

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Third Session — Sixteenth Legislature
15th Day

Friday, March 6, 1970.

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

WELCOME TO STUDENTS

MR. SPEAKER: — I wish to introduce to all Members of the Legislature the following groups of students seated in the galleries; 68 students from the Howard Coad school from the constituency of Saskatoon Mayfair, represented by its Member, Mr. Brockelbank, under the direction of their teachers, Miss Dyck and Mr. Kackowski; 20 students from the Frontier school in the constituency of Shaunavon, represented by Mr. Larochelle; 30 students from the Brock school in the constituency of Elrose, represented by Mr. Leith, under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Loewen; 50 students from Coronation Park, in the constituency of Regina North West, represented by their Member Mr. Whelan, under the direction of their school teacher, Mr. Reiley; 20 students from the R.J. Davidson school, from Regina North West, represented by their Member, Mr. Whelan, again, under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Erb; 60 students from Saskatchewan House, adult education class, in the constituency of Regina North West, again represented by the Member from Regina North West, Mr. Whelan, under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Wirth; 25 students from Cabri school, in the constituency of Swift Current, represented by their Member, Mr. Wood; and 40 members of a ladies' group in the constituency of Regina South West.

I am sure all Members wish to join with me in extending to each and every one of these students a very sincere and warm welcome to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Saskatchewan.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE LEADER

MR. SPEAKER: — While I am on my feet making these introductions I would draw to your attention a distinguished visitor in the Speaker's gallery in the person of the newly elected Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of the Province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Nasserdon.

HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

BUDGET DEBATE

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion

of Mr. Steuart (Provincial Treasurer) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the proposed amendment thereto by Mr. Blakeney.

HON. J.C. McISAAC: (Minister of Education) — Mr. Speaker, in taking in this Debate the subject of Education, I think there is one thing that could well be pointed out at this time. In the past decade we have seen tremendous growth in all areas of education at the school level and at the university level, the adult education field, to mention only a few. The entire enterprise has been expanded in the last ten years at a rate never before seen in our history. In fact the entire organizational structure that's required to manage education in itself has grown tremendously in recent years. The point that we sometimes tend to forget, I think, that the enterprise doesn't exist for trustees or for their organizations, or for teachers or their various organizations, or for government civil servants, but for the students and the pupils themselves. I need not recite here, Mr. Speaker, today the many changes in recent years, curriculum reorganization, the changes in programs in special education, vocational training, technical training, both at the school level and at the post-school level and many, many more changes that have been coming thick and fast, not fast enough to suit some people but too fast on the other hand for many.

Now prior to adjourning debate yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I was discussing the Lloydminster School Unit. I had indicated the upward trend of school grants in that particular unit and at the same time pointing out the pattern of lower student-teacher ratios in each year over the past few years. I mentioned that a look at the situation in other units in the province in general demonstrates very much the same kind of pattern. Now how does this relate to budget reviews, grant policies and so on? Let's examine these points as they relate to rapidly rising costs that have characterized education both here and elsewhere. Let's look at these rising costs because they are certainly very real. In Saskatchewan in 1940, which is only 30 years ago, the average per pupil cost, grades 1 to 12 was \$59; in 1950, the figure was \$145; in 1960, the figure was \$320; in 1967, \$501; and preliminary estimates for the current year, 1970 would indicate a figure of around \$640. So we can see there has been over a ten-fold increase in the per pupil cost per year in just about 30 years. Putting it in another way, Mr. Speaker, this current year 1970, the expenditure for instruction alone, will be over \$90 million or very close if you will, Sir, to \$100 per capita for each and every man, woman and child in this province. Stated in different terms, the increase in the last three years represents over \$3,000 for each and every classroom in the province. Total expenditures on all levels of education, by all agencies, will be well in excess of \$200 per capita this year, perhaps even closer to \$300.

We talked about the cost-price squeeze affecting our

farmers and our other taxpayers but certainly here is an example of a cost-price spread that is seriously affecting farmers and other taxpayers as well. Obviously there have to be reasons for the tremendous increase, and there are many good and valid reasons to account for some of these increases — more children in schools, remaining longer in schools, particularly at the high-school and the post-high school level. We have more programs, more physical plants, more equipment, more teachers, more better-trained teachers, and above all, of course, that factor of inflation itself which has driven prices up in every other category of public service as well.

Now, surely, Mr. Speaker, in the light of these increases in cost, as a Government we are neglecting our responsibilities if we fail to take all possible steps to ensure that the present level of spending in education is all being well spent and going to wise and efficient use. What about trends in pupil-teacher ratios in the province as a whole, Mr. Speaker. In 1940 again it was about 23 to 1, back in the time when the province was pretty well covered by one-room schools; in 1950, under our friends opposite, it had risen approximately to 24 to 1 or a little bit better; in 1960 it was 23.6 to 1; and in 1964 it was still over 23 to 1. In other words, very little change those last three or four years. In 1964 to 1968, it had gone down to just under 21 to 1 in 1968. Perhaps this trend in the last few years could be explained to some extent by the broader programs that have been introduced into the school system, vocational courses, technical training at the upper high-school level particularly: the band program, the driver training program, home economics and industrial arts and other subjects that are now taught in many schools at grade seven and eight levels. Heretofore they had only been offered in high schools. There is also second language instruction in grade seven and grade eight, with French and Ukrainian being offered by many school boards of the province. On the other hand we have seen continued centralization of enrolment; we have seen continued trends to more and more urbanization in the province, Mr. Speaker; we have seen continued specialization in the teaching force itself. All of these factors should tend to counterbalance the broadened programs referred to just above. Just over two years ago the Government and the Department of Education drew attention of school boards to these trends and to the cost of implications of these trends. However, with some very notable exceptions the downward trend in ratios continued.

At the Provincial-Municipal Conference held last June here in this Chamber, the Government announced that we would be asking our school boards to increase the student-teacher ratio by an average of two pupils per teacher. We announced also that we would be instituting reviews by Department officials of school board budgets. And I think that anyone who attended that Conference, or who read the transcript, Mr. Speaker, and news reports, may be well aware that escalating education costs were certainly the major concern of all participating municipal bodies, indeed, the overriding concern of that conference.

Members may well recall, Mr. Speaker, that following our last election, this Government made it clear that we were going to continue giving education the very top priority that it rightly deserves, and the top priority I think that the people of this province demand. At the same, time we also made it clear that we were going to ask school authorities, school boards, school officials, as well as university authorities, to scrutinize the spending of provincial tax dollars in the same manner that we, provincially, were looking at and examining the tax dollars that we were spending under our direct control. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that any school board in this province that has been doing that — and that certainly includes the majority of them — has nothing whatever to fear from a review of its budget by Department of Education or other Government officials. Now to date the meetings and the discussions between school boards and the Department, I suggest, bear out the truth of that statement. We took this step of initiating budget reviews largely in the light of experiences with several school boards who were encountering real financial difficulties. And the results of our help and assistance, and the thousands of dollars saved by these systems convinced us that such a policy not only made sense in the over-all basis, but perhaps was overdue. Coupled closely with these two moves on pupil-teacher ratios and budget reviews, is the question of policy and of legislation under which the Province provides financial support to the school boards. There was and there is a wide variation in teacher-pupil ratios from one jurisdiction to another in the province. From 17.5 to 1 approximately in the rural units to 24.5 to 1, and in the urban systems, speaking of the complete grade 1 to 12 systems, from below 20 to 1 in some cases to over 25 to 1 in others. Even ordinary office administration costs showed tremendous variation among systems that are comparable in other ways. For example in the Regina Public School System the figure for 1969 was \$6.47 per student, whereas the Saskatoon Public System was \$10 per student. Similar variations in administrative costs and in other areas of costs could be found between different rural units of comparable size and program offered. Transportation costs in the rural areas on a per mile basis also showed some variation.

Now I am sure most Members are aware, Mr. Speaker, that the present basis of Provincial support to school boards hinges almost entirely on the number of teachers that they employ. Obviously more consideration needed to be given to enrolment, the number of students in the system and the nature and the type of program that were being offered in that system. Instructional costs, as I pointed out earlier, are by far the largest single item of expenditure. So looking at it in this context, Mr. Speaker, to arrive at some basis of per pupil cost of instruction required some recognized ratio of teachers to pupils. And we looked at other jurisdictions in other provinces. We looked at British Columbia for example where they have a 30 to 1 ratio for elementary students; 20 to 1 for secondary; in Manitoba where it is 28 to 1 for elementary and 23 to 1 for secondary students. Mind you the complete situation in both of those provinces is a good deal more complex than perhaps those simple

figures would indicate. Provision is made there, as we have done, for special education classes and so on. One of the wealthiest boards in the country in Metro Toronto aim at classroom loads of over 30 to 1, with provisions certainly though for a wide variety of supportive staff and so on. Our own officials, school trustees and teachers consulted on this question could see no educational justification for distinction between elementary and secondary. Besides it wasn't always practical to divide the systems in this manner. Perhaps it did accommodate practice to a greater extent in some of the other provinces where they moved in that direction, but did that practice necessarily make sense? In short, we advised boards we would be basing grants in 1970 on ratios of 15 to 1 for the vocational and technical areas; lower ratios still for the handicapped and special classes for retarded, and 25 to 1 for the remainder. These figures include all of the instructional staff — guidance counsellors, band instructors, and teachers who in many cases do not preside over classrooms, but obviously of course they are part of the instructional staff. There is also the fact that there is quite a wide pattern of utilization of these people by the school boards in the province.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as a result of these measures and these announcement, there were some cries of alarm from teacher groups and from school boards in the province. We also asked at that time for school boards to give us a preliminary budget by the end of October, last October. I must say that in general the cooperation in this regard from the provincial school boards was excellent. And when we received those budgets the information was tabulated, the budget was analyzed by Department officials, the staff requirements were analyzed not only for each school system but in the rural units particularly for each and every school as well. Recommendations for staff requirements for the various units and the various boards were made with a view to maintaining the programs being offered by the school boards; the locations of schools within the unit and all other such factors were considered in arriving at a recognized number of teachers for the forthcoming grant-year. This is an area (as far as offering these various programs is concerned) I am convinced, where school boards can improve their utilization of their highly qualified professional teachers. They can look at other ways and other means of providing programs by greater cooperation with one another in many cases, by greater use perhaps of the semester system, in short, in looking at some new techniques in organizing schools and in organizing programs.

The budget review procedures, Mr. Speaker, I suggest, have worked very, very well this year. And I am convinced that both school boards and the Department have learned a great deal as a result of this first year's experience. Later on this spring we will be sitting down with trustees, teachers and school secretaries to analyze and improve the entire procedure for another year. But I am absolutely satisfied that closer working arrangements with our school boards as a direct result of these moves will prove beneficial to every group involved in education

in this province. Trustee spokesmen I think, Mr. Speaker, will agree in the main with what I have said in this connection. Legislation will be introduced shortly in the House, outlining more completely the principles and the approach of a new School Grants Act.

For several years it has been increasingly apparent that our present method of distributing Provincial grants in aid of education was becoming obsolete. This obsolescence has come about for good reason. The present formula was designed for a system which in large measure no longer really exists in the province. It was also designed, Mr. Speaker, for a time when the over-all costs of education were much, much less than they are today. In recent years as these costs have gone up the formula has produced ever-increasing disparities which we feel must be corrected. Now during the past three years, the Department has carried out extensive research and study in an effort to produce a new formula. A new formula would result in first of all maximum equalization; secondly, incentives to school boards to develop an optimum education program; thirdly, flexibility enough to ensure reasonable controls; and fourthly, encouragement for growth and development. This clearly is not an easy task, given the very wide range of factors which apply in the school systems of this province, population distribution, indeed the very distribution of schools within its system, assessment variations, urban-rural differences and so on. However, we have developed the first phase of a foundation program which will be brought into the House, as I mentioned, later in this Session. I wish to emphasize that this will only be the first phase, for we shall need the benefits of experience in actual operations, in systems, to determine even more accurately the most equitable basis of paying grants.

Our new foundation formula is based on a couple of principles. First of all the incidence of local taxation should be as nearly equal as it can be, mind you, given the inherent problems of using a tax rate on property as the measuring stick of ability to pay — I think we are all aware of the shortcomings of that system in that regard; and secondly, every school system should have available the necessary financial resources to, permit it to carry out an optimum program rather than a basic minimum. An optimum program we define as one which represents a level of course-offering equal to the maximum the province can support in terms of its overall capacity to produce resources to support these systems, and again in terms of the particular characteristics of each school system. Now obviously there can't be a Campbell Collegiate in every town in the province. The approved education offerings and the enrolments should be the chief factors in determining systems' budgetary requirements. All systems as well should be able to employ their fair share of highly trained teachers. Now, Mr. Speaker, any new system of grants is bound to bring about some changes of the distribution of Provincial dollars amongst the school system. The increase in operating this year, \$11.2 million, which is the largest ever in the province's history, will be distributed this

year under the new formula. Supplementary grants will also be employed for arriving at the board's total grant figure to accommodate situations that the formula will not cover. These supplementary grants will be determined in the main by two facts: the existing mill rate in the district, and the amount that that will produce; and secondly, the board's budgetary expenditures as approved and recognized in the course of budget reviews and subsequent discussions with the school board.

As was pointed out last week by the Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Steuart) one of the major problems faced by school boards in finalizing their budget figures and one that the Department must also contend with in finalizing grant figures, is the fact that to date no teachers' salaries settlements have been reached in the current round of bargaining. However, with reasonable salary settlements, there is no question that school boards on the average should be able to maintain their existing mill rates in the forthcoming year. Indeed it is quite possible that some boards may be able to reduce their mill rates. Now obviously in phasing in a new structure there will be problems in the first year particularly. But I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that with the continued cooperation of trustees and other school officials, these problems will not only be met but be resolved. As I mentioned, the Budget shows an increase in operational grants over last year of over \$11 million, and most of the increase will be in the formula grant.

Now, on Wednesday, the Hon. Member for Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney) mentioned that that sum also included grants for elementary texts. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, there is over \$1.5 million in that vote to implement a complete free text-book program for the school children of this province. The Budget provides for free texts for grade 12 students, which completes that program of free texts to high school students, initiated by this Government five years ago. For many years there has been a so-called free text policy for the elementary grades, instituted some years ago by the former Government. However, it wasn't quite free in that not all of the required texts had been supplied by the Saskatchewan Book Bureau. Parents were still responsible for the purchase of texts in Health, Science, French and Ukrainian in grades seven and eight. Now in this Budget there will be an annual per pupil grant paid to the school board and the private schools, instead of the actual textbook being shipped out as has been the case up to now. This new plan will be implemented for the 1970-71 school year at an estimated cost of \$1.55 million this year. And for the first time in the history of the province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will cover all of the texts required by school children.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McISAAC: — I think also it is much more sound from an educational viewpoint. It overcomes the weakness of the present system where only one specific text is provided, in that boards may

now provide a choice of several different texts. It should enable boards and encourage them to make the maximum use of books through rebinding and other such procedures. This new arrangement, as I mentioned, of paying boards so many actual dollars per pupil in each of the grades from 1 to 12, I may say has the complete endorsement of both the STF and the School Trustees Organization in the province. It is interesting to note here, Mr. Speaker, that this was one of two requests made to the Government in a joint presentation last fall by the STF and the School Trustees Association. I should point out too that school boards will continue to have the advantage of bulk purchases through the continued operation of the Saskatchewan Book Bureau.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, while the major part of increases in this Budget is in the area of operating grants, it provides also for continued progress and continued advancement in other areas as well. This year, the emphasis is mainly on consolidation of existing programs. In the vocational and technical education field in our institutes alone, the Budget is increased over \$700,000 over last year. This should enable us, as I mentioned yesterday, to offer training to something over 8,000 students, an increase of 1,400 over the past year. I am sure that Members are well aware that in Saskatoon last year, a new addition to the Institute of Applied Arts and Science was officially opened. Courses up there will be expanded in Nursing Education, Food Services, Commercial Cooking, Library Technology, and many others. At Moose Jaw, enrolments will also be increased primarily in the field of Business Education, Secretarial Sciences, Computer Sciences, and in a number of the trades. Extension courses, night classes are also being offered both at Saskatoon and at Moose Jaw. There is a wide variety of courses available, with something over 400 people being registered in Saskatoon alone last week, taking a total of some 20 different courses. These courses are almost entirely self-supporting. I think it does, Mr. Speaker, indicate the kind of utilization we are getting in both space and equipment at the Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Saskatoon.

Enrolments in the Vocational Centres at Prince Albert, Weyburn and Regina will also be increase in the forthcoming year. In up-grading and other training for people of Indian ancestry this year we will be spending very close to \$1 million in this area. This will allow us to increase the number of trainees from 1,100 to almost 2,000 people. The Northern Areas School Board budget is up this year over \$200,000 over last year. Grants to school libraries, school bands, driver training assistance will be continued over and above the regular grants, and will account for an expenditure of almost \$500,000.

We expect the Driver Training Program this year to accommodate something over 13,000 students. And I want to say that this program is without a doubt the very best of its kind in Canada and is serving approximately two-thirds of the eligible young people of this province. According to the best

information we can get from elsewhere the number of young people in organized driver training programs is roughly five to eight per cent of those eligible.

There is support for the first time in this Budget, Mr. Speaker, for community classes for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, work which had previously been sponsored by the Red Cross. There is also provision for assistance in the transportation of handicapped children in urban systems.

Last year we announced a policy of support to school boards employing teacher aides. An experience in the current year with a fairly small number of these people clearly indicates a very definite place for teacher aides in many of the school systems of the province. Accordingly special provision is provided to help school boards employ these people in this year's Budget.

I might say too, Mr. Speaker, that in the past year the Department has undergone further reorganization. I believe that we are now able to render a much broader and a much more efficient service to school boards as a result. Our information and our statistical service to school boards will be improved considerably in the forthcoming year and should very materially assist not only school boards but the Department itself to carry out better long-term planning.

There is provision in this Budget for \$12.7 million in school construction with very close to \$10 million being allocated to Federal-Provincial projects. Those are under way; comprehensive schools in Nipawin, North Battleford and Melville. Projects are on the drawing board in the case of Regina Vocational A, Moose Jaw, Weyburn and Prince Albert. In addition there is provision for school additions or school extensions or renovations or replacements in something like 50 other centres scattered throughout the province.

The Budget also contains, Mr. Speaker, a major increase in the funds devoted to the support of the Provincial Library and the Regional Library System of this Province, \$849,000 to be exact which, for the benefit of Members opposite, compares to their highest support of libraries in their term of office of \$306,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McISAAC: — Grants to the two main city libraries of Saskatoon and Regina will be increased by 50 per cent. An increase in the regional libraries grant will allow that grant to go from \$1.00 to \$1.10. The Provincial Librarian and his staff continue to provide the people of this province and the regional libraries the best rural library service offered anywhere in Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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MR. McISAAC: — The semester system will be extended in the forthcoming year to those schools desirous of it. I might also mention we have a pilot project in machine-scored objective tests in the grade 12 departmental exams this year in French and in Algebra. The results of these tests will account for 50 per cent of the student's final mark, the other 50 per cent to be determined by their teacher on the basis of their year's work. If this idea, if this innovation, should prove successful then it will be extended.

I think of particular interest too this year, Mr. Speaker, is a change in the requirements for high school graduates. I don't have time to deal with it very extensively but a minimum of seven subjects per year will be required instead of the present eight. There will be fewer compulsory subjects and rather than each year grade 10, grade 11 and grade 12 being considered as a complete and separate entity it will be possible for students to take some courses offered in a year other than the one that they are enrolled in.

Obviously of course such changes cannot and do not affect university entrance requirements, but it does, I think, give much greater student flexibility in those last three years.

Mr. Speaker, before taking my seat I want to take a moment to express at this time my appreciation for the cooperation the Department has received this year from trustees, from teachers, from their organizations and from many others. Relations generally with all these groups closely involved in education have been excellent this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McISAAC: — And I want also to publicly express my thanks for the job being done by our school superintendents and other Department officials.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McISAAC: — Mr. Speaker, you may have gathered that I will be supporting the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. D.M. McPHERSON: (Regina South West) — Mr. Deputy Speaker, in rising to speak on the Budget I would first like to congratulate the new Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Stephen Worobetz, on his appointment as Lieutenant Governor as other Members have done. I would like to wish him well in his new job. I know that he will perform his duty like a veteran.

I would like to pay a great privilege and honor to Dinny Hanbidge, the former Lieutenant Governor, for the work he has passed on in the Province of Saskatchewan. He was a man who was a great friend to all and a great citizen. I think probably he may be back with the Roughriders. As you all know he wears No. 1 and he's in pretty good shape and I think we could probably use a good tight end.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — I would also like at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to congratulate the Member from Kelvington (Mr. Byers). I certainly hope he enjoys his work in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to express my personal sympathy to the Member from Regina South East (Mr. Baker) and also the Member from Arm River (Mr. McIvor) for the loss of their mothers during the past weeks. They were two pioneer ladies who certainly contributed a lot to this great Province of ours and the sympathy of all the Members goes to these two men.

Mr. Speaker, it was indeed a proud day on Monday when the Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Steuart) brought down the 1970-71 Provincial Budget. I say it was a proud day because the five previous Provincial Budgets had been balanced and I find this a record for any Provincial budget in Canada or any Federal budget.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — So Mr. Provincial Treasurer I want to congratulate you on a job well done. In looking over the 1970-71 Budget of \$405 million I find this is a record budget as was pointed out, Mr. Speaker, and proposing a \$10 million deficit at this time certainly leaves no criticism when one considers what is in this Budget.

Mr. Speaker, the increased amount for schools should certainly aid every school board in this province and keep the mill rates down and there shouldn't be any rises whatsoever.

The increased amount for rural roads should help every municipality complete their road programs.

For the cities there are increased grants for health, libraries, police, snow removal and assessments.

Mr. Speaker, the above grants are an indication that this Government wants to help keep the mill rates down in every home in the cities, every home in the towns and villages, and in every farm home in the municipalities in the Province of Saskatchewan.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — With the increase in the homeowner grant the Budget certainly shows the citizens of this province that this Government is endeavoring in every way to assist in the tax load.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that there is not a Member sitting to your left who can vote against this Budget. When you realize the lift that this Budget will give the economy of this great province, I am proud to be associated with the 1970-1971 Provincial Budget. There is assistance in this Budget for both the rural and the urban population.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — I think, Mr. Speaker, many of us went home Monday including the Member from Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney) pleased with the Budget knowing that this was the key to getting the economy moving.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — I for one, Mr. Speaker, was also pleased to hear the Hon. Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Steuart) say that, if the injection of the monies into the building program were not doing the job, more money would be put in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — How nice it is to know that the building trades are going to be busy not tomorrow but right away. The suppliers are going to be busy right away. The allied trades are going to be busy right away. Everything connected with the building trades will be on the move.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that the Budget recognizes that there must be more assistance to our Indian and Métis people. This Government recognised this problem when it set up a special department for Indian and Métis. When the Premier of the Province set up the Task Force I believe he took on one of the toughest jobs that has ever been taken on. In the Task Force, Mr. Speaker, he received the cooperation of a great number of businessmen in Saskatchewan, and I would like to single out one project that I happen to know a little about and I feel it is going to do a great job. It is the scrap-cutting operation that is being set up at IPSCO. Mr. Jack Turvey introduced this program to the Task Force and it was immediately picked up by the Indian and Métis. They selected a man, Mr. Jim Pariesien, who is a Métis to run the show. He now has over 100 Indian and Métis welders that are training at Weyburn to go into the scrap-cutting business which is being introduced at IPSCO and is being fostered by IPSCO in the training program to

get the thing going.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — I congratulate the Task Force, Mr. Speaker, and wish them every success as every Member here will. I think this Government is looking on this matter in the right way and if we can get more projects like this going it will certainly be a great credit to our Government.

Industry has been asked, Mr. Speaker, and the Premier has written every industry to take on Indian and Métis people, a certain percentage. I think this is having a great effect on the hiring and there are more Indian and Métis people working.

Mr. Speaker, I was indeed pleased to read in the paper on Tuesday that Mr. Bruce Smith of the city of Regina was very happy about the new grants and they would add approximately \$200,000 to the city coffers. To every taxpayer in the city this would also mean aid to the tune of one mill on the basis of the city mill rate. What the reduction would help education when the grant comes down has not been calculated. So the whole Budget should certainly help the taxpayers of Regina.

I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to quote from the Saskatoon Star Phoenix of Wednesday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — “Buckwold says tax drop possible.” They are holding the line on their expenses and Mayor Buckwold has said that with the economy drive, local taxpayers could look forward to no increases in taxes over last year. At the worst an increase of 1/2 mill. And the Provincial Budget of last Monday has made the Mayor even more optimistic that this goal can be met. The Budget outlined increased the Provincial aid to the provincial municipalities amounting to \$1.55 per capita. They are very happy in Saskatoon and they are certainly happy in the city of Regina.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — Mr. Speaker, we have heard many times in this House from the Member for Regina North West (Mr. Whelan), the Member for Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney), the Member for Regina North East (Mr. Smishek) complaints that this Government since it came into the House hasn't done anything for anybody in the cities. I just happened to, look up a few figures and I happened to go to a department that I know a little about and I looked into the health grant. I went back as far as 1959-60. The Member from Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney) will be very interested in this because they are always screaming that there are no health grants.

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Well here's what happened.

In 1959 the per capita that the CCF gave the city of Regina — not one nickel. Not one nickel did they send. In 1960-1961 — nil. Not one penny.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Shame, shame!

MR. McPHERSON: — 1962-1963, nil again. Not one penny.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Shame, shame!

MR. McPHERSON: — Yet they scream that they should be helped. Now we come to 1963-64. There is an election coming up. There's an election. We're going to do something and so the Member for Regina Centre, (Mr. Blakeney) decides that he's going to do something. So what does he do? He picks one of the piggy banks that he's talking about and he puts 50 cents for the citizens of Regina, the first time in five years that there has been a penny in there and the citizens of Regina received \$60,250. \$60,000 that's what they received. Now what happened in 1964-1965? The first year . . .

MR. BLAKENEY: — Another quarter in.

MR. McPHERSON: — . . . 25 cents they were increased. Right. That's right and it continued to go up until 1969-70. They helped Henry out to the tune of \$1. Now we'll take the totals, Mr. Speaker, on just what was paid in. We never do anything it's claimed. We never gave the city of Regina one cent. As you can see.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Henry?

MR. McPHERSON: — No, I'm not talking about Henry. The Member for Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney). The records show, Mr. Speaker, that in the years from 1959 to 1964 all the CCF Government gave the city of Regina for health grants was \$63,000. That's all the records show. That's all they gave them and that was even one credit to operate a clinic.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Henry . . .

MR. McPHERSON: — Now after the election from 1965 to 1970 there has been \$648,490.85 given to the city of Regina in health grants.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: — Henry, cut his throat!

MR. McPHERSON: — Now, Mr. Speaker, may I ask everyone here who is more interested in the health of the citizens of Regina, the Liberals or the CCF? Who would you answer that one to?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — Mr, Speaker, we have heard a great deal in this House how the CCF-NDP have been so fair in the hospitals, so I looked this up. I just wanted to see the records and I took the combination figures for the Regina General and the Regina Grey Nuns' Hospital along with all the grants that had been given to them, all the capital and everything that was coming to them for the years 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, I came up with the figure of \$31,300,408. That's what was in those particular years. Now I went on, Mr. Speaker, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and the final year, practically doubled that this Government gave to the city hospitals, \$58,680,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — Now this isn't bad help I would say from a Liberal Government that is so niggardly as was pointed out by the Member for Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — Mr. Speaker, I happened to look at education. I thought this would be something we should take a look at and I looked into the city for education from 1959, 1960 right through to 1964 and the city of Regina received the amount, they went up about \$2,588,000. They dropped it in 1962 to \$2,425,000. They gave them a little increase in 1963 and then finally in 1964 they got up to \$2,800,000. Then finally the Liberal party came into power. The first year \$4,099,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Shame, shame!

MR. McPHERSON: — The second year \$6,358,000. On and on and we come to the final year \$7,551,000. Mr. Speaker, take all of these and you can see just what they would add up to and I will give you a quick calculation on them. Three year comparison \$13,422,000 and the same comparison, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Government more than doubled. More than doubled to \$28 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. McPHERSON: — Now this is what they are calling they were doing their fair share and we're not doing anything. I would say, Mr. Speaker, this is excellent help from a Liberal Government to the citizens of Regina.

Now we will talk a little about road assistance. You know something about this, you gentlemen over there. We'll see what

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they gave the good old city of Regina. First year we'll take is 1960 — George Willis you'd know about this — \$1,120. Now we come along to 1961-1962, Mr. Willis, in road assistance. Guess what this is, \$1,165. The next year he really went out of his way. He provided \$86,000 and in 1963 he provided \$321,000. 1964, \$186,000. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is a total for those five years, going back to 1960 of \$408,664.

Our Highways Department, our Minister of Highways (Mr. Boldt) who you fellows criticize, has provided, and I will go over the figures if you like to February 28th: 1970 \$2,402,610 compared to your \$408,000. Five times as much. I think, Mr. Speaker, you'll have to agree that the Liberal Government has been very fair in its treatment of Regina since it formed the Government in 1964.

Speaker, I would like to point out that this Government for the Indian and Métis has purchased 37 houses in the city of Regina for a total cost of \$342,374,000. This certainly keeps the economy going. Mr. Speaker, as the Mayor of Regina knows we have assisted in the urban renewal program to the tune, in Tuxedo Park, of \$78,084 and this has certainly been a big help. Last year the total buildings connected with the University of Saskatchewan, hospital construction, South Saskatchewan Base Hospital, Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, renovations to the Legislative Buildings, all of these around \$9 million. This year we propose to help the city of Regina and help the economy here over \$12 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Too much!

MR. McPHERSON: — I think this is an increase, Mr. Speaker, of \$3,057,000 and I am happy to see this come to the city of Regina: After all I live here and I enjoy this city and we have lots of arguments about Saskatoon, but I am happy that I live in Regina. But I just want to set the record straight that this Government has certainly done a lot. I think you will have to agree after you look over all the grants, the new grants that are coming up for 1970-71. Finally, Mr. Speaker, before I sit down — I see my time is up — I would like to thank this Government. A lot of the rural Members were a little disturbed at voting to have the auditorium turned over and putting \$7 million into it. I want to thank the Government on behalf of the citizens of Regina. It is a beautiful structure and I think our Department of Public Works, under Mr. Guy and his Deputy, Mr. Jack Kyle, have done a real good job in keeping the costs down. I think it is a structure that we can be very proud of over the years to come and I am happy that we have it. I just hope that we don't run into the big deficits that they are predicting but I think it will be well run.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see I think Regina is getting a fair deal. Maybe there could be more but there are a lot of things that were turned up today that bring out that all in all I am all for the Budget and I will be supporting it. Thank you

very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. A. MATSALLA: (Canora) — Mr. Speaker, my first words in this Debate are to express a feeling of appreciation to Mr. Robert Hanbidge who has served this Legislature and our Province as Lieutenant Governor. I want to warmly congratulate Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Stephen Worobetz, on his appointment and wish him well in this high office.

I am of course very happy to associate myself with other Members in this House in congratulating the Hon. Member, for Kelvington, Mr. Neil Byers, on taking his seat in the Legislature following last year's by-election. The results, Mr. Speaker, are a strong indication of, the unpopular and weakening Saskatchewan Liberal Government . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — . . . today even more than on June 25th last.

Looking at the Budget, Mr. Speaker, I do not find anything to be too excited about. As a matter of fact I am disappointed to find that there is nothing in it to give immediate cash help to the depressed farming industry and to improve the severe unemployment situation. But I am satisfied to see the two-cents per gallon tax on farm fuel removed. We on this side of the House fought hard against this unfair agricultural tax.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — It shouldn't have been imposed in the first place.

I am hopeful that the industrial incentive programs would be extended to the northeast central part of the province and that it would encourage industries to locate in my constituency of Canora.

I am looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to a portion of the highway expenditures to be expended in my constituency this year. In the past few years indications were made by the Minister (Mr. Boldt) and his Department that make me believe, that the construction of the No. 5 highway west of Canora will start this year. I want to put on record this afternoon that No. 9 highway from Preeceville north to Reserve should be on a priority construction list. The dusty conditions on this highway are very bad. I urge and ask the Minister and his Government to place these two highways on this year's construction program.

With reference to the increased assistance to local

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governments, Sir, I question the full sincerity of this budgetary expenditure. I question it because an amount of about one-third million dollars of last year's Budget was under-expended, and the Department is already asking municipalities to advise in case they will not construct grid roads this year. The tax increase on municipal fuel is just another shift on to the local property taxpayer.

I must say that I am very disappointed to see that the deterrent fees on the sick and the poor will continue.

HON. D.G. STEUART: (Provincial Treasurer) — On the rich, too!

MR. MATSALLA: — This is the most vicious and inhuman tax ever, Mr. Provincial Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, much has already been said about the dire economic and social circumstances confronting the people of Saskatchewan. The drastic drop in farm income due to inadequate prices and lack of grain marketing, due to the policies and attitudes of the two Liberal Governments, are having a snowballing effect on the entire provincial economy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — Unemployment has reached an all-time high and retail sales have dropped to near all-time low.

The situation in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is in reality a rude awakening to many people, particularly to those who supported this Liberal Government in the last election and in previous elections.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — These people had high hopes that there would come a new Saskatchewan as promised by the Premier and his associates — a promised New Saskatchewan with great industrial development, employment opportunities, tax reductions and security to the farmer. These people, Mr. Speaker, have been betrayed and let down, . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — . . . and now are totally disappointed with the performance of this Liberal Government. They recognize that the capitalistic system to which this Government subscribes just doesn't work in the interest of common society. It is designed for the benefit of big business corporations.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan recognize and know

that Liberal times are hard times.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — It was only a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers of the Prairies were told to grow all the wheat they could — “You grow it, we’ll sell it.” The farmer, confident in the advice and foresight of the Federal Government, grew and harvested some of the biggest crops ever. The farmers did their part, Mr. Speaker, what about the Government?

In the midst of the enormous glut of grain on the Prairies and with very little prospects of selling it, swinging Prime Minister Pierre in Winnipeg stated, and I quote: “Why should I sell wheat; it’s the farmer’s problem.” Mr. Speaker, no responsible Prime Minister could make a more irresponsible and ridiculous statement. Playboy Trudeau completely ignored the problem of the farmer.

Now let us take a look at the record of this Provincial Government and its stand on agricultural problems, Mr. Speaker. I recall clearly the attitude of the Premier in this House at the last session when our opposition Leader, Woodrow Lloyd, proposed a Resolution calling for an emergency debate on the reduction of wheat prices. Premier Thatcher shouted across the floor that the subject of the Opposition’s Resolution wasn’t of an urgent nature and that it should not take the time of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — Now I want to recall, Mr. Speaker, what Attorney General Heald had to say from the reading of a letter and how he ridiculed the plight of, the Saskatchewan farmer. He referred to the letter writer as a pioneer citizen of Saskatchewan with good common sense. From page 815 of Debates and Proceedings 1969 I quote Mr. Heald:

You know all things cannot be done in a day. The average farmer knows you cannot take a cow to the bull and bring back the calf in your arms. The average farmer has his bins full of wheat; his barns and corrals full of feed and most wives are full of babies for the bonus. Just how could times be better. I hope you tell them good when the House opens.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General (Mr. Heald) read this letter in the last session to tell the House that the farmers did not need cash help to dry their damp grain last year. The Attorney General ought to hang his head in shame finding pleasure in quoting this kind of garbage and referring it to the farmers of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the people of Saskatchewan

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of the vicious attack that was made last week on the Wheat Board and the various farm organizations by Highways Minister Boldt and other Government Members. Very sad would be the day to the prairie farmers of Saskatchewan when the Wheat Board should be eliminated. Mr. Speaker, we would be back to the days of the free marketing system and the Grain Exchange, when there was no security in prices nor any guaranteed protection to the farming industry.

Mr. Speaker, what our agriculture needs today more than ever is practical down-to-earth policies, policies that are meaningful and that will be adapted to provide short-term solutions and long-term security to the farmer.

The New Democratic party, Sir, has some definite proposals for giving agriculture the much needed lift and providing for security in the future. My colleagues speaking before me have outlined our plan to this House and our brief was presented to this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I feel very strongly about the long-term solutions to our farming problems — that of guiding farm production and that of selling farm products for realistic prices. Because of their political philosophy, Sir, it is very unlikely that the Liberal Governments, Provincial and Federal, will take any positive action on this. It would require a government that has foresight and courage to stand up against pressures of corporate exploitations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — I have confidence, Mr. Speaker, that the New Democratic party can provide this kind of government and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to finally turn to taxes, and I would particularly deal with local municipal school property taxes. But before I do this, I want to remind this House and the people of Saskatchewan of the Liberal promises of 1964 to reduce property taxes, to reduce the sales tax to three per cent and to reduce the personal income tax.

Premier Thatcher, speaking at Moose Jaw at a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool dinner had this to say, and I quote from the Daily Colonist, Victoria, August 27, 1965:

The Province's four per cent sales tax, personal income tax, corporation taxes and a host of others are too high. Property and land taxes are four times higher today than in 1945.

Now we know what the Premier said. Let us examine what he and his Government have done since 1965 to 1969, a five-year period. Records will prove, Mr. Speaker, that local property taxes since this Government took office have sky-rocketed from at least 30 per cent to 50 per cent and more in some cases. I

might say that taxes for strictly municipal purposes have held at a very stable level, but school taxes since 1965 have jumped over 60 per cent. And where lands have been reassessed by the Department, school taxes on some lands have doubled and tripled and more. Local school boards were forced to increase mill rates to a higher level in order to meet the ever-increasing education costs, and this for the reason that Government grants to schools were starting to slip and could not keep pace with the rising costs.

I want to inform this House that the mill rate in the case of the Canora school unit No. 37 remained at 29 mills from 1953 to 1964. No increase in 12 years. Following the election of this Liberal Government, starting with 1965 to 1969, the mill rates skyrocketed to 46 mills, an alarming increase of 17 mills in five years. No increase in 12 years under the CCF Government, 17-mills increase in five years under this Liberal Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — Let us examine the taxes, on some property, Mr. Speaker, and make comparisons. To illustrate I will describe parcels of land and cite tax levy increases in the five-year period under the former CCF Government and the five-year period under this Liberal Government. Let us take the NW 32-8-7-W2. Between the years 1959 and 1965, there was a net increase of \$1.30. Now between the years 1964 and 1969 there was a net increase of \$60.85. You will note, Sir, that the increase between the two periods is more than 46 times during this Liberal regime — and they talk about reducing taxes!

Now let us illustrate to this House, Mr. Speaker, what the position of taxes was during the two years in question on a farm unit of four quarters in the RM of Buchanan No. 304 of which I am the secretary-treasurer. The taxes levied on this farm unit, north half of 14 and south half of 15 in 32-4-W2, were \$713.56 in 1964. Now, starting with 1965 under this Thatcher Liberal regime the tax levy in 1969 on this farm unit reached \$1,043.10 — a significant increase of \$329.54 or a jump of nearly 50 per cent over the 1965 taxes. I would like the Hon. Member for Regina South West (Mr. McPherson) to take those figures down. In the years 1960 to 1964 inclusive, the taxes on this farm unit were reduced, were reduced by an amount of \$24.94, but under the Liberals the increase for the years 1965 to 1969 inclusive, was \$322.94, a frightening difference of \$347.88. Now these, Mr. Speaker, are the facts about the Liberal trend on local property taxes. Up and up and up! And the Premier has the gall to say that his Government is reducing property taxes. What hypocrisy:

Mr. Speaker, I want to issue a warning to this Liberal Government that school property taxes have reached such high proportions that property can no longer bear more taxes. The need for using a new and broader tax base for financing school

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costs is long overdue. Action to accomplish this should be taken now before property owners are forced to surrender to bankruptcy and foreclosures.

This Liberal Government, Sir, over the last five years through its practice of transferring taxes on the property owners neglected to provide adequate grants to meet the rising costs in education. I charge the Government with being guilty of deliberately shifting taxes on to local property. The Government is guilty of forcing local taxpayers to bear the financial load for which the Provincial Government should be responsible. The people of Saskatchewan, Mr., Speaker, can no longer put up with tax policies of this Liberal Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATSALLA: — The tax shift on to a limited tax base and people least able to pay practised by this Government is intolerable and should be stopped. This Government, Sir, elected on the promise to reduce taxes has completely failed and betrayed the people of Saskatchewan, and can no longer have the faith of the Saskatchewan people. There isn't any doubt about this. The records are the proof.

The New Democratic party, Mr. Speaker, proposes a five-year plan for easing the school-tax load from the local taxpayer. It is our plan to assume 65 per cent of the school costs within the first three years and then up to 75 per cent of the school costs within the next two years. And as Provincial and Federal revenues increase, Mr. Treasurer, our Government will continue to assume an even greater share of the cost. The CCF, when in government, as I have illustrated, truly demonstrated their concern for the local taxpayer. Through a generous grant structure for schools and municipalities, local taxes were kept at a reasonable level.

The Budget, Mr. Speaker, is not a practical or a realistic budget to grapple with the problems of the day. It is another document designed to continue shifting more taxes on to local property taxpayers and it will continue to extract monies from Saskatchewan citizens least able to pay.

Mr. Speaker, I will not support the main motion but I will support the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. A. THIBAUT: (Kinistino) — Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate the financial critic (Mr. Blakeney) who did a wonderful job in exposing the things that the Budget hasn't got and the mismanagement of this Government.

I also want to pay tribute to the Lieutenant Governor who

has left us, Mr. Hanbidge, and I want to wish him many years of happy life and healthy ones. Also I want to welcome Dr. Stephen Worobetz. I am sure that the atmosphere that was left here in this House by Mr. Hanbidge is going to be continued in the person of Dr. Worobetz.

I also want to congratulate the soccer team of Yellow Creek, who have taken the championship again in 1969. They will be visiting the Legislature later on and I will be quite happy to introduce them to the House. This team has won the championship of the province six times in eleven tries. And believe you me, for a little village school it is an effort that certainly needs recognition.

I also want to congratulate the school units in my constituency for sending such a large number of students to the Legislature every session. I think we stand amongst one of the constituencies who bring a lot of students to the session. I am sure that it can only profit the province when our young will come and listen and see what is going on in these Chambers. I think if a lot more would visit the Chambers, they would go home and talk about it, and perhaps we would even have a better Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — I also want to congratulate the Member for Kelvington (Mr. Byers). I did spend a few days out there and I want to say that it didn't take long for me to realize that the NDP candidate was going to win with a good majority. I know that we could have had a caucus out there. We could have had a session as there were enough Members there, we certainly would have had a quorum from both sides of the House. I also want to offer my sympathy to the Member for Arm River (Mr. McIvor) and the Member for Regina South East (Mr. Baker) for the great loss that they have suffered in the last while.

Now that we are done with the formalities I want to get into my speech and say a few things about the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Estey). He is not in his seat at this time. Most of the Cabinet Ministers are out. I don't know what is going on out there. Oh, yes, Mr. Heald is here, the Member for Lumsden, and the Treasurer (Mr. Steuart) — eleven of them in the House at this time. I think it is a good thing for the people to know this. About one-third of them. I hope that the people of this province are going to settle a little bit of this stuff when the election rolls around. We want people to sit in their seats; no, I don't know where.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — I want to say a few words about the homeowner grant. I was the first one in this House to stand up and vote for it.

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I beat them all to it. Many of the other provinces have homeowner grants and I don't quarrel with it at all. The only thing that I have to say about it is that the present Government is wasting almost \$100,000 in staff and administration mailing out little letters — call it political letters — along with the cheque. Now this is somewhere between \$90 and \$100,000 and I don't think that question can be figured as it was debated last year.

Now in Manitoba the; homeowner grant is deducted when you pay your taxes, and what is wrong with that? This is the sensible thing to do. You could have built 30 miles of farm access road with the money that you have wasted in playing politics when sending out these cheques. Alberta and British Columbia do it in the same way. If you want to save money quit using the taxpayers' money for political reasons and for nothing else. If you doubt my word I have the regulations from Manitoba right here and you can have them if you want them.

Now I want to give you an idea of what the taxes have done in my constituency. In 1964 for the Wakaw School Unit. For the Wakaw town, the general mill rate was 22.5, the school rate was 27. In 1968, 36 and 32. This points out to you that this Government did not keep pace with the increased costs of our communities.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — Birch Hills had a mill rate of 32 mills in general rates and 27 mills for school rates. In 1967 and 1968, 39 and 35. Administration by the Provincial Government didn't help these people enough. Now in the, town of Kinistino the mill rate was 26 for the general levy and 26 for the school levy. General levy in 1968, 28 and 35. This proves to you that the reason for it is that this Government did not keep pace with the increased costs, increased costs that this Government and the Government at Ottawa have allowed to run unbridled all this time.

I want to talk a little bit about Yellow Creek. This is a little village in my constituency that in 1954 had a bad flood. The people had to go to their houses with boats. Now on the Order Paper of February 20, a question was asked by Mr. Pepper (Weyburn) — I am referring to the question here to see what this Government has done. I don't quarrel with what the Government has done. It has given Estevan \$20,000. It has given Glenavon \$1,000; Moose Jaw \$22,000. There appears to be an omission that Lumsden might have received something as it is not on the Order Paper, but it could have been an innocent error and I wouldn't mind slipping over that. I don't quarrel with these types. When a town or a village is in trouble like this, I say the Provincial Government should help. Under CCF government, during the time of the late Henry Begrand two bridges were given to Yellow Creek. Do you know what happened when the Liberals came in? They deducted the price of those bridges from their winter works program,

some ten years after the bridges had been built in Yellow Creek.

Now I am going to read a letter to this, House from the Minister of Highways, Mr. Willis, who was the Minister at that time, dated 1963. Look, you went and peeled that \$3,700 or \$3,800 off the village of Yellow Creek and I am not going to describe the manner that you used, but they would have as much right today to peel off \$3,800 from the SHSP collection and be just as honest as you are. Now I am going to read this letter and I am going to table it too. This is to the Mayor of the Village of Yellow Creek, Tony Dorosh, July 2, 1963:

HON. D.G. STEUART: (Provincial Treasurer) — 1963?

MR. THIBAUT: — Yes. That is when the CCF wrote those bridges off for them and you got after them and peeled it off them. Yes, I'll table the letter and you can have a look at it, Mr. Member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart).

The bridge mentioned in your note to me was built by Highways but at the request of Municipal Road Assistance Authority. Municipal Road Assistance Authority has paid the entire amount owing to Highways and as I am informed the RM of Invergordon has paid in full Municipal Road Assistance Authority for cost of the bridge.

You didn't say but it appears that the RM is trying to recover part of the costs of Yellow Creek. This is entirely between the village and the RM. Highways nor Municipal Road Assistance Authority would have nothing to say re this. Sorry that I didn't have time to talk this over with you.

In answer to your inquiry there is nothing to be written off by Highways.

Signed: Hon. George Willis, Minister of Highways.

I want to tell you that last year or the year before the price of those bridges was deducted from the winter works program and said that it wasn't done right. Here, I will table this letter and they can have a look at it.

You can peel a small town that was in just as big trouble as Lumsden when they had to go between their houses with boats. All the CCF gave them was two bridges to overcome the flooding. You come along and say, "You voted CCF, you guys, and we will fix you." I can see no other reason. I hope that you will correct the situation. If you don't, when we form the Government again I can tell Yellow Creek they will get their money.

Now I want to talk about the Budget. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the percentage of the Budget that is allocated to

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Municipal Affairs. In 1960 it was 6.2, and not counting the homeowner grant in 1969 it is 4.3. I think that pretty well points out that you are not keeping pace with the increased costs. Another place that the Provincial Treasurer (Mr. Steuart) could save a little money is on the refund for building granaries. Under a CCF Government if you bought a motor at McLeods or any hardware store, all you had to do to have a refund on your tax was to sign a form and it was deducted. But now you have to get the form filled out at the Municipality. I saw a fellow getting \$15 and he had to drive 15 miles to have this form filled out. And then he gets a nice little letter, good propaganda, "This is to help the farmer." This could have been deducted at the lumber yard just like we have been deducting it for gasoline engines and farm equipment.

MR. STEUART: — Federal . . .

MR. THIBAUT: — Now look here. The Federal Government refunded sales tax too. The lumber yard looked after it; we didn't have to do anything. Everything was settled at the lumber yard and we didn't have to travel. Now I think this goes to show how this Government is spending a lot of money trying to buy votes. Why don't you tell the youngsters that you are going to refund them on the hot dogs? By golly, this would be a real publicity stunt! That's an idea. You might try it and I don't doubt that you will.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — Now I want to say a few words about the cost of machinery. I think that one thing that has been missed out a lot is the price of parts. We talk about the high cost of tractors and combines but there needs to be a looking into the price of parts. I want to bring out here the price of one little piece of gas line that is about eight inches long. Most of the farmers will know what engine I am relating to. It is a water-cooled engine, International five horsepower with the pulley on the cam shaft and the flywheel on the crank shaft. That little gas line with two brass fittings and a check valve on the bottom in 1961 sold for \$6.62 and today the list price in the catalogue at the dealers is \$13.04 for a little piece of gas line about eight inches long — it is no longer than that, maybe even shorter.

I tell you that the Government did not only take the farmers to cleaners. I am not blaming the agents, as they took the agents to, the cleaners too. They are not the ones making the profit. I want to say that in my constituency I made the rounds last fall. You know I get around and ask my people how they feel about certain things. Out of all the agents that I contacted there is only one that said, "If the storm doesn't last too long I might survive." But all the rest of them said, "We are in serious trouble." Yes, Liberal times are hard times.

You can say that again.

Another part that I want to bring to your attention and I have a whole list here. I could table it if you want me to. On request I will give it to you. It's an IHC price list. The governor weight is just a piece of cast from a 40 horsepower tractor, structure parts taken into consideration. The list price in 1961 was \$3.87, today \$7.60, an increase of \$3.70. They are in very common use, a molded piece of cast with one hole through it. Big deal!

AN HON. MEMBER: — How big is the hole?

MR. THIBAUT: — No, I'll leave that to Mr. Athabasca (Mr. Guy) as he is very familiar with that. There is another part that all the farmers in this House are acquainted with, which is the standard seed drill disk boot. That is where the two double disks are bolted in on the casting and a spout comes in from the top and a spring from the back, and so on. You farmers know what I am talking about. It has been manufactured the same way for 35 years. It hasn't changed. In 1960 it was sold for \$8.17 and do you know what it is today? And I bet all they did was paint the old one. They never set the mould again. \$20.56. No price control!

You know when I asked the Minister of Agriculture last year how much he was spending on research, he was scratching in his papers like a hen for a kernel of wheat and he couldn't find it. There is some research to be done, Mr. Minister of Agriculture. The farmers are being taken to the cleaners and the agents along with it, because the Barber Commission says that labor and sales have nothing to do in the high price of machinery.

I could go on, but I think I have illustrated enough parts to prove my point.

AN HON. MEMBER: — A good job, Art.

MR. THIBAUT: — What we need now, . . . they're talking about more study! We ought to check if the Barber Commission is right. Well look here, all the studies have been made. We want action, get to work.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — The farmers have been rooked by \$15 million. Maybe I'm not using the proper term, but anyway you know what I mean. Let's get to work and see that something is done about it, because time is running out.

AN HON. MEMBER: — All we want to do is

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investigate it!

MR. THIBAUT: — They want to investigate! They're good at investigating, but when it comes to doing something, boy, do they run out and hide.

What can we do? One of the first things is price control. Who has done away with price control? A good question. The Liberals, the Conservatives supported by the Social Credit, that wanted a dog-eat-dog society after the last war! It's a case of the rich and the greedy who wanted to be a part of society, but who do not want to pull their fair share of the load. They show no responsibility whatsoever as to what they do to society as a whole. I say again, research is needed. Get on with the job.

Now, I'll say a few words about agriculture. We know it is on the rocks and something should be done about it. Do you know, I have been talking for 20 minutes — I'm going to cause trouble here.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Just seems like five minutes.

MR. THIBAUT: — When we talk about agriculture, they say we have got to reduce the production of wheat. For a whole week in this province we have listened to a program, Project 70 on drugs and pollution. We were told over and over again that the supply of food and the population of the world would cross in 1972. If this is the case and when we have between 25 and 40 per cent of the people in the world starving, in Saskatchewan we are going to reduce food production. It just doesn't make sense. I don't know, I think we better have another look at this business of cutting back production. I think John Diefenbaker had a good suggestion when he said, "Put our people to work and build terminals and store this food for when it will be needed." That would make sense as well.

Now another thing I want to point out to the Minister is that I go along with this hog production program he has got going. I don't quarrel with the hog barns, but he must check and see the increase in the hog population and give direction after the proper research has been done, so that we don't have a program of free pork after a while. This is liable to happen. I am warning you now that you had better have a close look at that one. Now, I am not interested in publicity stunts like we have had so many times in this province.

Barter deals! Oh boy, it really makes some farmers feel good especially if they are so Liberal that they can't see any thing else. But McNamara says it didn't sell a single bushel of wheat. Oh,, but Ross Thatcher keeps coming back, the Premier keeps coming back, "Oh, it is selling a lot' of wheat!" I'm going to tell you something. The farmers know that the wheat is rotting on the prairies and the terminals are empty. Is this

being held up only for an election? Are you waiting only to move wheat when the election will be called? Is this what the plan is? Playing with the farmer to that extent is not going to be forgiven by the people of this province.

I have no doubt that there is inquiry needed into the handling of our grain. But I am satisfied that we wouldn't have to dig too far, that we would find the Liberals buried underneath doing the work. When they use politics to that extent, I don't buy it. I'll go along sometimes to stretch a little one way or the other, but when you are going to cause the ruination of agriculture in Western Canada, this is going a little too far. It is not only the farmer. Fifty per cent of our economy depends on the farmer. And what is happening? I'll tell you that after a while.

Now if we want to look for markets, let's look at our balance of trade. Let's be aware of that. Britain buys from us \$496 million more than we do from them. We had better have a look whether we are treating them fairly. From the United States we buy \$938 million more than we sell to them. With France, we have a minus of \$50 million; with Japan, \$267 million — a plus. You think the Japanese are going to take that forever. We had better find a way of dealing with the Japanese, even this thing up a little bit and we would sell more products. With India, \$102 million more from us than we buy from them; China, \$66 million. I say that we should look into our trade pattern and I have no doubt in my mind that we could improve our position in Western Canada by doing so.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — I would say, after the present time, after the administration that we've had for so long, too long . . . I want to remind the Minister of Agriculture when he was speaking with Hazen Argue at Weyburn of the time when they said, "Grow wheat like hell." I don't like these announcements coming after a fund-raising banquet, because too often they are not too responsible. We want responsible announcements that the farmers can count on. We need a crash program. I say that the Western provinces should form an association of getting together, but not do like the Premier is trying to do. I have listened to him from the beginning of the Session and all he is interested in is running the Premier of Manitoba into the ground, when he has got more problems than he can solve.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — That's all he is doing. You had better try to get along with Premier Schreyer, get along with Alberta and British Columbia. Let's walk together, like brothers.

Now I want to read a portion of a letter that comes from my constituency in the Wakaw Recorder, February 5, 1970. I

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don't know what the man's political background is, but he has something to say about the Conservatives. His final paragraph is this, signed by Geza Nagy:

The Western farmers have been good sheep this far.

I think when the Minister of Agriculture is tightening up on education, I always think this way. You know the less education you give to people the better sheep they make. I think we better have a look at this. I'll continue with the letter:

Ottawa, each year, has clipped our wool for a good profit. Now they are taking our hides. You can take the wool off the sheep every year but the hide only once. This applies to everyone — farmers, labourers, businessmen, professionals and others. Act now before it is too late — or are you all waiting for social welfare?

I would advise you read the whole letter, because it is a good one. I think we had better leave the hide alone, but right now the farmer and the small businessmen and the workers are getting their hides pulled off.

Now to tell you, Mr. Speaker . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: — Table it.

MR. THIBAUT: — Anything you want tabled, you can come up and get it.

MR. STEUART: — The last one you wrote, but I just wanted . . .

MR. THIBAUT: — No, I didn't write that. It's from the Wakaw Recorder.

Now I want to say how effective our Liberal Government has been in my constituency. I am going to talk about population. My golly, just listen to that.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Listen to that.

MR. THIBAUT: — Hey now listen here, you had better worry about those kids, if they ever find you sleeping in your desk, you'll never get elected again.

I want to give you the population figures for 1964-1968 in my constituency. The municipalities that I am referring to are the municipalities that are in the whole or in part in my constituency, some of it borders on the Member for Humboldt (Mr. Breker). Invergordon in 1964 had 2,108 of a population. I took that from the municipal records. In 1968, 1,550 for a loss of 558. That is one municipality and it is all in my constituency. St. Louis — 2,207 in 1964; 1968 — 2,000, a loss of 200. Flett's Spring in 1964, 1,590; 1968, 1,300, a loss of 290. Now, you can check your own, you can check any one across

the province and you will find out the pattern. Now take Three Lakes with 1,880 in 1964 went down to 1,010, for a loss of 770. It is because you along with the Ottawa Liberals have ruined Western agriculture. An unbridled free enterprise system. Now Fish Creek in 1964 a population of 1,063, down to 856, a minus of 207. The next one is Kinistino RM with a minus of 525. Another one is Birch Hills with a minus of 171, for a total of 2,731 people in four years. There is a bright side to the picture, boys. Don't get carried away. The town of Wakaw with a population of 989 in 1964 went up to 1,005, a plus of 16. Kinistino has a plus of 115. Birch Hills has a plus of 58 with a total deficit of 2,497. I have got a little more help here, I have six villages in my constituency and out of the six villages, St. Brieux went up by 52 and Weldon went up by 34. Now you cannot blame that on the Frenchmen, because we are Scandinavian in Weldon and French in St. Brieux. If you total the entire issue it shows a gain of 13. So you have improved the situation a little bit. Here you have the population figures.

Where are those 80,000 jobs? That's the answer to that. The acid test.

Another thing that I looked into was the family allowance record. That is the working group of our people, the fellows who have young kids. You think it is funny, it is not funny. That's the working class. You should act a little more responsibly, Mr. Attorney General. This is why the Attorney General wrote the kind of letters he did.

Now in 1968, we had a departure from this province of families that are registered in the Family Allowance records of 1,160. For the 12 month period it amounted to 1,280. Now for the first 11 months of 1969 the latest figures that we can get, they showed a loss of 2,755 families, more than double of the working group that left this province Mr. Speaker, do you think that these people have jobs. The best business in Regina right now they tell me is the trucking business moving people out of Saskatchewan. Here you must believe Mr. Pepin when he came in not so long ago and told you that Saskatchewan lost 48,000 from 1965-1968. Will you believe him? It is a bad situation, Mr. Speaker, and with all the promises that were made very little was done about it.

Now I want to say a few words about interest rates. I think the general public should know that the banks are able to loan money at a ratio of 1:12. In other words, for every dollar they have they can lend \$12. They have the audacity to charge, 9, 10 and 15 per cent interest on that money. We never hear this Government saying anything about it. It is just plain robbery. Who took the ceiling off on the interest rates, if it isn't Mr. Trudeau? He took it off and said they were going to go down. What happened to them? At a time when the farmers are having a desperate situation on their hands, the United States, right across the border, is letting the farmers have money at three per cent interest. That makes sense, but there is no justification in charging that kind of interest at a time when we are in

desperate need. You know, they remind me, I have got a pig pen at home. Once in awhile the sow breaks through the fence and gets into the slop pail. You can't do a blasted thing until she is done eating, before you can get her back into that pen. She has got to know that the pail is empty. When the farmers are right down and out, then there is somebody that is going to realize that the pail is empty and we had better do something about it. We are governed by a group of people in my mind that think more of money than they do of their souls.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about my Indian people. I have Indians in my constituency, I'd like to cover this. I didn't speak on the Budget. This is the first time I have got on my feet and I hope you will bear with me. I've just got a few dozen pages left. In my constituency, we have two reserves. I want to put it to you this way. The Indian people are very interested in the new right of having the right to vote, but too many decisions are made from on top and just dropped in on them. They would like to have more say in decision-making. In 1754 the first wheat that was grown in this province was grown at Ft. a la Corne. I want the Minister of Municipal Affairs to pay attention to this. They are surveying a grid road that is going to bury this plot. They would like that plot to be kept for an historic site; there is nothing wrong with it. For sentimental reasons I think their request should be granted. Another thing is the community pasture which is mostly used by white people. The Indians have about 100 or less head in the community pasture and the whites have over 700 head. They want a program so that eventually they will have control over the entire herd of cattle that is in the community pasture. I want to give you another message that the Indians wanted me to tell to this House, and that is that the present Government promises are getting bigger and bigger and harder and harder to swallow.

Mr. Speaker, it would appear that under a Liberal Government the only time that we can have prosperity is when our sons are shedding their blood on the battle fields and the mother is home weeping. It is quite clear that we cannot afford a war and we cannot afford an unbridled capital system. In 1964 we gave you a hospital plan with \$10 million in the kitty. You were the custodians of that plan. What did you do with it? This could apply to many other remarks, such as research and so on. The people gave you the job of being the custodian of those plans and you went ahead and spent money like a bunch of drunken sailors. It's going to be Homecoming '71 not too long from now and it will be coming home '71 for medicare, hospitalization, the bridges for Yellow Creek, war for price control and homecoming for better relations with Ottawa and our neighboring provinces, with an NDP Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — All we have heard from the present Government is to

drive a wedge between people, teachers, trustees — you name it and we have got it — between provinces and so on. Let us learn to get along with each other, Mr. Speaker, let us learn to share the fruit of the earth. There is going to be plenty for all of us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THIBAUT: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I will not support the Budget but I will support the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

HON. C.L.B. ESTEY: (Minister of Municipal Affairs) — Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Provincial Treasurer on not only the Budget which he has brought in, but the method in which he presented that Budget.

It now appears I submit that the Members of the Opposition have placed themselves in a position where they will vote against this motion and are therefore voting against such things as increasing the homeowner grants, against increased assistance to rural municipalities under the Municipal Road Authority. They are voting against increasing operating grants — and this is most important, Mr. Speaker — for education especially in the field of our primary and secondary schools. To vote against this Budget is also to vote against expanding social welfare and every capital project which is called for in 1970. I can tell this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, that the Budget which is before this House will increase the allotment to each of our municipalities in 1970 for the construction of grid and farm access roads by a minimum of 15 per cent. A vote against this Budget, I submit, Mr. Speaker, can signify only one thing, namely that the opposition objects to the proposed allotment of funds for the Municipal Road Authority.

Every Member opposite appears to agree that additional assistance should be given to our native people, but by voting against this Budget the Members opposite are opposing a 100 per cent increase in the construction of roads on Indian Reserves. By voting against the Budget they are opposing an increase in the construction of bridges in our municipalities where the Province pays 100 per cent of the cost. It is also obvious that insofar as the urban centres are concerned that the Opposition are opposed to the increase for gravelling our streets in our hamlets, villages and towns.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the Members from Saskatoon, Regina, Swift Current, Weyburn and North Battleford apparently oppose assistance to those municipalities for police protection, snow removal and so on. The Members opposite continually want us to believe that they are interested in the health and the welfare of our people, but when they oppose this Budget they condemn the increase given to our health grants and

the increase to our libraries.

During the speech of the financial critic (Mr. Blakeney) we heard a long discourse on the mineral production in our province. The Opposition critic informed us that his information was obtained from the Annual Report of the Department of Mineral Resources. I want to refer for a moment to this report, where it sets out the annual mineral production of our province on a five-year basis over the past ten years. Our minerals are divided into metals, fuels, and industrial minerals. We were led to believe by the opposition critic that the dollar value of mineral production in Saskatchewan has fallen to a disastrous figure. I want to draw to the attention of this House that in order to prove his case the opposition critic did not deal with the total production, as set out, on pages 8 and 9 of the report to which he referred, but merely to that section dealing with metals. It is quite true that the metal section of the Mineral Resources Report showed a decline in five years of \$17 million, but there is also a decline in one metal, namely uranium in that five-year period of \$23 million. Therefore, there must have been an increase in mineral production. The Opposition critic, Mr. Speaker, conveniently failed to mention in 1968-69 the Province of Saskatchewan produced 8,350,000 pounds of lead and over one half million pounds of nickel. This production did not exist in 1963-64.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ESTEY: — I want to further point out that when you come to the value of fuel, such as coal, natural gas and petroleum, that in 1968-69, and I am quoting from the same record as the opposition critic referred to, our production in that year in dollars of coal, natural gas and petroleum amounted to \$217,530,000, while in the great year 1964, the production of those fuels amounted to only \$174,658,000. Again I am quoting from the same book as the Opposition critic.

Now let us turn to industrial minerals, we'll go to another section, conveniently not referred to. The story is the same. In the fiscal year of 1968-69 the production in dollars of what is referred to as industrial metals, amounted to \$102,712,000 — yes, we are referring to the same book, Mr. Member from Touchwood (Mr. Meakes) — whereas in the fiscal year 1963-64 the production of these industrial minerals — and listen to this was \$41,200,000. In other words, in five years of Liberal, Government, there was an increase in the production in dollars of our industrial minerals of \$61 million. Mr. Speaker, if you take this report, you will find that the total mineral production in 1968-69 in Saskatchewan amounted to \$336,993,590 and in 1963-64 the production amounted to \$279,100,000. Mr. Speaker, I submit that what I have just said is a true picture of the mineral production in Saskatchewan based on the report of the Department of Mineral Resources.

It is also interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the

opposition critic, whenever it suited his argument or his presentation, switched from tonnage to dollars and back again. Take for example potash. We heard the value of potash, every child on the street knows the potash price has gone down, but the tonnage hasn't.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to turn for a moment to the Indian and Métis Department. I believe that significant progress has been made in this Department since its establishment some ten months ago. I am the first to admit that a great deal remains to be accomplished and that assistance will be required from every sector of our society. I am also firmly convinced that the questions involved cannot be solved by any grandiose program, for we must realize we are dealing with people who, like any other group of people, contain persons with different aptitudes and we must therefore have many programs. However, I am firmly convinced that the upgrading courses, courses in large machinery, pulp-cutting courses and so on, are vitally necessary for the success of this Department. We have during the first ten months of our existence worked closely with the Department of Education in the operation of these upgrading courses and with the Saskatchewan Indian and Métis Association. A representative, I might point out, of the Métis Association, works with our department and with the Department of Education in planning these upgrading and other courses. During the present fiscal year, as the Minister of Education mentioned, approximately 1,000 Métis will attend these courses and I believe just about the same number of Indians. There is little point, I submit, Mr. Speaker, in obtaining a position for a person unless that person has some fluency in the English language both as a reader and as a writer. For example, a person must be able to read safety regulations prior to obtaining a position. Therefore, these upgrading courses, in my opinion, must continue at the present level and be even expanded. During this year we were advised by the Federal Government that it could no longer provide financial assistance for upgrading courses as far as the Métis people were concerned, and the Province has assumed the total expense of these upgrading courses insofar as the Métis people are concerned, and I believe we will have to continue to assume this expense. One very encouraging sign insofar as these upgrading courses are concerned, Mr. Speaker, is that we are now receiving requests from the people themselves to attend courses. There has also been an improvement in the last two years in the rate of attendance. There appears to be more regularity in the attendance.

I now want to say something about one or two projects which are underway in the Department and again I want to impress on the Members that I am not attempting to say that we have done everything. It is a large question, I think it is going to take a great deal of time, but I do want to say that we have had cooperation from those Métis and Indian people with whom we have come in contact. One project I want to refer to for a moment is the Delta Mutual Outfitters project near Cumberland House. This is an ARDA project in which the Provincial Government pays 50 per cent and the Federal Government pays 50 per cent. It involves

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a group of people of about 60. Some years ago this group did trapping in an area between the Saskatchewan and Carrot Rivers, which is apparently a very good area for muskrat. Then in 1968, this group of their own volition commenced an outfitting business in a small way. They then came to the Government for assistance and through ARDA we signed an agreement whereby \$86,000 would be spent in this area in the years 1969-70 and 1970-71. In the present fiscal year we have allotted \$30,000 to that project with the work being done by the group, and out-camps have been built and such things as canoes and motors acquired. This camp opened for a very short period for only part of one of the seasons and took in from a few hunters in excess of \$5,000, and that, does not include the revenue from trapping. This appears to be a project where there is a real possibility of success.

We also entered into a contract with the Extension Department of the University to provide management training and homemaking and approximately 200 Métis women asked for and received that training.

We have continued courses in pulp wood and its cutting and it is our hope that within the next two or three years even more of our people will be employed in the pulp-cutting industry in Northern Saskatchewan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ESTEY: — We also made a grant to the Cumberland House Wood Products venture which had financial difficulties. The grant, I believe, amounted to \$15,000 and it is our hope that this enterprise is again one that will benefit the people involved. It is interesting to note that the people involved in that project have asked the Economic Branch of our Department to supply advice in the field of management. We have had several hospitals initiate a hospital-training program which we hope to expand. Insofar as the aid to handicrafts is concerned we are still continuing the program with ARDA. At the present time there are around 200 women in Northern Saskatchewan involved in the manufactural art-making of these handicrafts. The price has been increased during the past year for handicrafts which are sold as you know through an organization in La Ronge and we hope that this is now well on the way to being a financial success. We have enlarged our placement staffs in Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon and have also placement officers in La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows. During the period April 1, 1969 to June 2, 1970, permanent and temporary work was found through these placement officers for 1580 persons. Of that figure we regard around 1000 as temporary or training positions. We have many people in the Civil Service as the Premier pointed out the other day who are receiving training and awaiting permanent positions. During the present fiscal year our training program in the Civil Service alone will cost approximately \$900,000. It is my opinion that we must continue our efforts in making, an even greater effort to find greater employment in our private sector. One of the real

bright spots in a private sector is this Anglo-Rouyn Mine at La Ronge which now has a staff with around 30 per cent native people and has for some time been carrying on two training programs. I doubt very much if there is any company in Canada with a better record of both training and employing native people than the Anglo-Rouyn Mine.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ESTEY: — A great deal has been said about the IPSCO project and I don't wish to dwell on that at any length except to say that this program has been organized by a committee on which the Saskatchewan Federation of Indians and the Métis Association are represented. There are other representatives on it from the Task Force. When IPSCO came to the Task Force, this committee investigated the financial possibilities of this project and also received independent advice which was to the effect that this project had every possibility of being a financial success. I might say one great advantage of this project is that Native Metals — that is going to be the name I understand — will not have to put out one cent for inventory. The inventory will be brought there by IPSCO on consignment and placed at Native Metals' disposal. It goes back to IPSCO with a price added on for preparing the metal. As of this date the location is right next to IPSCO. It has been fenced and a spur line put in; gas lines have already been placed. As the Member for Regina South West (Mr. McPherson), speaking earlier today stated, the first group of people in the IPSCO project are now in Weyburn receiving training in the using of torches and safety devices. The real benefit of this project, as I see it, Mr. Speaker, is that once you get into further phases there are phases in this project which can be carried out near or on Indian Reserves or Métis settlements. The question of the eventual ownership of this program will of course be determined by this committee, but as of this date I am told that it is hoped the ownership will invest in those persons who are employed in the enterprise.

But I want to emphasize again because I would hate to have anyone feel that I am standing up here saying 'All is well.' I am the first to admit that the surface has just been scratched, but I think, with the cooperation of the Indian and Métis people and of those Indians and Métis who seek assistance from the Department, that over a period of years a real advancement can be made insofar as this question is concerned. Mr. Speaker, I think it is obvious that I will support the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F.K. RADLOFF: (Nipawin) — Mr. Speaker, and Members. Of the Legislature, entering the Budget Debate, I accept the opportunity to present a few thoughts to the Members of the Legislature. On Monday and Wednesday of this week I listened to two long harangues by a Regina

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Member, the Member for Regina Centre, the financial critic of the Opposition (Mr. Blakeney). To me it sounded something like the same old bunkum that he repeats year after year. Guilty parties and individuals are vociferous when trying to cover up past sins. The financial critic cries about robbing piggy banks. If this is so, it must be some secret funds that the NDP had overlooked, and now the Member for Prince Albert West (Mr. Steuart) has found these funds and is channelling them into the use for Saskatchewan people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Our Hon. Minister of Finance is still with us and has not disappeared to warmer climates as others have done. This assures the people of the province that all funds are being properly channelled.

Mr. Speaker, as we begin this Session I look across the way, I am almost overcome with disappointment. It is most unfortunate that the two distinguished servants of the public, the Member for Prince Albert East-Cumberland (Mr. Berezowsky) and the Member for Melfort (Mr. Willis) have been removed from the front benches. It is unfortunate that the genial Mayor of the city of Regina, the Member for Regina South East (Mr. Baker) has been ignored and stays in his same old seat. Now definitely out of the leadership race his dreams are the grandest in the land and a real free enterpriser. I guess these dreams are not acceptable to the Socialist hierarchy. The three men mentioned have done yeoman service for the NDP and now have been forcefully put out to pasture. Along with the bad, along comes some good. I am happy to see the Member from Kelsey (Mr. Messer) in the front row. It is very apparent that the Member for Kelsey is now being selected to take over the leadership when the Member for Biggar (Mr. Lloyd) retires.

Monday was a special day for the people of Saskatchewan, when the Hon. Dave Steuart presented his Budget for the 1970-71 fiscal year, a Budget that provides increased assistance for increased services for the people of Saskatchewan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, to present a Budget without major tax increases and some tax cuts in this day and age speaks well for the Minister's ability and judgment. The Hon. Dave Steuart is a financial genius to be able to manage the economy of Saskatchewan so efficiently during these most difficult days.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — One can say the impossible has been accomplished. The people of the city of Prince Albert can be proud of their representative in the Liberal Government. An immoral propaganda

machine is doing its utmost to destroy the Hon. Dave Steuart, a man who has done a tremendous job for Prince Albert City and district.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — I have heard rumors that there are many people spreading malicious and avarice babble to create confusion in that area. The Hon. Dave Steuart cannot be defeated at the polls in an honorable way.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Many, false rumors are being spread to undermine his position. Callous bunkum and claptrap by a decadent and deceptive organization will fool some people but thinking, honest people will continue to give the Member for Prince Albert West their support.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Socialist cry baby fanatics have disillusioned the people of the province and are now trying to re-establish themselves with some fictitious glorifications of their powers, trying desperately to cover up their ruthless and underground activities. People know who publishes the Prairie Fire, the Brown Paper, the dirty papers. People know who is spreading the filth among high school youths. I have seen some copies of these papers. I would be ashamed to be associated with these publishers in any way.

Mr. Speaker, 1969 has been a year of shock, of adversity, of illusion promoted by impulsive, incorrigible and some gullible people who are easily misled. 1969 has also been a year of recognition, recognition by the people of Saskatchewan that Saskatchewan has strong, honest, devoted leadership by men who are prepared to fight for Saskatchewan's rights and Saskatchewan's needs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Premier Thatcher and his Cabinet Members recognize the many diverse and complicated problems of the province. People must give credit where credit is due. Mr. Speaker, not in the least are sometimes unreasonable wage demands coupled with sometimes inconsiderate union activity. In particular I refer to union activity programmed to hinder grain shipments east, west, north and south.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, I have been

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informed that whenever Canada does make a large grain shipment, union leaders in the United States demand that Canadian union members strike so that United States ports receive the benefits.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — There can be doubts as to who controls United States unions and Canadian affiliated unions. Is it the evil, the lustful and the brutal, corrupt, cunning Mafia organization?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Was the killing of Joseph Yablonski, his wife and daughter an example of union leadership activity?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — There are men who will take any type of action to eradicate opposition, stoop to any crime, to any immoral purpose, to make money, who will promote any illicit activity to destroy our social order, and to make it easier for their organizations to carry on the nefarious design.

Mr. Speaker, Mafia leaders are most pernicious killers and plunderers, the most ruthless, savage men ever to inhabit the face of the earth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Crime with all its implications is their god, deceit and extortion their way of life. It is unfortunate that NDP Opposition Members have allowed their party to be controlled by the labor movement, the policies dictated by the United States labor organizations, possibly corrupted by the slimy sordid evil subversive Mafia organization activity and leadership.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the possible infiltration of the NDP organization provides greater opportunity for Mafia control to impregnate all levels of governments and financial institutions are making a mockery of their duties, not because they want to, but sometimes they are forced to by the tentacles of control exerted by criminal elements.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, our high interest rates are an innovation of power-hungry Mafia-controlled financial barons to obtain the remainder of the economy after taking all they can

by direct criminal operations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, typical and most obvious is the promotion of the monstrous drug traffic by Mafia leaders with the obvious intent of destroying the moral fibre and determination of our people, in particular our most intelligent young people. Socialist propaganda coupled with support from the criminal element is encouraging the sit-ins, the rantings, the ravings, and the radical protest of the lunatic fringe.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, Communist and Socialist plans and policies can only be put into operation with the love of freedom, the love of independence, and the love of accomplishment being destroyed. Mr. Speaker, hate and violence propaganda must be controlled, Communist sympathizers and Mafia crime-leaders isolated, their operations eliminated. The price for the people is eternal vigilance. Mr. Speaker, another major confrontation for Saskatchewan people is the outmoded policies and selling programs of our Canadian Wheat Board. Saskatchewan people are faced with economic disaster unless drastic action is taken by the Canadian Wheat Board to clear out the dead wood and build an aggressive selling organization. The big question being asked in the Nipawin area is: is the Canadian Wheat Board a sick organization led by power-hungry leaders who are heedless of the grain producers' needs?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — According to reports wheat markets have been lost in close to 100 countries. Mr. Roberts of Lethbridge states he had a sale of 4 million bushels of barley to the American people for the feeding of livestock and the sale was stopped by Wheat Board officials. It is calamitous that small-minded officials are ruthlessly bent on the fiscal disintegration of prairie people. New policies to provide increased financial returns for small farmers are imperative.

Mr. Speaker, we are all thankful that we still have leaders like Premier Ross Thatcher, men who will stand up and be counted, men who realize the urgent need for concrete action and speedy plans. It is grimly ironic how the welfare state mania grows by feeding on itself. Acceptance of Socialist thinking is destroying the initiative of the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Premier Thatcher knows that the only real cure for poverty is production with markets for that production. Criticism without thought comes easy for many inconsiderate and thoughtless people. The speedy exchange of products between producer and consumer means a higher standard of living for all people. If there is no money for exchange then the products must be traded by any

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means to avoid complete stagnation. Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan can say, "Go to it, Ross, barter, swap, trade, we must make our food available to the hungry, needy people of the world."

MR. BLAKENEY: Regina Centre) — Go, Ross!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, our short-memored opposition Leader, Mr. Woodrow Lloyd, makes endless demands for crash programs of job-creating projects, the NDP programs that crashed and created unemployment. The Liberal incentives as outlined by the Provincial Treasurer and the Premier will create work for needy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, people of Saskatchewan easily remember the Member from Biggar with his piddling effort while Premier of the Province. The only new jobs provided by his Government were for his followers and supporters of his party. It will take Saskatchewan a hundred years to recover all the opportunities lost during those 20 years of Socialist misdirected planning.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, all communities welcome the incentive program. Many new industries will find welcome homes in the designated localities. Nipawin constituency has received many benefits from being located in a designated area. I think in particular of the highly successful development by Agro Industries Ltd., producers of high quality rapeseed oil. Hundreds of farmers have received increased returns from the production of rape. In fact many owe their survival to this progressive firm.

The people of Northern Saskatchewan are hopeful that the designated area location with Government financial support will encourage more development and utilization of our vast mineral and natural resources of the Nipawin constituency. Mr. Speaker, for years and years the people of Northern Saskatchewan have suffered from inadequate roads and highway development. Misguided Socialist planners thought mud and water was a just tribulation for pioneering citizens who had to move from the south of the province because of the severe drought during the 30s.

Fortunately, Saskatchewan has a Highways Minister who recognizes the many road requirements. The people of my constituency have only words of praise for the forthright and determined way the Hon. Dave Boldt is completing his program of road and highway extension. They particularly want to express their thanks for the completion of the Nipawin-Carrot River to

The Pas Highway, the road requested for many years and nothing done about it by the NDP.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — In 1861, Henry Kelsey travelled overland west from The Pas towards the fork of the Saskatchewan River, almost the same route as the new highway is following. By September 30th of this year the road will be completed over the old Kelsey trail connecting the Carrot River-Nipawin area to The Pas. The highway will provide vast opportunities for recreation, industry and agriculture. The highway will provide a new gateway to the North. The Kelsey Trail skirting the High Pasqua Hills along the Carrot River will be one of the most scenic in Western Canada. Last year an estimated 100,000 tourists visited the Tobin Lake-Squaw Rapids area. The giant pike caught in the lakes and rivers continue to attract people from all over the continent. With the opening of the Kelsey Trail, the celebration of Cumberland's 200 years of settlement and Homecoming '71, one-half million tourists can be expected in the Nipawin constituency.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RADLOFF: — Mr. Speaker, agriculture remains our greatest resource. North-eastern Saskatchewan farmers continue to diversify. Many people have expressed appreciation of new Government programs devised to encourage faster diversification. North-eastern Saskatchewan farmers are among the most successful in Western Canada. They will long remember and appreciate Premier Thatcher's early advice that to be successful they must diversify their operations. Our farmers have diversified and are reaping the extra returns for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, people of the Nipawin constituency continue to ask for many things, not because they are greedy but for 20 years under the NDP little recognition was given to the many acute needs and problems.

Mr. Speaker, water pollution continues to be one of our major concerns. The Saskatchewan River system is one of the Nipawin constituency's most important assets. Pollution control must not be a slogan but a way of life. Pollution is a dirty word, according to statistics, water pollution has killed more people than all the wars of history. Let us bend every effort to make the water clean and the air pure.

Mr. Speaker, rapidly increasing prices of farm machinery have been the concern of our farmers. The Barber Report substantiates the farmers' thoughts. There must be a keen look and a search for alternate supplies at a more reasonable price. Farmers must become more flexible, more selective with more consideration of the countries who purchase Western Canada grains. It is ridiculous that Canadian farmers pay \$1,881 more for a single

unit.

Mr. Speaker, the surest solution of the farm equipment price crisis is for our farmers to shop European and Asian markets for equipment priced in line with returns received for prairie grain. Of continued concern to the farmers of North-eastern Saskatchewan is the slow movement of grain. They understand that the continued strikes during the past ten years by grain-handling employees have cost Canada over two years' sale of grain. Farmers selling grain to CPR delivery points in North-eastern Saskatchewan are becoming somewhat hostile about the unconcerned, nonchalant attitude of the Saskatchewan Wheat Board and Canadian Pacific Railway officials.

Many farmers in the area have not delivered a bushel since last July. Despite letters, discussions, little or no action has taken place. The block arrangements of shipping grain may provide some improvement. Acreage reduction payments may help a few farmers but nothing will substitute for an aggressive grain-selling agency. Growers are happy to hear and read that elevator companies are going to establish a strong aggressive Canadian grain-selling agency. It is time someone tried to revive the grain trade and make it prosperous.

Mr. Speaker, the Russian wheat policy is that the State tells the farmers to grow more wheat. The State takes the wheat and gives a pittance, arrests the farmer if he dares to dispose of his wheat privately. Any resemblance, Mr. Speaker, to the Canadian Wheat Board is purely coincidental. Outmoded regulations are overly restrictive.

There is one area of concern to people of the Nipawin constituency and these are the proposals put forward by the Hon. Mr. Benson in the White Paper on taxation. Many taxation proposals will discourage investment and development, destroy individual initiative and cause our young people to leave Saskatchewan for more inviting countries. Saskatchewan can ill afford to support some of the proposals outlined.

Saskatchewan people are at the cross-roads. It may be we are faced with a decision to make emergency political moves. It is time to ponder upon our future and to assess our position in Canada. Mr. Speaker, we must continue to press for solutions of the many injustices heaped upon Saskatchewan people. Unreasonable railway charges, high tariffs for protection of Eastern Canada interests and general unconcern for Western Canada problems. Future generations depend upon this Liberal Government to continue to meet the challenges successfully. The previous NDP Government blundered along. Typical of their planning is the fiasco of clearing Tobin Lake and the Squaw Rapids Dam area.

As the Squaw Rapids dam neared completion, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation pleaded with our government agencies, in particular the Department of Natural Resources, headed by the Member for The Battlefords (Mr. Kramer), to fulfil the agreement

to completely clear of trash the Tobin Lake basin. From 1959 to May 1963, the Member from The Battlefords and his Department again piddled around and very little was accomplished. Saskatchewan Power Corporation then allocated \$100,000 of its own funds for protection of the dam, ice-skimming structure and power plant. Booms were placed across the river and two tugs were purchased to trap the floating trees and logs.

The Member from The Battlefords, the Minister of Natural Resources with the NDP, with his poor administration and poor judgment has cost the people of Saskatchewan many thousands of dollars in extra expenses. Many people visiting Tobin Lake wonder how anyone in his right mind could have produced such a fiasco.

Mr. Speaker, in December 1963 with the hydro plant in use, it was established that it would cost \$1.5 million to remove the visible trash from Tobin Lake. This did not include removing sunken logs, trees or stumps. At the present time, to effectively clear the lake, it would have to be drained and allowed to dry out for two years. This would put the Squaw Rapids plant out of action for two years, requiring replacement of 281,000 kilowatt capacity. The plant at present supplies over 35 per cent of the province's power needs. It is obviously impossible to close the plant. Approximate cost of replacement capacity would be another \$50 million plus clearing costs in excess of \$2 million. As it stands the lake is an industrial reservoir with limited use for recreation, thanks to the Member for The Battlefords' faulty judgment and indecisive action.

Mr. Speaker, people will long continue to pay for the many errors and shortcomings. It is a costly error by the old NDP Government and should not be forgotten by the voters.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend special congratulations to our new Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable Stephen Worobetz and also congratulations from the people of Nipawin constituency. The Ukrainian people form an important segment of the population of the Nipawin constituency and of Saskatchewan.

Recognition of the immense contribution by Ukrainian people to the development and growth of Saskatchewan is provided by Dr. Worobetz's appointment to this distinguished position, by Prime Minister Trudeau on the recommendation of Premier Thatcher. It goes without saying that Dr. Worobetz is well qualified for the position and one of Saskatchewan's finest citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the decision by the Government to construct a new traffic bridge at Nipawin and the approval of renovations to the Nipawin hospital show continued recognition of Nipawin constituency needs.

Mr. Speaker, Nipawin constituency people approve of the progressive, sound legislation proposed in the Throne Speech and the Budget Speech. Continued progress and development are assured to the people of Saskatchewan. I can assure the Members

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of the Legislature that I will vote for the motion and against the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. MESSER: (Kelsey) — Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this Budget Debate, I first of all want to say something about the speech that was just delivered by the Hon. Member opposite (Mr. Radloff). If anything could be said about it, which is rather a tough proposition, but it could only be termed as laughable and a joke, an embarrassment to the Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — In fact, it is not even worth commenting on except to say that it is perfectly obvious that the clown prince has now moved over somewhere from that area further over to the right of the Assembly on that side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there were a number of statements made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McFarlane) yesterday that I would like to comment on. I want, in particular, to bring to the Minister's attention the inaccuracy of some of the statistics which he quoted at that time, in particular, population of livestock on farms. Using the Agricultural Annual Report 1968-1969 on page 346, there is a chart showing livestock on farms June 1, 1906 to 1968.

As June 1, 1964 would be the last complete statistics that would be available under the CCF Government, and comparing them with the June 1, 1968 statistics which are the last statistics this Government has in its agricultural report, we find: population of horses in Saskatchewan, June 1, 1964 — 83,000; June 1, 1968 — 65,000, a reduction of 18,000 as the Minister is probably well aware. To be fair I suppose we could expect a reduction in the number of horses in the province due to mechanization. But let's take a look at milk cows in the Province of Saskatchewan. June 1, 1964 — 190,000 milk cows; June 1, 1968 — 127,000 milk cows or a reduction, Mr. Minister, of 63,000 animals. Let's take a look at cattle. June 1, 1964 — 2,189,000 head in the province; June 1, 1968 — 2,096,000, a reduction, Mr. Minister, of 93,000 animals. The total cattle numbers in the Province of Saskatchewan as of June 1, 1964 — 2,379 million. June 1, 1968 — 2,223 million. A reduction of 156,000 animals. Sheep and lambs, June 1, 1964 — 153,000; June 1, 1968 — 128,000 or a reduction of 25,000 animals. In the case of hogs, June 1, 1964 — 556,000; June 1, 1968 — 508,000 or a reduction of 48,000 hogs. A reduction in every instance, Mr. Speaker. Not in one single area was there any increase yet the Minister has been trying to tell this Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan that never have the livestock numbers been so high as they are under this present Government.

If he wants to play a game of figures and statistics,

Mr. Speaker, let's take a look at the price of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep and lambs in Saskatchewan up to the end of 1968, which are the last complete figures that his report gives. Under the former CCF Government cattle were selling per hundredweight in 1962 at \$20.80, in, 1963 — \$20.20. Under the Liberal Government in 1964 the price of cattle per hundredweight dropped to \$18; in 1965 — \$18.50. Reductions in price, Mr. Speaker, not increases! In fact we can go back to 1951 and we find that under the then CCF Government cattle were selling for \$27.40 per hundred. If we compare that to the price of cattle in 1968 under the Liberal Government of \$23.20 we find a reduction in cattle prices of \$4.20 per hundredweight.

The Minister likes to quote statistics and perhaps he would like to hear what the net incomes of farm operators for farming operations in Saskatchewan were. In 1963 under a CCF Government their net income total was \$552,183,000. The next year under the Liberal Government the net income in Saskatchewan dropped to \$342,300,000, a reduction of \$210,185,000. If we compare the net income of farm operators in 1968 under the Liberal Government we find that their income for that year was \$479 million or a reduction of \$73 million in five years from the time the former CCF Government was in power in 1963.

Seeing the Minister and his Government would like to take credit for some of the windfall of statistics in regard to increased production or increased prices, I wonder what they have to say in regard to the prices of grain. Again using the Department of Agriculture's last annual report, on page 351 we find that in 1963 under the former CCF Government wheat was selling for \$1.75 per bushel. In 1968 prices realized \$1.34 per bushel. Oats in 1963 — 55 cents a bushel, in 1968 — 49 cents a bushel; barley 95 cents a bushel and in 1968 — 80 cents a bushel; flax — \$2.95 a bushel in 1963 and in 1968 — \$2.90; rye in 1963 — \$1.20 per bushel and in 1968 — 98 cents a bushel; rapeseed in 1963 — \$2.50 per bushel and in 1968 — \$1.80 per bushel.

Mr. Speaker, in every instance in regard to the prices of all grains grown in the Province of Saskatchewan we find a reduction from the last year the CCF were in power in comparison to 1968 when this Government opposite was in power. It isn't in all instances, though, that there are reductions in agriculture statistics in regard to what this Government has done for the Province of Saskatchewan.

I would like to bring to its attention page 326 of the Agricultural Annual Report, where there is a statement showing the areas of new breaking in Saskatchewan. In 1964 we find there were 310,000 acres of land broken by the CCF Government. In 1969 we find there were 400,000 acres broken by the Liberal Government — an increase of some 90,000 of new land. We finally, Mr. Speaker, come across an increase under the Liberal Government. But where was it? In an area where there should be reductions not increases. Under the present circumstances, and by their own admission, there should be less land cleared. Yet

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what do we find this Government doing? We find it increasing cleared land acreage. These are some of the facts, Mr. Speaker. These are some of the statistics that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McFarlane) should have been quoting yesterday rather than the inaccurate ones that he made mention of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — I want to briefly mention something about the introduction of the new quota system in regards to the new wheat inventory program that will apply for at least one year in this province under the quota year 1970 and 1971.

First of all I want to say that there is some merit in this wheat inventory-reduction program and the incentives that the Federal Government has offered in regard to reduction of wheat acreage. The proposed increase of some 22 million acres in summer fallow would certainly curb our production of wheat. The proposed 2 million acres to perennial forage would further reduce wheat production in Western Canada. The Federal Government compensation payments of \$6 per acre for summer fallow or \$10 per acre for additions to perennial forage are of some compensation to farmers in accepting this plan.

There are, however, Mr. Speaker, I believe a great many areas that are detrimental to Prairie farmers in this program. In discussing these areas of criticism, I want to make it perfectly clear that I do it in a constructive way in the hope that action will be taken in order to remove some of the problems that farmers will be confronted with in this program.

I believe in the instance of the \$6 per acre for summer fallow, that it is unrealistic to expect that all farmers in Saskatchewan will accept this. I say this simply because of the varied cost of summer fallow in this province. I am sure that all Members of this Assembly, as all people involved in the farming industry, will agree with me that the costs of summer fallowing in various areas of the province fluctuate greatly from other areas. An example of this would be comparing summer fallow in the southern portion of the province to summer fallowing operations in Northern Saskatchewan. The costs of summer fallowing in the Northern Parkland Belt is going to be much higher than in Southern Saskatchewan. Therefore, I think that there should be some regionalized program introduced whereby there would be a fairer reimbursement for summer fallowing operation.

As this is not the case, in this reduction program, I suggest that there is a high possibility of northern farmers continuing to grow wheat rather than summer fallow because of costs involved. I further suggest that the possibility of the farmers in Southern Saskatchewan curbing their production is much higher, because the \$6 per acre is much more realistic to them in accepting additional summer fallow. If this proves to be a fact and if protein grading is introduced in the near future, we will then have established through this program the production of

grains in the areas where protein is low and the non-production of wheat in areas where the protein is high, the very opposite to what we want in this suggested program.

As there are no regulations in regard to what lands can be taken out of production, I suggest that there is a high possibility of farmers in Saskatchewan taking the poor or sub-marginal land and converting it either to summer fallow or perennial forage crop and then concentrating on more efficient and high production on their better lands. In order to substantiate this assumption, all that need be done is to look at statistics in regard to soil banks in the United States. This could well mean little if any reduction in wheat production. As has already been pointed out in this Assembly, there is a high possibility of uncontrolled soil erosion in the province due to the increased summer fallow with no safeguards in regard to its application. It further appears to me that there are no safeguards, against the increased production of other grains. I would further suggest that this program does not encourage or put pressure on the Federal Government for more aggressive sales policies. In fact it may have the reverse effect.

Such a program may increase wheat production in other countries due to those countries assuming we will not be active in our wheat production and sales. In spite of the recognition that is given to farmers who tried to curb production in 1968 and 1969, it still does not give them a fair reimbursement for their foresight and I, therefore, think it is detrimental to those farmers. I further think that it almost assures the elimination of a great many small farmers in Saskatchewan.

In regard to the perennial forage acres, I believe it would have been practical for them to increase the acreage from two million acres to perhaps five million acres and subtract those five million acres from the proposed 22 million acres of summer fallow. I would also suggest that the program should have had a greater length of time attached to it in regard to forage crops. I would suggest a three-year program. By extending this program it would also contribute to safeguards of soil erosion.

As there is already some indication of lack of particular types of forage seeds and of increased prices in regard to those seeds that are somewhat scarce now, I suggest the Government should have incorporated some safeguards in this plan, so that there would have been sufficient seeds for farmers converting to forage so that the price would not be unduly high. I further suggest to the Government that it is unlikely that the goal of 22 million acres in the wheat inventory-reduction program will be totally accepted by the farmers. This means that there will still be more wheat produced than the Government or the Wheat Board anticipates sales for.

The quota system that is introduced along with this wheat inventory-reduction program is likened to a club forcing farmers out of production without alternatives. I say this, Mr. Speaker,

due to the fact that all wheat delivery will be made on summer fallow acreage or forage acreage. I realize that in order to curb production a measure like this has to be taken. However, in this instance I think it is somewhat severe and going to the extreme.

The Government must also keep in mind that the summer fallow that is encouraged this year under this program will be land that farmers tend to put into crop next year. Therefore, the Government should now be taking extensive measures in regard to recommendations on what crops should be planted on that land, thereby off-setting over-production of other crops in the next year. I think it of utmost necessity that a research program be launched in regard to world movements of grain and means of dispersal, so that under-privileged, under-developed, hungry and starving countries will be able to receive Canadian grain. I am certain that all farmers will agree with me that in this day and age we should have better alternatives than those of paid non-production when there are a great many areas in this world that are in dire need of our produce.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — I again want to say, Mr. Speaker, in closing on this subject, the criticisms I have brought forward are in the constructive sense and that I hope from them that some other realistic alternatives are offered. And I by no means suggest that the total program does not have merit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a number of things in regard to North-eastern Saskatchewan and in particular the constituency that I represent — Kelsey. I think it unfortunate that the north-eastern portion of the province has been and still is considered to be somewhat separated from the rest of Saskatchewan. This area is contributing a great deal to the economy of Saskatchewan and has potential of contributing a great deal more in future years. I am certain all Members know that this area grows most of the rapeseed produced in the province of Saskatchewan. A large percentage of the honey crop that is produced in Saskatchewan comes from north-eastern portions of the province. It has tremendous potential and is now a major producer of coarse grains of the Province of Saskatchewan. The timber industries in the Carrot River and the Hudson Bay areas contribute a great deal to the timber industry of the province. It has potential in natural resource wealth and increased production but in order to assure this, development has to be given priority.

Due to the agricultural crisis in the province, which seriously affects the north-eastern portion of the province and the constituency I represent, there has been and is considerable interest and developing being done I -regard to the establishment of alfalfa pelleting and dehydrating plants There are already two plants in operation in the area, one in the Aylsham district

and another in the Zenon Park district. There is proposed construction of alfalfa plants at Tisdale, Arborfield, Carrot River, expansion of the Zenon Park plant and the construction of a second plant at Zenon Park. I believe the interested parties in establishing these plants have taken advantage of applying for a Federal grant under the Regional Development Policy of the Federal Government. This gives some assistance in regard to capital. However, when you take into consideration that this is a relatively new market, which I believe has a great deal of potential, the fact still remains that the establishment of this number of plants all at one time could create some hardships. I therefore think that the Provincial Government should be more closely involved in the establishing of these plants. I do not believe that it would be unrealistic for it to offer feasibility studies in regard to income that these plants should expect to receive. I believe the Government should be able to extend further information in regard to information and production of alfalfa, information in regard to plant construction and operation, information in regard to potential sales both domestically and foreign, information and assistance in regard to more competitive freight rates for that product. I also think that there should have been a more lucrative policy or credit towards construction and operation of these plants. I think these services by the Provincial Government are essential as the main single reason for the construction of these plants is to maintain the agricultural industries in the area and to maintain the communities that are established there to service that agricultural industry.

In the constituency of Kelsey there are a number of communities that I believe entitle them to services that are not now being received. The town of Hudson Bay is the centre of a foundling agricultural industry, is the service centre of an extensive lumber industry, and is a thriving and growing community, but, as is true of any new and growing community, it has growing pains and problems. I feel that some of these problems could be alleviated to a great extent if the Provincial Government was to give more consideration to this town. This community is without adequate transportation for people and commodities. The people of the Hudson Bay area think it is essential that they have a bus service extended to them, so that they will have more realistic transportation to and from other areas in Saskatchewan. Other areas that bus service could be extended to from the Hudson Bay area would be Porcupine Plain, which is a thriving and growing community servicing a large agricultural area. I suggest that these communities should be given serious consideration in regard to the establishment of a bus route through this constituency servicing these two major communities and other smaller communities en route.

The community of Hudson Bay and again the community of Porcupine Plain are without natural gas service. These two communities with populations higher than other communities in the province, that are now serviced with natural gas, feel as though they have been somewhat ignored in not receiving this service. I must agree with them, Mr. Speaker. These two

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communities have in the past been growing in population, and indeed, are offering a great deal to the Province of Saskatchewan in resource wealth. Consequently, they should be extended some of these basic services that the rest of the province is enjoying.

I think the Provincial Government should be taking a serious look at the problems that the CN Master Agency Plan may create in regard to the closure of stations in smaller communities. In the constituency of Kelsey there are eight communities that will be losing their station and station agent this year. These communities are Arborfield, Zenon Park, Mistatim, Prairie River, Crooked River, Weekes, Bjorkdale and Carragana, and will receive a serious blow and set-back when these stations close. I realize that there is a possibility that some of these communities will have to accept the station closures as a realistic one. But when you take into consideration that communities such as Arborfield and Zenon Park are contemplating construction of alfalfa plants and other industries in the area, I would tend to reason, as they do, that there is merit in their stations staying open. It is, therefore, I, think essential that the Government take a serious look at the effects of the Canadian National Railways' Master Agency Plan and take action where necessary to prevent closure.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — Due to the present Government's position in regard to the teacher-pupil ratio there are in the constituency of Kelsey several rural schools that will be closed. In both instances the central area that the children would have to be schooled at, if their school is closed, is not in a position, nor does it have the facilities, to absorb these pupils. In both instances the people of these communities; have shown strong desires. to retain their schools. The teachers that are now there have given assurance that they would be willing to stay and teach. As both of these schools involve elementary grades, in order to bus them to the central community of Hudson Bay, it would be what is considered by most people an exhausting and time-consuming trip for these small children. I, therefore, ask the Minister of Education (Mr. McIsaac) to give serious consideration to these circumstances, not only to the two that I have outlined in the constituency of Kelsey, but where similar circumstances apply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — Mr. Speaker, these are only some of the problems that the constituency of Kelsey is confronted with There are others but I dot not know whether there is merit in discussing them at this time. I, however, want to urge the Government at this time to give serious consideration to extending some of these services that the people of Kelsey are asking for. I further urge them that there is a tremendous wealth in the north-eastern portion of

the province which includes a number of constituencies. I urge them to formulate a new deal for North-eastern Saskatchewan . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MESSER: — . . . so that it will not only be recognized, but so that it may become a major contributor to the resource and wealth of this province.

As this Government has not outlined such a plan in the Budget Debate I cannot support the motion but will support the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. I.H. MacDOUGALL: (Souris-Estevan) — Mr. Speaker, the time is rapidly coming to an end today and if I don't want to keep these boys tonight, I think that the best thing I can do, although I wanted to say some nasty things, the best I'll do today is congratulate Dr. Worobetz on becoming our new Lieutenant Governor and the New Member for Kelvington (Mr. Byers) for his contribution in this House thus far. He was, I think, formerly one of my own constituents but he didn't stay. He could have come back there to run against me I suppose, but they don't like school teacher candidates down there.

AN HON. MEMBER: — Famous last words!

MR. MacDOUGALL: — Mr. Speaker, therefore, I ask leave to adjourn the debate.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 o'clock p.m.