

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**Fourth Session — Fifteenth Legislature**  
**5th Day**

**Wednesday, February 8, 1967.**

The Assembly met at 2:30 o'clock p.m.  
On the Orders of the Day

**WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

**MR. W.G. DAVIES (Moose Jaw):** — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I would like to introduce to you and to the Members of the House, 65 members of the Grade 12 class of Riverview High School in Moose Jaw. They are all in the east gallery. The class is accompanied by Mr. Morris Gardner of the History Department of the Riverview High, and I am sure that all Members would want to join in expressing a welcome to the Members of this class and to their teachers. We would wish them an interesting time while in Regina and that they will be able to learn something of the process of our form of government. I'm by no means positive, Mr. Speaker, that they will be able to learn all of this this afternoon but hope in any case that they will be able to return individually or in a group so as to further improve their knowledge on another occasion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MRS. SALLY MERCHANT:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like very much through you to have the Members of this House welcome to the Assembly today members of the International Students Club and members of Debating Directorates and people who have taken part in the Parliamentary Forum on both campuses of the University of Saskatchewan, here as well as in Saskatoon. I hope that Members will join us again tonight at dinner downstairs. Those Members who joined us last night very much enjoyed meeting the young people who were with us and I hope as many Members as possible will be able to personally meet some of the young people who are with us today. I know you will want now to welcome them with me to the House.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. A.N. NICHOLSON (Saskatoon City):** — Mr. Speaker, I mentioned yesterday I had the honor of acting as Speaker at the Student Assembly in Saskatoon a couple of weeks ago. I might mention to the Members that the government when I became Speaker was defeated and the Liberal government asked me to continue in this capacity. This rarely happens in the parliamentary system where adults are engaged. Again I would like to say that Hon. Members would be well advised to drop in at the campus, either Regina or Saskatoon while the students are discussing the business before the Assembly. A very high standard was set in Saskatoon and the young people are to be commended. I am sure we are all delighted that many students from all over the world have come to Saskatchewan to continue their graduate work. We hope their visit to Regina today will give them the better knowledge of how the work of the Assembly is done and a little more about the problems that we have in Saskatchewan. I am

sure all Members hope that this will be a happy visit for will who come from the Saskatoon or Regina campus.

**HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. W.A. ROBBINS (Saskatoon City):** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to through you have the Members of this House welcome a group of students in the west gallery from Victoria School in Saskatoon. I am sue that every Member here hopes that they will have a pleasant stay in the capital city and that they will enjoy their trip home. I sincerely hope that all Members agree with me that these students are very much welcome this afternoon to this Assembly.

**HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**HON. L.P. CODERRE (Minister of Labour):** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention to the west gallery. The students that I see in the west gallery in the two front rows are from the Bateman High School and the Bateman Hi C group. They are accompanied here this afternoon by Mrs. Peterson, the vice principal of the high school and Mr. Evert Brown who is in charge of the Hi C group. They are accompanied here today by Mr. And Mrs. Alfred Bell, Mr. And Mrs. Oman, and Mr. and Mrs. Jake Rothiesler. I am sure that they will note with interest the deliberations in the Legislature this afternoon, and I am sue that they will find this a most interesting day, particularly today when the Premier of the province is speaking. I would like on behalf of the Legislature to welcome them here.

**HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** — Before the Orders of the Day may I ask the indulgence of the House to also draw your attention to four gentlemen sitting behind the Bar, four Members of the Canadian House of Commons at Ottawa visiting us. I am sure we would all wish to extend to them a most warm welcome to our Legislature.

**HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

#### **QUESTION RE REPORT ON SASKATCHEWAN POWER CORPORATION**

**MR. J.R. BROCKELBANK (Kelsey):** — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I would like to ask the Premier a question. About two years ago he got a report in regard to the Saskatchewan Power Corporation from Mr. Hal Berry and at that time the Premier considered it not to be in the public interest to give the Members of the Legislature a copy. I wonder now after the lapse of two years would the Premier consider giving to the Legislature a copy of that report submitted by Mr. Hal Berry in regard to the Saskatchewan Power Corporation.

**MR. THATCHER:** — No, I would not, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Kelsey (Mr. Brockelbank) who has been in this House for many years knows very well that that was privileged and confidential

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information. If Mr. Berry had not had that assurance he would not have carried out the report.

**MR. BROCKELBANK (Kelsey):** — Mr. Speaker, I don't want to get into an argument but no report is confidential and privileged except the Premier makes it so. But I would like to ask a supplemental question. Has the Premier made this report available to the general manager of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation?

**MR. THATCHER:** — I have discussed it with him.

**MR. BROCKELBANK (Kelsey):** — That wasn't an answer. I would like an answer to the question: has he made it available to the manager of the Power Corporation?

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member may not like my answer but I gave him one nevertheless.

### **ADJOURNED DEBATE**

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Hooker (Notukeu-Willowbunch) for an Address in Reply and the proposed amendment thereto by Mr. Lloyd (Leader of the Opposition).

**HON. W. ROSS THATCHER (Premier):** — Mr. Speaker, my first remarks this afternoon of course, must be to welcome the many students and university students who are with us this afternoon. We know on this side of the House and I am sure on the Opposition side, that young people usually give fresh ideas and new approaches to political parties. We hope that they will enjoy their stay today. I am also certain that we can benefit from some of the discussions we have with them before they leave.

I would like to echo your remarks, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming four Members of Parliament from Quebec.

**HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — These gentlemen are in the Legislature today because they are in the city with the Standing Committee for Agriculture from Ottawa. They are studying operations of the Wheat Board. I am sure they have found already that everyone in Saskatchewan likes the Wheat Board regardless of their politics.

Mr. Speaker this year we are celebrating the 100th birthday of this nation. A great many plans are under way in every part of the province to mark this notable event. Dozens of projects have been designed and formulated to have a lasting memorial to this occasion. Surely in this Centennial year it is appropriate to give thanks to Providence for the blessings we have had in this past century. When we look around at the misery and poverty and wars which exist in so

many parts of the world today, we realize how fortunate we are here in Saskatchewan.

As we begin our second 100 years as a nation, the province is experiencing unprecedented development. It is almost three years since this government took office. During that period we have sought to achieve better living standards for the people of Saskatchewan. In the process we have encountered difficulties. We have met with some frustrations, and a few disappointments. However, as we begin this session of the Legislature, it is obvious on every hand except to the most biased that we are beginning to see tangible results.

What do Liberals believe constitutes good government? We are convinced, Mr. Speaker, that a good government first must contribute to a healthy agricultural industry; secondly, must provide a political and economic climate that will permit industrial expansion, thus providing full employment at good wages; thirdly, must inaugurate programs that will ensure maximum living standards for the needy, for the aged and for the unfortunate. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we believe that in normal times a good government must balance its budget, and keep taxes from becoming onerous.

I propose to show today that the programs of this Government are fulfilling those objectives. Liberals do not claim that in 32 short months we have accomplished economic miracles. At no time have we suggested that in solving the problems that face this province, we have any magic formula or easy answers. But we do contend that in this period the Liberal government has started Saskatchewan along a new road to prosperity and expansion. Facts speak for themselves. Today the economy of this province has never been more buoyant, never more prosperous. The province enjoys virtually full employment since we defeated the Socialists.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Farm income today is at an all-time high. For years in the rest of this nation, they looked upon Saskatchewan as one of the poor relations, one of the provinces that was always in Ottawa with its hand out. Today suddenly we become one of the have provinces. We are becoming one of the thriving partners of Confederation since we defeated the Socialists. Members on this side of the House contend that much of the economic development and expansion in Saskatchewan has taken place, at least in part, because of the positive and constructive approaches and policies of the new Liberal government. Some problems, of course, remain. Some inequities and injustices that have been with us for years still prevail. There are too many Saskatchewan people who continue to have too little. But, Mr. Speaker, much of the legislation embodied in the Speech from the Throne has been designed to remove as best we can those obstacles to greater progress.

In passing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a word about the philosophy of this Government. The Saskatchewan Liberal party has endeavored at all times to give middle-of-the-road government. It is fashionable today to refer to political parties as being parties of the right or parties of the left. Liberals believe that neither extreme is needed

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in this province. The Liberal party has always been a reform party and always will continue to be a reform party.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — But we believe that these reforms must be related to the economic capacity of the taxpayer. We contend that no segment or group in our society should receive special treatment. All groups should receive equal, fair, and similar attention. Here we differ again from the Socialists. Down through the years the Liberal party has been identified with enlightened social legislation. Only a few weeks ago in Ottawa, the Federal Liberal Government once again raised the old age pension to those in need from \$75 a month to \$105 per month. Mr. Speaker, in season and out of season, the Liberal party has been concerned with the problems of the unemployed, the sick and the underprivileged. We intend to keep carrying forward those efforts. Liberals believe you can have social security without socialism. We believe you can have social welfare without regimentation. Liberals want Saskatchewan to be known as the “opportunity province.” This Government firmly believes in the principles of private enterprise. We do so because we know these principles have given people in Canada one of the highest living standards in the world, far higher, Mr. Speaker, I may say than living standards in most Socialist countries. We believe in private enterprise, because we are convinced that this system can provide a maximum of good jobs in Saskatchewan.

Liberals believe that government can be run on a sound business basis, with a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of waste. No one can get something for nothing from a government. Governments secure their revenues from the pockets of the taxpayer, and anything promised by a government must be paid out of the pockets of all. Liberals do not believe that oppressive taxation is necessary. The plans and platform of this Government then, Mr. Speaker, are designed with these principles and objectives in mind.

I turn now specifically to the Throne Speech. Initially I want to say a few words about agriculture because of course agriculture remains our major industry. It is now well known that the farmers in our province in 1966 produced the largest crop in the province’s history. At the same time foreign wheat sales were the highest on record, thanks to the selling policies of a Liberal Government at Ottawa.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Our farmers this past year harvested 546,000,000 bushels of wheat, most of it high grade. We had the largest barley crop in history. How delighted our farmers were with the participation certificates and cheques which they received a few weeks ago. Our receipts from livestock operations increased the past year, chiefly as a result of higher cattle marketing and better beef prices. For the first time, the receipts from livestock in Saskatchewan exceeded \$200,000,000. In short Saskatchewan farm income in 1966 will exceed all previous figures.

Notwithstanding these facts, Mr. Speaker, the Government is still concerned over the continued lack of major diversification in agriculture. I note with concern that, despite persistent efforts of our Government over the past year, marketings of hogs and sheep declined. While it is true that we have enjoyed good crops in recent years, nevertheless history has shown us the dangers of depending on a one crop economy. We continue to be cruelly vulnerable to drought, or a major drop in overseas wheat sales. For this reason, our Government has consistently endeavored to formulate programs which would encourage our farmers to diversify. We know there are difficulties. Labor is in short supply today. New investment is needed. Changes in techniques are taking place. But at the same time in the interest of Saskatchewan agriculture, we are convinced that a broader base is vital.

I have already mentioned that revenue from beef marketing improved this past year. A great deal yet remains to be done if our Saskatchewan livestock population is to be significantly increased. Thus our Government has a number of programs designed to help cattle production. For example, community pastures are being added to and expanded, seven new ones last year, six more will be completed this year. The construction of hay shelters is being encouraged. Incentives are provided for the clearing of brush and the conversion of sub-marginal land to forage. The Department is sparing no effort to expand small irrigation projects.

Mr. Speaker cattle rustling continues to cause concern in many parts of the province. To help cope with this problem we have had numerous requests for an extension of our brand inspection program. Therefore, as indicated the Throne Speech this year, we shall extend the area of the province covered by the program. It is our hope that within three years there will be a brand inspection program in the whole of Saskatchewan.

The policy of selling cultivated and pasture lease lands back to the farmer has been continued and expanded. Up to a few days ago we had sold 475,000 acres of land back to the farmer — 2,203 leases. And we shall sell another 400,000 acres this year, we hope, Mr. Speaker. The Liberal Government believes that under most circumstances government should get out of the land business, so that more farmer can get into it. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McFarlane) will go into more detail later in this debate about our programs to diversity agriculture. However, I emphasize again, the livestock industry has a future which is unbelievably bright. Price prospects are excellent. Expansion of the industry can only help the farmer and the province generally.

In passing, Mr. Speaker I should like to say a few words about the sheep industry. For years this has been an ailing industry. We believe that the production of sheep in Saskatchewan holds exciting possibilities, and should be made an important part of our diversification program. During 1966, our importations of mutton and lamb were far grater than they should have been. Therefore, in a new program during 1966 we opened our first community sheep pasture. Because of the keen interest displayed, we propose to open four more community sheep pastures this spring. Already we have had more than 7,000 applications for sheep to be placed

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in those pastures. This action, together with new measures for predator control, leads us to hope that Saskatchewan sheep numbers will turn upwards for the coming year, for the first time in some decades.

Income from hogs in Saskatchewan during 1966 increased. Sometime ago we announced a new policy, under which loans would be made available through the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation, for farmers who wished to go into intensive hog operations. This action has helped. But frankly our Government has been disappointed in the lack of response. Demand has risen sharply in Canada recently for hogs. Price prospects are excellent. We urge Saskatchewan farmers in their own interests to raise more hogs.

The Government continues to do everything possible to bring new land under cultivation. Hon. Members might be interested to know that in 1966 another 325,000 acres of new land were broken. Included in that figure of course are a number of major projects. In the Saskatchewan River delta area near Cumberland House, we are now carrying out a pilot project on several thousand acres to see if major agricultural projects are feasible in that area. If we proceed, huge sums will be required to dike, drain and break lands in the Delta area. Large portions of this land, of course, will still continue to be used for hunting and tramping and fishing and so on. But we believe the rapid development of some of this very rich farm land must proceed in the near future. The potential in this area is estimated to be 700,000 acres and upward.

Now as we endeavor to bring stability to agriculture, this Government hopes, as it says in the Throne Speech, to gradually expand crop insurance. In 1964 more than 2,350 farmers bought crop insurance in this province. Last year 7,000 farmers purchased it with a coverage of a little more than \$12,000,000. It is interesting to know that last year Alberta only had 4,500 farmers covered. Next year we hope to expand crop insurance even further. It is true that many farmers still like to use P.F.A.A. in this province. Under the new crop insurance program, premium rates are calculated to make the plan self-sustaining over a long period. The farmer pays 75 per cent of the premium, the Federal Government pays 25 per cent. There are few measures, Mr. Speaker, in the decade ahead, which should bring such benefits to the Saskatchewan farmer as the crop insurance. Yet since the Provincial Government would be required to absorb one quarter of losses involved in a major crop failure year, expansion must be carefully planned. In 1967 the Crop Insurance Branch will endeavor to insure 8,500 policies with a coverage of \$14,700,000.

Mr. Speaker as I said a moment ago, this Government gives agriculture a top priority. I assure the House and the province, that we intend to continue making whatever investment in agriculture that is necessary for the public good. A healthy agricultural industry invariably means a healthy province. We believe that diversification is the key to many of our problems.

Now for a moment, Mr. Speaker I want to turn to a subject that I always like talking about because the Liberals have been

so successful with it — Industrial Development. Just as we must have diversification in the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan so common sense dictates that our economy as a whole must be diversified. That is why the Liberal party prior to the last election promised to take every feasible step to bring new industry and new investment to Saskatchewan. Since taking office, we have done all in our power to establish a climate in which industry can prosper and grow thereby creating new jobs and higher incomes. As I said earlier we have used private enterprise methods because we are convinced that private enterprise will give us the most investment and a maximum of new industries and jobs.

During 1966 the continued forward surge of industry was most encouraging. We were particularly pleased to note that manufacturing shipments which were \$428,000,000 a year ago, increased to \$462,000,000 this year — up 8 per cent.

I am sure the House would be interested to now that official figures show that 1,313 new companies registered in Saskatchewan last year, compared to 915 in the last year of Socialist government.

Potash continues to develop at a rapid rate since the government changed. Tight money has held back several new developments. However, during 1967, two more multi-million dollar plants will go into production, a third in early 1968. Mr. Speaker, we are not too far distant from the day when the dollar value of the potash being produced in Saskatchewan will be more than the dollar value of wheat being produced. Hon. Members will have noted that the Government has announced that royalty rates will go up after October 1, 1967. For this reason we expect that several more potash announcements will be made before that date.

Oil development continues apace in Saskatchewan. On taking office, we found that oil exploration had tapered off in our province. We found that the oil industry was suspicious of Saskatchewan. So after we consulted with the industry we initiated a program of incentives to encourage deeper drilling. A few months ago the program paid its first dividend. A well in the Minton area produced commercial quantities in the deep Devonian formation. A number of subsequent wells have gone into production. Prospects appear to be excellent that this find may develop into a major new field. During 1966, 574 new oil wells and 32 gas wells were brought into production. And many new oil companies have moved into the province.

We are now beginning to see the development of our northern timber resources in constituencies like Prince Albert and Cumberland East. 1966 saw the commencement of the new \$65,000,000 pulp mill. The Government company which must provide raw pulp during the initial four years expects to start operations this month. Our Department of Natural Resources and Industry are working on several other lumbering projects which we will hope may materialize during 1967. And so I say, Mr. Speaker these new companies are transforming our forest areas from an asset of doubtful value to one which will provide a powerful impetus to the economic advances of the province. Several years ago this Government inaugurated an incentive program for mineral development. We began to pay up to 50 per cent of the costs of prospecting, up to \$50,000 ceiling. As a result, today more than sixty of the mining grants of this continent are now up in Northern Saskatchewan looking for minerals. This year we saw



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two more small mines go into production and we saw greatly renewed activity in the field of uranium. There are indications that in the not too distance future a number of important finds may develop into mines.

We saw a great many new industries this last year, Mr. Speaker. Three new sodium sulphate enterprises came closer to fruition and production. Numerous feed mills were built around the province — also several housing, construction and building firms. The capacity of IPSCO, our steel company, increased by \$2,000,000. A new gypsumboard plant in Saskatoon, a new wire production plant, a Japanese plant in Moose Jaw. Yesterday the Minister of Industry (Mr. Grant) announced a new Farm Machinery Manufacturing Company. Many other companies could be mentioned, but I say, Mr. Speaker, the hard facts indicate that the Liberals have made some major progress along the road to industrial diversification.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Socialists claim that all this new expansion would have happened anyway. They say the resources were there, they would have been developed without the Liberals. Well, the fact is that we had a Socialist government for 20 years, Mr. Speaker. During all that time those industries didn't come into the province, and our resources were not developed.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I must remind you today, Sir, that for two decades private investors avoided Saskatchewan like the plague. And only when the dead hand of socialism was removed did private capital move into this province in a major way.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — My honorable friends opposite say that this Government is selling out its resources to big business or to the Americans. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is sour grapes. How can our oil fields help our people unless they are developed? How can timber resources be of value unless some use is made of them? Who benefits if our potash reserves remain a mile underground? We Liberals believe that Saskatchewan's natural resources should be opened up and used for one main purpose — to provide good jobs and a better way of life for our people.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — We Liberals would rather see our resources opened up with Canadian capital. But the hard fact of life today is that in a new developing country like Canada, there is simply not enough Canadian capital. We can either use outside capital and have new plants and mines today or we can wait for Canadian capital to develop our resources perhaps 50 years hence. Liberals believe that in the main, the people of Saskatchewan are interested in having full employment at high wages, not 50 years hence but now!

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — If outside capital is needed to ensure full employment, then I think most people will wish the Government to continue seeking it out. In short then, Mr. Speaker, I say today that private enterprise is achieving in Saskatchewan what Socialism failed completely to achieve in their two decades of office. Last fall the Socialists held their Annual Convention, and I trust that many Canadians noted their attitude toward industrial development.

**MR. D.W. MICHAYLUK (Redberry):** — Is that the one you attended?

**MR. THATCHER:** — In connection with oil, timber, sodium sulphate, and other minerals the so-called new CCF platform called for a review of agreements made under the Liberals. They said, “If we come to power, we want renegotiations of those agreements.” As originally worded, this plank was even stronger. It called for the virtual tearing-up of these agreements in the event of re-election of the CCF. The plank calls specifically for renegotiation where possible. Now what this means in Socialist language is that a CCF Government would pressure and harass these companies to try and force them to renegotiate the contracts they made with the Liberal Government. I suggest that such action might well drive out many of these companies. It could bring a return to the stagnation in our resource development which existed for such a long period under the Socialists.

Mr. Speaker Socialists are a strange breed. While they pretend they are not what they really are, their blind hatred and distrust of private enterprise corporations shows up inevitably, whenever they get together to prepare a party platform.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — At their Convention, the Socialist delegates again urged economic development through the establishment of Crown corporations. Do they never learn? After 1944 they tried to tan leather. They went broke in the process. The only thing they tanned were the hides of the taxpayers.

They tried to make and sell shoes. The poor taxpayer ended with the pinch from paying out money to cover the losses. I met a man a month or so ago who still had some of those old CCF boots on his shelf. He had them for 20 years and he said, “I can’t give them away.”

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Then, in Moose Jaw the Socialists embarked on a project to make blankets in woollen mills from wool. The sheep got fleeced and so did the taxpayers.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I won’t take any more time on Crown corporations but I could remind the people of Saskatchewan of the Box Factory, the Paint Spray Company, The Guarantee & Fidelity Insurance Company, the Brick Plant, Wizewood, and so on. The original Crown corporation program

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was a disaster and a fiasco, and yet now they say the answer to an industrial program is to have more Crown corporations. Well, Mr. Speaker, I say that the whole Socialist attitude re-emphasizes why it is necessary in the not too distant future, to hold a provincial election. Industrialists from across Canada and elsewhere want assurance if they are going to place investment capital in this province, that it will not be endangered by crackpot Socialist theories.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the major achievements of this Liberal Government has been its success in attracting new industries. This success means much to the average citizen. In future years it will not longer be necessary for our university students and our collegiate students, when they graduate, to move out of the province to find a job. Liberals are finding them jobs right here at home.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — At the same time, the new businesses will assume some of the tax burdens which will permit this Government to improve services. For example, Mr. Speaker I mentioned yesterday afternoon in this debate, the fact that these new industries and mines are now paying major taxes and royalties. Because of that fact it was possible for this Government last year to pay a homeowner grant of \$50 to most homeowners in the Province of Saskatchewan. This legislation is helping every homeowner in the province with local taxes.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Yet, as I said yesterday afternoon, it was interesting to note when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) was speaking he didn't have much to say about the homeowner grants and I really don't blame him. However, even though Socialists don't like this progressive legislation, it has been received very well throughout the Province of Saskatchewan. As I said yesterday, I watched with great interest the proceedings at the recent Socialist Convention last fall. According to those reports four CCF constituency executives and associations, Morse, Wadena, Touchwood and Kinistino, moved resolutions that the homeowner grant be abolished. Did that resolution . . . did those resolutions ever bring some of the CCF MLAs to their feet! For example, according to the Regina Leader Post of November 18, 1966 I quote:

A.E. Blakeney, MLA for Regina West as one of the first to speak against the resolution stating, 'it has appeal. It is a popular measure . . . it is not all that bad because Ross brought it in. We should be careful.'

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — What a statement!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Said Mr. Blakeney:

I realize that this may be waffling or dodging the issue, but I think we should take a good look at it.

As I said yesterday, such principles, such motivation! Now it was the turn for that deep thinker the Hon. Member for The Battleford constituency (Mr. Kramer).

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — He really spoke from the heart with concern and conviction for the little man. Said the Member for The Battlefords:

I don't like the grant, it stinks, it's political bribery. But don't underestimate John Doe. We did it in 1964 and we lost the election.

Mr. Kramer said:

There are many more who like the grant than those who don't. From a politician's point of view, we can't afford to annihilate the people who like this grant. We can't tell people their little plum is going to be taken away.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Kramer said:

So we have to accept it and gild the lily.

Then the Hon. Member for The Battlefords moves that this grant which he says 'stinks', that this grant which he calls 'political bribery' should not only be paid to homeowners, but should be paid to just about everyone else in this province also.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — That brought the old warrior from Kelsey (Mr. Brockelbank) to his feet. He grumped: "If we extend the grant to cover all householders, we're endorsing a Liberal Program. It may be that's how we'll have to do it. I don't want to see us tie our hands at this time." According to newspaper reports there was a pretty acrimonious debate.

Finally one of the grass roots members came to his feet, John Vershagen of Kinistino. He said this, 'Some of you fellows may take a holier than though attitude about such things as the homeowner grant, but don't forget, it's working. Unless we have some of these things you'll keep Thatcher there for a long time yet.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — So, Mr. Speaker, the resolution to abolish the homeowner grant was defeated, not because any of my hon. friends opposite like it, but rather because just before an election they don't dare oppose it. The Socialist Convention did pass a resolution:

That a CCF government would examine the grant to determine that the benefits from the money are available to the people in the fairest possible way.

Those are weasel words, Mr. Speaker. Let me assure you again

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that a Liberal Government will keep the homeowner grant and gradually extend it. The election of a CCF Government would mean that the homeowner grants would be abolished, period.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — And now, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn for a moment to matters of health. I want to mention two specific new programs of the Liberal Government. May I refer first to our efforts to attract additional dentists to Saskatchewan. We inherited from the Socialist Government a critical problem in this connection. We have one dentist for every 4500 people in this province, one of the lowest rates in Canada. We have dozens of communities particularly in our north, where no dentist is available. In other communities, long waiting periods are required to obtain the services of a dentist. A great deal has been said in recent years about the merits of a dental care program. Our Government certainly believes that dental care is important. But before any steps can be taken to implement a comprehensive dental care program, we must have a much larger supply of dentists. For that reason our Department of Health for many months has been endeavoring to bring more dentists to Saskatchewan. As a first step we have commenced construction of a Dental College at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. That college was originally scheduled to start accepting students in 1969. We have now asked the University to consider the feasibility of having facilities completed by 1968. We have launched a program of greatly expanded bursaries for dentists. Bursaries are available to Saskatchewan students. No repayment of funds is required where a student returns to Saskatchewan and sets up practice for a sufficient period of time. One hundred and fifty of those dental bursaries were given in the past year. In 1966 ten new graduates returned to practice in Saskatchewan, and we expect 18 this year.

During 1966, also for the first time, the Government began to pay inducement grants to graduate from various Canadian dental colleges. We have made available up to \$5,000 to each young dentist for purchasing equipment and getting established in practice. They must agree to locate in Saskatchewan areas where the shortage of dentists is particularly acute. They must also agree to stay for a certain period of time. We have also tried to recruit dentists in Great Britain and the United States with only modest success.

I turn to another major problem facing the Department of Health. The need for more hospital beds in the city of Regina. I remind Hon. Members and the people of Saskatchewan that on a per capita basis this province has more hospital beds than any other province or any state of the Union to the south. Unfortunately, the location of these beds leaves much to be desired — Socialist planning. Some areas have too many beds. Others including the city of Regina have too few. It is a fact that in our capital, many of our citizens must wait for months before they can obtain accommodation unless an emergency is involved. Why is the city of Regina in the present plight? Today in opposition, the Socialists protest and complain about the bed shortage, about the run-down condition of the General Hospital. I ask this Legislature: what did the Socialists do to alleviate the crisis when they were in office?

**SOME HON. MEMBER:** — Nothing.

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, from 1949 to 1964, the Socialist Government gave the Regina General Hospital a total of \$182,000 or \$12,000 per year. During those 15 years Regina grew by 42,000 people, yet the Socialist failed to add a single bed to the city of Regina. Not only were no new beds added, but repeated requests from the Hospital Board for major renovations were also ignored by the Socialists when they were the Government. Compare such action with the Liberal record, Mr. Speaker. In less than three years the Liberal Government has given the Regina General Hospital \$460,000 in capital grants alone. We have made it possible for that institution to add 80 additional new beds. In total, the Department of Health, under a Liberal Government has approved additions, renovations and new equipment to the Regina General Hospital amounting to almost \$2,000,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Any way you look at it, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have done more about this problem in a few months than the Socialists did over the last 15 years of office. Any reasonable person can only conclude that the major blame for a shortage of hospital beds in Regina, as well as any lack of modern facilities must be placed squarely at the door of the Socialists.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Socialist Member for Regina West (Mr. Blakeney) must bear some responsibility. He was the Minister of Health for a number of years.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I regret to say it, but the Mayor of Regina must also bear some responsibility for the critical situation.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — As far as we can ascertain from the records, Mr. Speaker, between 1957 and 1965 the city of Regina failed to spend virtually any funds at the Regina General Hospital for any purpose. I must point out that during that period of time, for seven years the Hon. Member for Regina (Mr. Baker) was the Mayor. Not only did the city of Regina fail to spend any money on the General Hospital but from 1960 to 1964 they took \$335,000 paid to them by the Province for old hospital debt and used it for other purposes. Not one cent of that \$335,000 was re-invested in building or equipment for the hospital. In other words, the Mayor used hospital funds to balance his budget.

I say then, that the Socialist party, the Member for Regina West and His Worship, the Mayor shirked their responsibility to the people of Regina by allowing the General Hospital to become inadequate both in size and quality. For 20 years the Socialists were in power and ignored this problem. Now they are trying to blame the Liberals for the resulting lack of facilities. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, recriminations will not solve this issue. This is one more Socialist mess which must be cleaned up by the Liberals. Since taking office, I have contended, and this Government

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has contended that the city of Regina would be expected to pay its proper share toward hospital facilities that serve the people of this city. We have also stated, both inside and outside of this House, that our Government would face its responsibilities to the people of Regina and of southern Saskatchewan in regard to the supply of modern hospital facilities. May I remind this House that by approving the 80 bed McPherson wing, the renovation of the DVA wing, the additions to the Munroe Wing and other modernization, this Government has taken positive action to help solve the Regina hospital problem. Recently, by sharing in the cost of these projects, the city of Regina at long last has begun to assume a portion of their proper responsibility. I am also informed that major renovations still must be undertaken at the Regina General hospital. Of course, the city will be obliged to carry the largest portion of these costs. But even when these works have been completed, there are indications that a major bed shortage will remain in Regina. This city is growing rapidly. During the year, thousands of people from elsewhere in the province do come to Regina hospitals for treatment. We know that the local tax burden in Regina is even now probably the highest in all Canada for a comparable city. When we keep all these factors in mind, the Government has decided that a solution must be found. I wish to announce today the decision of our Government to proceed with a third hospital complex in Regina at the earliest possible moment. We would expect the complex to cost in the neighborhood of \$16,000,000. For financial reasons, it may have to be constructed in phases. We believe that if the hospital can be tied in closely with the University of Saskatchewan as a teaching and research institution, we can receive up to 50 per cent of the cost of construction from the Federal Government. The Provincial Government will be prepared to finance the balance. I remind you, Mr. Speaker, that last year we put \$700,000 aside for this purpose. We are placing another \$750,000 in the supplementary estimates. I remind you that we have already put aside 300 acres in the Wascana area. I have asked the Minister of Health to recruit a Chairman and Board immediately, and he will speak on this subject later in this debate. The Minister is also opening negotiations with Ottawa and the University of Saskatchewan with a view to immediately drawing the appropriate plans and specifications. Mr. Speaker, respectfully I say this great hospital complex is one more demonstration of how the Liberals act while the Socialists talk.

Mr. Speaker the throne Speech indicates the Government's willingness and desire to extend RCMP facilities to additional communities. Within the last year the Attorney General has concluded an agreement with the Federal Government regarding police service in many towns and villages throughout the province. This action is desirable for several reasons. First of all because of the difficulty of obtaining trained personnel who know police work in many of the smaller centres. Secondly, because this new scheme will give these communities police services much more cheaply than they were formerly able to obtain. In the last year, 40 town and villages applied for this assistance. In the coming year we expect to see this program expanded. The Government will obtain or entertain applications for at least another 50 communities during 1967.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly about the Government's plans for continued development of the arts in Saskatchewan. I remind this House that in the last year of Socialist government the Saskatchewan Arts Board received \$80,000. This year, in direct grants alone, it will receive \$275,000 and other substantial

sums in indirect grants. A number of new projects were commenced by the Board in the last year. Perhaps the most successful was the Saskatchewan Festival of the Arts. This festival was carried on in ten cities; 32,000 people attended the festival, many of them school children. As Hon. Members know, a number of outside artists were brought to Saskatchewan, including the Winnipeg Symphony, Winnipeg Ballet, and others. Many local artists also participated. This year the festival will be continued and expanded.

For the past several years, the Board has been conducting a summer school for the arts. Last year at Caronport, more than 400 children over a three week period were given instruction in band music, in drama, painting and so on. Response has been so enthusiastic that the Board has vigorously pressed the Government for larger and permanent facilities. As has already been announced, the Government has decided to establish a permanent School of Fine Arts. Ultimately we hope to have a school modelled on the famous Banff School of Arts, though this achievement may be several years away. As Hon. Members know, the TB hospital buildings at Fort Qu'Appelle have been gradually phased out of use. These buildings are in the heart of the Qu'Appelle Valley. The government has made four buildings available to the Arts Board. This winter we are spending \$50,000 on renovations and next year we will spend a similar amount.

Last autumn, the Government initiated a program to help establish and equip school bands throughout the province. Under this program, school boards can apply for special grants from the Provincial Government, to help in the operation of band training programs. We hope ultimately to have at least one band in every larger unit or every school district. The Government will pay special grants to school boards, amounting to 50 per cent of the cost of instruments and music up to a maximum of \$2,000 per band. This year we will have 2,000 Saskatchewan students receiving band instruction mainly because of these programs. Mr. Speaker, I hope I have indicated to you that this Liberal Government is committed to a policy of promoting the fine arts. It is our intention, year by year, to gradually increase the funds which are available for this purpose.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Throne Speech mentions the determination of this Government to provide better employment opportunities for our Indians and Metis. Two years ago, the Legislature approved a measure, establishing a special branch of Government to deal with development of the Indian and Metis people of Saskatchewan. Our Government took this step because many of these people for generations have been living in abject poverty, squalor and deprivation. We believe that this state of affairs is a shameful reflection on the people of Saskatchewan. Since the Indian and Metis Branch was established, numerous new programs have been launched to enable them to share in the general prosperity of Saskatchewan. From the outset, we made it very clear that we had no intention of simply adding social welfare payments. This year about \$8,000,000 will be paid to our Indian people in that manner. In this past year, I have visited 12 or 14 of these reserves personally and I have seen unemployment and living conditions unparalleled anywhere in Canada. At the same time, we know that our native birth rate is one of the highest in the whole world.



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I admit that the Government has found no simple solution to the Indian problem. However, we believe that the answer must come through enabling citizens of Indian ancestry to grasp opportunities for employment in our new and expanding industries. Then, more than a year and a half ago, our Indian Branch launched a major drive to find jobs for these people. You might be interested to now, Mr. Speaker, that more than 2,200 of these people have been placed as a direct result of the activities of the Branch.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Government has tried to provide leadership. Many have been permanently employed in the civil service. Several hundred more have been employed on a part-time basis in our parks and so on. We have asked private industry to employ many of these people. Recognizing the need for training and upgrading before many of them can accept employment, we have established a number of training courses: one for highway equipment, one for surveying, one for lumber operations, and so on. Altogether, 400 of them are now in full-time employment. During 1967, the Government will vigorously expand the training and placement program. The Branch is proposing that all Government departments and agencies become more active in this field in the months ahead. However, there should be no illusions. No program will succeed without the co-operation of the Indians themselves. Any program must be two-way. Some method must be found to persuade the Indian, once he has taken a job, to remain with it. Probably the only final answer is education. The Government is doing all in its power to integrate Indian children from reserves into some of our white schools in towns and villages. We are encouraged with the results. During the past year, we have tried to improve living standards on some of our reserves. On a fifty-fifty basis with the Federal Government, we spent \$500,000 on roads in reserves. Last year we brought electricity to 12 more Indian reserves, although only 325 people are as yet connected up to that electricity. In the same period our department built 60 homes for the Indian people. These programs will be continued and expanded. The day has gone when we can refer to this problem as ‘the Indian problem’. It is everyone’s problem in Saskatchewan. I extend an invitation and a challenge to all our citizens in this Centennial Year to join with us in conquering Saskatchewan’s greatest social problem.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker as the Throne Speech indicates, we’re proposing certain changes in the law pertaining to taxation on Indian lands. Throughout the province, it has become common practice for various Indian bands to lease some reserve lands to white farmers. While we would infinitely rather see Indians themselves farming this land where possible, nevertheless, the rental income does add to band funds. Today, while Indian reserve lands are exempt from local taxation normally, taxes must be paid where the land is occupied or used by other than members of the band. Frequently, while taxes are collected from lessees, no municipal services are made available, nor tax monies turned over to the Indians. It is our intention, therefore, to introduce legislation which will return to the bands concerned, 50 per cent of

all taxes collected from reserve lands leased to non-Indians.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — As I indicated yesterday, the Throne Speech points out that huge new sums of money will be found, must be found for education. Since the Liberal Government assumed office, no program has received greater attention than the education of our young people at all levels. No one seriously doubts that today both our present and future as a province and as a nation, is determined by the extent and quality of our education. We know that since the war 80 per cent of the unemployed are those who have had grade eight education or less. Last year in this province, the total number of students in kindergarten to university level was 263,000. Last year we built 650 new classrooms; still the demand has expanded. The Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Socialists (Mr. Lloyd) claims that the Liberals are not spending enough money on education. I suppose it will never be possible to find all the money that is required in this field. Let me point out to the people of Saskatchewan that the Liberals are certainly doing far better in this regard than the Socialists ever did.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — How different are the CCF-NDP recommendations today from their actions a few years ago. I remember back in 1943, Mr. Douglas was campaigning to be elected Premier. He made a speech. I quote the Leader Post, February 16, 1943. He was talking about education:

The first thing, said Tommy, a CCF Government would do would be to recognize education as the responsibility of the Provincial Government. There has been a tendency on the part of the Provincial Government to pass the buck to the municipalities and school boards for maintaining our educational facilities.

But for 20 years, that promise was forgotten, Mr. Speaker. For most of those 20 years, instead of assuming all the costs of education, the Socialists paid about 25 to 30 per cent of it. The local school boards paid the rest. Even in the last two or three years they were in office, grants average about 40 per cent. Of course as soon as the Liberals were elected they put it over 50 per cent.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I want to say that Liberals are indeed proud of the spending which we are doing on education. I remind the people of Saskatchewan that in their last year of office the Socialists spent on all education, everything, including schools, technical schools and the university, little more than 54,000,000. Their average spending for two decades was \$20,000,000. This year, the Liberals will spend \$92,000,000 on education, four and a half times more than the Socialists' average.

Now the CCF cry for more aid to our university! Again, how different are their words in Opposition from their actions when they were in the government. I remind you again, sir, that the average grants made by the Socialists to our university during

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their 20 years of office for operating costs and for capital costs was less than \$3,000,000. The highest they ever gave to the University of Saskatchewan was \$11,500,000. This year the Liberals are giving 28,000,000, Mr. Speaker, to our university.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I'm so pleased that we have a few university students in this Legislature today because there has been some controversy both on the Saskatoon campus and on the Regina campus about tuition fees. Why, the Socialists say, "the Government should wipe out university tuition fees. Those Liberals are being pretty cheap when they fail to do this." Mr. Speaker, the Socialists were in power for 20 years. What did they do about university fees? I remind you again today, sir, that in 1949 they raised university fees 39 per cent. In 1950 they raised fees another 40 per cent. In 1955-56 the Socialists increased tuition fees six per cent. In 1958-59 they raised them by eight per cent. In 1964, the Socialists increased them again by a whopping 32½ per cent. And yet these people, after increasing university fees five times, tell the Liberals we should wipe them out. Mr. Speaker, the Socialists talk out of one side of their mouth when they are in government, and out of the other side when they are in opposition.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — We are very proud of the fact that in this province tuition fees cover only 17 per cent of the cost to the students. Today, the state pays 83 per cent of the cost of university education.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — And I want the people of Saskatchewan to know that today, under a Liberal Government, out of 11,417 students, 56 per cent are attending university either because of a Liberal Federal Government or Provincial Government loan or some bursary or scholarship given by this Government.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Now I'd like to say a few words bout text books. Back in 1944, the Reverend T.C. Douglas made this promise:

"The second step which a CCF Government would take to provide a greater measure of equal educational opportunity for all would be to provide free text books and supplies through our school system."

What happened? Oh, a few readers and a few text books were supplied in public school, because there was little cost involved. But, as far as collegiates were concerned, Mr. Speaker they lifted not a finger to redeem their pledge. Once again, the Liberals are taking action. Last year, we provided free text books in Grade IX. This year, we are providing free text books in Grade X. And after we have been in office another one, two, or three years, Mr. Speaker, we'll bring them to Grade XI and XII, also.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about the cost of living. The Throne Speech indicated that our Government is co-operating with Alberta and Manitoba to investigate the high cost of living. The Socialists have been crying around this province, week in and week out, that this Government should be doing something about rising prices. I remind you again this afternoon that prices have been going up in this country and province ever since the end of the war. For two decades the Socialists were in power. What did they do about the rising prices? Not a single thing. I remember back in 1952, the former Minister of Agriculture (he's not in his seat) was worried about farm machinery prices. Thus he set up a special committee to investigate. I haven't seen farm prices come down. As a matter of fact ever since that committee was established, prices have been going up. I say that virtually nothing was accomplished by that Socialist committee. Most of the exercise provided a waste of time.

I think that anybody can pose the problem involved by high prices, but it is infinitely more difficult to find an answer. And certainly, if the Socialists have any magic solution to rising prices, they have failed to advance it so far, either in Ottawa or in Regina, Nor, Mr. Speaker, have they proposed any realistic solution in this Legislature. A lot of wind, but no action. Personally, I think our people in about 2 months will be worrying about a softening of the economy across the nation, not about higher prices.

The Throne Speech indicates that during 1967 large sums of money will again be provided for the construction of housing and special care homes for our senior citizens. This program has received widespread acceptance, and I know that every Member of this House agrees that the province should rightly provide such accommodation to the pioneers who helped establish and build Saskatchewan. The Liberal record looks pretty good, Mr. Speaker, when you compare it to that of the Socialists. I would point out that in their last year of office the Socialists spent \$475,000 on senior citizen homes. During their whole 20 years of office, they provided housing for 4,500 people. In two years and three months, we've provided housing for 3,400 people already. Moreover we have invested about \$5,100,000 in the program or will invest in the program.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — This Liberal Government will not rest content until our older people have decent housing.

Now may I say a few words about housing generally. With the greatly expanded industrial development being caused by Liberal programs, there has been a demand for new housing. Unfortunately, in the past year, tight money across Canada has had restrictive effects on home building. Housing starts in Saskatchewan as elsewhere were down sharply. But the previous Government took little or not action in their 20 years to do anything about housing in this province. Until recently, it was our belief that the financing of new housing construction should be left to the Federal Government or to the private sector of our economy. However, because of burgeoning demand, about on year ago, a Housing and Renewal Branch was set up in our Department

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of Municipal Affairs. And over the past year, in a small way, the Branch got into the housing business. During 1966, the Housing and Urban Renewal Branch of our Government administered about 600 units located in centres throughout the province. What about 1967? Recently our officials had very profitable discussions with the Federal Members in charge of housing, the Hon. John Nicholson. He came to Regina on January 24 to discuss the whole program. We have received assurances that in 1967 the Federal Government is prepared to make substantially increased amounts available to Saskatchewan for housing. However, there are still indications that because of tight money, the private sector will limit major financing. Under the circumstances, I wish to announce today that the Provincial Government is prepared to increase financial assistance for housing during 1967 in a material way. First, we shall construct a minimum of 75 houses in co-operation with Central Mortgage for resale. Secondly, we will participate financially and give leadership to a program which will provide for a minimum of 325 houses available for rent. These will be rented to those in the lower income groups, under a joint subsidized program.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — And may I say, Mr. Speaker, that if it is physically possible to increase that program, if we can make agreements with Central Mortgage, we shall substantially increase that number.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Department and the Minister of Municipal Affairs is presently considering subsidized housing projects and economic house rentals for Nipawin, Meadow Lake, Hudson Bay, Kerrobert, Humboldt, Esterhazy, Estevan, Weyburn, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Carrot River and Regina. Regina has been a little bit tardy, but ultimately they may get straightened out. We are also undertaking land assembly projects at Shaunavon and Unity, where a total of 165 additional lots will be organized for new construction. We expect soon to begin land assembly in another 20 locations throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech refers to the need for more adequate driver training. In recent years the number of automobiles on Saskatchewan roads has sharply increased. Our Government has been deeply concerned with the mounting number of motor vehicle accidents on the streets and highways of this province. Of particular concern has been the increasing involvement of younger drivers, especially those under the age of 25. It is widely accepted that the most important factor in accident prevention is a high degree of skill and the proper attitude on the part of each driver. Because the under 25 year old driver, though only 26 per cent of all drivers, has been involved in 40 per cent of all accidents in the 1966 licence year, it seems most logical to attack the accident problem in that age group. The insurance industry has suggested that driver education available to all students in the school would be a major step in solving the accident rate. Because the number of young drivers is steadily increasing, our Government has decided to sharply expand the present program. To do this, we propose to place the responsibility for student driver education under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. The Government proposes to begin a driver education program in the high schools of this province with the opening of the new school term in September.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — In 1967, it is expected the number of students benefiting from this program will increase to 6,000. It is hoped that within five years all young people in Saskatchewan will have the opportunity to receive proper driver training before reaching the age of 16. We believe that this new program will reduce the financial losses resulting from motor vehicle accidents. The saving will affect all drivers and all automobile insurance companies. And as with any other Government program it must be paid for. Therefore, the Government proposes to finance this program by introducing a tax of one per cent on all premiums for automobile insurance, including the compulsory Automobile Accident Insurance Act Fund premiums. The new levy will be effect April 1st.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech indicates that the Government is proposing a number of measures to protect the rights and liberties of individuals in Saskatchewan. The Attorney General (Mr. Heald) will be speaking within the next few days to give details. The first measure has to do with legal aid to indigents. At the present time, it is often difficult for people in low income brackets to obtain legal counsel when they find themselves in difficulties. Our Government believes that all citizens have an equal right to a fair defense before the law. We are proposing, therefore, to establish a fund, which will provide counsel for those who cannot otherwise afford to obtain it. The plan would also provide for payment of defense witnesses, at the same rate as Crown witnesses. This is one more step by our Government to ensure equal opportunity for all before the law, regardless of their financial circumstances.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker the second such measure has to do with crimes of violence. While crimes of violence are less common in our province than in other parts of Canada, situations still arise where innocent citizens are injured, sometimes killed in the commission of crimes by others. Often these injuries take place at a time when private citizens are co-operating with police in preventing the crime. Our Government believes it is unfair that these citizens or their dependents should be crippled financially either through no fault of their own, or through their exercise of good citizenship. We will, therefore, introduce legislation to provide compensation for these people, or, where a deceased victim has dependents, to his family.

**HON. MEMBER:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Throne Speech indicated we are also planning new legislation to help protect the consumer. One of the Bills we are proposing will be a Credit Disclosure Act. The purpose of this legislation is to make certain that anyone buying credit or borrowing money, can understand clearly and precisely what the total cost of the credit is. They will be able to compare credit costs before deciding on purchasing or lending.

Now, Mr. Speaker one final matter this afternoon. I want to say a few words about the Saskatchewan Youth Agency. One of the great concerns of this Government, even when we were in

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Opposition, was the steady exodus of young people from Saskatchewan in the two decades following the war. Year after year in the period of Socialist administration, a large proportion of our collegiate and university graduates were forced out of the province to seek employment elsewhere in Canada or in the United States. We are determined to have a program that will prevent that, Mr. Speaker. We also believe that Saskatchewan should pay more attention to the physical fitness of her young people. We found, on taking office, that although more than half of our province's population was under the age of 30, very few Government programs existed to assist youth. We set up a commission to investigate. That committee found that many independent organizations were struggling hard to maintain youth programs with virtually no Government support. Many local organizations were hamstrung because of a lack of finance. Thus, the Saskatchewan Youth Agency was set up about a year ago. The Hon. Cy MacDonald has taken it over since that time. Let me emphasize that it is not the objective of the Government to operate most youth programs in the province. The role of Government is rather to encourage, advise, and co-ordinate the activities of hundreds of groups already working in the field. To date, the response to this program has been encouraging. The Agency now maintains contact with 350 organizations throughout the province. In addition, some 178 municipal recreation councils are in contact with the Government. They receive advice and assistance from the Provincial Government in their programs. And we're particularly pleased with the success of two programs. We believe the lighted schoolhouse program will be useful. Under the program our Government will provide grants to municipalities and towns which make use of school facilities for youth programs outside the regular school hours. Until this program was introduced, hundreds of millions of dollars in school facilities sat in darkness outside of regular school activities. Today 26 communities have received these grants. Some 40 schools are today being used in this program. This year the grants will total \$85,000 for lighted schools.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about another program: a program which originated with the Minister, Mr. MacDonald who is Minister in Charge of Youth Agency. I refer to the so-called 'Opportunity Caravan' which was mentioned in the Throne Speech. Now this Caravan, and it's a big one will provide a mobile guidance, counselling service, which will begin operation in a few weeks. Throughout our province, thousands of youngsters are attending school who will not go to university. There are many others who for one reason or other have dropped out of high school before graduating. Many of these are employed in lower paying jobs, some others are only partially employed. Up to the present time, very little has been done to assist these young people in finding better employment. Virtually nothing is done to provide them with advice about what additional training is available or what jobs exist. After studying the situation extensively, our Government has decided to proceed with a program which will make available to young people in all parts of Saskatchewan: (a) professional advice on training opportunities, and (b) direct counselling on the availability of jobs in all parts of the province. The Opportunity Caravan can best be described as a large mobile counselling centre which will move from town to town in Saskatchewan, and will be available to everyone who wishes to make use of its service. It will be staffed by two trained consultants. ARDA will be paying a good share of the cost, and we certainly thank the ARDA officials for the assistance they have given us and the help in getting this prepared. At all times, the consultants will maintain direct contact with

Canada Manpower Centres throughout Saskatchewan, in order to enable them to make direct job referrals where these are feasible. We believe that this new service will make job opportunities more accessible to our young people, particularly in the rural areas. The first four months the Caravan will visit twenty centres. And then we are going to appraise the program. This is a new program, the first in all of Canada.

And now, Mr. Speaker at the outset of my remarks, I said that our government's philosophy was devoted to achieving three basic objectives: first, a healthy agricultural industry — today in Saskatchewan we have it; secondly, taking the steps necessary, through education and industrial development, to ensure full employment and good wages — today in Saskatchewan we have full employment; and thirdly, to providing programs to assist those of our citizens who, for one reason or another, are unable to help themselves. I have reviewed a number of our achievements in this field to day and outlined what we believe are progressive programs to meet these three objectives in the year ahead.

We believe our agricultural policies will help to promote diversification. We believe our program of industrial development and the giant strides we have made in the expansion of educational facilities are improving the opportunities for all our citizens for a higher standard of living. Finally, through a number of programs dealing with welfare, health and consumers, we have attempted to extend a very large measure of help to those in need or lacking protection under the law.

Economically, we have made great progress in the last 32 months. We do not claim that the Government alone has made all this possible. To a very large degree, the progressive attitude of our people has helped achieve these goals, because they are determined that Saskatchewan will stand in the forefront of Canada's growing prosperity.

Our Government believes that we can continue to make outstanding progress if we adhere to sensible, middle-of-the-road policies. We can continue to rapidly expand our economy, if in the future we avoid fuzzy Socialist thinking.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I contend that this Liberal government is doing the job it was elected to do. It is getting Saskatchewan moving economically.

Mr. Speaker, I will obviously support the Motion before the House.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** — Hear, hear!

**MR. M.P. PEDERSON (Arm River):** — Mr. Speaker I'd like first of all to join with the Premier, in extending a welcome to the University of Saskatchewan students and particularly to the International group who are represented here this afternoon. I'm sure that if they have an interest in politics, regardless of the political stripe of the speakers, they will find the events in this House as entertaining as any in other jurisdictions in this country. I notice that our guests, the Members of Parliament, who came in a small group earlier, have left, but I would nevertheless like to send a



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welcome to them and to their group in Regina who are presently sitting as all Members are aware, on a committee discussing problems affecting agriculture. I want to wish them well in their deliberations and I hope that when they leave that they will be convinced, as many farmers are, that we do have problems that need attending to.

I found the Premier's address this afternoon, extremely interesting, Mr. Speaker. Interesting from the point of view, that it struck me that it contained more disclosures than there were in the Throne Speech that was handed to us the other day. And there are many of these things that I could comment on, but I think the most outstanding announcement that he made concerned the plans for the construction of a base hospital in Regina. In my opinion, this is the most welcome announcement that we have had since this House convened a matter of a week ago. I believe that many Members, and certainly the public, have become sick and tired of hearing this question being used as a political football. We've been fed up, and I most certainly have been, with the quarrel that has been played up, and carried on between the Premier and the Mayor of Regina (Mr. Baker) surrounding the construction over this much needed hospital. I believe, as many citizens do, that the medical facilities and the high standards that have been maintained in southern Saskatchewan are in jeopardy unless something is done and done quickly to bring about construction of a major facility down in this part of the country, the southern half of Saskatchewan. And I'm delighted that the Premier has finally decided that the feud between him and the dual-purpose Member from Regina has come to an end. Now, all farmers know what a dual-purpose creature is. He's one that, although he may look like it, he isn't much good for milk, and although he's a bit chubby, isn't all that good for beef either. And I suppose, the Premier's decided that he had run to the end and had stripped out the last few drops of milk of publicity that he could get out of the Member from Regina and has therefore made the announcement. I'm sure that I express the sentiments of everyone when I say that I hope that we have at last arrived at the end of these types of things and that the Government will make plans to commence work on this building as quickly as possible.

Also, as usual, I was rather amused by the Premier because from time to time, I noticed him referring to the Members from Regina West (Mr. Blakeney) as 'waffling' on one occasion. It crossed my mind, just what was the Premier doing when he talked about Liberal grain-selling policies? Was he perhaps not 'pancaking' because he certainly fell that flat. For the Liberal party to stand up and take credit for laying the groundwork and in fact bringing about the extensive grain selling programs that we have witnessed over the last several years is as farcical as the naming of dams that had been built by other governments.

**HON. D.G. STEUART (Minister of Natural Resources):** — Hear, hear!

**MR. PEDERSON:** — Well, well, my little friend from Prince Albert always has to have his word.

I was listening to the remarks made by the Premier yesterday, which I heard repeated verbatim today, except for the little campaign speech that he started with. As a matter of fact I wondered if he was going to announce an election before he sat down yesterday, and if he was launching a campaign to see who would

invite him to run and where. I was a little puzzled to try and figure out if he was looking at Morse, or in fact trying to set himself up as a running mate with the gentleman from Moose Jaw, while all the time hoping someone would invite him to run somewhere in Regina.

I was further amused when he tried to explain away, in his usual inimitable fashion, his trips around this part of the world. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, that I have no criticism of the Premier of this province travelling in this capacity on behalf of this province, in an effort to promote our Province of Saskatchewan and the services, facilities, and the resources that we have. But I don't appreciate very much, any more than my hon. friends on this side appreciate the type of political vendetta that he seems to carry out from time to time. And although, perhaps I wouldn't be as personal as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) was on this score, I do believe that the Premier, when he travels outside of this province should not use occasions such as he has done from time to time to take a hard left-handed swipe at his friends in this Legislature. I used the phrase, Mr. Speaker, 'left-handed' because I believe that's what they are. But I think that he would be well advised to remember that he speaks as a Premier and a representative of this Legislature and all of the people of this province.

I would like to ask a question which was not asked; that is — outside of the trips that the Premier has made and the speeches that he has made — what specifically has this Liberal Government done to encourage industry to our province? What specific steps in proposals, what specific programs have they inaugurated and initiated which they can put their finger on that says, "This brought in industry." He said that if he hadn't made that trip we wouldn't have a pulp mill and I accept this as a fact. But what else is being done, outside of these trips, to promote Saskatchewan? What efforts are being made for instance to bring a major implement company into Saskatchewan to serve Western Canada as well as perhaps the mid-western United States? Bringing a company such as this into this area, as all Members know, would probably go a long way towards eliminating some of the high prices of machinery in Western Canada, by removing some of the exorbitant freight rates that we have to pay on bringing this machinery in. What about the establishing of resource commissions selling the potential of Saskatchewan, not only outside of Canada but throughout Canada as well? All I'm asking, Mr. Speaker, is what specifically has the government done, outside of sending our salesman of the year abroad from time to time, to tell them how bad the Socialists are, but they're now gone and everybody can come home.

I want to turn now to what I believe are some of the things that should be uppermost in the minds of all Members and particularly the Government in a year such as this. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that I share with all Hon. Members in this House, as well as members of other legislatures across Canada and the House of Commons, a sense of pride in having been fortunate enough to be accorded the privilege to serve in this capacity as a representative of the people during the year which marks out nation's one hundredth birthday.

I want to express to the Premier my thanks and appreciation for the several statements he has made, not only today, but over the past several months, not only endorsing the numerous events that are taking place throughout Canada this coming year, but

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also for initiating many events which will belong strictly to Saskatchewan. And I hope, Mr. Speaker that on this occasion my comment in this regard will be taken in the spirit in which it is intended. When I say that I include even the moving of homesteads in that general category. I believe that the Premier has expressed the sentiments, not just of this Legislature, but of all people in Saskatchewan when he has enthusiastically endorsed Saskatchewan participation in this greatest event of our century.

I must say, Mr. Speaker that I have been shocked and indeed I deplore the statements that have come from the province of Quebec about their lack of desire to participate in the Centennial celebrations, because to my way of thinking, these are the types of divisive actions that have helped to imperil the very event that we are celebrating, namely, the Confederation of Canada. And I would hope that as the year develops and that as the various national events take place that the little people of that province, who I believe are great Canadians, just as the rest of us are, will take it upon themselves to repudiate some of the statements of their leaders, and participate in the fashion that I know the people in Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada will participate.

I have given a good deal of thought to the significance of the events of 1967. When the Throne Speech was read last Thursday I found myself wondering if our Government in Saskatchewan did in fact realize that having attained the stature of nationhood, and making it official by celebrating our one hundredth birthday, this places upon our people and our Government a responsibility to assume a more mature and international position in the world today.

I felt that in this year, Government measures which were proposed would be geared in such a way as to enable Canada and particularly Saskatchewan for which we are responsible, to share with the world, the abundance with which we've been blessed.

This past one hundred years, as all Members know, has called for the nurturing of our people and our economy from the pioneer days when no one had very much, and the husbanding of our resources, so that we as individuals as well as collectively in this nation, could obtain the economic, educational, and cultural base from which would flow to underprivileged people and nations, the fruits of this bountiful land and its generous people.

For us to embark on a second century, clinging to the concept that the vast resources of our country should be developed at a pace that was merely commensurate with the needs of our people does not in my opinion indicate an awareness of our position either as a responsible nation or the obligations to the world that a responsible nation must assume.

Leading scientists in the United States and elsewhere who have been studying the twin spectres of population explosion and food shortages, have produced some very startling facts. Consider for an example the fact that it took from the beginning of time until 1930 for world population to reach two billion people. At the present rate of growth, that is the rate of growth today, the world population will increase in the one hundred years following 1930 to fourteen billions, an increase of seven times in one hundred years which it had taken a millennium to reach up until then.

World population this year alone will increase by seventy millions of people, a figure that is equivalent to three and a half times the present population of Canada. And what do these startling figures reveal or represent in so far as the individual in Saskatchewan is concerned? It means two things. First, it means that there will be a ready market, not only for all the food that we can produce, but also for all other products that we can manufacture from the wealth of our forests, and our mines, as well as a demand for the technical skills that we are capable of developing through the scholastic halls of our educational system, and the practical schools of agricultural experiences. Secondly, it signifies that ways and means must be found to increase production in all areas at an unprecedented scale to meet these world demands.

Most farmers in Canada as well as in the United States realize that the days of farm surpluses have reached an end. World demands for food stuffs plus massive give-away programs have depleted on this continent, in some instances to the danger point, the stocks of cereal grain, butter fats, and protein products.

The scientists acknowledge and indeed they predict that, unless there is a continual expansion in sales of food and also an expansion in technical and programs combined with a continuing growth of food for famine relief programs, there will be widespread famine in India, Pakistan, and Communist China by the year 1970. In a very few years following 1970 that famine area will spread to Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Turkey and elsewhere.

This is the challenge, Mr. Speaker that faces our nation today, and more specifically this, I feel is the challenge to our Government in Saskatchewan and to its people.

My friend the Hon. Member for Notukeu-Willowbunch (Mr. Hooker) who spoke in moving the motion to the Throne Speech, indeed I might add, did an admirable job, made a statement with which I must take issue. And that is, he said, in his opinion the Government of this province is meeting the responsibility to agriculture. The Premier has claimed that we are a have province, and that a large amount of credit for this is due to the huge wheat crops that we grow.

But in looking at the Throne Speech, I feel that this Government has completely failed to recognize its duties and responsibilities as part of a mature nation., clamoring for world-wide acceptance of our position as a responsible nation in that world. It seems to me that the measures that have been outlined are parochial in their intent and in their effect.

Necessary, and I readily concede this, necessary though the provisions outlined in the Throne speech may be for agriculture, in order to provide a greater degree of stability for our agricultural community, nevertheless they are only measures which will tend to bolster the opportunity for increasing, in a small way, return to farmers. They are not measures designed to provide massive increases in food production at a time when such increases are essential. These increases are essential., first of all, so that farmers may have a greater return on their capital investment, and by so doing, not only encourage greater numbers to remain on the farms, but also to help beat the cost price squeeze. They are also essential, as I mentioned earlier, to meet the increasing demands for food all over the world.

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In an affluent society such as ours, it is far too easy for governments to fall into the trap of producing measures that serve no other purpose than to provide more means for filling already filled bellies.

It is hard to remember when we are well fed that millions in this world starve. This is the trap that I believe our Government has fallen into. Now the question arises immediately; what are we to do? How are we to encourage increased production so that we may play a more significant role, and more readily met our obligations to our people, and to a hungry world?

First of all, I believe that there has to be an acceptance that growth in production in agriculture can no longer be allowed to take its leisurely course, dependent on the initiative and ingenuity of the farming population to bring it about. Farmers have, by and large, always set the pace for increased production and advanced techniques and new methods of expanding, within their own limits. There must be a marked change in the concept of government, that says, and will accept this concept, that the expenditure of roughly ten millions of dollars per year for agriculture, an industry which produces roughly one billion dollars in return, is not good enough. I say, Mr. Speaker, it is not good enough, and there must be a change if we are to increase production on the scale that is required of us, very, very shortly.

I notice in the press recently as an example that Agricultural Minister (Mr. McFarlane) on numerous occasions, calls on farmers to increase production of hogs in order to meet growing demands. Yet in spite of this, as we've heard, hog marketings are down. We can only believe that either the Minister's exhortations and his persuasive powers are ineffective, or else some new method must be found that will bring about the desired result. Most certainly what has been taking place is not achieving results.

I readily agree that perhaps it's a little too early to judge whether the granting of loans by the Industrial Development Office to set up hog producing industries will be effective, or not, but I suspect, Mr. Speaker, and I predict that unless something else is done, that the present downward trend in hog production will continue unless the Government is prepared — I suggest this to them — to spend substantial sums in subsidizing the housing requirements and the capital requirements of even the smallest hog producer, let alone the big operator. Hog production, just as in livestock, is largely geared to the incentive offered the small farmers, because he produces the largest number of the total production, not the big operators. That's been demonstrated time and again in the cattle population; it is equally true in the question of hog production.

Although the marketings for cattle last year were up, and I believe that this is largely because of the high prices that prevailed through the year 1966, it's still a long way from being satisfactory. The combined increase in livestock production, the combined increase of Saskatchewan and other provinces producing livestock does not as yet meet the yearly increase in demand. In other words, Canada as a whole is falling behind in its production merely to meet the demand on livestock. Projected figures as I have them, indicate that Canada may well be importing beef in a matter of two or three years unless steps, and drastic steps are taken to vastly increase our own production. I have spoken on this subject of increased production of livestock in particular several times before in the House; methods that I have

described and outlined which I felt would go a long way in this direction. But apparently to no avail.

In the hope that repetition may eventually get results, let me outline again the measures that I would suggest as basic essentials if we are to expand as quickly as we want. The concept of a Fodder Bank cannot be delayed any longer. I notice that in the announcement by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McFarlane) yesterday regarding the availability of land in the Broderick irrigation district that there was some mention made of the starting of a Fodder Bank from approximately one thousand acres that the Government would operate. That is not the type of Fodder Bank I'm talking about. We must have a province-wide one with all of the background work done so that a proper reserve is built and not merely a haphazard type of program such as one here and one there. The Government should take immediate steps to establish such a program.

From what I've seen of the fodder shelter program initiated by this Government and referred to by the Premier this afternoon in glowing terms, a program to which they have allocated minute funds, has turned into a fiasco. In so far as building a reserve of fodder on farms is concerned, it is like the proverbial drop in the ocean. Worse than that, this system for storing feed, piling up of feed stock, is a perpetuation of what is fast becoming an outdated method of feed storage. Only the old fashioned styles prevail in the concept of food storage as far as the government and the Department of Agriculture are concerned.

None of the new techniques that are available for pelletizing and so on are being, to my knowledge, investigated and most certainly are not be initiated. With the completion of the South Saskatchewan River dam this year and the vast potential of feed production possible, the Government, in my opinion, should be investigating and laying plans for the establishment of fodder pelletizing plants to preserve the production of these irrigated acres. I'm not talking only about the hay production on those acres that will be put into hay, but I am talking about a supply of fodder that is available out of all type of irrigation. The tops off potatoes, the vines from peas, and so on all lend themselves to a pelletizing formula which could build up a vast source of food supplies that otherwise might go to waste. The Government must take this action because if it doesn't, we have no hope in the immediate future of increasing our livestock production. The fear of not having sufficient feed in any given year has driven the cattle industry out of vast areas of our prairie land and unless steps are taken to guarantee these people a reasonably priced supply of fodder, in a form that can be handled cheaply such as pellets, we will never have the incentive required to keep these people producing livestock on an ever increasing scale, not only do we require, but indeed the world requires.

Over and over again I have advocated and asked this Government to sponsor practical schools in irrigation. In the irrigation area and in the surrounding district, the farmers who live in that area and who have to participate, and farmers in the surrounding district as well, could learn something of the scientific techniques of irrigation, soil testing, plant management, and livestock production and so on. You cannot operate irrigated farms unless you have training in some of these very highly technical skills. Unless you have this training you stand in danger of destroying the land and the irrigated acreage that has been brought about at fantastic cost to the taxpayers of this

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country. These are the skills that are essential if we are to avoid the trial and error approach that must be followed by farmers in that area without these skills.

And that, I might say, Mr. Speaker has proven disastrous in many irrigation schemes around the world in the past. One irrigation scheme as an example in southern California has been in operation approximately fifty years by farmers who had no technical skills in the operation of irrigation. That entire scheme is now lying waste and will cost more to restore than the original irrigation program had fifty years ago. This can happen in the alkalized areas of central Saskatchewan unless there are some schools. They should have been established two years ago but it would still help if we had them now to train these farmers and tell them what they must do and how to carry on and operate an irrigated farm. I envisage, Mr. Speaker, a small school. It must be kept small so that everyone can participate in the various communities surrounding the proposed irrigation area, so that the farmers could attend. In my opinion, they should be free. Farmers could learn something of the collective problems that they face and their solutions, as well as some of the individual problems that they will face on a particular piece of land, and to which they could find solutions.

Nothing has been done in this regard. Now wonder the farmers are skeptical and apprehensive in that area. No wonder there was a tremendous amount of resistance of buying a pig in a poke. The more funnelling of money and making the land purchases and the agreements for the leasing of land and the leasing of irrigation plots do not solve the whole problem. Working in the hearts and minds of most of those people in this very serious problem — Now that I've got it, what in heaven's name do I do with it? I believe that these things must be done immediately because it is not only essential that we utilize as quickly as possible the produce of this irrigated area, it is also essential that we bring into full production as quickly as is possible all of the area being served by the ditch, starting next year.

This will require I think, that these things have to be done to make certain that we encourage farmers to employ to the fullest extent the facilities of irrigation. As an example, in the row cropping business, it will require negotiations for the type of industry such as canneries, sugar refineries, freezing plants, and so on, that will be needed to be established in that area, if they are going to handle the row crop production of irrigated land. Too late to start talking about bringing in soup factories and sugar factories and refineries, once the crop has been planted and gone into production. That's too late. Initial plans must be made so that if necessary, so many acres may be contracted to them, in order to guarantee supplies and get a factory established in their district.

I believe it will require incentive programs to encourage farmers to produce livestock not only on the lands that are irrigated but in the adjacent districts and indeed all over the province. I believe that these incentive programs must be brought about through a guaranteed fodder supply. I believe that we can have a thriving livestock industry in Saskatchewan. I believe that the Government has to be prepared to put up if necessary, on a subsidized basis, just as in the hog production business, funds that will be required for housing facilities, the corrals and so on, as well as provision for the acquisition of the initial herd of stock. I know that there are methods to borrow for

these things, but in order to encourage farmers, as far as possible, to go into these types of programs, the Provincial Government must bear a greater responsibility than it has in the past and be prepared, as I say, to allocate greater sums of money to these proposals. The mere asking of farmers to switch to livestock production will not get the results we need, and some of these measures that I have outlined must be used as incentives to bring on this production.

Another startling area in which this Government, in my opinion has failed to recognize the problems besetting farmers is in the failure to recognize the desperate need to provide a labor force for our farms. Nowhere before have I heard anyone say that something must be done to provide a labor force for industry or anything else. Figures indicate that every year there are less people remaining on the farms, and the trend for intensified farming which has been in the past carried out by large numbers of family farm units is being replaced by the corporate farm and the land baron. The Premier talked about a shortage of labor this afternoon when he bragged about the fact that everyone was fully employed. And he said, if you don't believe me, ask any farmer when he tries to get a man. Well I can second that; and yet in the same breath he had no solution, no offer of relief for the farmer. He merely held this up as a yard stick that things were booming because the farmer couldn't get a hired man any more. In talking to farmers all over Saskatchewan, the chief reasons cited for the change taking place in our province; that is, the exodus from the farms, is that it is impossible to obtain competent help in the operation of the farm. In my opinion, this fact of not being able to get competent help has done more to increase the debt position of farmers because it has forced them into resorting to the very expensive alternative of automation. It has done more to put them in this debt position than any other consideration, such as the costs that are incurred in increasing production and so on. That is the biggest single reason why farmers continually buy new and bigger and more powerful and more expensive machinery. They cannot get competent help.

Lack of competent help also is the greatest single factor in driving people from the farm when they are no longer able to carry on, on their own. Governments everywhere, including this one, have accepted the principle that public monies should be spent to provide facilities for teaching the technical skills spent to provide facilities for teaching the technical skills that are required by the labor forces supporting our industries. As yet no one has accepted the equally valid argument that technical training should be provided to support the farm labor force. As things now stand, anyone can acquire a trade, such as a plumber, an electrician, and so on, but where are the facilities to produce the highly skilled labor force required to operate a modern farm? I'm sure that most farmers will agree with me that they are reluctant to turn over high priced expensive and complicated machinery to an unskilled laborer; highly technical and high priced machinery on which he will have an opportunity to experiment and learn. Very few farmers are prepared to do that.

It is not only the lack of experienced help to operate complicated machinery that bothers the farmer. Coupled with that problem is the equally complex and unsolvable problem of finding someone who knows something about the exacting science of farm production, based on modern methods, such as the use of fertilizer and the very precise science these days of livestock production. The farmer has no labor force on which to draw except the residue of the unskilled, unemployed, who for one reason or another have



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not been drawn off into the manufacturing or industrial labor force. To suggest that a farm laborer must go to university to acquire these skills is ludicrous. Yet these are the only courses that are given specifically to teach him the skills of modern farming. I also don't believe that it is practical to merely put a man in a classroom for a certain number of months and expect that he will make the type of employee that is required on a modern farm. What he requires by way of training is a combination of the practical on the one hand with the academic on the other. This can only be accomplished through the establishment of what I would like to see established; small agricultural schools throughout this province. These schools must be kept small and operated like an actual farm, perhaps no more than one section in size, completely equipped for grain farming, stocked with most varieties of livestock and the classroom facilities to train while they are actually learning by doing. Only by doing that are we going to be able to build up a skilled labor force and give farmers an opportunity to hire people like these. As I have said, these schools could offer practical courses in farming through school room activity as well as in the actual operation of a mixed farm. If we are to succeed in halting the flow of people from the farm to the city, and if we are to succeed in bringing about an increase in both livestock and grain production, this basic problem must be solved immediately.

An announcement by the Federal Government recently that it is going to include farm laborers under the Unemployment Insurance Act will do nothing but add additional numbers to the tax rolls in the winter months, unless that move is accompanied by the provision of adequate training for farm laborers so that farmers will have an incentive to keep these employees, those trained, specialized employees the year round rather than follow the practice they are now following of using them the minimum time they can get by because they are not qualified to do any one of a dozen of the jobs around the farm. They use them for the shortest period they can possibly manage and they get rid of them. Unless we start to train this labor force that is precisely what is going to happen, and all of these people who now work on farms in the summer will be just added to the tax rolls in the winter and we will have cured and solved nothing.

Closely allied with these problems and some of the solutions, and allied with our responsibilities to the country as a whole, for increased food production is the very serious problem of adequate water supplies and in particular fresh water. A very serious problem and accompanying it is the very, very great menace of pollution. I was pleased to note in the Throne Speech that the Government recognizes that serious water pollution problems do face us, and that they are to take steps to provide adequate authority for the control of pollution. I know that there is a great deal of interest surrounding the danger of wide spread pollution from the by-products of our potash mining industry in Saskatchewan. I hear people talk about this everywhere and I am sure that Saskatchewan citizens will be pleased to know that the potash industry itself is equally concerned and has taken and is taking very extensive, and in some cases very costly steps to ensure that pollution does not occur.

But I am concerned, however, Mr. Speaker with the growing use of the salt by-products from potash mining as a material for hard surfacing roads. It is my hope that the Government has taken whatever steps are necessary to make sure that sufficient research has been carried out, looking into the possibility of these salts, impregnated in the roads, being leached out of these

roads into the surrounding agricultural lands. If this has not been done, then it should be investigated immediately before this practice becomes widespread.

I am also concerned, Mr. Speaker, about the multi-million dollar expenditure we are making on the so-called S.E. Saskatoon water distribution system. Much has been made by the Government of the need for this water for the potash industry. I have seen myself statements to this effect. This is one of the reasons, and in the minds of many people this is the main reason for bringing in this water. If this water is needed for irrigation, then I believe it is the Government's duty to justify this expenditure in these terms. However, to try to justify this program on the ground that the potash industry needs water just does not make sense. The water consumption at the potash mine producing one million tons a year is equal to the water required for the irrigation of one and a half sections of land. The cost of such a program cannot therefore be reasonably attributed to the needs of potash. So far there is little evidence, that I have been able to see, that this water being brought up in this canal system will be used extensively for irrigation once it has left the Brightwater and Blackstrap Reservoir. This then leaves recreation and a water supply for the communities through which the canal will pass. There is a growing suspicion, Mr. Speaker, in the minds of many people and in fact in the minds of many experts that the water flowing in this canal will pass through soils containing sufficient quantities of alkali salts that by the time the water reaches some of the communities south and east of Saskatoon, it will be so heavily salinated that it will be almost useless as a source of fresh water. I make this observation, Mr. Speaker, in order to give the Government an opportunity to clarify its position on this huge expenditure and to demonstrate in a fashion other than it has, the need for us to proceed with this vast and costly undertaking.

I do hope that we may have assurance, among other things that the very substantial quantities of fresh water that will be tapped from the reservoir of the South Saskatchewan River Dam, that these waters are not going to merely end up as unusable, salt-laden bodies of stagnant waters lying in a bed, creating a dead water lake. I believe that waters, fresh waters are very precious and could perhaps be put to far better use than that.

Another area of pollution to which the Government must direct its attention to the type of problem that arose recently in Saskatoon about the question of dumping semi-processed sewage in the Saskatchewan River. It was the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Lloyd) who mentioned something about this in his remarks, and he pointed out to the Government and I believe rightly so, that the Local Government Board's turning down requests made to it for local councils such as in Saskatoon, to have by-laws placed before their citizens for the erection of these water treatment plants, has something to do with the growing danger of pollution in this area. I believe that something else, another area should be looked at. I believe that the Saskatchewan Water Resources Commission should expand its activities to provide for the financing of construction of sewage treatment facilities for municipalities in this province, particularly where adequate plants do not exist. Programs such as this have been in existence in the province of Ontario since 1965, and in that province extend to the construction of water supply and sewage treatment systems throughout the province. Ontario has recognized that a large degree of control over pollution must be exercised by the Provincial Government. By providing finances for many

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of these projects, that is, sewage projects, it has helped to prevent the continuing pollution of rivers and lakes through the dumping of raw sewage into these fresh water bodies. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan Water Resources Commission probably has its hands full at the present time making provision for the use of the water from the South Saskatchewan dam, but I hope that in the near future consideration will be given to expand their activities in the area that I have outlined; that is water supplies made available to communities throughout this province. I believe, Mr. Speaker like many others, that water will become, if it has not already become, one of our most precious commodities.

We must not allow ourselves to accept the complacent attitude towards the supplies that we now have. This attitude has been built up because of the tremendous reservoir in the Saskatchewan River, making some believe that these supplies are adequate for all time to come. I would hope that the Government would continue to discuss with the Federal authorities and the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta the feasibility of diverting part of the Arctic water shed in to the Prairie Provinces. If we are to avoid the continuing pressure that will be directed to us as Canadians, to export our water south of the Border, we must be able to demonstrate an awareness of the value of water, as well as demonstrate our need to utilize this water for our own purposes. Otherwise the pressure will become unbearable. Schemes that will reverse the flow of rivers and bring them over the top of mountain ranges into the prairies are not accomplished over night. Everyone know that. I said at the outset of my address, Mr. Speaker, our awareness of our position as a nation must be demonstrated by the action we take in the usage of this second great resource, that of water and investigative steps must be taken now in order to lay plans for the utilization of these plans as much as ten or fifteen years from now. It is never too early to start looking into this proposal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have dealt with two of the three major resources of our country and our province and the approach we should take in using them to the best advantage, namely food and water. Our third resource is of course, our people, and they are the essential ingredient required in conjunction with the first two in order to give our nation purpose and an attitude of responsibility to the world. In view of the hour, Mr. Speaker I would like to conclude my remarks tomorrow and therefore beg leave of the House to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:58 o'clock p.m.