. I am sure he, too, will do just service to this Legislature.

The past election has changed the composition of this Chamber like never before. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues, the Members opposite and the Members to the left of me, on their election victory. A special mention is warranted for all those who participated in the past election, starting from those who went out to vote, to the thousands of volunteers, to the candidates who put their names on the ballot. This is the type of participation that is needed in order for democracy to work in the manner it has. It gives me great pleasure to be able to stand here today and address this Chamber. This is a dream come true for me personally and my goal now is to keep the dream alive.

The voters of Inkster have enabled me to be here today and for that I give my most sincere thank you. For the duration of this Government, I will be working hard to earn the trust and confidence of all Inkster residents. During the election, in the part of Winnipeg North Centre as I was knocking on a lot of doors, a lot of the constituents had mentioned to me that it was important that the MLAs are not only around during elections but that they are also around in between elections. One name that popped up quite often was Stanley Knowles. Even though I disagree with his Party, I do agree with his principles, in the manner that he treated his constituents. I would like to see more, not only my colleagues, but all Members of the House treat their constituents in the same manner.

When the NDP was defeated on its last Budget, many thought the Liberal Party would be fortunate to gain official Party status in the Legislature. As the campaign progressed, Manitobans saw the qualities of not only our Leader, but of all our candidates. We picked up enough support to form the Official Opposition. Day by day, as the campaign proceeded, Manitobans looked harder and longer at the Liberal Party and what it had to offer. On election night, as we all know, 20 Liberals were elected.

I would like to comment on the 20 of us who were successful. The Liberal caucus represents all walks of life. We are made up of teachers, labourers, city councillors, lawyers, academics, managers, doctors, non-professionals, and so on. The Liberal caucus is representative of the younger and older families alike. We have both visible and non-visible minority representation. Our caucus has the highest percentage of women than any other caucus.

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

In short, this is a caucus that truly represents the population of Manitoba. At this point I would like to give a special thank you to my Leader (Mrs. Carstairs). Through the past year she has provided hope for many within the Liberal Party. When she first arrived in Manitoba and took up the leadership of our Party, she had a steep hill to climb. Not only has she neared the top of the hill, but she has brought many along with her.

When I look to what she has accomplished thus far, I realize it is only a matter of time when a majority of Manitobans see fit to vote her in as Premier of this

province. When I look across to the floor, and to my left, I see a lot of envy in a Leader that we have here in the Liberal Party.

Mr. Acting Speaker, if I may be allowed to give a bit of personal background about myself. My interest in politics began at the age of seven during Trudeaumania. I am not sure if it was Trudeau or the colour red at the time that made me think Liberal. It was Trudeau's loss to Joe Clark in 1979 that prompted me to see if I could join the Liberal Party.

At the time I was a fan of Trudeau, and it was not until I started to find out what the political parties were all about that I became a supporter of the Liberal Party. The Liberal Party is the only Party that can see and accommodate both sides of the political spectrum. It is the only Party that believes in the need for a social welfare system that will not prohibit self-initiative and individual rights and freedoms. The unions, nor the big business set the agenda for the Liberal Party. The people set the agenda.

When I received an honourable release out of the Canadian Forces, I returned to Winnipeg in order to get involved in politics. I started to attend the University of Winnipeg, and took a job at the Hudson Bay store downtown. I did not go to university in order to get a degree, but rather to learn about politics, economics and social behaviour.

In 1986 I ran as a candidate for the first time. I found that the election could be very beneficial to myself, although I did not win. It was through this election experience that I learned a great deal on how to organize a successful campaign.

On this note, I would like to thank all those volunteers who put in their time and effort, not only in the past election, but in the effort in the 1986 election. A very special thank you to my wife.

\* (2110)

Tradition has it that I give a brief description of the riding that I am representing. This riding has been growing at a rapid pace to the north, while on the other hand, to the south, the communities are being revitalized.

One could divide Inkster into seven residential parts, those being Weston, Brooklands, Shaughnessy Park, Keewatin, Tyndall Park, Garden Grove and Meadows West.

I wanted to briefly comment on Weston because this is where I have been living in the past three years, and save the rest for a future date. Weston is a very important community to Winnipeg and has been working very hard, the residents within the community, to improve it. You will find that they have a very active Weston Residents Association, and the residents actually do attend the meeting, get involved and are able to get things done.

For example, just recently, the school board rescinded a decision to put ESL into the Cecil Rhodes School No. 1. This was done because of the participation of the local residents, and I commend them on this.

Inkster Industrial Park has provided a vast number of jobs for not only residents of Inkster but people throughout the city. This particular park offers a wide variety of job opportunities. Some of the larger businesses in the city operate out of this park. Because of the residential boundaries, this park is limited to its size in the more western part of the riding. In particular, along the Oak Point Highway, there is more industrial commercial development. Retail and office development in Inkster is relatively limited to a few streets, the main one being Keewatin. Inkster's largest retail complex is Tyndall Market. A good majority of the residents shop there, at least for their groceries anyway. The malls regularly used by the residents are Garden City, Northgate and Polo Park.

Mr. Acting Speaker, there are several issues that I would like to touch upon in my riding. These issues have caused a great deal of concern to many, and that is why I would like to give a brief comment on these ones here. Meadows West Day Care Incorporated has been patiently awaiting this Government's decision on funding. This particular day care facility was completed and originally slated to open May 1. Because of the election, its opening was put off till June 1 and now it has been put off again, this time to September 1, 1988. All three Parties, through the respective candidates, made a firm commitment to fund this particular day care. I am hoping at this point that the funds not only for this school day care but other school day cares will be coming in the August 8 Budget.

The C.P. Yards in Weston, Brooklands and Shaughnessy Park have provided many jobs in the past and have played a major role in the development and creation of the Winnipeg north. This particular corporation has helped make Canada what it is today. I personally have a deep amount of respect for it. After saying this, I also must add that it is also the responsibility of any corporation to work at maintaining harmony with those who live around it. To this end, I will just say I hope C.P. can be counted on to work on solving some of the problems that have been brought to my attention.

The City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba's Neighbourhood Revitalization Program deserves a lot of merit. This program has allowed communities like Weston to improve themselves. Shaughnessy Park will be starting up under this program come October. I plan to work at assisting wherever I can to ensure that it too is a success.

Property tax is an issue that needs to be addressed. It would not be too soon to start converting the school portion of property tax to the general revenue. We all recognize it would be a fair way for paying for our school system. The issues and concerns of my constituents are my first priority and I will ensure that they are, at the very least, heard and, wherever and whenever possible, acted upon.

My Leader has entrusted me with the Housing critic portfolio. From urban sprawl to the inner city decay, I believe a lot needs to be done. A controlled urban limit line and the type of revitalization needed to improve our city are a couple of my concerns. We need to look at the relationship of the landlord and tenant and how

we might better be able to improve it. We need to ensure good quality housing is available not only for renting but also for purchasing. There are many not so fortunate in terms of income. Public housing provides a way for almost all to enjoy decent housing, but we need to look at how else this can be done. More initiatives need to be taken in the case of housing co-ops, sweat equity programs and the like.

I must say that I am very disappointed that this Government has not seen fit to act upon the recommendations brought forward by the Landlord and Tenant Review Committee. It is disturbing, Sir, that this Government does not share the same concern. I refer, Mr. Acting Speaker, to The Landlords and Tenants Act and The Residential Rent Regulation Act.

In the two year study completed in 1987 on both these Acts, some of the recommendations include requiring police to investigate violations of The Landlord and Tenant Act, preventing owners with small three-unit properties from increasing rents more than once a year, making tenants subject to the same prohibitions as landlords against obstructing inspectors, and probably, I think, one of the most important recommendations that they put forward is that landlords and tenants would jointly complete condition reports on a rental property. Security deposits would not be paid until the condition reports are completed.

These new re-evaluations were developed between the landlords and the tenants with unanimous consent from both parties. It seems to me we make our laws to provide harmony, and in this particular case we have the tenants and the landlords getting together saying that this is the type of law that we would like. I do not see why this Government sees fit to put it off in order to have a shorter Session. They should be bringing the legislation forward so that we can get this new legislation that is so badly needed in, the sooner the better.

It would save taxpayers thousands of dollars, Sir, if these recommendations were passed. I encourage this Government to fulfill the wishes of many Manitobans who wish these recommendations legislated and passed through this House without delay. Surely, we do not need a task force to study this issue or can it be that this Government plans to defer any issues with the promise of yet another task force?

As this Government goes through each department, I am sure you will be looking at the worth of many programs. Before I start to comment on the Throne Speech, I just want to give a brief opinion on one particular housing program, and that is the In-Fill Housing Program. I personally am a staunch supporter of the program. I think it does a lot of good in the older parts of the city. By taking down an older house or filling in a vacant lot and putting up a new home, not only are you providing reasonable or good housing for those who are less fortunate, you are also improving the neighbourhood. Tearing down one derelict house and putting up a new house does wonders as far as the residents and the community are concerned in improving the area.

Moving on to the Throne Speech, besides commenting on the large number of studies and the

lack of initiative in this particular speech, I will refrain my comments to a few areas in particular. I was very pleased to see The Freedom of Information Act is finally going to be proclaimed. I found that it was very unfortunate that it had to wait so long in order to be done. I would encourage this Government to go a step further and consider full public disclosure. I hope this Government will be as open as it tries to let on.

Day care is a very high priority to the Liberal Party, as it deserves. Much has been spoken in the last while outside this House, Mr. Acting Speaker, on day care. It is disheartening, Sir, to see day care briefly addressed, almost skipped over in fact. In the Throne Speech, a well-developed and well-financed day care system would encourage more Manitoban couples to have children without the fear of undue monetary burdens. This Government must place day care at the top of its priority, especially if it is to take advantage of the maximum contribution the federal Government has to offer. I would hope, Sir, that this House and this Government can provide encouragement and resolutions to the people of my constituency and the constituents of the Province of Manitoba in this respect.

I think this province has a responsibility to create and expand day care, to become a model, a showcase and an example for all other provinces to follow. Sixty-two percent of Manitoba women are in the work force, which is approximately 2 percent higher than the national average. This alone points to the need for greater and more abundant day care centres.

There will be those who have said in this House in the past, who will, no doubt, Sir, cry injustice and state that the day care is alive and striving to achieve its goals as set forth by the past Legislature. However, what we need most is leadership—leadership which simply does not react to the events but takes the initiative to seek out new directions and guidelines for day care. We do not need leadership which deals with the issues in an off-handed way. We do not need a task force. We need action and committed direction.

\* (2120)

I think it is—I took to heart what the Honourable Member for St. Johns (Ms. Wasylycia-Leis) was mentioning previously about the Liberal Party's position on day care. During the campaign, I had several discussions in town hall conferences regarding day care, where day care was a high priority. It seemed to me the NDP incumbent at the time was very pleased with what the Liberal Party policy position was towards increasing day care spaces. I think public funding is not the only source for day cares. The demand for day care is just too great. We have to look at alternatives and if that means encouraging private day care so be it. This is what we should be doing.

The other topic that I just briefly want to comment on was "Seniors." Again, I was glad to see that there was a White Paper on Senior Abuse. It is time that we take some action to better the lifestyle for our seniors. I would like to suggest to the Government of the Day to look seriously at the Pharmacare card concept. I am sure the Honourable Member for Burrows (Mr.

Chornopyski) will be more than happy to sit with you to discuss how we perceive the Pharmacare card program to work, and it would be of great benefit to our seniors. This is something that has to be given a lot of thought and should be implemented at the soonest time possible.

Going over the Throne Speech, I did notice there was a sincere lack of housing initiative. I read one very brief paragraph that was somewhat disappointing to myself. In my opinion it shows, really, the approach that you are taking towards the Landlords and Tenants Review Committee's findings. I would hope that this attitude will be changing with this Government.

I also wanted to talk briefly on free trade. On one side of the House I hear water is not in danger and on the other side we say that water is in danger. On the other side I hear Hydro is in danger; on this side I hear that Hydro—I stand corrected—that Hydro is not in danger and on this side Hydro is in danger. I think the conversation—or the debate on it—is really what needs to be looked at. The free trade deal, as it stands, is open to interpretation. I, for one, and I am sure my colleagues would agree, we are for freer trade, but when you look at the free trade deal there is just too much interpretation. This is something that we have to look out for. This is why I feel very strongly that we should not be supporting this particular free trade deal.

Another major topic at the national level, one could say, is the Meech Lake Accord. I was so much surprised; in the Throne Speech the Conservative Government comes across by saying that the Meech Lake Accord will help Canada get an elected Senate. I find that awfully hard to believe. I would argue that if Meech Lake is passed as it is we will never see an elected Senate. If Manitoba ever wants to get their fair share, as so many put it, we need to have an elected Senate. I think we really have to start concentrating on how it is that we can get the elected Senate. I know the colleagues to the left of me, the N.D. Party, have for the longest time been promoting abolishment of the Senate. I disagree with that. I believe that the Senate is in fact a sober second look at legislation that goes through. Through an elected Senate we can have a stronger national Government.

Another clause, if you will, that really disturbs me in the Meech Lake Accord is the opting-out clause. I do not understand how a national Government, Mr. Acting Speaker, will come forth with the program when the provinces can opt out, take the money and establish their own program. It stands to reason that they would actually want to do this. The simple reason is that they can take the credit for the program. This really scares me because we are a have-not province. We do not have the resources of Ontario. I think it is a legitimate concern and this is something that I hope will be brought up at our public hearings as I am sure it will be.

\* (2130)

I also would really request that this Legislature consider having a free vote on this; it is very important. Also, in thinking of the public hearings, I do believe it is very important that we look at these public hearings

and take into account what Manitobans are saying. I have the suspicion that they will say that there should be a couple—at least a few amendments. If not, then I can live with that, but if there is I hope this Government will see fit to respect the wishes of Manitobans and put forward these amendments. If not, I am sorry to say what you are doing is useless and what is the sense in even having the public hearings.

At the very least, to conclude on Meech Lake, I would ask that this Legislature, this Chamber do decide to have a special committee to look at Meech Lake. After all, this is of national importance and it will weigh heavy on the future of Canada. Surely it merits a special committee.

I would like to conclude, Mr. Acting Speaker, by saying I am very pleased to be here today. It is indeed an honour and a privilege and once again I would like to extend my sincere thank you to the residents of Inkster for putting me here today.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Acting Speaker, let me start off by offering you dual congratulations, first of all, on your election to the Legislature, representing the Minnedosa constituency. I know you will do it with distinguished aplomb as you so ably demonstrated in seconding the Throne Speech for which I offer you my full and hearty congratulations.

Monsieur Le President, I have to offer you congratulations for being elevated to the esteemed office of Speaker of this House. I can only apologize to you, Sir, for the freudian slips that from time to time I have been responsible for in referring to you as Madam Speaker, a terrible error on my part, Monsieur Le President, and I apologize profusely for that. However, as many who were here before know, I had an ongoing interest in the former occupant of your high office. We seemed to, upon occasion, have crossed swords; and now that she is not here to rule me out of order, I can say she was always wrong but she had the Rules on her side. I know, Monsieur Le President, that I shall never cross swords with you in your high office because your rulings to date have been most equitable, just, fair and honest. You represent the office with esteem.

I would like to offer congratulations formally to the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Minenko) who is occupying that Chair. That is a product of the rather unique circumstances we find ourselves in this House having a minority Government situation wherein a Member of the Official Opposition has assumed that role of Deputy Speaker.

I have to comment at this time, Mr. Acting Speaker, that in the 11 years I have been here, I have been through a number of very interesting circumstances. If I could offer a piece of advice to some of the newcomers to this Chamber—although some of you will probably not be here for 11 years; however, I wish you luck in those endeavours—keep a diary of the events as you see them, as they go on, because as much as each of us believes that our memory shall not fail us, I hate to admit that it does. In the time that I have been here as the MLA for Pembina—and I am extremely proud to have had that honour bestowed

upon me in four consecutive elections now by the people of Pembina constituency—I have to say that I have been through the most unusual sets of circumstances that any MLA, either in Government or in Opposition, could have faced.

The years of Government under Premier Lyon were very, very rewarding years. I started out on the back bench and I received the honour from Premier Lyon to sit in Cabinet after two years. I enjoyed my stint there with responsibility in Highways and Transportation, as well as, later on, Telephones and Manitoba Data Services. The experience was incredible because, as we approached 1981 and the election in 1981, I really think that we did what the people of Manitoba asked us to do. We did bring Government under control because during the preceding eight years of Premier Schreyer, spending was never an objective to that administration and the province was headed for some very serious circumstances. By and large, we rectified a lot of those problems.

As we approached the election of 1981, we laid out a vision for the people of Manitoba in our election platform. It became known as the “mega projects” and in some small degree was probably cause for our defeat because we maybe did not do our best job of communicating with the people of Manitoba and I will admit that. I will admit that was a mistake.

I simply say to you, and to the newcomers of this Chamber, that no one in the Lyon administration ever shirked from their duties and I think we provided sound Government based on good fiscal policy, fair taxation, lower deficits and increased services—an accomplishment that very, very, very few administrations provincially or federally can ever take credit for.

If there is one regret that I have, it is that I did not take enough of the notes and commit to paper some of the thoughts and the activities that were going on because those were very exciting times to be in Government under Premier Lyon's leadership. We had many irons in the fire from Alcan Aluminum to potash development to the Western Power Grid. They were exciting times; they did not last.

I guess what I would like to offer as advice to the newcomers in this House—and I am not being presumptuous when I offer it because each will tread his own path in this Chamber and in representing your constituency: Do not fall victim to the error of the previous administration.

\* (2140)

I have been listening as much as I can, and I have not been in the Chamber to hear all Honourable Members' contributions to this Throne Speech Debate, but the one thing I want to point out to the Members, particularly the new Members of the Official Opposition, is that the election of 1988, by and large, was a decision made by the people of Manitoba wherein 78 percent, approximately, of those who cast their vote, cast it against the governing Party. One must ask why. It behooves us all to ask why because this is the most serious role you will ever undertake. Although politicians are much maligned, we deserve some of it and some of it simply makes for good news copy.

But in this Chamber, we are responsible for some \$4.5 billion of spending in the Province of Manitoba. There is no other place where you will have participation in that level of spending and the decision-making involved in expending that kind of money, and the corollary of that is that, of necessity, we must also attempt to raise from the very people who elected us, and that we serve, those \$4.5 billion.

If there is one lesson that I want to offer to my honourable friends in the Official Opposition—and, as I say, I will stand to be corrected by any Member who has, in his Throne Speech, made the contribution that I feel has been lacking from you as an Official Opposition—the New Democratic Party has relegated to what I jokingly refer to as the “dirty dozen” in this House now from a period of time when they had 30-plus Members in this Chamber, a clear majority of the Government, and they squandered it, ladies and gentlemen. They squandered it.

The people of Manitoba, some 78 percent of those who cast their votes, said “We do not want anymore.” Do you want to know why the people of Manitoba made that decision? Because the New Democratic Party became preoccupied with spending. They became preoccupied with doing everything for the squeaky wheel.

Let me assure you, when you are in Government everybody has demands on Government, and I can speak from first-hand knowledge because the Department of Health probably has as many demands placed upon it by more groups in Manitoba than any other single department in Government, but the New Democratic Party forgot that they were elected not only to provide programming to those in need, but they were to do it with some semblance of fiscal responsibility.

My honourable friend, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), is not going to appreciate me repeating this. When I first came into this House in 1981, I sat at the end of the aisle in Opposition. The Member for Flin Flon sat behind me as the Deputy Speaker of the newly elected Government, and when they brought in their first Budget, it predicted a deficit of \$500 million—the first time in the history of the Province of Manitoba that a deficit projection exceeded \$200 million.

I turned to my honourable friend, the Member for Flin Flon, because he has rural roots and I liked to, at that time, give him some credibility and some semblance of understanding of what a \$500 million deficit would do, and I turned to him and I said, “How long do you think you can continue on the path of a \$500 million deficit for a province populated by one million people?” Do you know what his answer was? “Five hundred million is a manageable deficit.” Well, after having five such manageable deficits, the credit rating of the province dropping, our interest costs soaring, even the New Democrats had to start reducing spending and being more responsible.

But it was that profligate spending, that callous treatment of the private sector and that callous treatment of individual taxpayers that caused 78 percent of voters in 1988 to reject their policies.

I am taking a long time to get my message to my honourable friends in the Official Opposition, the new Members. I have not heard one of you do anything but suggest programs to spend more and more and more and more. I have not heard one Member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition ever talk about the private sector, the role of investment, the role of profit, the role of reward for risk taking in this province. Because if you think you are going to offer one of your programs that you are urging us daily to spend on, where will the money come from? Do you want us to continue along the NDP fallacy of \$500 million deficits and saddle generations of Manitobans yet unborn with ever-rising interest and debt servicing charges? That is the scenario we are in today. That is the scenario that was rejected by Manitobans.

So I simply say to my honourable friends, before you get carried away in your demands, take a think and reflect honestly on the verdict delivered April 26, 1988, by the people of Manitoba. They said they did not want anymore of NDP style out-of-control spending. They wanted Government to assume some responsible management roles in the expenditure of their hard earned tax dollars, and Manitobans en masse objected to ever-rising tax rates, whether it be sales tax, payroll tax, property transfer tax, personal income tax, charges, user fees, all escalating wildly under the previous administration.

So I caution my honourable friends: Be careful in your requests. Do not ask us, as your Leader did, to start supporting the construction of a railroad to Churchill. That is not a provincial responsibility. The people who want roads in the Province of Manitoba want any available dollars we spend in transportation to be spent on the responsibilities we have; i.e., our road system, not on the railroad to Churchill. That is not our responsibility.

To my honourable friend from Fort Garry (Mr. L.A. Evans), ask yourself where the money comes from if you do proceed with a policy of allowing retroactive entry into the Crop Insurance Program. Where does the money come from? Because you know, we are not writing the cheques personally. We are writing them on behalf of 600-plus thousand taxpayers in the Province of Manitoba. I remind you once again, 78 percent of them rejected that sort of profligate spending.

I want to take some time to deal with some of the issues facing the Health Department. The Department of Health, as we all know, is the largest spender in Government. In excess of \$1.4 billion is spent through the Department of Health, and even more dollars are spent annually in terms of capital construction which is separate and apart from that figure of \$1.4 billion. It is a massive department. It touches every Manitoban because the services delivered through the Department of Health in many ways benefit all Manitobans. We all hope we do not have to access the services that are there, because if you are healthy that is the best spent health-care dollar there is in keeping yourself healthy so you do not have to access the system, but we all want the system to be there when we need it.

Now we have gone already in this House and we have had a number of issues brought up in Question

Period. I have listened to several speeches on health care from my honourable friends opposite. I listened with a great deal of interest because many of the areas that you identify as difficulties and as problems are very real. Those problems exist. We have a mental health system which is woefully in need and crying out for change and reform.

The mental health system is in very serious difficulty. It is a multipronged problem that we are facing. It is not simply the lack of psychiatrists. It is partially some turf protection between psychiatrists and psychologists where we do not adequately use all the resources that are there. It is, in part, a crisis in Winnipeg in our community hospitals because, quite frankly, psychiatrists in community hospitals who are administering the delivery of mental health on an emergency and on a regular basis to the mental health, the psychiatric beds in our community hospitals are faced with inordinate pressure, and manpower recruitment to that is difficult.

It is partially income related, but it is also partially from the fee schedule that we have wherein a very comfortable living can be made, thank you very much, for the private office practice with very few patients offering regular psychoanalysis treatment.

I guess we have to, at some point in time, ask ourselves: Is that a fair use of scarce resource? Is that meeting the needs of most Manitobans? A very thorny and very difficult question. I note my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), the Opposition's Health Critic, nodding his head because he understands of what I speak.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)

We have a mental health care system which is highly institutionalized versus community based to move in the direction of a community-based program everyone supports but no one has done it. Why have not they done it? Because, I say to you, there has not been the desire and the leadership to do it; and I simply give to you the commitment of myself, as the Minister of Health, the Department of Health, and my colleagues in Government, that we will be moving towards more delivery of mental health programs on a community-based service.

I say to you right today that we are not going to be delivering that as fast as we would like to because of resource allocation, the scarcity of resources, and indeed the trained people in place to make that community-based service work. Both those problems have to be resolved and it is going to take some time, but the commitment and the dedication to do that, I can assure Honourable Members, is here. I stand for it, I speak for it, I support it, and I have done that for three successive years as Opposition Health Critic.

We have got ourselves into a little bit of a wrestling match from time to time. Maybe that is the wrong terminology, but for lack of better it describes what happens from time to time in the House where we have opposing demands coming on myself as Minister of Health from Members opposite.

We went through the in-vitro fertilization clinic discussion and no doubt we will discuss that further

as we approach the Estimates. We are going to have Members of the Opposition identify other needs that are genuine, that are being underserved. The lineups for certain diagnostic tests are down because in Opposition we put pressure on the previous administration to put in additional CAT scans, and we are getting down to the stage where that is almost acceptable now, almost acceptable, not perfect, but almost acceptable. We still have lineups for elective surgery. We still have blocked beds from panelled seniors waiting for personal care home placement. We have got all of those problems and they are long-term in their resolution.

\* (2150)

But, my honourable friends, I want to just indicate to you how easy those problems would have been to resolve if we had carried on the prudent course of governing the Province of Manitoba that was established prior to 1969. I have before me a chart which was drawn up for me on October 1, 1981, by the Finance Department, and I always refer to it fondly because it points out some very interesting statistics. I want to share with my honourable friends some of these statistics that are in here because these will absolutely boggle your mind, I believe, because I think a number of you over there have some semblance of business backgrounds and some understanding of finance.

Not that I want to be critical or harsh or offensive, but that understanding was woefully lacking by the previous NDP Government—woefully lacking, woefully misunderstanding, as evidenced by the comments I indicated to you from the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) in his first year in this House when he indicated a \$500 million deficit was manageable. In 1968-69, that is 20 years ago, do you know what the debt charges were for the Province of Manitoba 20 years ago?

**An Honourable Member:** How much?

**Mr. Orchard:** They were \$3.6 million per year 20 years ago. In the next five years, under the Schreyer administration, the net expenditures on interest were actually positive. In other words, they made more money on sinking funds—on the interest rate on sinking funds—than they paid out in accumulated debt. We had as high as a \$4.2 million net surplus in interest accumulation over interest charges. Then things started to come apart at the seam because of the profligate spending under the Schreyer administration.

From 1969 it started to catch up, because you have to remember that in the early Seventies until the mid-Seventies the Manitoba economy and the national economy and the North American economy were heated. All the resource industries were pouring revenues in. Agriculture took a massive jump in revenues to the farm community. The farm community found themselves, in 1974, in the embarrassing position of having to pay taxes—income taxes—an unusual circumstance in the farm community up until then. That coincided with the dramatic take off in prices of all the commodities that we produce in Manitoba. The revenue

growth on a year-over-year basis was 15 percent to 20 percent per year during the first four years of the Schreyer administration. They had money coming out their ears and they created programs to spend it whether they were needed or not.

From there on the noose started to tighten. There was a \$15 million interest charge in '74, '75, and in the last year that we were in Government, in 1981-82, the interest charges had grown to \$94.6 million; not on borrowing that was undertaken during the Lyon years because I think—if my memory serves me correctly—I think we only went to the marketplace two or three times for a provincial borrowing issue, and one of those was Manitoba Savings Bonds. Whereas now, if we do not go to the marketplace once a month, we have had a ringer of a month. That was two or three borrowings that we made during four years of Lyon administration, if my memory serves me correctly.

I want to have my honourable friends pick up a copy of the Estimates of the defeated Budget of the NDP. If you go to those Estimates—and bear in mind 20 years after the \$3.6 million interest charge in 1968-69—you will find the 1988-89 Estimates of Expenditure include a provision for \$585 million worth of interest payments on behalf of the people of Manitoba. From \$3.6 million annually to \$585 million annually in 20 short years, 15 of them under the financial lack of stewardship by the NDP. That is why, to the Honourable Members in the Official Opposition, I offer you the caution I did earlier on. Do not forget why you are here. You are not here to simply ask for Government to spend more and more and more. You have to have a balanced approach, and that is what you promised and that is what you committed. I am looking forward to your delivery of that promise, because we cannot continue upon the path of those kinds of borrowings and related and necessary following interest costs.

If the interest costs had have been contained at the growth level of the early Seventies, we might have had some \$200 million a year today of interest if our NDP friends in the last six Budgets had not racked up \$3 billion of additional deficit saddled on the people of Manitoba, had they not done that. That does not include Crown corporation losses and other ancillary fiascos under the NDP.

Now that \$400 million of additional interest payment—does that provide one hospital bed? Does that provide one open-heart surgery? Does that provide one day of home care for a senior in need? Does that provide one cubic yard of asphalt or gravel in our transportation system? Does that provide one dollar of support to farmers when they are in dire straits as they are this year? Does that provide one extra dollar to the City of Winnipeg so that they can reduce the property tax burden on their citizens in the confines of the City of Winnipeg? Clearly, the answer is no.

That opportunity to provide those services was squandered by successive NDP Governments, because they demanded and they spent more and more and more. They forgot about one very important person in the whole equation, and that was the taxpayer. That is why I say again, 78 percent of those taxpayers said enough is enough, and they tossed them out of office,

unceremoniously tossed them out of office. Never has a political Party fallen to such disfavour in the people of Manitoba's eyes. I simply say to you, we lost the 1981 election, but we lost it with 44 percent of the people of Manitoba voting for us. Not bad when you consider that 22 percent of the people of Manitoba voted for the New Democrats in the last election.

So I offer that piece of advice, and I offer it with the caution that the advice is free. Many of you may want to consider its worth, what you have paid for it, but that is your choice. But just consider the impact as you stand in Question Period and as you approach the Budget Debate and as you approach the Estimate perusal. Bear in mind what the legacy of uncontrolled spending, putting oil on the squeaky wheel has cost the people of Manitoba in the longer term. It is a price we cannot afford too much longer. I know, honourable friends opposite, many of you will understand that and understand it well in the Official Opposition.

That brings us to the interesting challenge, Mr. Speaker. How do we continue to provide the necessary services that Manitobans want and demand, particularly in health? I wish I had that \$400 million in additional interest charges that the NDP squandered over their last six years.

I can tell you where I would dedicate some of those resources, and I would be welcoming suggestions from Members of the Official Opposition, because Governments do not have all the answers. They do not have all the intelligence; they do not have all the wisdom. But I will tell you one area I would put it into. I would put it into the provision of speech therapy for preschool children—an area that we are woefully lacking in, an area wherein we spend those kinds of resources after the child enters school, to try to correct then a speech problem, and we do not have the resource dedication for the pre-schooler. That is wrong; that has to be reversed. That has to be changed; that has to be brought back to sanity, but it costs money. Part of the \$400 million I would have welcomed dedicating to that, because what better service could we provide to those children than to give them the opportunity to speak well and to communicate well, because that is the essence of learning, that is the essence of society.

Another area that I would dedicate the money to, should we have that \$400 million per year, is in reducing the backlogs for elective surgery in our hospitals—an amiable goal, a good goal, a welcome goal. I would provide some additional monies to personal care homes. I do not think one Member of this House would argue against any of those priorities. We are beyond that, Members of this Assembly, in that those resources are already committed not to providing hospital beds, not to providing elective surgery, not to providing diagnostic testing, not to providing home care, not to providing personal care home placement, but those resources are dedicated to the bankers in Zurich, in Tokyo, in London, in New York and Lord knows where else in the world that our NDP friends have found sources of funds that they can borrow.

In closing, Mr. Speaker—because I know the House and the hour of adjournment is close and I will conclude my remarks tomorrow—I simply offer to my honourable



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friends in the Official Opposition the caution, as new Members, that you approach your positions with dignity and care and caution. In doing so, you will esteem yourself with the people of Manitoba and you will do what truly all of us have been elected to do—that is to provide services to the people of Manitoba that are needed and services to the people of Manitoba that they can afford over the long run.

We cannot continue to operate as our previous friends did in an NDP administration of spending continuously and largely beyond the financial means of the people of Manitoba. Doing so leads to the ignoble fate, as befell them, of rejection by 78 percent of the voters

of Manitoba. I would not want that to be the fate to befall my honourable new friends in the Official Opposition so soon in their political careers.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue my remarks tomorrow, if you would.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 10 p.m., I am interrupting proceedings according to the Rules. When this motion is again before the House, the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will have eight minutes remaining. This House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m., (Wednesday).