

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Fifth Session — Sixteenth Legislature

4th Day

Friday, February 19, 1971.

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 the following groups of students in the galleries; from the constituency of Regina South represented by the Minister of Health, Mr. Grant, 63 students from the Massey School under the direction of their school teacher, Mr. Brown; from the Strathcona School in the constituency of Regina South East, represented by Mr. Baker, 63 students under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Falkowsky; from the constituency of Kelsey represented by Mr. Messer, 24 students from the Zenon Park School under the direction of their teacher, Mr. K. Wilson.

I am sure all Hon. Members wish to join with me in extending to these students an extremely warm welcome to the Legislature and express the very sincere wish that they may find their stay here enjoyable and educational and we wish to wish each and everyone of them a safe trip home.

**HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

### STATEMENT

#### SGIO AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES FOR 1970-71

**HON. A.C. CAMERON (Minister of Mineral Resources):** — As you know insurance companies throughout Canada face repair costs of alarming proportions. The escalating costs of replacing parts, increased labor costs, coupled with generous court awards have pushed insurance rates across Canada up each year and again this year Canadian motorists will face substantial increased insurance rates. Some points face a 30 per cent increase in the cost of insurance. Saskatchewan has not escaped the increased cost associated with the automobile insurance. Fortunately, however, steps taken by the Government to remove the impaired and irresponsible driver from the highways has resulted in a significant reduction in the accident rate. At a time when Canadian motorists continue to be plagued with soaring insurance costs I am pleased to advise motorists for the fourth consecutive year there will be no increase in Saskatchewan premium rates.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. CAMERON:** — No increase for private passenger, farm trucks, nor any category of vehicles. The success of The Automobile Accident Act has been such as to permit us not only to hold the line on insurance costs but to make some changes in the

surcharges which will benefit Saskatchewan motorists. At the present time as Hon. Members know drivers are surcharged when an accident costs the fund in excess of \$50. This amount we propose to raise to \$75 before a surcharge is applied. In addition we have liberalized the classification of drivers by increasing the number of rating points before surcharges are applied to them. This will exempt a number of motorists from surcharges for various infractions under The Vehicles Act. As a result, the number of operators who would be surcharged will be reduced this coming year from 28,000 to approximately 19,000 and this will exempt 9,000 motorists from surcharges in the province this coming license year.

The action we have taken here clearly demonstrates what benefits can accrue and will accrue to motorists as the result of improved driving habits.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. A.E. BLAKENEY (Leader of the Opposition):** — Mr. Speaker, I am sure all of us welcome the statement by the Minister in charge of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance (Mr. Cameron). We have known, as he has pointed out, the fact that all across Canada higher and higher rates are being charged by the private insurance industry. We have long been convinced that a public corporation can provide automobile insurance at attractive rates. We have long been converted to the belief that crown corporations are exceedingly useful in this field and we welcome the fact that Members opposite now agree with us and that the people of Saskatchewan can continue to have the benefits of The Automobile Accident Insurance Act.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

## QUESTIONS

### COMMENT BY PREMIER ON MANITOBA PULP MILL

**MR. BLAKENEY:** — Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day I should like to put a question to the Government. The Premier made some statements in the House yesterday which are quoted in the Leader-Post this morning. With respect to his general comments, I have received a report from the office of the Premier of Manitoba in which the Premier comments that if Mr. Thatcher made the statements attributed to him he is mistaken. It is not in accordance with the facts. The Parsons and Whittemore approach was made . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** — If the Member wishes to ask a question I suggest he come to the point. It is improper to have a preamble as long as this when preparing your question.

**MR. BLAKENEY:** — The point I then make is in view of the fact that Mr. Schreyer has said if Mr. Thatcher made the statements attributed to him he is mistaken, it is not in accordance with the facts; is the Premier ready at this time either (a) to retract his statements or (b) to substantiate them with details of who,

when and where?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**HON. W.R. THATCHER (Premier):** — Mr. Speaker, not only will I not retract but I will have more to say about this matter later this day. The facts are that the Government of Manitoba approached Parsons and Whittemore directly and indirectly to see if they would not be interested in taking over the mess that they have on their hands. If Mr. Schreyer wants to deny the truth that is up to him.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** — Order! Now before we enter into the Orders of the Day I recall that I was instructed by a motion of this House to introduce students. I am not quite sure how wide this latitude in regard to introductions went and how wide my responsibilities are. However, I did perhaps neglect to introduce another group of people in the gallery, the 25 members of the Eastview Homemakers Club of Saskatchewan with their president, Mrs. Claude Carefoot in the galleries. I am sure we wish to welcome them also and I apologize for not having mentioned them at the time that I mentioned the other people in the galleries.

**HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

### **ADJOURNED DEBATES**

#### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Mitchell (Bengough) and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Blakeney (Leader of the Opposition).

**HON. W.R. THATCHER (Premier):** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we listened to a two-hour dissertation by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Blakeney). I along with most Members of this side of the House, found it rather strange that he made virtually no reference whatever to the Throne Speech that we are now debating, except to say that it depressed him. I don't blame him for being depressed, because the Throne Speech was one more nail in the coffin of Saskatchewan Socialists.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Members on this side of the House believe that the Throne Speech was sound, was responsible, and was constructive. Of course it didn't contain a lot of promises, which were not financially feasible, because this Government believes that in normal times a budget should be balanced. The Throne Speech mentioned a number of measures, some of them were to help the critical unemployment situation. Is the Leader of the Opposition opposed to the crash public works program? Is he against the commitment to find several thousand jobs for students? Is he opposed to the Athabasca pulp mill? He didn't say. Is he against the largest highway program in the history

of this province, which is designed to create jobs? He didn't tell us. Then he came to agriculture. Is he opposed to the steps we are proposing to help the farmer, such as The Guaranteed Livestock Loan Act, the cash incentives to hogs, help for Indian Bands to get into cattle, SEDCO loans to farmers and so on? He didn't tell us. As far as education is concerned, is he opposed to the largest Provincial grants ever paid in history given to local governments to help keep the property tax down? He didn't tell us. Is he opposed to student representation on the Board of Governors at the University? He didn't tell us. Is he opposed to the expanded bursary program? He didn't tell us. Is he against increased pensions for teachers retired prior to 1963? We had to bring that measure in because the Socialists didn't do anything for those teachers when they were in power . . .

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — . . . but he didn't tell us. Where does he stand on the program that is going to help our northern and some southern airstrips obtain lighting? He didn't tell us. I am quite sure that the people of Saskatchewan would like to know whether he is opposed to another increase in the minimum wage. Is he opposed to increased benefits to The Workmen's Compensation Act? Is he against the new consumers' legislation? He didn't tell us. I know the people of Saskatchewan will want to know where he stands on the increase in the Homeowner Grant, because some of his Members opposed it when this legislation was originally introduced. There again, he didn't tell us. Yesterday all these questions went unanswered, while the Leader of the Socialists gave us the latest version of the Regina Manifesto — and really it didn't read much different than it did back in 1933.

Now I say that the Throne Speech contained many sound proposals, perhaps not spectacular, but designed to provide good government for the people of this province. One thing the Leader of the Socialists did do, he talked about the NDP election platform, and that platform does make amazing reading, Mr. Speaker, because the approach is completely negative. Even that left winger or Waffler or whatever you call him, Don Mitchell, said that the new Leader and his party are completely negative and that if they don't do something to change it, they would not win the next election. Well I agree with them on that fact. We had expected the new Leader yesterday, we had expected the Socialists when they announced their new platform, to come out with something that was bold and imaginative and constructive. Instead all they did, was to announce a lot of warmed-over promises that they had been making for decades — pious hopes, cliches, platitudes and out-dated Socialist theories. As I said yesterday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, the only thing I liked about their platform was that it ensures the return of a Liberal Government in the next election.

There is only one point that I must again mention. They said that an NDP government would abolish the Indian and Metis Department. What a plank! During all their years in office the Socialists did absolutely nothing for our native people. They had no programs for them, they had no interest in them, they were quite prepared literally to see them starve to death. Oh yes, I'll admit that they gave our native people liquor on election day.

On taking office the Liberals embarked on a far-reaching program to help our native people. The Provincial Government has set the example, thousands have been hired through the new Indian and Metis Department. Today we have 700 or 800 working for the Civil Service and in our Crown corporations. We have asked the Department of Highways to have contractors hire a percentage of natives. We have asked that new buildings which are being constructed with government grants use a percentage of Indians as labor force. We have asked our hospitals to hire a percentage of Indians. We are not, of course, satisfied with the overall results, but we have made progress. As I said yesterday afternoon, when this Government formed office, after 20 years of socialism, four reserves had electricity on them. Today 65 Indian reserves have electricity. We brought telephones, better housing and educational courses, highways and roads to Indian reserves. Yet now, the Socialists say they would throw out the only Indian and Metis Department in the whole Dominion of Canada. I say that that plank alone will antagonize every native in this province. It's a blatant example of petty political partisanship.

Mr. Speaker, this Legislature has convened at a time when the economy generally appears to be regaining momentum. The past year has been a difficult one for the people of Saskatchewan. Our wheat farmers have faced problems more serious than any since the depression. Export sales have been slow, prices have been depressed, quotas have been disappointing. Since 40 per cent of the gross provincial product still comes from agriculture, the farmers' difficulties have permeated through our whole society. No one can say that all our farm problems are behind us. However, brightened export prospects have done much to dispel the gloom of a few months ago. The grain picture has improved mainly because of drought in Australia, drought in the Argentine, drought in Europe; and because of the corn blight in the United States. But I think the recent grain sale to Communist China was the best news that farmers have received for a long time.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Officials of the Canadian Wheat Board tell us that this year we should have the largest grain sales in many, many years, probably an all time record of 700 million bushels.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Because of this fact, most authorities feel that by spring our farm economy should be staggering back to normal. During these months of adversity the Saskatchewan Liberal Government has continued vigorously to promote agricultural diversification. I don't propose to enumerate all our incentive programs this afternoon but I shall mention several.

Under The Guaranteed Livestock Loan Act, Hon. Members will recall, farmers can go to any bank or any credit union in the Province, and borrow up to \$6,000. The interest rate over 7 per cent for breeding stock is subsidized. I want to tell you, Sir, that by the end of last year 7,257 farmers had used that legislation, many of them to go into livestock for the first time, and they borrowed almost \$27 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Socialists always like to compare what's going on in Manitoba. What did their Mr. Schreyer do as far as farm credit last year? I quote the Canadian Press of December 19th:

The Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation has loaned more money this year than in any year since its creation 11 years ago. Agriculture Minister Sam Uskiw said the Corporation had already loaned \$12 million this year.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — In other words, in 1970 the Saskatchewan Liberal Government loaned more than double the amount of money to farmers for agricultural purposes than did the Manitoba Government.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Because of this Liberal legislation our hog numbers are up 50 per cent, our beef heifers are up 35 per cent, sheep are up 10 per cent. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will realize these facts.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The cost of this subsidized program will be approximately \$220,000. As I said a moment ago, the Throne Speech has indicated that there will be new legislation to help our Indian Bands. Many of the native people have not been able to take advantage of the legislation we introduced at the last session because they don't own their own land. This Session we shall have amendments to the Act which will permit an Indian Band to go directly to a bank or a credit union. The Indian Bands will be able to borrow up to \$18,000 for livestock herds, they will be able to get the interest rate subsidized and the Government will guarantee the loan. We hope that this program is of some benefit to the provincial agriculture economy.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — SEDCO loans will be increased again this year. About 75 farmers have used this legislation since we began loaning money for feedlots, dairy herds and so on. We hope more will be taking advantage of this legislation in 1971.

As I mentioned a few moments ago, our hog numbers have expanded in a most encouraging manner. We know that the price has dropped recently. However Saskatchewan farmers realize that hog prices depend to a very considerable degree upon the American market. In the United States over the past year thousands of farmers increased their hog numbers by feeding surplus grain and this has depressed prices, probably for a few more months. We are disturbed that at the same time, the federal hog subsidy has been discontinued. And so, as the Throne Speech indicated, because our Government feels it makes economic sense for farmers to remain in hogs, effective April 1st a subsidy of \$2 per hog will be paid on all hogs grading 103 index or over.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Naturally that subsidy will only be paid on hogs produced in Saskatchewan. The Act will stay in force for 12 months, and then be reviewed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope farmers will not think me presumptuous if I offer one word of advice. The improved grain picture could tempt many Saskatchewan producers, again, to get out of livestock. I believe that such a trend could be fraught with danger. To protect themselves from future grain gluts, farmers should continue to expand all kinds of livestock feeding, including hogs.

May I emphasize this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan Liberals believe that when the farmer has money, everyone has money. That's why we intend to take every possible step in the future to provide additional help toward diversification.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. McFarlane) will outline other programs when he speaks. Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House, should like to think that in Saskatchewan the Liberals are the farm party.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Socialists, of course, dispute this claim. Their recently announced platform promised to restore and promote what they call "viable family farms". Their promises look pretty hollow when compared to what their actions were when they were in office. I was amazed yesterday, to read the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Blakeney). Just unbelievable. The Leader-Post said:

Failure to save family farms charged by NDP. Opposition Leader Blakeney Thursday moved the NDP first non-confidence motion of the current Session of the Legislature on the grounds the Government failed to take steps to save family farms.

What did they do when they were in office? In 1944 there were 132,000 family farms in Saskatchewan. The year they formed the Government 132,000! Twenty years later, when they left office, there were only 88,000 family farms left.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — In other words, 44,000 fewer farms when Members like the Member for Wadena (Mr. Dewhurst) had something to do with this Government. With friends like the NDP the farmer doesn't need any enemies.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I ask the people of Saskatchewan to note that, over the years, the Socialists have had just one main solution for farming problems. Ever since the days of the Regina Manifesto, right through to the days of Allan's manifesto, they've got one

February 19, 1971

pledge — to socialize all the farm land.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — They contend that farm land should be owned by the government. Then, they will lease it back, perhaps to the owner, perhaps to the neighbor, depending on his political views. Recently those cries for socialization have increased in crescendo. Here's what the Young NDP said in Moose Jaw January 20th, 1969:

Saskatchewan Young NDP members, Sunday voted to press for nationalization of the farm lands in Canada.

At the Provincial convention, later the same year, senior NDPers advocated the same kind of action. The Star Phoenix, July 11th:

A resolution aimed at public ownership of farm land as a basic plank, was passed Thursday by an agricultural panel at the Saskatchewan NDP convention.

A few days later, again according to the Star Phoenix:

Members of the Saskatoon University provincial NDP constituency organization called Tuesday for public ownership of all Saskatchewan natural resources, including farm land. The resolution was passed with only one dissenting vote.

In short, all the Socialists have to answer the farmer with or to give the farmer, is socialized land. I don't think rural residents will buy that rather frightening proposal.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Recently farmers in this Province were given even more reason to be suspicious of the NDP. A few months ago the NDP had a leadership convention. Three out of the four candidates, Mr. Speaker, were city labor lawyers, with little or no knowledge of agriculture.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — One of those city labor lawyers was elected leader. Later he appointed another city labor lawyer as Deputy Leader.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Neither one of them have any real knowledge of agriculture. Even their own Members admit that. Here's what the Member for Kelsey (Mr. Messer) had to say.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Star Phoenix of May 21:

NDP agriculture critic, Jack Messer, Wednesday expressed concern that neither of the provincial NDP leadership candidates, A.E. Blakeney of Regina nor Roy Romanow of



Saskatoon, had taken a stand on the Province's depressed farming economy. Because of the attempts to gain his support, Mr. Messer said it was obvious that both candidates are having some trouble in the country.

Mr. Speaker, when the Member for Kelsey (Mr. Messer) said that neither one of the leadership candidates knew much about farming, we must agree. With all deference I say this, I don't think that the Hon. Member for Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney) or the Member for Riversdale (Mr. Romanow) would know a bale of hay from a load of oats, and neither do most of their colleagues.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, in recent years the NDP has become a straight labor-oriented party, owned, directed and financed by the trade unions. Hon. friends in the Opposition continue to contend that farmers and labor have the same interests and that they should unite under the NDP banner. Well, most rural residents are a bit dubious about that proposition. Year after year the farmer notes that every time the farmer is getting ready to move his wheat to market, it's either the dock workers who go out on strike or the railroad workers or the terminal elevator employees or the sailors on the Great Lakes and these strikes always disrupt the movement of grain. As spring approaches again, wouldn't you know that the dock workers are talking about going out on strike and also the railroad workers. During this last year we have seen a series of very major strikes in Saskatchewan. This Government has maintained that if inflation was to be brought under control, wage demands had to have some restraint exercised. We have insisted that wage increases be related to improved productivity. That was true all over Canada, but it was more than true in Saskatchewan at a time when our farmers had such a wheat crisis.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Our Government asked all unions whose salaries had to be paid partially or wholly by the Government, to keep their wage demands within 6 per cent, and I think most of our people in Saskatchewan, regardless of politics, supported the Government in that position.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Let me emphasize, Mr. Speaker, the NDP may say what they like, but the Liberal party is not anti-labor and we are very much aware that a well-paid labor force makes for a healthy community and a healthy province. However, in a period of crisis, in a period of raging inflation, we believe that labor must show some restraint. That is why we were obliged to take a firm stand in connection with wage settlements in the Civil Service, the hospital workers' contract, the pulp mill union, the teachers and the construction workers.

In a general way, I think most people agree that the wage guidelines have worked and they have kept wage settlements within the ability of the Saskatchewan taxpayer to finance.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Circumstances have changed the past few months. The threat of inflation is still serious but the dangers of unemployment are even greater. Moreover, as I mentioned earlier, the grain picture has improved. At the same time we note that the Federal Wages and Prices Commission has ceased its effort to control wages. Under these circumstances, and taking the current economic situation into account, the Government believes now that the 6 per cent guidelines can be withdrawn. We still ask all unions and all corporations to use restraint in wage settlements, because in our opinion inflation has not yet been solved. However, we do feel that ordinary economic pressures will probably keep most wage settlements on a fair basis. Effective immediately, I wish to announce that the Saskatchewan Government's 6 per cent guidelines are no longer in effect.

Let me repeat then, that this Government will be just as generous to labor as we can. However, we have refused to be intimidated by tough union leaders in the past and we will refuse to be intimidated by tough labor leaders in the future.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I believe that the people of Saskatchewan, regardless of their politics, are fed up with irresponsible strikes. Today in Saskatchewan, as I said yesterday afternoon, in many cases we haven't got trade unions we've got political unions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Many of the Federation of Labour leaders, like the Member for Moose Jaw South (Mr. Davies), like the Member for Regina North East (Mr. Smishek), like Bill Gilbey and a few others; if they spent half as much time agitating for the union as they do politically, the workers would be a lot better off.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I challenge the Federation of Labour to forget politics and begin dealing with bread and butter union matters on behalf of their members.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — In a major strike no one can win, the workers, their families, the company or the Provincial economy. This Saskatchewan Liberal Government is determined to find a better way of solving labor disputes, and in the not too distant future.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure it has not gone without notice, that every time there is a labor dispute, regardless of the public interest, the Socialists side with the unions. It doesn't matter if the strike is against the farmers or whoever, the NDP are for labor. It has not gone unnoticed that the Socialists have told us that regardless of the public interest, if they are elected they'll abolish Bill 2. There is not much fear, I think, on the part of most people of Saskatchewan of this occurring.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed as I go around the province, for the first time people are leaving, former CCFers are leaving the NDP, not by the hundreds but by the thousands.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Now I turn to another critical problem. Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word about unemployment. It has been serious. Across Canada there has recently been 8 per cent of the labor force unemployed. In the mighty United States it is almost 7 per cent. In Saskatchewan we have had special difficulties, because as I said a moment ago, 40 per cent of our gross product still comes from agriculture, primarily wheat. Not only have we had a wheat surplus but we have had a potash surplus. These surpluses have slowed down our economy. In passing I must say that Members on this side of the House take some satisfaction from the fact that Saskatchewan, month after month, has had the lowest unemployment rate in all Canada.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — For example, the latest figures show that unemployment in Quebec was 10 per cent, British Columbia 9.4 per cent, Alberta 6.5 percent, Manitoba, under the Socialists 6.5 per cent, Saskatchewan 6.2 per cent. Mr. Speaker, if the Socialists in Manitoba have any easy answer to the unemployment problem, why haven't they demonstrated that fact? Why is it that month after month, under Premier Schreyer, there has been higher unemployment than there has been here in Saskatchewan? Mr. Speaker, we don't even have to go to Manitoba for an example. We had a Socialist government here for 20 long years. When they were in power what did they do about unemployment?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — Nothing.

**MR. THATCHER:** — At this moment, 1st of February, we have about 21,000 unemployed, and this is most serious. However in 1958, under the Socialists official figures showed over 26,000 unemployed. In 1959, under the Socialists of Saskatchewan, 26,000 unemployed. In 1960, 26,500 unemployed. In 1961, the NDP had no answer to the unemployment problem when they were in office, and I suggest to you today, Sir, they have no more idea at this time.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The hard facts are that unemployment is a world-wide phenomenon. It is being encountered by nations all over the world. There are many factors which affect unemployment — Canadian Fiscal Policy, Federal trade, American decisions. I have a word or so for you, Mr. Kramer. I wish you would stay in your seat.

**MR. E. KRAMER (The Battlefords):** — Going to take a walk.

**MR. THATCHER:** — Private enterprise companies make many decision which

affect employment. Thus effective provincial action which can be taken is limited. That doesn't mean to say that this Provincial Government has not been vitally concerned. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that despite the fact that Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate in all of Canada, we are taking every feasible step to create additional jobs.

As far as housing is concerned, at the last legislature session, we began to pay \$500 grants to any citizen who built a new home. We have endeavored to persuade Central Mortgage to put as many low cost housing projects in Saskatchewan as possible. We are not satisfied, and we admit it. However, unbelievably high interest rates have hindered home construction. Moreover, there has been a population exodus, and that means that there has been a lessening of demand. But I assure you, that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Guy) will do everything possible to increase housing construction in the months ahead.

This Government has attempted to persuade municipal governments to proceed with public works. We've suggested to the local government board that it would be in the provincial interest to ease financial restrictions on local governments, so that public works could be expedited at the municipal level. I believe they have tried to be co-operative. We have made additional capital available to municipal governments through the Municipal Loan and Development Corporation and these measures have helped. Nevertheless, it would only be fair to say that tight money, high interest rates, and high levels of municipal taxation, have generally resulted in most municipalities being hesitant to proceed.

For many months, the Provincial Government has been endeavoring to embark on a crash program of public works. Sir, I want to tell you that almost 200 projects are being commenced or are on the drawing boards. Some of them are very small.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Some of them are very large. We have taken just about every project that was on the drawing boards for the next three years and tried to expedite it. There are limits to that kind of a program. After all, we can't build new schools and new hospitals in communities where they are not needed. We have to relate our university buildings to operating costs. But I think our public works program is one of the best in this country.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — And now, in addition, our Department of Natural Resources has embarked upon many park projects, where such projects involve high labor content. This program will particularly be helpful in areas with a substantial native population.

At the same time, we have done our best, and not without success, to attract new industry. In the past year, with tight money, high interest rates and ever increasing freight rates, there have been some major difficulties. Nevertheless, through SEDCO we have made a great many loans for industrial purposes. Central Canadian Distillers down in Weyburn, involves about \$3 million and 50 jobs. Meadow Lake Sawmills, up at Meadow Lake,

I think was \$6 million and 80 jobs. Native Metal Industries, here in Regina, helped about 50 natives to gain employment. The Ipsco expansion, \$2.5 million, 200 new jobs. Mid Canadian Plastics at Melville, 20 jobs. Roll-o-Flex Snowmobiles in Regina, 50 jobs. Big River Sawmill, being rebuilt, 110 jobs. Waldman and Paul Expansion, this is one we sneaked out of Winnipeg, 70 jobs. Canada Wire and Cable Expansion, Weyburn, 20 new jobs. Simpson Lumber Expansion, 40 new jobs, and so on. In other words, we are not satisfied with the number of jobs, but we have made every effort, Mr. Speaker.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Our efforts to attract new industry have not been made any easier by the attitudes of the Socialists.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Probably the greatest industrial achievement of this Liberal Government, up until yesterday, was the Prince Albert pulp mill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — This enterprise has created about 1,000 jobs in the plant and in the woods. Jobs, moreover, in an area where pockets of real poverty exist. But ever since its inception, the Socialists have disparaged the mill. Today that mill is operating successfully. It's making a healthy profit. That fact is made all the more evident when you compare it to the Manitoba situation.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Schreyer has had his mill for a year and a half or two years and it gets steadily worse by the day. The cost of the Prince Albert mill is \$55 or \$60 million. In Manitoba, the cost is \$105 million. We got a 30 per cent equity for our \$60 million guarantee. In Manitoba, they didn't get one per cent equity, not one per cent. We got a mill that is producing about 900 tons per day. Over in Manitoba, they have a mill that produces 300 tons, if it ever gets started. The Prince Albert mill was put up almost completely with capital borrowed by the company. On the other hand the people of Manitoba have had to put up hard cash. After looking at the Manitoba picture, the people of Saskatchewan certainly realize what a fine deal this Government made at Prince Albert.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The Socialists say that we made a poor deal financially. I told the House yesterday, we could take our equity in Prince Albert and sell it tomorrow for a profit of perhaps \$15 million. But if we did that, my old friend Mr. Berezowsky, the Member for Prince Albert East-Cumberland, would be the first one to say that we are selling out to the Americans.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — That a boy, Bill.

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, from the day this mill started, the Socialists have been critical. Why was little Allan raising so much cain yesterday? Because he knows that for 20 years the Socialists tried to get a pulp mill and they failed completely.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I went back in my files this morning, Mr. Speaker. I've got a newspaper clipping in my hand, I hope you can see it. Thursday, May 31, 1956. "Pulp Mill for Prince Albert," says the headline. "City selected as key centre of the biggest industry in Saskatchewan." Then the story goes on:

Announcement of plans for the establishment in the Prince Albert area of a \$60 million pulp mill was made today. Announcement of the plans were made in Regina at a press conference attended by the Hon. J. Brockelbank, Hon. L.F. McIntosh, and the Hon. C.M. Fines.

This paper shows the kind of action the Socialists had as far as the pulp mill was concerned.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — They have all gone to their reward.

**MR. THATCHER:** — The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the Prince Albert mill is operating successfully and well. It is making a major contribution to Saskatchewan, and it is providing almost 1,000 urgently needed jobs.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Yesterday morning it was my great honor, with Mr. Landegger, to announce another pulp mill complex, half as large again as the Prince Albert mill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — 1,600 jobs directly, more than 4,500 indirectly. Most Members of this House know that the north west section of this province has consistently lacked adequate development. There have been areas of poverty for years in Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and so on, where people have never had permanent jobs. This mill will take hundreds and hundreds of these people off social welfare. But again, we get sour grapes from the Leader of the Opposition.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — All of the Opposition.

**MR. THATCHER:** — Again, we get sour grapes from all the Socialists. Why? What did they do about a pulp mill in Meadow Lake when they were in the government? Well, I found another clipping in my files this morning. I hope they can see it, April 3, 1957, the Saskatoon Star Phoenix and the headline says, "Start work this year of \$40 million pulp mill in Meadow Lake area." The story goes on:

A second multi-million dollar pulp mill operation in

northern Saskatchewan was announced today in Regina. The scope of the new scheme was disclosed early today when Natural Resources Minister Kuziak announced the deal.

And so on.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — For a number of years, Mr. Speaker, our Government has endeavoured to persuade Canadian companies to build these mills. We should prefer Canadian companies, but despite incentives, despite guarantees, we have not been able to get one Canadian company to show an interest in either Prince Albert or Meadow Lake. That was the reason we approached Parsons and Whittemore. And, as I said yesterday, the new agreements on Meadow Lake will be signed just as soon as the Legislature ratifies it. The quicker the NDP vote for Meadow Lake, as they will — oh, they will talk against it but they will vote for it, Mr. Speaker — then the quicker we shall get those thousand jobs.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I was rather amused, if that's the word, at a press conference held by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Blakeney) this morning. He was even weaker in that press conference, I am told, than he was yesterday in the House.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — "Why," he said, "we're not against the pulp mill, but we are against those Americans taking over all of our resources."

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — When they were trying to get their never, never pulp mills, whom did they try to get to take the construction?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — Alice in Wonderland . . .

**MR. THATCHER:** — I quote from the Industrial Saskatchewan in July 1956. This is a Prince Albert pulp mill announcement again.

Financing for the nearly \$60 million project is under way, with participation by interests in New York.

That's where they were going to get the money, Mr. Speaker. What about Meadow Lake? Where were they going to get their money for the \$40 million Meadow Lake mill? Well, I quote my old friend Alex Kuziak. "He confirmed in a telephone interview an agreement signed by himself, of last September between Ellis E. Patterson and Associates of Studio City, California, and the Provincial Government.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, what then is the situation? Here are these Socialists who tried to get a pulp mill all over the

United States, who offered terms that were far easier than this Government has ever given, who failed to get American capital, now criticizing the Liberals for getting a pulp mill and using the kind of capital they couldn't obtain.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I say, Mr. Speaker, and I say to the people of Saskatchewan, the story of the pulp mill is a typical example of Liberal success versus Socialist failure.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — I say again today, when the Hon. Provincial Treasurer (D.G. Steuart) brings up those agreements, I'll bet we shall see every Socialist weaseling around, talking against the Meadow Lake mill, but you will see them vote for it when the time comes, because they would not dare to do otherwise.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — There is another project that I want to talk about, and I am going to have a fair amount more to say before the Session is ended. That is the Gulf Mineral project — Uranium Mine at Rabbit Lake. This development will mean about \$50 million, give employment to 550 people during construction, and when it is in operation, it will employ about 400 men. As well a whole new community in our northern area will be developed. These are the kind of projects that Liberals are finding to provide jobs, and yet the Socialists are against any kind of foreign capital. Every time you talk about foreign capital, the Socialists are against it. But as I said yesterday, Premier Ed Schreyer of Manitoba is down in New York from time to time trying to find all the American capital that he can.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** — They don't trust him. That's what they told me.

**MR. THATCHER:** — We know from hard and bitter experience that a new and developing country like Canada lacks adequate capital. If we are to proceed with these immense projects, we must take capital where we can find it. Of course, we can wait for Canadian investment. But let us realize that it could be 50 years before there is enough Canadian investment capital available. The choice we have is to take capital now, where we can find it, or wait 50 years. I think most of our students and others looking for jobs want this Government to proceed now.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Of course, the Socialists with their usual consistency say this Government, first of all, isn't finding jobs, then as soon as we do find some jobs, they are opposed to it. What is even more serious, Mr. Speaker, the NDP are even threatening some of the industries which this Government has obtained. Private enterprise companies! Our province now has 10 potash mines, eight of them located in Saskatchewan since this Government took office.



**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Their total investment exceeds \$800 million. I remind the people of Saskatchewan that these mines are paying sales tax, they are paying royalties, and if they make any profits, they pay 52 per cent corporation tax. Those millions of dollars in revenue help us build hospitals and schools and highways. Yet in their most recent "Allan's Manifesto" the NDP have threatened to socialize the potash industry. Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday afternoon, the NDP went broke running a box factory, they bankrupted a woollen mill, they lost their shirt in a shoe factory, they lost everything in a tannery, they lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in a brick mill, and they did likewise with an airline. In other words, Mr. Speaker, without any doubt in the world, they demonstrated that they couldn't run a peanut stand. Now they are going to take over \$800 million worth of potash.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — It's the silliest election plank I ever heard of in 25 years in politics. As I said, who is going to run it? The Member for Wadena (Mr. Dewhurst), the Member for Touchwood (Mr. Meakes), or the Member for The Battlefords (Mr. Kramer), or perhaps one of the other Members opposite. My guess is that maybe Henry would have time to run it.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Apart from being silly, Mr. Speaker, that suggestion is fraught with danger, because the potash companies could lose their markets overnight. Do you think the purchasers down in the United States, if they heard that a lot of Socialist nuts had taken over the industry, would continue buying from them. I tell the workers in that industry, the easiest way to lose their jobs is to see the NDP take the industry over. The potash industry had problems, but because this Government had the courage to introduce prorationing, orderly marketing and sensible pricing, very few of the potash workers have lost their jobs. We have kept the jobs for the workers.

The people living in the North should realize that the NDP are hindering development in that great area. Here is what the vice-president of Gulf Minerals had to say a few months ago and I quote the Leader-Post. This is a man who is helping to bring this \$50 million uranium refinery into northern Saskatchewan and I quote:

The vice-president credited the Provincial Government for helping to promote mining in Saskatchewan and in particular for its role in helping to ensure that Gulf can proceed with its project.

I quote again:

20 or 25 years ago, said Dr. Early, when I was working in northern Manitoba no mining company in its right mind would work in Saskatchewan

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** —

With today's Provincial Government it is a different situation. The present Administration has brought mining to the province.

Those are not my words, Mr. Speaker, they are Dr. Early's. Mind you, they are very profound in my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that outside companies must act as good corporate citizens. Liberals believe that we must have investment laws which will protect our people in every way. I assure our people that the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to find job-creating industries. I think that we have one or two surprises, perhaps before the Session is ended.

The Government is also perturbed about student unemployment. The Minister of Labour (Mr. MacLennan) before too long will announce a program, under which, we think we can hire a great many students this summer.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Let me emphasize that this Government is very much aware of the misery inflicted by unemployment. We know the terrible and critical problem which faces the province and the nation in creating jobs. Probably our greatest task in the months ahead will be to restore the confidence of the private sector, because it is the private sector which must build the industries, the businesses, the stores and the houses. We want an atmosphere which will make it possible for them to do so.

I want to turn now to the field of education. This Government gives it a top priority. We give it in cash, not in words like the Socialists. We all recognize that our Province's future is determined by the quality of education which we provide. In a world that grows even more complex, the young person who does not obtain the very best education of which he is capable, is handicapped for life as he seeks employment. May I remind the House that when we formed the Government, \$59 million was being spent on education. This year we shall spend \$153 million on education. At the last session the largest increases in provincial grants in history were announced. Most communities were able to hold their mill rates as a result. Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to do the same thing again this Session.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Let me say again, that the Liberal Government accepts the principle that an even greater portion of educational costs must be shifted away from the property owner. As the Throne Speech indicated, the Government this Session intends to increase the Province's share of these overall costs. Some would say that the entire burden of education costs should be removed from the property owner. Some of my NDP friends ran around making such a claim. We should all like to see that, if it were economically feasible. But to take that kind of action, the Provincial Treasurer would have to find another \$84 million. If you found it by means of the sales tax, that tax would have to go from 5 to 12 per cent. If you took it from the corporation tax, corporation taxes would have to go to 76 per cent. If you wanted to take it from other fields, it would almost be equally

gigantic and disruptive. As far as Liberals are concerned, we are going to try and shift that burden, but we are going to try and take it from all the various tax fields. Let's not try to kid anyone, as the NDP are doing, that this shift is going to happen overnight.

In the past 12-month period all school budgets have been submitted to the Department of Education for perusal. The Government feels that this exercise has been most successful in restraining and controlling expenditures. This means that, in general, budget reviews have been well received by school boards.

We have heard a good deal about the student-teacher ratio. Over the years the annual salary bill for teachers has been very high because of a combination of three factors. First of all, general wage increases; secondly, an increase in the general level of teacher qualifications; thirdly, a gradual lowering of the provincial student-teacher ratio from almost 24.1 in 1960 to less than 21.1 in 1969. I want to say a word to my teacher friends. The NDP are running around in their manifesto, saying that they will throw out the student-teacher ratio. Let me tell you, Sir, that when we took over from the Socialists, the student-teacher ratio was 23.1 to 1 and it went down to about 19.5 to 1. With the action we took this past year it went up to about 21.4 to 1. But, it is still almost two students per room less than it was in the days of the NDP.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — We know that when that ratio goes up by one student, we save roughly \$3 million. We think we can do this without lowering the quality of education. We make no apology for taking these measures to restrain escalating costs. We make no apology either for the quality of our educational programs, which compare most favorably with any other province in Canada.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — This process has caused some disruption but we feel that the kinks in the system can be eliminated during 1971. The Government does not feel that it will be necessary to proceed much further in this direction at most provincial centres.

During 1970, the Government made some exceptions to the new ratio in its grant formula, recognizing that certain rural areas were somewhat unique. Despite this fact, a few unit boards used the changed ratio as a reason for closing some low-enrolment schools. The Department, under the old legislation inherited from the NDP, had no authority to interfere. As the Throne Speech indicated, legislation will be introduced which in the future will require the concurrence of the Department of Education where a board proposes to close schools offering instruction in the lower grades. The Government feels that there is a limit to the time that young children should be obliged to spend in school buses, and that community-based schools should be maintained for younger children in rural Saskatchewan, wherever practical

Mr. Speaker, some teachers will be interested in the pension proposal of the Government in the Throne Speech. Many teachers retired in the NDP days with pensions which were very low. So

this Session we are bringing in reforms, that will increase the pensions of any teacher who retired prior to April, 1963.

We are going to do something about bursaries in post-secondary schools. There have been a lot of weaknesses in our bursary programs. This year we will sharply expand the number of dollars available. This year we shall set up a bursary committee which will go over the priorities involved. Hopefully those bursaries will be paid in the coming semester. What is more, for the first time in history, we are going to pay bursaries for technical school students, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, today, Mr. Speaker, I want to turn to the subject of pollution. Most authorities today agree that pollution is the number one global problem of the 1970s. We have seen what has happened in the Great Lakes. We have seen what has happened in Japan and other countries. There are many difficulties that Governments must face in trying to clear up pollution. The costs are massive and overwhelming. Pollution sometimes originates in one country or one province and spreads to others. Federal states, such as Canada, have jurisdictional problems. The Provincial Government has always accepted its responsibility as far as pollution is concerned.

I want to talk about just a few of our programs. To ensure that air pollution stays under control, the Government passed legislation giving powers to the Minister of Public Health to control air pollution. A series of sample stations have been established in our major cities to collect data. In addition, special tests are being conducted to determine air pollution from specific industries. A special study is being conducted to determine the effect of emissions on agriculture.

Water pollution control is the responsibility of the Saskatchewan Water Resources Commission. Control is achieved primarily through a system of licences governing the construction and operation of sewage works. Before any industry or municipal government may build or extend sewage works, the Commission must approve the design and the location. The Commission also conducts detailed studies in order to determine the causes of water pollution. The Government will introduce this Session, legislation respecting the prevention of pollution from feedlots. Legislation respecting non-returnable bottles will also come forward. Amendments to The Water Resources Commission Act will provide the Government with the power to act promptly and forcefully in cases of severe water pollution.

I don't think our record is very bad in Saskatchewan because we have the least pollution of any province in the nation. We have been rather fortunate this past year in that where we have found pollution we have been able to quickly control the source. We had some trouble with one of the co-ops and IPSCO which was turning out 40 pounds of mercury emission a day. We took action that reduced the emission to one-quarter of one pound a day. We have had problems with the sewage systems of Prince Albert and Saskatoon. We have required them to build new sewage plants and have helped them financially in order to speed up the construction. We have taken other measures to make sure that pollution is kept within reasonable bounds.

In the new Socialist Manifesto it was announced that the NDP would set up a new department for pollution control. How interesting, Mr. Speaker? During their 20 years in office, they

displayed not the slightest interest in the subject of pollution. They passed not a single meaningful Bill. They took not a solitary step to combat the pollution evil. Now that they are in the Opposition, they are going to do something about pollution. As usual, Mr. Speaker, they are too little too late. A few months ago, the Government asked the Interdepartmental Committee on Pollution to make an in-depth study and analysis of all our anti-pollution legislation. We also asked the Committee to look into the programs operating in other provinces. As a result, I wish to announce today that The Clean Environment Authority Act will be introduced shortly in the House.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — The new Act, The Clean Environment Authority Act, will have the powers to do almost everything to control pollution in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we believe this legislation to be only the latest of very progressive actions taken by this Government in the field of pollution. I invite Members of the Legislature to compare our record on environmental control with that of other provinces. Pollution problems have been less severe in Saskatchewan. Our Government intends to keep it that way. The Minister of Municipal Affairs will give details of the new Branch when the Bill is before the Legislature.

What about the Province's economic future during 1971? Saskatchewan was the first province to experience economic difficulties that later engulfed all of Canada. We believe, on this side of the House, that Saskatchewan has a chance of restored prosperity ahead of the rest of the nation. On what basis do I make that claim? First of all, because as I said earlier, overall grain sales will be at an all-time record. Agricultural purchasing power this year will substantially improve. Due to the conservation policies of this Government the potash industry is gradually being restored to health. Sales will go up 10 per cent in 1971. Both the American and Canadian Governments are expecting record housing starts during 1971. The increased demand for lumber in the export market should help our lumbering industry. As the Prince Albert pulp mill expands production, and as the other mill comes into production, manufacturing expectations can be termed favorable. Of course the great Athabasca pulp mill project and the Gulf mineral project should be a great shot in the arm for our northern areas.

There are several other major factors which should spur business activity. The Federal Government has announced easier credit, easier money, lower interest rates, and even deficit financing. That will put additional cash into the economy. Moreover, with President Nixon having an American election in the future, the effects of that economy will improve and spill over into Canada. Then, of course, the effects of our crash public works program will really be felt.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. THATCHER:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we know that the people of Saskatchewan have experienced many difficulties in recent months. But I think they have weathered the storm, and I think they can look forward to the future with optimism. I suggest to you today, Sir, that the Provincial Government has taken every reasonable or feasible step to cope with our economic

difficulties, even though many of them have been beyond our control. The recent recession was a unique one. It was not caused by shortages or poverty. Rather it was caused by great over-abundances and surpluses. I am convinced in the next decade people around the world will need our foodstuffs, people around the world will need our natural resources. I suggest to the Opposition, if they could have less talk of gloom and doom and more talk of optimism, the people of Saskatchewan would benefit.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that I shall vote against the amendment and support the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. D.M. McPHERSON (Regina South West):** — Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on the Throne Speech I should first like to congratulate the mover and the seconder for the job well done. I think both of these gentlemen covered all the areas of the province, the economic situation and the general well-being of this great province of ours.

I should also, Mr. Speaker, like to congratulate the Member from Saskatoon City Park University (Mr. Charlebois), on a job well done in organizing the Winter Games and bringing all the great people he did to Saskatoon, the competitors, the spectators and also bringing with the official opening, the Governor General of Canada, the Prime Minister, Mr. John Diefenbaker and Mr. Stanfield. This was indeed a great group and has contributed a great deal to the Province of Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. McPHERSON:** — I should also, Mr. Speaker, say a few words about the Prime Minister's visit to Regina, along with the 20 Cabinet Ministers. I think that this was indeed a great occasion and contributed a great deal to the Province of Saskatchewan.

Here these Ministers were able to meet with our Cabinet Ministers and with people from all over the city of Regina and Saskatchewan in general to discuss the problems that we have.

First the Federal Cabinet met with our own Provincial Cabinet and they had a good meeting. Then Mr. Basford met with a CAC group, about 80 attending this meeting, at Mrs. Helen Brown's. Mr. Herb Grey met with the Jewish community, over 100 attended. I could go on and on and mention the different meetings, but it was a great thing for Saskatchewan.

During the whole day of this visit to Saskatchewan, the only problem the Prime Minister encountered was a group of 30 NDPers, I should imagine, because standing in the front were the three men who wrote the new platform for the CCF, Warren Carragata, Stanley Rand, and also the great Don Mitchell. Here were the three unwashed gentlemen who were going to lead Saskatchewan, who had dictated the great program that you are going to put on.

Mr. Speaker, this was the only problem that the Prime Minister encountered of all the good citizens of Saskatchewan. And when you have to consider these three, you don't have to

worry too much about what they are going to do.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. McPHERSON:** — I should like to deal, Mr. Speaker, with a subject that every citizen of Regina is interested in. They want to know what the Provincial Government is doing for the city of Regina. It is doing a lot, Mr. Speaker. Regina is the capital city of the Province of Saskatchewan and it is the largest, the fastest growing and most progressive city in the province.

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Blakeney), who can never get his facts straight, said that there were 100 businesses closed in the city of Regina, closed or went out of business. He didn't mention how many new ones had come in, which is typical of the Leader of the Opposition, and so we checked and I think that I would get someone over there, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, to check your figures so that you can be straight.

Now take the year 1969, and I wish that you would write this down, there were 56 businesses closed or went out of business and there were 56 opened up in the city of Regina. For the year 1970 — your great man who looks into figure, you reported 100 — but actually there only were 98. And I want you to get this, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, 138 new businesses opened in the city of Regina.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. McPHERSON:** — Your Provincial Government has over the past years contributed a great deal and will continue to contribute to the city of Regina.

I should like to deal with urban assistance. Regina has a high standard of pavement and our streets are second to none in this province. Since 1964, Mr. Speaker, your Provincial Government has contributed through the Department of Highways well over \$6 million in urban assistance. Included in that sum, Mr. Speaker, are contributions of almost \$400,000 towards the Albert Street subway; over \$250,000 on the Wascana Parkway; and more than \$700,000 on the Ring Road. Along with this, Mr. Speaker, it has contributed \$650,000 to new roads in the city of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has done much for education in the province and is proud of its contributions towards educational facilities. In 1964 operating grants given by the Provincial Government to the school boards in Regina amounted to \$2,600,000. That was in 1964. In 1970 these grants have risen to over \$6 million, an increase of 230 per cent. In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, in the last six years the Provincial Government has contributed another \$6,500,000 in buildings and other special grants. A great addition to our city is the Vocational A High School which is being built for \$3,100,000. Here students who were not able to obtain their regular programs will be able to attend classes and I think that this is a great boon for Regina.

On the Regina Campus, Mr. Speaker, since 1963 when the buildings were commenced, your Provincial Government has contributed over \$58 million to capital construction. The Regina

Campus is the city's ninth largest employer with a total payroll this year of over \$7,600,000. In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, the 4,500 students on the Campus spend another \$6 million for books, board and entertainment in the city. The economic benefit of the University to Regina is therefore substantial, Mr. Speaker, to say the very least.

The Department of Municipal Affairs has over the past six years in this city contributed almost \$600,000 for housing. Since 1968 also our Indian and Metis Department has given another \$100,000 towards the housing of our native people in Regina. In addition to this the Province has contributed, since 1964, almost \$200,000 towards the city's winter works program to help provide employment. In 1970, the Legislature also made grants of \$143,000 available to the city to assist in both policing and snow removal. And this is so important to the city of Regina at this time.

In Public Works, Mr. Speaker, the Public Works Program helped to keep unemployment low. Since 1964 your Provincial Government has spent almost \$16 million in Public Works Programs in Regina. These work programs, Mr. Speaker, have included a \$2,800,000 expenditure on the Provincial Correctional Institute and over \$6 million on the Centre of the Arts and over \$700,000 on the Veterinary College here in Regina. In addition to this, Mr. Speaker, it was announced in December that an additional \$7,500,000 would be spent in Regina during 1971, a great boon for the city and something that we need. This includes, Mr. Speaker, a \$6 million expenditure for student residences on the Regina Campus and over \$1 million for the nursing homes.

I now wish to say a few words about the Department of Welfare. As everyone knows our service organizations in the city of Regina are second to none. We have great organizations in our United Appeal and they are all working for the good of the community. The Welfare Department, since 1964, for the various service organizations in Regina such as the Martha House, Ranch Ehrlo, Regina Senior Citizens Day Care Centre and the YMCA has spent \$195,000. In addition, Mr. Speaker, over \$1,400,000 has been allocated in the past six years towards the maintenance and doubling the numbers of the homes in the housing units that are included in the special care units.

I should like to say a few words about industry. Much of Regina's growth and prosperity is due to the large number of industries that have been attracted to the city of Regina in the past few years. Since 1964, with the assistance of the Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce, over 45 new ventures have been undertaken in the city alone involving expenditures of \$17,281,000. SEDCO was directly involved in a majority of these projects. I have said and will say again, Mr. Speaker, Regina needs more industry to keep up our tax base.

The Centre of the Arts is something that this Government has contributed to the city of Regina and no city is complete without a good cultural and artistic centre. The Centre of the Arts is the pride and joy of Regina and of all South Saskatchewan. When the city found that it was unable to complete construction of the Centre of the Arts, the Provincial Government moved in and donated \$6 million to the completion of this important project and this is a great credit to the Government

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!



**MR. McPHERSON:** — Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words about the South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre. Good progress is being made on the construction of the hospital at Regina. It is expected that this 302-bed hospital, costing just under \$16 million will be completed in the latter part of 1972. The Federal Government has designated this hospital as an approved health training facility, thereby making the project eligible for cost-sharing under the Health Resources Fund regulations. The South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre will function as the main teaching and research centre in the southern part of the province for medical and paramedical educational programs. To facilitate this teaching responsibility, the Centre will be affiliated with the College of Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon. The full time heads of major departments will be appointed jointly by the Hospital Centre and the College of Medicine. This extension of the clinical resources available to the College of Medicine will provide a wider range of clinical experience for undergraduate and graduate medical students. In addition, Mr. Speaker, it is planned to have programs of continuing medical education for practising physicians.

The Hospital Centre's medical teaching program will be co-ordinated with other health oriented programs at the Regina Campus, University of Saskatchewan and the technical health sciences complex that is soon to be created on a site adjacent to the hospital. The Hospital Centre will serve as a resource centre for the provision of clinical experience to students in a wide range of programs, including: degree and diploma nurses, certified nursing assistants, orderlies, laboratory x-ray and operating room technicians.

An active research program, Mr. Speaker, is planned to ensure that highly qualified staff can be attracted and retained by this hospital. It is expected that a research program will also enable Saskatchewan to contribute to the solution of some of our health problems.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words on health care. I should like to say that this Government is interested in the health care of its citizens. Citizens of Regina and surrounding municipalities have always enjoyed good hospitals in the city of Regina. In the past six years this Government has contributed \$71 million in aid of the operations of both hospitals. In capital construction in six years, this Government has also provided for the city of Regina a total at the Regina General Hospital under construction for six years of \$2,355,575; at the Grey Nuns' Hospital \$271,860; the Wascana Hospital \$82,000; South Saskatchewan Hospital \$16,500,000 and at the Regina Red Cross Clinic \$155,000.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this all adds up, in six years from 1964 to the present time, to \$19,364,435 contributed by this Government to the city of Regina.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I should like you to take a look during the CCF's time from 1944 to 1964 and I am going to give them all the credit in the world. For the General Hospital in 1950 you contributed to construction costs \$1,273,000, in 1954 - \$554,000. In the same year you also made grants to the isolation ward of \$135,000, in 1959 - \$284,000. That all adds up, Mr. Speaker, in 20 years for the Regina General Hospital to \$2,246,000. Now let's see what you did for the Grey Nuns' and we shall go right back. You didn't do anything in 1944, 1945,

1946 and 1947, and you can tell me if I am wrong. In 1951 it was \$902,000; 1961 - \$99,000; 1962 - \$19,300; 1963 a great year - \$1,500. That is what you gave to the Grey Nuns' Hospital. In 1964 - two grants. One for \$91,000 and the other for \$89,000. This adds up to a total from 1944 to 1964 of \$1,103,000. This is a grand total for the city of Regina for 20 years of \$3,349,000.

Now let us compare what the Liberals have done in six years and that totals \$19,364,000.

Both Regina hospitals must be kept up and must be kept growing. I sincerely believe that under one board, the General and the Grey Nuns' can come together to keep these two great institutions growing.

I should like to deal for a few minutes with the problems of the 1950s and early 1960s. From 1954, Mr. Speaker, the Board at the General Hospital realized that something must be done to upgrade the number of beds and also to upgrade the hospital. The hospital had a large waiting list and there was overcrowding and so the Board called in consultants to come and see what could be brought up-to-date. In November of 1959, the Elerbe people made a report and I can say that under three different Ministers of the previous administration, the Member from Moose Jaw South (Mr. Davies), the Member from Regina Centre (Mr. Blakeney), and Mr. Erb, these recommendations were all turned down although the Government had told the hospital to go ahead. Because of the Medicare crisis in 1962 or whatever it might want to blame it on, the Government wouldn't do a thing for the city of Regina.

This brings the hospitals up-to-date, Mr. Speaker, and we do hope that they will be updated as fast as possible and brought to the status that they should be.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the Premier for his talk today and also the Deputy Premier, Mr. Steuart, first for the extraordinary effort that they made on behalf of the Saskatchewan residents in leading to the establishment of a second pulp mill. This mill will provide jobs for thousands of workers, many of them of Indian ancestry. The \$117 million venture comes at a time when the economy of North America is sagging. Members on your left, Mr. Speaker, would like you to believe that the economy is sagging only in Saskatchewan when informed sources in both Canada and the United States frankly admit it is a general condition. It is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that these great things that are happening in Saskatchewan at this time will certainly improve the conditions now existing.

As a Member of the Lakeview Regina Constituency, personally I am delighted to see these projects because many of them are being carried out in the city of Regina and provide jobs here.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that this is a great thing for the province and also I will support the motion that is before the House.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. J. MESSER (Kelsey):** — Mr. Speaker, I first want to congratulate our new provincial Leader, Mr. Allan Blakeney. After being elected Leader of the New Democratic Party at one of the most dynamic and

enthusiastic leadership campaigns this province has ever seen.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — He has wasted no time in the glory of leadership for leadership alone. He has aggressively involved himself in the capacity of mobilizing a team with links of support to every area and to every segment of society in this province.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — He has appointed as his Deputy Leader, Roy Romanow, the Member from Saskatoon-Riversdale to further strengthen that team. I also offer my congratulations to him on that appointment.

In answer to the Members opposite that they are relieved in the Liberal party that they will be contending with Allan Blakeney in the next election rather than Roy Romanow, and that they will be dealing with two labor lawyers which is not a fact, I must remind them that those to your right, Mr. Speaker, have a hardware dealer and a clothing merchant leading that party. I doubt very much whether the farming electorate of the Province of Saskatchewan will be putting any faith in them. However the farmers have faith in the New Democratic Party and the platform that it has.

Members opposite are desperate in their attempt to establish a smoke screen. They suggest that Allan Blakeney can be handled easier because they know him better, therefore making it probable that they could win the next election whenever it may be. This is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. What they are really trying to do is implant in the elector's minds that there are fallacies in our program and there is some weakness in our party. This simply is not true. If the Members opposite were moving around their constituencies they would know that this party is prepared and will win the next election whenever that election is called.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — I want, Mr. Speaker, to straighten out the Member for Lakeview South (Mr. McPherson) on one point he made in regard to the number of firms that went out of business in the city of Regina in 1970. I have here a letter from Mr. Bruce Smith, City Manager for the city of Regina. He states that 166 firms have gone out of business in the city of Regina, and he attaches a list naming some of those businesses. Thatcher Hardware happens to be one of them. That's the administration of the Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan. Not 98, but 166, all listed here, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier stated in this Assembly yesterday that the program of the New Democratic Party and the programs it has advocated in the field of agriculture is an insult to the intelligence of Saskatchewan farmers. It is obvious from that statement, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier has not seen or read the program that we in the New Democratic Party are proposing. It is further obvious that he has not listened or was absent from the Chamber when our Leader highlighted some of the policies that we would implement for the farming industry in this

province. For if he had he would know that farmers throughout the length and width of this province are talking about our policy and how it would meet completely the problems of the day and provide assistance and solutions and stability to the farmers.

The Premier never seems to change, for when he is backed into a corner by logic and fact, his mistake is to talk louder and louder about less and less. This is exactly what you saw him do in this Legislature yesterday and today. Yesterday he talked loud and clear about the Socialists and their program for farmers in Saskatchewan during their 20 years of government. Not to anyone's surprise he had nothing good to say about that 20 years of CCF government. In fact, the Premier fell back on his old acid test routine about population exodus during that 20-year period. He made reference to the depopulation of farmers from 1944 to 1964. We don't dispute the fact that there was a depopulation of farms in the Province of Saskatchewan during that time. There was a good reason for depopulation. In 1944 there were large numbers of farmers who were farming a quarter section of land or less in this province. Since that time, due to changes in farming practices and the introduction of modern farm machinery, farm size had to increase. But I want to state emphatically that the farm size by 1964 had reached a size that would provide stability for farmers on their land. It would also make for and maintain a desirable social and rural way of life.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — Therefore, efforts should have been taken in order to stabilize that number of farmers.

In 1964 the last year the CCF Government was in power, there were 87,000 commercial farms in the Province of Saskatchewan. In seven years time under the present Liberal Government we find the number of commercial farms reduced to 65,000, a loss of 22,000 farms in that seven-year period of time. A drastic reduction in farming numbers shows the concern the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan has towards farmers and farming.

Still shouting louder and louder the Premier has to make reference to the performance of the Power Corporation under the former government. I just want to refresh the Premier's memory, and the memories of the Members opposite, that the Power Corporation was formed by the Liberal party in 1929. When the CCF took office as the Government of Saskatchewan in 1944 there was an astronomical number of 132 farms serviced by power. In 15 years, Mr. Speaker, it managed to electrify 132 farms. In the following 20 years under the CCF Government there were 60,000 farms electrified in this province.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — Virtually every farmer in the Province of Saskatchewan had electric power by 1964. Obviously, when the Premier yells nonsense he is completely unknowledgeable as to what he is talking about. If he were knowledgeable he would not be making the statements he just made in this Legislature. He knows and his colleagues know including the Member from Athabasca, that there is need for a Land Bank Commission which could purchase

land offered voluntarily on the market, at competitive prices and lease this land guaranteeing tenure on the basis of need, with the option to buy with the objective of promoting the maximum number of viable farms in Saskatchewan.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. SPEAKER:** — The Members to your right, Mr. Speaker, know the need for such policy in Saskatchewan, the people in Saskatchewan know the need for such policy, but does the Liberal Government come forward with policies such as this? No! But the New Democratic Party does.

The Premier and his colleagues know the need for a farmers' Bill of Rights which would provide information and legal advisory service for farmers in financial difficulties, which would re-activate and strengthen the Provincial Mediation Board. This would guarantee the provision of electrical power and other essential services to farmers unable to pay their bills because of circumstances beyond their control.

The Members to your right, Mr. Speaker, know the need for such policies. Again the farmers of Saskatchewan know the need for such policies, but does the Liberal Government of Saskatchewan bring forward such policies? No, they do not. But the New Democratic Party does.

The Premier and his colleagues know the need for the downward adjustment of property tax mill rates, for basic school operating costs on homes, farms and small businesses. Do the Members to your right again introduce such policies? No, they do not, but the New Democratic Party would do so.

I could go on and on with the obvious needs of the people of Saskatchewan today, all of which have gone unrecognized by the Premier and his colleagues. If he is so convinced that the Socialist program is an insult to Saskatchewan intelligence, or is nonsense in his words, I suggest to him that he go to the people of this Province and ask them if the policies of this program that we advocate is acceptable to them. Go to the Province!

Another area, Mr. Speaker. While the Premier was ranting in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, readjustment figures were released in regard to unemployment in Saskatchewan. From the actions of the Premier and the content of his statements one would wonder whether he had any direct influence in regard to these statistics. According to these figures, unemployment in Saskatchewan rose to 6.2 per cent in mid January, compared with 4.7 a month earlier. The release from Man Power's district economists' office in Saskatoon revealed that there were 7,000 more unemployed in Saskatchewan between December and January. The figures show that there were 21,000 people unemployed in Saskatchewan by January 1971 compared to 18,000 or 5.5 per cent in January of 1970. In December, there were 16,000 or 4.7 unemployed in this province. For the Premier's benefit and for his colleagues to the right, Mr. Speaker, I think that the statistics that show the real unemployment in the Province of Saskatchewan should be stated now. The average labor force in 1970 was 350,000, the average unemployed in 1970 was 15,400. The total population loss in the Province of Saskatchewan in 1970 was 31,000. Since unemployment was the major factor promoting a population loss, it

could well be reasonably assumed that if these people had not left the province, they would be unemployed. This would make the total unemployment at a figure somewhat closer to the 46,000 people or 13.3 per cent for the average during 1970.

Mr. Speaker, in a headline in this morning's Leader-Post is a statement made by the Premier, "Manitoba begging New York firm to operate mill, Thatcher." He was going to explain this and here he comes now, perhaps he has forgotten that he did not explain it. This article states that Premier Thatcher said that the New Democratic Party Government of Manitoba is begging the New York firm of Parsons and Whittemore to take over the troubled pulp mill in that province. He further stated according to this article that the Leader of the Opposition had implied and I quote:

Mr. Landegger was nothing less than a pirate stealing our resources.

He then went on to say, and I quote:

Then why is old Ed Schreyer in Manitoba begging them to take over the Manitoba mill that they have made such a big mess of.

Mr. Speaker, that's not all that the Premier said in this Legislature yesterday. He emphatically stated that the Manitoba Government, or old Ed Schreyer as he refers to the Premier, had directly been making telephone pleas to New York begging Parsons and Whittemore to take over the mill. Again he further stated on a number of occasions, "Cabinet Ministers from Manitoba had been in New York in consultation with Parsons and Whittemore in regard to a possible takeover."

**MR. THATCHER:** — That is a correct statement, Sir!

**MR. MESSER:** — Mr. Speaker, I suggest to this Legislature and the Province of Saskatchewan that the Premier is again uttering statements that are highly dubious and more probably fictitious. I say this, Mr. Speaker, because his statements are at best second or third hand and indeed probably only rumor.

**MR. THATCHER:** — They're first hand!

**MR. MESSER:** — Mr. Speaker, Members of this Legislature and the people of Saskatchewan have now reached a point where they are fed up and dissatisfied with the wholesale statements made by the Premier. I therefore ask the Premier and his Government either to bring forward documentary evidence that such begging as he termed it, has actually been instigated by the Manitoba Government, or retract the statements that he has made in this Legislature and which were quoted in the Saskatchewan newspapers today. He was going to straighten the matter out, Mr. Speaker, obviously he is unable to do it because . . .

**MR. THATCHER:** — . . . right now, they were correct. The Manitoba Government went to New York and tried to get Parsons and Whittemore to take them over. My source is Parsons and Whittemore.

**MR. BLAKENEY:** — Mr. Speaker, I should like equal time!

**MR. MESSER:** — I ask the Premier of this Province either to bring forth documentary proof that those statements are indeed facts, or else retract. He obviously is not going to retract so he knows full well that those statements are indeed rumor without any facts.

**MR. THATCHER:** — I resent that, Mr. Speaker, they are, he is calling me a liar and I'm saying that they are . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** — Order, order! I was listening very carefully to the words of the Member and I didn't hear him make any direct accusation as to anyone having lied. Had he done so, I should have called him to order.

I should trust that all Hon. Members from here on in will try to maintain a degree of order and not interrupt each other in debate.

**MR. MESSER:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your observation. I may have said they are slippery and misleading. I certainly did not say he was a liar.

As I was saying, I therefore ask the Premier and his Government either to bring forward proof or documentary evidence that such begging as he termed it has actually be instigated by the Manitoba Government or retract the statement that he made in this Legislature and which was quoted in Saskatchewan papers today.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — The facts of the matter are, Mr. Speaker, that there have been absolutely no contacts from the Manitoba Government to the Parsons and Whittemore Company. It is, however, highly possible, Mr. Speaker, that the nature of the contact that the Premier refers to came not from the Province of Manitoba to Parsons and Whittemore, but from Parsons and Whittemore to the Government of Manitoba, seeking to take over the Churchill Forest Products operation in Manitoba. That is more likely. I should suggest that the Premier just slipped in under the line with the signing of the contract in that instance. The Province of Manitoba is much smarter than the Government of Saskatchewan.

At any rate, Mr. Speaker, I can assure this Legislature that if Premier Ed Schreyer or his Cabinet were seeking someone to operate the mill in Manitoba it will be done in the best interests of the people of Manitoba . . .

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — . . . of projecting a policy of returning to that province all that it is deserving of.

I further suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is the way it should be. The Manitoba Government is looking after the best interests of the people, rather than relying on a free enterprise company to look after them. That's the difference, that's the difference, Mr. Speaker, between our philosophies, Manitoba's good

government and the chaos that we presently have in Saskatchewan.

I want to make one further reference to this article, Mr. Speaker, and again refer to the Premier's unfounded statements where he reiterates that the mess in the Manitoba Churchill Forest Products is a mess that they made, referring to the New Democratic Government in Manitoba. That is an unfounded statement, the fact of the matter is, every person in Manitoba knows, every person in Canada knows, that it was the previous government, the Roblin Government, the previous free enterprise government that sold the people of Manitoba short. Sold the people of that province short, the same way the people of Saskatchewan are probably being sold short today.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Hear, hear!

**MR. MESSER:** — Mr. Speaker, I now want to mention something that the Premier did not bring forward in his address yesterday and today. Again front page headlines in the Leader-Post this morning inform us in Saskatchewan that the Federal Government plans for 1971-72 fiscal year will provide an equalization grant to Saskatchewan that is more than twice as large as last year. This means that Saskatchewan will be getting not \$29.9 million but \$61 million in equalization grants. It is indeed strange, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier does not make some flowery statement in regard to these increased equalization grants. He does about everything else. The answer is obvious to those who are knowledgeable about eligibility of equalization grants. Amounts of money available through Federal equalization grants are made on the basis of prosperity within the province. That therefore is the reason the Premier has neglected to boast about this increase for he knows that this Province under him and his Liberal Government has slid from a previous "have" province to a poverty stricken "have not" province.

The article further points out that the Federal Government is contributing under shared-cost programs to ventures such as hospital insurance, medicare and welfare, a combined total to the Province of Saskatchewan of \$193 million. This is \$1 million less than the Province of Newfoundland is going to get. It is a further \$7 million less than Manitoba will get even though Manitoba's population is almost identical to that of Saskatchewan. There is only one other province that will be getting less and that is Prince Edward Island. The obvious reason for Saskatchewan getting so little in this area is that the present Government does not have the initiative to involve themselves in a shared-cost program nor has it concern for the welfare or the social services that are in demand in our province.

In the same article it was brought to our attention that the public works estimates provided for only \$4.8 million which exceeds only one province, that of Prince Edward Island. By contrast the other Prairie Provinces are allotted \$13.3 million and \$16.9 million respectively. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to your right, does this amount, the second smallest allotment in Canada show concern towards activating and rejuvenating our labor force in this province, thereby establishing some upward trend for economic stability in this province?

My next words this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, would have to be to the seconder and the mover of the Throne Speech. At my first session as Member of this Assembly in 1967, I, at that time,



understood it to be an honor to have the opportunity to move and second a Throne Speech. After scrutinizing and debating the content matter of Throne Speeches of this Government since that time, I have come to the conclusion that it cannot be an honor but an exercise in futility. I say futility, Mr. Speaker, because this Government has generally failed to fully recognize, comprehend or come forward with meaningful answers in legislation to correct the problems that are confronting Saskatchewan and its people today. This applies in particular to the area of farming and agriculture in total in our province. In fact, Mr. Speaker, and in truth all Members opposite who rise in support of this Throne Speech should either consider themselves hucksters or perhaps I should have said super salesmen. If my recollection is accurate, the Premier has already been noted as being a super salesman. It is unfortunate that the people of Saskatchewan have paid heavily to find out how the Premier "finaggled" that dubious honor. I say super salesman, Mr. Speaker, because this Throne Speech is no different from those that have preceded it. It has nothing to offer Saskatchewan other than carrots for an election and not very many of those.

In fact the Members opposite are nothing better than coster-mongers selling sweet fruits for the future, that ultimately turned sour. Their hope is to bribe and to confuse the electorate into again supporting their empty promises.

I want to inform the Premier and his colleagues if he has not already been made aware — and I suspect he is — that it is going to take more than peddlers and hawkers to elect them to a government of Saskatchewan again. It is going to take recognition of and solutions to the problems of the day confronting this province. This Throne Speech again makes no attempt at solving these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I want next, to direct my remarks mostly to the field of agriculture and because I want to do that in some detail on Monday, I should ask leave to adjourn the debate.

Debate adjourned.

## STATEMENT ON MOTIONS FOR RETURNS

**MR. SPEAKER:** — We now proceed to Motions for Returns "not debatable." They should have appeared on the Order Paper immediately after questions put by Members and they will tomorrow. They will appear in their proper place. Before we enter into this procedure which is a new procedure and a new departure from previous years, perhaps I should give a few brief words of explanation.

These motions will be called by the Clerk and will be moved by the sponsoring Member and no debate can ensue thereon. The question will be put and decided forthwith. However, if any Member wishes either to amend, speak on or oppose the motion, it will be necessary for him to rise and say so. He may say "debate" or "oppose". Probably the best word to use will be "debate" and that motion will then go down under "Motions for Returns Debatable" and it will be dealt with in the usual way and in the customary manner.

If anybody has any questions, let him ask them now before we proceed any further.

February 19, 1971

**MR. F.A. DEWHURST (Wadena):** — Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, is it necessary for the Member to rise and ask to present the motion or shall we deal with it the same as questions?

**MR. SPEAKER:** — It can be dealt with in exactly the same way as if it was a question if the Member so wishes and I suggest that it would be the most speedy way to do it although I would not deny anybody the right to rise in his place if he wanted to. Are we all clear in our minds? We will take this slowly for the first time round.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:40 o'clock p.m.